



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

ANNUAL REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2019

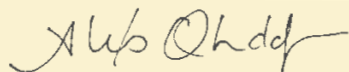
DEAR FRIENDS,

At Children's Home, we work tirelessly towards finding safe, nurturing families for as many children as possible. This includes placing children in caring foster homes as well as finding adoptive families for children here at home and abroad.

We believe all children deserve and need permanent, loving families. Families take shape in many ways, which is why at Children's Home, inclusivity is not just a goal, it's the very air we breathe. This year we have placed more children than ever before in safe, stable homes through our foster care services. And we have consciously taken a deep dive into ensuring our services are available and inclusive of all children and families.

Each year, the landscape of how we serve children and families changes. What endures is our commitment to children and youth who need a nurturing family to thrive. We are deeply grateful for your support in this essential work.

Thank you.



ALEXIS OBERDORFER
PRESIDENT



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.



CHILDREN'S HOME RECEIVES HRC RECOGNITION

This summer, Children's Home was recognized by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) as an Innovator in LGBTQ inclusion. To be considered an Innovator, Children's Home conducted an internal self-assessment, provided professional development to staff and implemented HRC's "Benchmarks of LGBTQ Inclusion," which track policy and practice changes within agencies.

This work could not be more important. LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in foster care and face increased risk of both negative experiences and outcomes:*

- Up to 30% of youth in foster care are LGBTQ.
- LGBTQ youth are twice as likely to report being treated poorly as their non-LGBTQ peers while in care.
- LGBTQ youth have a greater average number of placements than their non-LGBTQ peers.
- LGBTQ youth are more likely than their non-LGBTQ peers to be placed in congregate care including group homes.

We are proud to be recognized as 1 of 32 organizations nationwide to achieve the Innovator Tier. This new effort marks a major step toward improving the services Children's Home provides to LGBTQ youth and prospective parents. By implementing what we have learned, we have made the experience of visiting and interacting with Children's Home staff more welcoming and affirming for LGBTQ families and youth.

**Human Rights Campaign*



OUR SERVICES

At Children's Home and LSS, we know that having a stable, loving family is the greatest protective factor a child can have. Each area of our work focuses on helping those we serve have positive familial relationships, allowing them to grow, heal and thrive.

FOSTER CARE

FOSTER CARE ADOPTION

GLOBAL FAMILY SUPPORT

INFANT ADOPTION

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION

POST ADOPTION SERVICES

PREGNANCY SERVICES

70 children joined their families through **International Adoption**

5,000+
educational webinar views

58 children found safe homes through **Foster Care**



300

255 children placed in

858 individuals attended our **Foster Care & Adoption** education classes



29

1,500

individuals assisted
through **Post
Adoption Services**



people attended
our **Information
Meetings**

76

foster youth worked with staff to find adoptive
families & positive adult connections through
Child-Specific Recruitment Services

2019

98

children found loving,
permanent homes through
Foster Care Adoption

infants were
adopted through
Open Adoption

93

kids attended
**Adoption
Day Camp**



POST ADOPTION SUPPORT HELPS ADOPTEES EXPLORE THEIR ROOTS

Before they were married, Dave and Tiffany Bobendrier talked about building their family through adoption. Tiffany has 12 siblings, 11 of whom were adopted through foster care. She and Dave expected they would have both biological and adopted children.

“After we brought our first child home,” said Tiffany, “we realized adoption was meant to be our path to parenthood. It just felt right.”

The decision to use Children’s Home was another choice that “just felt right,” said Dave. “It was clear they put the children’s interests front and center.”

Today, the Bobendriers are parents to Silas (14), Titus (12), Judah (10), and Miriam (8). Silas, Titus and Miriam were born in Ethiopia. Judah was born in Minnesota.

Children’s Home was the common thread through all four adoptions: it was the adoption agency for Silas and Titus, provided the home study for Judah and post adoption services for Miriam. One of those post adoption services was helping the family travel to Ethiopia.

“Our children’s lives started before they joined us. For three of our kids, Ethiopia is the beginning of their stories. It is our responsibility to help them learn about that.”

Their most recent trip in 2017 was particularly significant. The children were older, and the family wanted to explore the country and help each of their Ethiopian children learn more about their early lives. This was the first time the family traveled together as a complete family without the intent to grow their family through another adoption.

Tiffany and Dave were grateful that the Children’s Home team located people and places to visit that were relevant to each child’s birth story. Children’s Home staff accompanied the Bobendriers during their travels, providing language and cultural translation. This support meant Tiffany and Dave could help their children more fully understand who they are and where they came from.

“We were able to have a much richer experience because Children’s Home was there to support us,” Dave said. “Adoption doesn’t end when the children are united with their families.”

Tiffany agreed. “There’s so much more, and Children’s Home knows that. They want families to succeed, and we’re forever grateful for their ongoing care and support.”

“We were able to have a much richer experience because Children’s Home was there to support us.”

~ Dave Bobendrier



FATHER AND SON IN THREE SHORT WEEKS

Jeff Wilson adopted three boys from foster care in 1984, 1992 and 1999 respectively. More than 20 years later, at age 65, Jeff figured there was time for one more. He let Children's Home know he wanted to adopt an older teen.

"When I adopted decades ago, I believed the battle was won or lost when a kid reaches 18," he said, so he adopted younger boys. After guiding his three oldest sons through adolescence and into adulthood, Jeff discovered the impact of lifetime support, "I'm the only person who has been truly consistent and always there for them."

Jeff also recognized the benefit of adopting an older teen. "With an older teen, they've already gone through the tumultuous times of puberty and have come out the other side," he said. "You know what track their life is on."

When a call came in about 17-year-old Dakota, Jeff agreed to an initial phone meeting. A few days after the call he drove to meet Dakota for a meal at a local restaurant.

"You don't want to meet a kid until you've made a commitment that you want to adopt him," Jeff said.

Conversation meandered around the subject of cooking. "Dakota mentioned he knows how to make meatloaf. I told him,

in my lifetime, my three attempts to make meatloaf were all failures. So we agreed that when he visited me, he would make meatloaf."

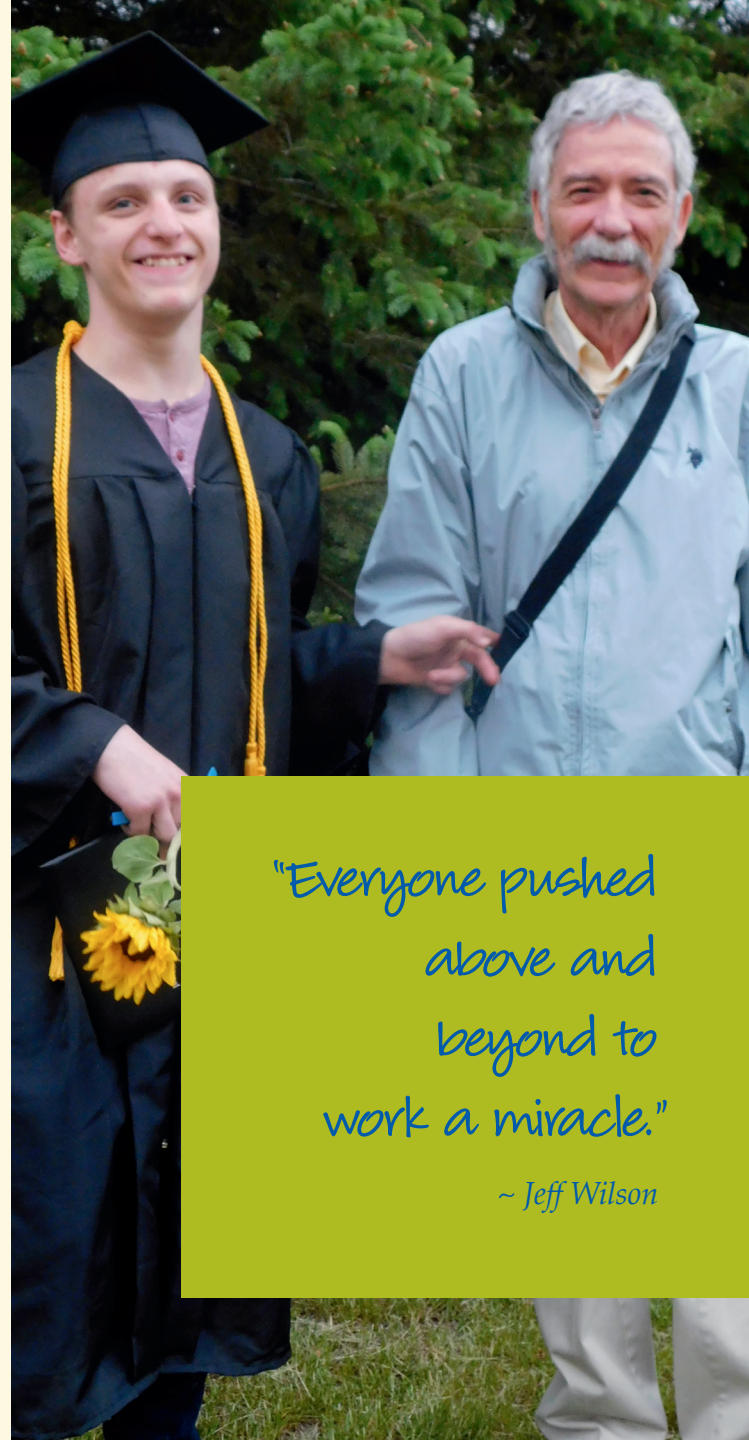
That was Tuesday. Friday, Jeff picked up Dakota for a visit. "His meatloaf was delicious. He gave me the task of making the baked potatoes—amazingly, I managed to avoid messing those up."

Dakota would turn 18 in mid-February, just a few weeks after Jeff and Dakota first met. If the adoption was finalized before then, Dakota would be ensured continued support into early adulthood. Jeff was determined to make it happen, even though the steps required to make an adoption official usually take 6 to 12 months.

"Everyone pushed above and beyond to work a miracle," Jeff said.

"I was taken by surprise in the difference I saw in Dakota after we went to court," said Jeff. "His voice and posture changed. The finalization of the adoption was the assurance to him that this was for real. I was not going away."

Though the relationship is new, Jeff glows with fatherly pride. "This young man I adopted has been a pure joy."



*"Everyone pushed
above and
beyond to
work a miracle."*

~ Jeff Wilson



DONORS WHO FOLLOW THEIR HEARTS

Pat and Dave Teskey became parents when they adopted Tricia and Traci from Korea back in the mid-1970s.

"It was a very exciting time, just as it is for all new parents," said Pat. "The only difference was we went to the airport instead of the hospital to have our babies!"

Their daughters are now grown and have families of their own, but the Teskey's connection to Children's Home is stronger than ever. One way they show their support is through their annual giving, which they have done for more than 35 years. They especially like to direct their contributions to special projects.

When considering how they want their financial gifts to be used by Children's Home and other organizations they support, they ask themselves one question: What breaks their hearts?

"Our approach to the many needs of the world is

to identify what most breaks our heart, and then support those organizations that address those issues," Dave said. "It breaks our hearts to know that many children worldwide and in our state are without permanent loving families or are in multiple foster care placements. If families can't adopt because they can't afford it, let's remove that barrier."

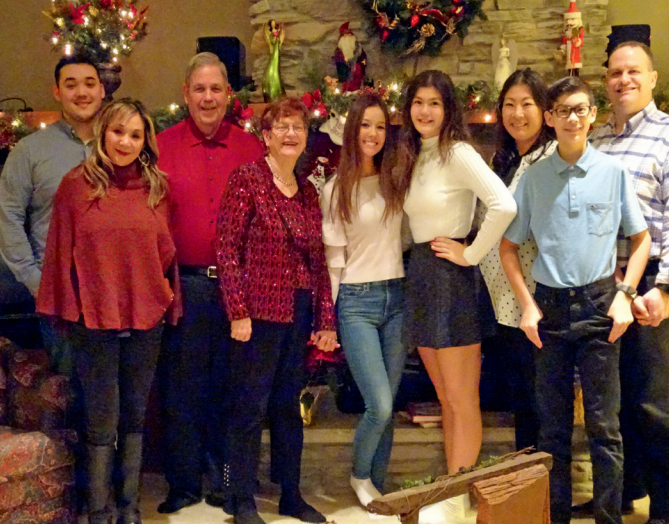
The Teskeys direct their Children's Home gifts to our Adoption Support Fund to help pay for the costs of adoption, as well as support kinship and relative placements so that children can stay with their extended families.

"Sometimes the only thing stopping a family from adopting is the cost of the home study," Pat explained. "If families open their hearts to adopting a child into their family, we want to help make that possible."

The Teskeys are especially impressed by the work of Children's Home in the foster care system. Pat

"No child should go without a family because that family can't afford to adopt. We have to think of the waiting children. That's our motivator and that's why we're special."

~ Pat & Dave



ADOPTION SUPPORT FUND AWARDS

103 GRANTS AWARDED

Foster Care 6

International 15

Post Adoption 82

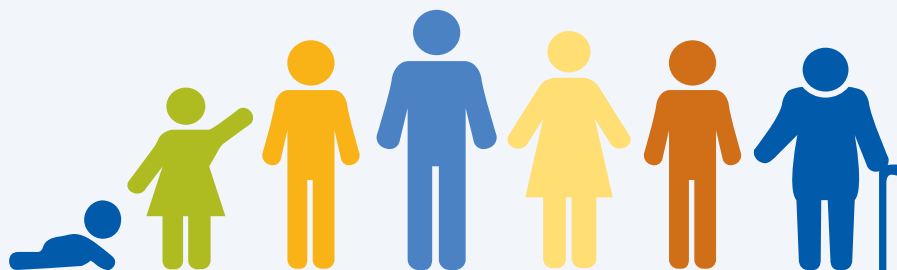
serves as a volunteer guardian-ad-litem and sees first-hand the positive effects of foster care and sibling adoption.

Pat and Dave invite everyone who has been “blessed to adopt children” to help others do the same. “No child should go without a family because that family can’t afford to adopt. It breaks our hearts to think of the waiting children. That’s our motivator and that’s why we’re specific with our gifts.”

adopt. It breaks our hearts
specific with our gifts.”

Age range of grant recipients

3 TO 85 YEARS



\$143,429

IN 2019

\$743,429

SINCE 2013

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.

Because of your generosity and caring heart:

- More families have the opportunity to come together.
- Parents have children to hold, guide and cherish.
- Children have safe homes, security and loving families.
- Adoptees and members of birth families can reconnect.
- Pregnant women have non-judgmental, non-directive counseling when they need it.
- Communities around the globe have support for projects that help families find stability and stay together.

All because of you.

We couldn't do this work without you.

Thank you!



DONORS

THIS LIST REFLECTS GIFTS OF CASH, STOCK OR PLEDGES TOTALING \$1,000 OR MORE THAT WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

\$25,000 +

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
Katherine B. Anderson Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation
Graves Foundation
James Daniel Humphrey Foundation
Otto Bremer Trust

INDIVIDUALS

Marcy & Randy Betcher
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Yonok & C. Nick Zeller
Joanne & Steve Zenz

\$15,000 – \$24,999

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Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
United HealthCare Services, Inc.

INDIVIDUALS

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James G. Huntting
Lisa & Lance Novak

\$5,000 – \$9,999

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Margaret H. & James E. Kelley Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Minnesota Vikings Foundation
Myers Family Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation
Red Thread Charities
Ruehl Family Foundation
Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

\$10,000 – \$14,999

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

U.S. Bank Stadium

Children's Home received support

INDIVIDUALS

Marcia & Bradley Ballinger
Cathy & Michael Brennan
Carmen & James Campbell
Diane & Stephen Coxsey
Ruth Dayton
Mary Dennis
Mike Han
Megan & Derek Hayes
Victoria V. Henry

*Alexander G. Hill

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\$2,500 – \$4,999

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Dellwood Foundation
Hardenbergh Foundation
IBM Employee Services Center
The Harry L. & Janet M. Kitselman
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Terhuly Foundation

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Lisa A. Gray
Ann & Michael Markman
Marie Schembri & Richard Grabel
Senthil Velayutham
Amy Wilson

\$1,000 – \$2,499

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

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ACR Homes, Inc.
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Foundation
Bituminous Roadways, Inc.
The John R. Cross Fund of The Saint Paul
Foundaton
Dominion Resources Inc.
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the Minnesota Community Foundation
Highland-Mills Foundation
Nancy & John Lindahl Family Fund
Maple Grove Firefighter's Relief
Association
Parents of Latin American Children
George C. Power, Jr. Fund
Thomson Reuters
Otto C. Winzen Charitable Fund

INDIVIDUALS

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Elizabeth Oberdorfer
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Wallace P. Ritchie
Mary Beth Robinson
Jennifer & Edwin Ryan
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Tracey Schilling-Hysjulien &
Todd Hysjulien
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Kimball Whitney
Priscilla & Steven Williams
Megan & Duane Wolf
Alexandra & Steve Wolles
Jane Wright-Bielawski &
David Bielawski
Winnie Yu
Joyce Zimmerman

*deceased

from 2,694 generous donors.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT IN 2019!

If we have forgotten a name or made an incorrect listing, we apologize.

Please let us know: 651.603.8726

SKOL! CELEBRATING FAMILIES — VIKINGS STYLE

Every year, Children's Home coordinates events that empower youth in foster care and celebrate families who have come together through adoption. These occasions would not be possible without the generous support of community organizations that believe in the value of adoption and foster care.

The Minnesota Vikings is one such community leader that recognizes adoption and fostering's as something worth promoting. For many years, the Vikings have demonstrated their belief in Children's Home by sponsoring some of our most popular events, often partnering with other local

organizations to both broaden and deepen the impact of their efforts.

"The Vikings' support goes beyond its position as a high-profile NFL team in the Midwest," said Kristina Berg, the director of engagement for Children's Home. "There are Vikings players and coaches who have adopted or fostered children themselves, or have family members who have. For them, this is a personal undertaking."

Thank you to the Minnesota Vikings, for believing in what we do, and for generously sponsoring fun and educational events for Children's Home families and friends.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS: BEHIND THE SCENES

Thanks to the Minneapolis Police Department and the Minnesota Vikings, waiting youth in the Children's Home Child-Specific Recruitment program were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Minnesota Vikings practice facility. They got to be spectators during an official Vikings practice, and then got to run drills in the facility's KidZone. The teens enjoyed meeting the players, getting autographs, and taking pictures together, not to mention leaving with some great Vikings swag.

Amy Fogel, a Children's Home social work supervisor, said it was a "once in a lifetime opportunity for these kids. They were in awe of the facility and especially loved interacting with the players. The Vikings continue to be such a great support for our organization."

Photos by Vikings Photography Team





ADOPTION FUN FEST

Everyone has a chance to try to score a touchdown at the Adoption Fun Fest that is hosted annually at the Minnesota Vikings training facility by General Manager Rick Spielman and Executive Vice President of Football Operations Rob Brzezinski. This event celebrates families who have adopted children or provided foster care through Children's Home and other organizations.

Vikings players, coaches, cheerleaders, staff and, of course, Viktor the Viking engage guests in interactive games, training drills, facility tours and autograph sessions. Perhaps the most fun is watching kids run around on the practice field, snapping the ball or performing their best quarterback sneak.

It is also a great opportunity for kids from adoptive families to be with one another and be recognized by a visible community organization — to truly be part of a Minnesota Vikings Special Team.



THE BIRTHDAY CLUB

In spite of the best intentions, youth in Minnesota foster care can sometimes feel overlooked on a significant day like a birthday. To help address this, George and Jami Edwards teamed up with Children's Home to launch "The Birthday Club."

The Edwards kicked off The Birthday Club last December by hosting a birthday party at a local video arcade, but the heart of the Club's mission is to recognize these children and let them know they matter.

George, the defensive coordinator for the Minnesota Vikings, and his wife, Jami, also work with DreamBuilders Foundation to make sure that more than 150 children and youth in Minnesota foster care receive a personal birthday card on their birthday. Youth also receive a gift card to use at a local store or online. The Edwards and DreamBuilders provide the cards; Children's Home makes sure they are delivered on time. Everyone involved hopes to build on this partnership, finding more ways to recognize kids on special days. Now that is something to celebrate!

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IS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

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annual-reports](http://chlss.org/annual-reports)

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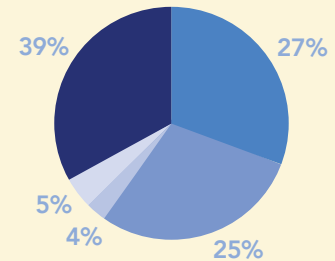
Bill Soth
Steve Zenz



A child's best interest is at the heart of all we do. We believe all children need and deserve permanent, loving families.



FUNDING SOURCES



- **CONTRIBUTIONS**
Including United Way
& In-Kind Donations
\$1,714,774
- **FEES FOR SERVICE**
\$1,427,210
- **FEES & GRANTS**
From Government Agencies
\$1,502,566
- **INVESTMENT INCOME**
\$290,000
- **MISCELLANEOUS INCOME**
\$275,594

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

TOTAL REVENUE
\$5,210,144

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$4,683,670

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**Children's
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of Minnesota