



Children's
Home Society
of Minnesota



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2025

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.



OUR SERVICES

- Education
- Foster Care
- Foster Care Adoption
- Global Family Support
- Infant Adoption
- International Adoption
- Post Adoption Services
- Pregnancy Counseling

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This past year has been one of meaningful progress and transformation. As we move forward with the formal merger of Children’s Home Society of Minnesota and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, we do so with deep respect for our shared history and a clear vision for the future. This formal merger will strengthen our programming, enhance team collaboration and improve service delivery. It’s a step that honors our past while positioning us for a more impactful future.

Throughout the year, we’ve focused on listening, learning and adapting to meet the evolving needs of those we serve. Our teams have worked tirelessly to provide lifelong support through adoption, foster care and post-adoption services — building brighter futures and stronger communities across Minnesota and beyond.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our programs, deepening our partnerships, and expanding access to services that support children and families at every stage of life. The dedication of our staff, the generosity of our supporters, and the impact our work has on those we serve, continues to inspire.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we are truly helping children thrive.

With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Wiste'.

Heidi Wiste | President



OUR MISSION

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



PROUDLY SERVING ALL FAMILIES

Children’s Home is a welcoming organization, offering services and support for all people.

OUR IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



346 foster and adoptive placements

51
Adoptions
from Foster Care

219
Foster Care
Placements

23
Infant
Adoptions

53
International
Adoptions

Last year we supported people at every stage of life. Our youngest placement was a newborn baby, just a few days old at placement and our eldest client was a 99-year-old birthmother receiving post adoption services.

5,020
individuals served





48

kids served through Child Specific Recruitment Services

493

individuals educated to care for children in foster care through Foster Care Adoption Classes

701

individuals attended Connect2Connect free, family-friendly events across Minnesota

82

Volunteers provided

421

hours of service



1,488

individuals served through Post Adoption Services

56

birth parents served through Pregnancy Services



ADOPTION SUPPORT FUND

The Children's Home Adoption Support Fund helps ensure fees are not a hinderance for anyone seeking our services. The fund focuses on supporting adoptees, birth parents, adoptive parents and their loved ones that utilize our services. "It means the world to me that this support exists," said Mimi, a 2025 grant recipient.

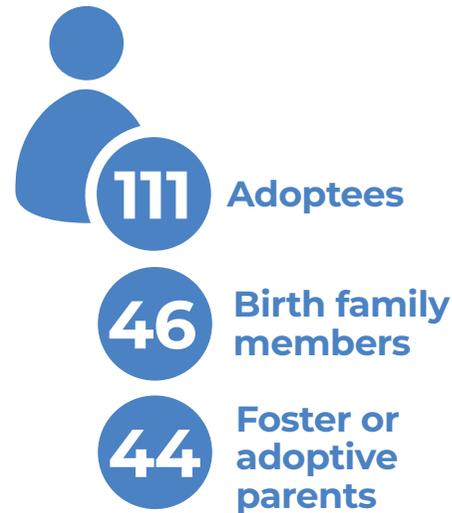
Last year, our Support Fund granted \$179,376 to more than 200 recipients, of which 111 were adoptees, 46 were birth family members and 44 were foster or adoptive parents. Grants ranged from \$29 to \$10,000. The average amount granted per request was \$870.

The largest recipients of Support Fund grants were people using our Post Adoption Services. Access to Post Adoption Services is crucial. This support reduces the likelihood of adoption disruption or dissolution and fosters more resilient relationships for everyone in the adoption constellation.

This year, we received more Support Fund requests for Post Adoption Services than in any year. Grants provided search and reunion support as adoptees traveled back to their birthland for the first time, and gave access to vital services such as Family Support Coach.

“ Thank you for your generosity and caring and investing in the adoption process for others. You are all a blessing - Alan ”

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granted by the Adoption Support Fund
to more than **200** recipients



- Grants ranged from \$29 to \$10,000
- The average amount granted per request was \$870



TOUR KOREA

Since 1986, Tour Korea has supported Korean adoptees and their families in reconnecting with their heritage through immersive birthland journeys. These experiences offer more than travel — they foster healing, a sense of heritage and a deeper understanding of participants' personal journeys. Each tour includes meaningful visits to historical sites, adoption agencies and memorials, creating space for reflection, connection and personal growth.

What sets Tour Korea apart is its personalized support tailored to each individual. The program welcomes adoptees from any U.S. or Korean agency living in the United States and is led by a dedicated team with lived experience. With a thoughtfully designed itinerary that extends beyond Seoul, Tour Korea continues to be a transformative experience for those seeking to explore their roots and build lasting relationships.

"This tour is absolutely amazing and worth every penny. The programming was so mindful and left my family feeling so proud of Korea."
— Adoptive Parent, 2025



2025 Tours

Dragon Tour: May 30 – June 10
33 participants, plus two staff and two volunteers

Tiger Tour: June 13 – 24
35 participants, plus two staff and two volunteers

Total Attendees:
23 adoptees and 45 parents, siblings and support figures



A Journey of Discovery and Belonging

Participants often describe their experience as life changing. Whether it's a first visit to Korea or a return decades later, the journey fosters personal growth and lasting friendships. Many begin birth searches, reconnect with foster families or find new ways to support Korean adoptee organizations.

Learn more: chls.org/tourkorea



"The tour was very well-organized and gave the group the opportunity to see so much, even outside of just Seoul, which was wonderful."
— Adult Adoptee, 2025

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Last year's event in Saint Paul brought together children and caregivers for a day of connection and support. With help from our partner, Jockey Being Family Foundation, we provided essential resources and encouragement to a total of **96 children** (86 in-person at the event) cared for by relatives or kin and those awaiting adoption from Minnesota foster care.

We are committed to continuing this annual tradition so that every child feels seen, supported and ready for school. With growing attendance and community engagement, we look forward to expanding our reach and deepening our impact in 2026.



Emotional Support

Therapy llamas helped reduce anxiety, boost mood and encourage social interaction — enjoyed by all and a meaningful support for children.



School Supplies Distributed

Backpacks • Notebooks • Writing Tools • Hygiene Kits

Activities & Engagement

Crafts • Games • Snacks • School Supply Distribution • Volunteer Support



CHEERS TO CHILDREN'S HOME

On June 5, friends of Children's Home gathered at Lake Monster Brewing for a casual happy hour event. Guests enjoyed conversation, appetizers and a refreshing beverage while connecting as a community, celebrating the mission and hearing inspiring stories and progress updates on how Children's Home is making a difference for children and families. The generosity of donors helps make these efforts possible and ensures continued support for those we serve.



CONNECT2CONNECT

Last year, Children's Home hosted Connect2Connect events, giving foster and adoptive families meaningful opportunities to connect in person and build relationships in fun, interactive ways. A total of **701 people attended** these free gatherings, underscoring the importance of community and shared experiences.

Supported by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families Permanency Support Service grant, Connect2Connect also offered dedicated spaces for Pride community families.



DONORS

Children's Home gratefully acknowledges the many generous donors who support our work. Recognized in this listing are those who pledged or gave \$1,000 or more cumulatively from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.



\$25,000 + CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

Fred C. & Katherine B.
Andersen Foundation
James Daniel Humphrey Foundation
Kinney Family Foundation
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Marcy & Randy Betcher
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\$1,000 – \$2,499

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 Richard & Zarida Young

FUNDING SOURCES

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

TOTAL REVENUE
\$6,226,220

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$5,598,410

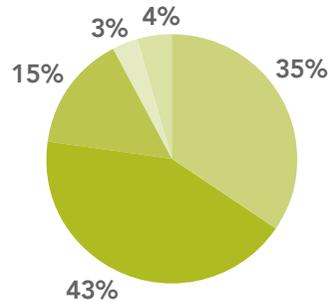
● **FEES & GRANTS**
From Government Agencies
\$2,153,529

● **CONTRIBUTIONS**
Including United Way
& In-Kind Donations
\$2,664,654

● **FEES FOR SERVICE**
\$930,612

● **INVESTMENT INCOME**
\$215,497

● **MISCELLANEOUS INCOME**
\$261,928



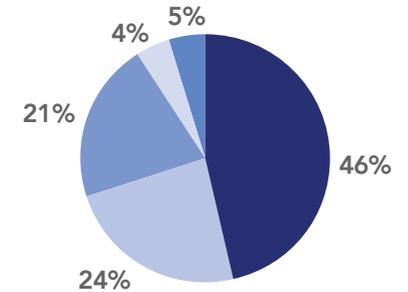
● **DOMESTIC ADOPTION**
\$2,599,273

● **SUPPORT SERVICES**
\$1,326,486

● **INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION**
\$1,162,738

● **OTHER**
\$249,464

● **POST ADOPTION**
\$260,449



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*Appointment by LSS Board of Directors

Your support has powered every milestone this year. Because of you, children and families have found hope, healing and new beginnings. Your belief in our mission drives today's progress and tomorrow's possibilities. Together, we're building a future where every child feels safe, supported and valued. Thank you for being essential to this journey.





CONTACT US

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chlss.org



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