



**Children's
Home Society**

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023



OUR MISSION

To help children thrive; and to build, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community life.



NON-DISCRIMINATION

Our services are available to all people regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.



OUR DEFINITION OF FAMILY

A family consists of two or more people, whether living together or apart, related by blood, marriage, adoption or commitment to care for one another.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm proud to share that Children's Home supported nearly 5,000 individuals through our services this year. There are so many remarkable stories, and no two are exactly the same.

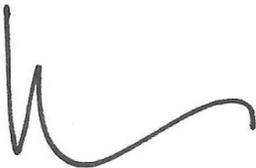
Not only is our work deeply personal for the individuals and families we serve, but also for our staff, 75% of whom have a close, personal connection to adoption. The lived experience of those impacted by foster care and adoption shapes the practice, service and support we offer today.

Since 1889, Children's Home has focused on finding families for children through adoption. Our adoption services continue to be our core focus. We've also expanded our foster care and support services to meet the evolving needs of children and families served by our teams in Minnesota and at our East Office, as well as those we support through national and international programming.

Our support services aim to address the personal and relational complexities that can come with foster care and adoption. Whether it be the launch of a support group for parents of adult adoptees, or a free community event for LGBTQIA2S+ foster and adoptive families, our new services are having a positive impact.

This work would not be possible without your steadfast support. Thank you for helping us continue to adapt and grow after 134 years.

In gratitude,



Heidi Wiste | President

OUR SERVICES

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

GLOBAL FAMILY SUPPORT

INFANT ADOPTION

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

POST ADOPTION

PREGNANCY COUNSELING



364 placements of children into safe, supportive homes

55 international adoptions from nine countries

220 foster care placements



23 infant adoptions

144 adoptive placements



66

children adopted from Minnesota Foster Care

759 people educated and trained to care for children in foster care

4,947
individuals
served

Our clients are:

68% Minnesotan

57% Female identifying

35% BIPOC

9% LGBTQ+ Identifying



Adoption
Support Fund
granted

\$177,036
to **147** households



1,071
individuals served
through our Post
Adoption Services

8

in-person, online &
hybrid support groups for
members of the **adoption
constellation**



OUR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION JOURNEY

KERALA TO SHOREVIEW

Nick and Heather Patrek spent 2021 gathering and completing international adoption paperwork. It was all over except for the waiting, which they were told could take up to a year.

Just one week after finishing the paperwork, Nick and Heather learned about an infant girl in the Indian state of Kerala. Nick recalled thinking, “Well, this is not at all what we thought was going to happen. But clearly, this is happening!”

The Patreks decided to adopt after a year of attempting pregnancy. They weren’t interested in the arduous process of IVF or other interventions. “We figured if we didn’t get pregnant, it was a sign that adoption was meant to be for our family,” said Heather.

The Patreks received the child’s file the next day and came to learn the baby girl had been born three months premature. Nick and Heather sought advice from local doctors, who said they couldn’t predict with certainty that the child wouldn’t have health issues. The Patreks decided to take “a leap of faith.”

“It’s the same kind of gamble if you have a biological child,” said Nick. “There might be issues, but we felt we could handle those.”

Ten months later, it was time to fly to India to meet the child who would become their daughter. They arrived at the orphanage, and within five minutes, 14-month-old Eva was in their arms, weighing just 13 pounds.

At home in Shoreview, Minnesota, Eva’s huge personality—“easy going, happy, and a little bit of sass”—has revealed itself, according to her mother. Now a busy two-year-old who is always

on the move and talking up a storm, Eva has made significant developmental leaps, meeting and even exceeding benchmarks for her age.

Heather said they have also discovered local Indian cultural connections. “We take it as another sign that our family was meant to be.”



POST ADOPTION SUPPORT WHERE WE ARE & WHAT'S TO COME

This year Children's Home began the extensive effort of refreshing our post adoption services. While the project is complex, its focus is simple: to provide post adoption services that better meet the needs of the children, individuals and families being served today.

This endeavor began with a survey that yielded hundreds of enlightening responses. Those responses, coupled with community engagement and client work, indicated there is a clear and growing need for support in navigating openness in adoption.

Since the 1980s, open adoption has been practiced in domestic adoptions. With the mainstreaming of DNA testing and the worldwide adaptation of technology, openness is an increasingly common experience in domestic, foster care and international adoptions.

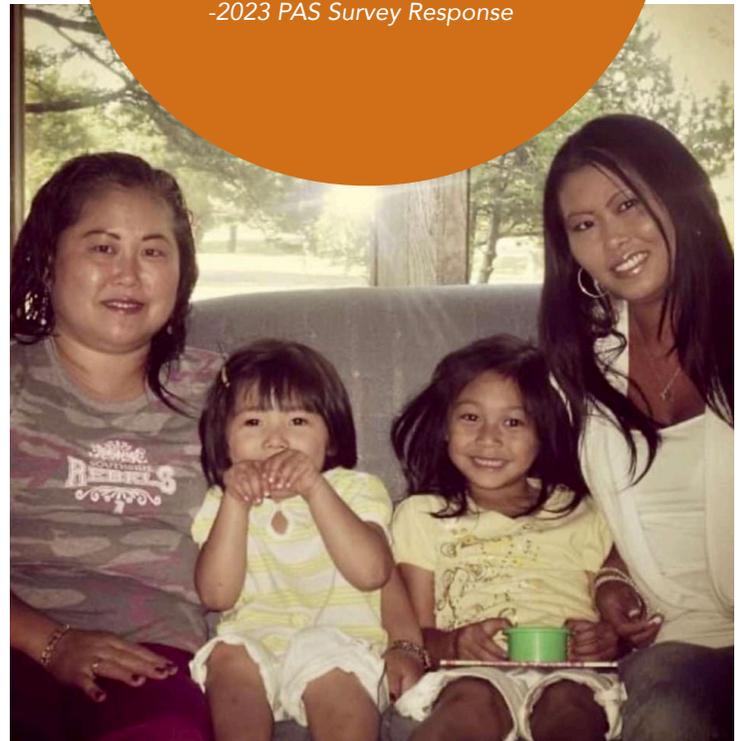
These relationships, as any, can be complex and evolve over time. Through a new service called Openness Consultation, funded by Minnesota Department of Human Services, Children's Home will support one or more parties in an open adoption relationship. Our support could help prepare individuals for openness or serve as an intermediary when an open relationship hits a rough patch.

Like many of our support services, we will offer Openness Consultation both virtually and in person. Thanks to the availability of our Adoption Support Fund, we can ensure fees are not a barrier for those who need to access this meaningful support.

The evolution and expansion of our post adoption support services aligns beautifully to our mission—to help children thrive; and to build, strengthen and sustain individual, family and community life. We look forward to sharing more in the year ahead.

"I had the pleasure of working with Children's Home on my birth family search. Thank you so much for providing a truly life-changing service."

-2023 PAS Survey Response



MSP PILOTS FOR KIDS: BRINGING HOLIDAY JOY WITH A FLIGHT TO REMEMBER

Navigating a trek to visit Santa Claus at the North Pole is no small feat. Luckily, MSP Pilots for Kids—a long-time partner of Children’s Home—knows the way.

For more than 20 years, this dedicated group has offered a fun-filled holiday adventure to children experiencing foster care in Minnesota, their siblings, and caregivers through their annual “Flight to the North Pole” event.

Experiencing the excitement and wonderment of a bustling holiday airport is a magical experience for the young travelers who attend. Games, activities, snacks, and crafts hosted by the group add to the fun, as do visits from local mascots—including crowd favorite Goldy Gopher.

The highlight of the event comes when kids are called to board a festively decorated plane which “takes off” for the North Pole by taxiing down the runway. Once the flight arrives at its North Pole destination, Santa boards the plane to greet passengers, sing carols and share treats.

“We are grateful to community partners like MSP Pilots for Kids for making life a little brighter for kids in our community through this treasured event,” shared Kristina Berg, director of engagement for Children’s Home. “It’s an extraordinarily joyful day!”



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Fall Gathering | November 2022

The annual Fall Gathering provided the perfect opportunity for the leadership team at Children’s Home to share their gratitude with donors, volunteers and long-time mission partners. The evening also offered timely organizational updates as well as ideas for connection in the year ahead.



Cheers to Children’s Home | June 2023

Children’s Home kicked-off summer at the “Cheers to Children’s Home” event, hosted at Dual Citizen Brewery. The open house provided a relaxed atmosphere for friends and supporters to meet and mingle with Children’s Home leaders and fellow community members who share a passion for supporting youth and families.



East Office Event | May 2023

Adoptees, adoptive parents, Children’s Home Board members and East Office staff gathered at the home of Sue and Jim Orban last May to build community, connect over a shared commitment to kids and families, and mingle with Children’s Home President, Heidi Wiste.



Twin Cities Pride Festival | June 2023

For the 10th consecutive year, Children’s Home participated in the Twin Cities Pride Festival held at Loring Park in Minneapolis. Children’s Home employees and volunteers hosted a booth, where they proudly promoted our commitment to serving all families while celebrating alongside nearly 400,000 attendees.



Back to School Bash | June 2023

The 2023 Children’s Home Back to School Bash earned an “A+” from all involved! Held in partnership with Jockey Being Family Foundation—a long-time supporter of Children’s Home’s post adoption support services—the event provided more than 80 kids experiencing foster care with donated school supplies to ensure a successful start to the year.



THANK YOU.
YOU HELP
CHILDREN THRIVE!

At Children’s Home, the well-being of children is our guiding principle. We know that you, too, care deeply for children and families. Your support—financial and through gifts of time and talent—are part of our strong foundation.

DONORS

\$25,000 +

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Fred C. & Katherine B.
 Andersen Foundation
 James Daniel Humphrey Foundation
 Kinney Family Foundation
 Otto Bremer Trust
 Sauer Family Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Marcy & Randy Betcher
 Marlene H. Bixby*
 Colleen & Pat Bollom
 Cheryl & Mark Heley
 Robert Kerbell
 Karen Steiner & William Dickey
 David K. Whitney

\$10,000 – \$24,999

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Joseph C. Duke Foundation
 Hardenbergh Foundation
 The Clarence Holden Charitable Trust
 Polaris Industries
 Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
 Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
 Diana & Stephen Coxsey
 Deb & William Fisher
 Todd Fogel
 Mike Han
 Megan & Derek Hayes
 Robert Heacox
 Bernice E. Maehren
 Jennifer & Richard Martin
 Lisa & Lance Novak
 JoAnn & Robert Olson

Amy & J. B. Perrette
 Lynn & Peter Ramme
 Corey Sauer
 Martha & David Tiede
 Yonok & C. Nick Zeller

\$5,000 – \$9,999

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Boss Foundation
 Jockey Being Family Foundation
 Margaret H. & James E. Kelley
 Foundation
 Margaret Rivers Fund
 Winnebago Industries
 Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric
 Association

\$5,000 – \$9,999

INDIVIDUALS

Michelle Bedard
 Carmen & James Campbell
 Teresa & RJ Devick
 Julie & Kevin Eichhorn
 Sondra & Stuart Feldstein
 Virginia & Stephen Freid
 William Hawkins
 Victoria V. Henry
 Judy & Daniel Hwang
 Janice A. Johnson*
 Mary Jungmann
 Patricia & David Krueger*
 Nancy J. Martin*
 Jeanne Mithun*
 Linda Mohr & Larry Hill
 Tracy & Thomas Murphy
 Myers Family Fund of the Saint Paul
 Foundation
 Marcia & Thomas Ochs
 Kathy & Peter Parten
 Sue & Nino Pedrelli

Karen & Steve Sanger
Roxanne & William Soth
John M. Stern
Pat & Dave Teskey
Joseph Thom & Tom Ewald
Kirsten & Richard Vosen
Mary Weitzmann
Joanne & Steve Zenz

\$2,500 – \$4,999 CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

American Family Insurance
Ameriprise Financial
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen
Foundation
Dellwood Foundation
Driscoll Foundation
Medtronic
UnitedHealth Group
Otto C. Winzen Charitable Fund

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous
Hannah Buller
Neil Collins
Nancy M. Fischer
Marie & Mark Gorham
Lisa A. Gray
Libby & Ed Hlavka
Joyce & Dan* Kuechenmeister
Lisa & Todd Latterell
Nancy & Roger McCabe
Bonnie & Ron Ostby
Marilyn & Morgan Tamsky
Priscilla & Steven Williams

\$1,000 – \$2,499 CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Baird Foundation
Driscoll Foundation
Fridley United Methodist Church
Great River Energy
Highland-Mills Foundation
Nancy & John Lindahl Family Fund
The Mauriel Family Foundation
The Payne Family Fund at
Fidelity Charitable

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous (4)
Karen Abel & Michael Pignato
Sofia Ali & David Caccamo
Patricia & Paul Amidon
Mary & H. Charles Anderson
Lori J. Arrell
Jennifer & Andrew Baese
Jolene Baker Vicchiollo & Timothy
Vicchiollo
Abbey Bishop
Idelle & Rolf Bjelland
Alice & Charles Bresnahan
Susan Chaitovitz & Michael Spurner
Judith & Lewis Clark
David G. Colwell*
Nancy & Tim Coughlin
Candice Crandall
David P. Crosby
Nancy Davis
Mary Dennis
Denise Dewhurst
Joan & Charles Diessner
David Doty
Rose & Gregory Drake
Virginia & Larry Dunivan
Katherine & Themis Economou
Randy & Carol Egan
Kim Egan
Laura & Paul Ekholm

Camie & Jack Eugster
Maureen Fahey
Bonnie & Rick Fetter
Kevin Filter
Maureen Fisher
Marcy Foss-Halvorson
Berna French
Kathleen & John Gee
William Gilk
Beverly J. Griesert
Jodi & Stan Harpstead
Elizabeth Hayden & Charles Flinn
Mary Hibbs-Brenner & Mats Brenner
Susan Hill
Constance & Allen Hoof
Sandra & Steven Hunt
Mary Huper
Joel Jenkins
Sherry Jester & Harry Cloft
Pamela Kaufman & Dennis Keierleber
Carolyn Kelleher
Sandra Kim
Steven G. King
Pamela J. Kirkpatrick
Lisa & Corey Kotlarz
Matthew J. Kuennen
Sandy & Steve Landberg
Jean & Jay Lansing
Patty & Kyle Larsen
Ranjani Manjunath & Derrick Durham
Tammy & John Marks
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Mary Jo & John Martin
Sarah & Jack Matasosky
Tina & Stuart McKenna
Suzanne & William Metzger
Deborah & Fletcher Miller
Jamie & Bo Nabozny
Susan & Michael Newburg
Bonnie Niehaus
Phyllis Norrie
Marlys Ogle

Suzanne & William Payne
Lori Peterson
George C. Power*
Andrew J. Rapoport
Mary Beth Robinson
Amy & Peter Rodrik
Janet Romsaas
Kenneth C. Ruge
Lisa & Elias Russell
JoEllyn & Dean Rustad
Jennifer & Edwin Ryan
Vicki Sackett
Thomas Sahlstrom
Cheryl A. Sinning
Nancy & Brian Siska
June Thompson
Kimberly Tolman & Gary Debele
Jane & Donald Truhlar
Susan & Lawrence Turner
Suzanne Walczak & CS Sukam
Cherie & Charles Walker
Mary Ann & David Wark
Maureen E. Warren
Leona Werner & Bob Waldron
Megan & Duane Wolf
Jane Wright-Bielawski
& Dave Bielawski
*deceased

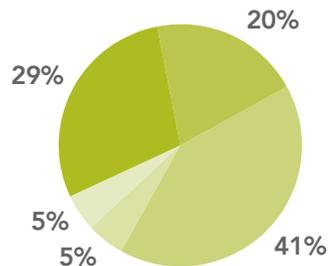
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR EXTRAORDINARY
SUPPORT IN 2022-2023!

If we have forgotten a name or
made an incorrect listing, we
apologize. Please let us know:
651.603.8726

FUNDING SOURCES

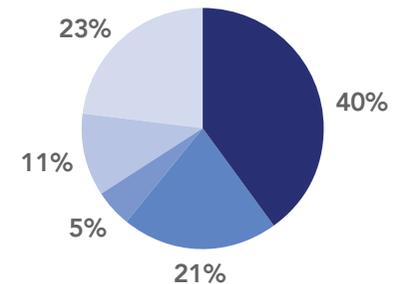
TOTAL REVENUE
\$5,445,158

- **CONTRIBUTIONS**
Including United Way & In-Kind Donations
\$1,567,892
- **FEES FOR SERVICE**
\$1,085,836
- **FEES & GRANTS**
From Government Agencies
\$2,217,811
- **INVESTMENT INCOME**
\$311,000
- **MISCELLANEOUS INCOME**
\$262,619



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$5,321,183

- **DOMESTIC ADOPTION**
\$2,133,694
- **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION**
\$1,110,438
- **POST ADOPTION**
\$238,973
- **OTHER**
\$597,854
- **SUPPORT SERVICES**
\$1,240,225



Our audited financial statement is available online at chlss.org.

DREW & JENN BAESE: SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S HOME THROUGH DONATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

In 2005, Drew and Jenn Baese experienced a challenging pregnancy that left Jenn unable to carry a child. Yet the couple had a strong desire for more children. They also wanted their biological son, Matthias, to have the opportunity to grow up with a sibling. After attending an informational session at Children's Home, they decided to pursue adoption.

During the meeting, they were told of a long list of boys in Russia waiting for permanent homes. "Jenn has a huge soft spot for the underdog," Drew said.

"And with Drew having majored in Russian studies in college and having visited the country, well, it seemed the pieces of the puzzle came together, and this was just meant to be," continued Jenn.

The Baeses were ultimately matched with Dmitry, whom they brought to their Saint Paul home in 2009. Today, 16-year-old son Dmitry is a gifted artist who loves designing floor plans and building replicas of skyscrapers using the gaming software, Minecraft. "He's a budding architect, for sure!" said Jenn.

The Baese family's commitment to Children's Home extends beyond their role as adoptive parents; Drew is chair of the Children's Home board of directors, and the Baeses are dedicated financial donors.

"What Children's Home does costs money," said Drew. "How they allocate that money makes real change and affects real people. That's what drives our decision about where to put our charitable gifts."



Drew views the board's role as a support system for the organization's leadership. "The ultimate goal is to work ourselves out of a job, that no child is ever waiting for a home," said Drew. "I know that's unrealistic. There will always be a need. That's why the work Children's Home does is so critical."

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Children's Home Society of MN

HEIDI WISTE, President
Children's Home Society of MN

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& Treasurer Children's Home Society of MN

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Partner | Taft Law

LISA RAMME LATTERELL*, Vice Chair
Principal | LRL Consulting

JAMIE NABOZNY*, Secretary
CEO & President | Nabozny & Associates, Inc.
An American Family Agency

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CHERYL HELEY*
Community Volunteer

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University of Maryland, College Park

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Montgomery College, Maryland

MARCUS MANNING
Psychotherapist
Lyn-Lake Psychotherapy & Wellness

NEIL COLLINS*
Chief Operating Officer
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Minnesota Department of Health

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Metropolitan State University

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Palisade Asset Management, LLC

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Community Volunteer

CHERYL HELEY
Community Volunteer

JOYCE KUECHENMEISTER
Community Volunteer

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Retired, Former Faculty Research Associate
University of Maryland, College Park

LISA RUSSELL
Marketing & Operations Associate
Palisade Asset Management, LLC

*Appointment by LSS Board of Directors

OUR ANNUAL REPORT
IS AVAILABLE ONLINE:
chls.org/annual-reports

BROOK MALLAK: AN ADVOCATE FOR ADOPTEES

Growing up in small-town Minnesota, Brook Mallak stood out in her predominantly white community. She, along with two of her three siblings, are Korean adoptees. Brook remembers the pain of being “different” from her classmates. She was teased, and she struggled to fit in. During the 1970s, there weren’t a lot of resources to help children who had been adopted internationally.

Now a member of the Children’s Home Foundation Board of Trustees, Brook appreciates that things have changed dramatically since she was adopted. “But many of the challenges of being adopted are timeless and universal,” said Brook. “It’s a complex journey. I hope I can shed light for other families through my own experience and service on the board.”

Brook’s adoption story began when her biological mother placed her for adoption due to poverty, a choice Brook respected throughout her life. With support from Children’s Home and other organizations, Brook reunited with her birth mother and siblings in South Korea last year.

“Meeting my birth family was an opportunity to hear stories about my early life, a privilege I realize many adoptees do not have. I’m very grateful.”

Brook sees her involvement on the Foundation Board as just one way to advocate for adoptees. She also participates on panels speaking to prospective adoptive parents. “I remind them all kids have struggles growing up, and you can’t love away the adoption trauma,” said Brook. “Being adopted is a lifelong journey.”



“It’s a complex journey. I hope I can shed light for other families through my own experience and service on the Board.”

-Brook Mallak



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