

abbott House sunbeams



Abbott House Opens Boys Therapeutic Foster Home



An Open House and Ribbon Cutting will be held for the Ohitika House, one of four Bridges by Abbott House therapeutic foster homes in Mitchell, and the only boys foster home and independent living apartments in Mitchell.

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605-996-2486
www.abbotthouse.org



Eric Klooz
Executive Director

Looking to the future...

In 2005 I began my work and relationship with Abbott House. During the past 17 years we have sure been through some ups and downs. However, our team of staff members, board members and supporters have accomplished some wonderful things for children and families. In 2005 the agency served up to 44 girls each day. Today we take care of up to 109 boys and girls each day. We have added 7 agency owned foster homes and 16 apartments for young people. Our focus has been to provide lifesaving treatments and then provide a functional family home for children to learn and grow. Lastly, we provide help where “the rubber meets the road” as the kids become young adults and head out into the world. These truly are wonderful programs.

So... have we made it? Absolutely not! As 2022 gets underway we are going back to the drawing board. Our team of staff, community members, children and funders will take time to review all that we are doing and identify what we can do better. We will also review programs around the country and even the world to identify our next steps. Abbott House has been greatly blessed and with that blessing comes

the responsibility to do all we can to continue to offer “Premier” programs and services.

Over the next few months, we will consider many of the issues that contribute to problems that children face every day. Our goal will be simple. Provide services and expertise to support our children, families and communities in South Dakota. In the end, we will create a “strategic” plan that will take us into the coming years.

We are able to engage in this process because of the amazing team of people that believe in the work that is done. Thank you for playing your part in the success of those we serve.



Mark Massa Joins the Abbott House Foundation Board of Directors



After a career of more than 40 years in retail management, Mark is a recently retired Walmart supercenter store manager. He is married to his wife, Elizabeth (Beth) and they have two grown sons, Christopher and Alex, both professional jazz musicians. Christopher is currently working on his doctorate at the University of Las Vegas in Las Vegas, NV. Alex lives in Rapid City with his partner Crystal.

Mark was one of seven children adopted by his mom and dad, Dr LL Massa and Shirley Massa of Sturgis, SD. Mark and three of his siblings were adopted from Switzerland and the other three siblings were adopted from within South Dakota.

Over the past 30 years Mark has served on many nonprofit boards. Currently he is serving as a border director for Lutherans Outdoors (LO) as well as Abbott House. “I have known about Abbott House for some time through United Way of Rapid City and the Vision Fund of Rapid City on which I served for 6 years,” Massa said. “I have always thought Abbott House was a marvelous organization.”

One of Mark’s goals is to serve and support organizations that are “creating great facilities for families and youth to grow and develop in Christ.”

Welcome to the Abbott House board Mark!

Dessa Scares the Hawk Succeeds in Abbott House ILP

Dessa Scares the Hawk has been in and out of foster and group homes since the age of three. Her father died at an early age and her mother died when she was 15. Dessa loved her mother and misses her very much but knows that her mother struggled with drugs and alcoholism which was a toxic living situation for her.

Dessa moved to Rapid City with her older sister from a group home in Eagle Butte three years ago, but she was not ready for the freedom. Dessa dropped out of school, started drinking and doing drugs, and was eventually asked to leave her home. Dessa admits to making bad choices which resulted in harmful behavior and toxic relationships ultimately resulting in the love of her life, her son Legend. Dessa came to the Abbott House's Independent Living Program (ILP) but four months later made some more destructive choices and had to leave the program. She then stayed with her sister and began working and was accepted back into the Abbott House ILP where she continues to live today with her son. She realizes that "couch-surfing puts a burden on others but it was either that or stay up all night walking around the city."

Dessa is thankful for the Abbott House and its program; if she was not here she does not know where she would be, and that scares her. According to Dessa, Francesca Romano, Assistant Director of Black Hills Bridges and ILP Program, is a big part of the reason why she is shaping up into a functioning young adult. She visits with Francesca often

and says she is "like family", which according to Dessa is most important. This is where she wants to be and is grateful for having the help available when she begins to falter. At this time in her life, "there is nothing that could be better. If it weren't for the Abbott House and God, I would be in jail," she said. "I'm calmer now and I don't get mad nearly as easy."

Dessa is preparing herself to be able to "give Legend a better life than she had. It feels good to go home and have a safe place to sleep. I am grateful for it. I really am."

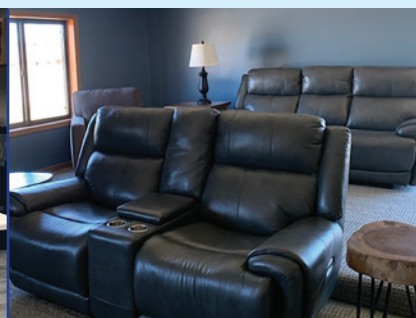
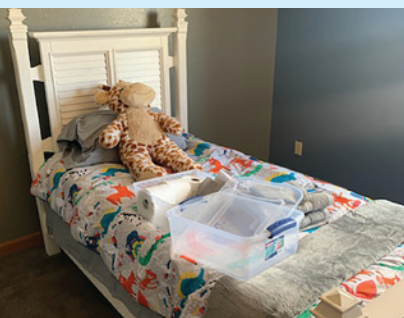


Ohitika Open House Scheduled for June 2

"Ohitika" means brave in the Lakota language. The Ohitika Bridges by Abbott House therapeutic foster home was named by a very generous donor who knows that foster children are brave, young people who need a family and a home. The Ohitika house provides a family and a home for six young boys and it gives four young adult men a home and the support they need as they transition to adulthood.

Remodeling began on the Ohitika building, formerly the Crystal Manor, in the spring of 2020. A portion of the home opened in the fall of 2020 to assist with a large number of homeless young foster boys. Acquiring supplies delayed some portions of the construction project, but it is now completed. Abbott House is excited to share this foster home and independent living apartments with the community during the ribbon cutting and open house on June 2nd at 5 pm.

Please RSVP to Abbott House at 605-996-2486 and join us for this special celebration.





Fraternal Order of the Eagles Support Abbott House Children

The Sunshine Aerie of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles located in Vermillion, SD, has raised and donated thousands of dollars to support nonprofit causes throughout Vermillion and the entire state. This year Kent Osborne is the president of the Eagles. As the president he had the opportunity to choose a cause that was meaningful and close to him as his state charity. Having grown up in Mitchell, Kent's mom was an Abbott House supporter. "I wanted to do something to honor my mom and give back to the entire state," Kent said. "Abbott House serves children from across South Dakota so it was the perfect partner for my fundraising endeavors."

Kent is selling raffle tickets to win a Can Am Maverick X3 DS Turbo R at every Eagles Club event he attends and maybe even a few other events. "Partnerships like this Can Am raffle with the Eagles are truly a win-win for everyone involved," Eric Klooz, Abbott House executive director, said. "The Eagles are doing something wonderful for traumatized South Dakota children – and in the process they are sharing the Abbott House story with many others."

Tickets can be purchased at the Eagles Club in Vermillion, 114 West Main St. or by check to avoid credit card charges. You can also purchase tickets online at <http://eaglesclub.us/> or at the Abbott House. Tickets are 1 for \$20 or 6 for \$100. The winner will be drawn June 11th during the Dakota State Eagles convention.

Do You Need A Will?

In talking with a number of friends of Abbott House we have discovered many do not have a will, or their will has not been updated for a number of years and, therefore, does not reflect their present wishes and circumstances.

Do you need a will? Is it important that it is current? The answer is a definite "Yes" if you wish all the funds, belongings and assets you have accumulated distributed as you desire and not as someone else, usually the state, determines. The answer is also a definite "Yes" if you wish to avoid problems for your heirs and to save on costs.

And the answer is a definite "Yes" if you wish to include a bequest, which we hope you do, to Abbott House or another favorite charity.

Because we feel it important for everyone to have a current will, whether a bequest is included for Abbott House or not, we are making available, without cost or obligation, an excellent little booklet entitled, "My Legacy." This guide will assist you in gathering your information that you need to have your will prepared. It also offers guidance on how to go about the process of having a will written--a process that need be neither difficult nor costly.

You can obtain your free copy of this helpful My Legacy by phoning our Abbott House office at 605-996-2486. Request your free copy today! You will be glad you did!



Annual Report of Populations Served in FY 2021

Residential Program:

At Abbott House we serve 75-100 girls each year, 91 in FY21, with ages ranging from 7 - 17

Ages:

7—12yrs 16 18%
13—18 yrs 75 82%

Ethnic Background:

Caucasian 44%
Native American 41%
African American 4%
Hispanic 2%
Other/Multi rac 9%

Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care Program:

Abbott House provides a safe place for boys and girls who complete treatment and have no other place to go. There were 90 youth served in FY21.

Occupancy for FY21 = 90%

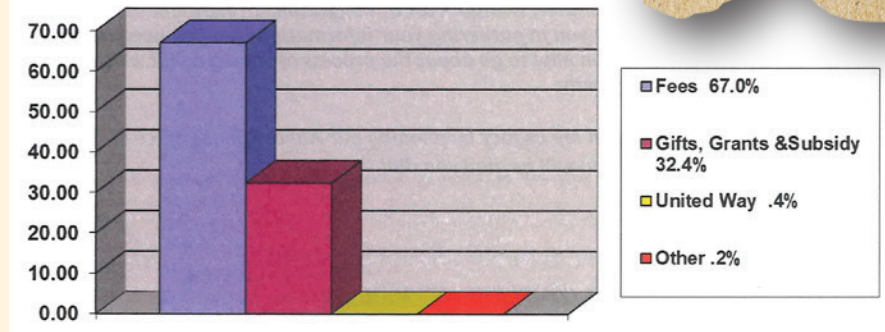
Independent Living:

Abbott House provides 12 apartments for up to 16 young adults and independent living support services for young people transitioning from the foster care system. In the past year 19 youth were served in this program.

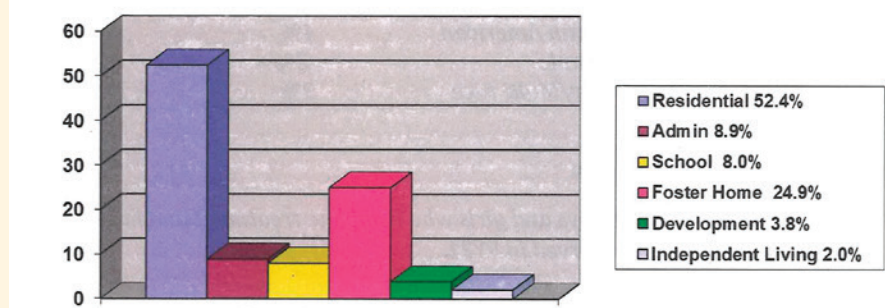
FY 2021 Financial Report

Where our dollars come from and how they are used.

Operating Income



Operating Expenses



Budgeted Income: \$7,690,498

Budgeted Expense: \$7,472,616



CLIP, COMPLETE AND MAIL TO:

Virginia Wishard Lambert

Development Director

Abbott House • PO Box 700 • Mitchell, SD 57301



Please send me, without cost of obligation, a copy of the helpful folder "My Legacy"

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Around the House



Pumpkin patch time!



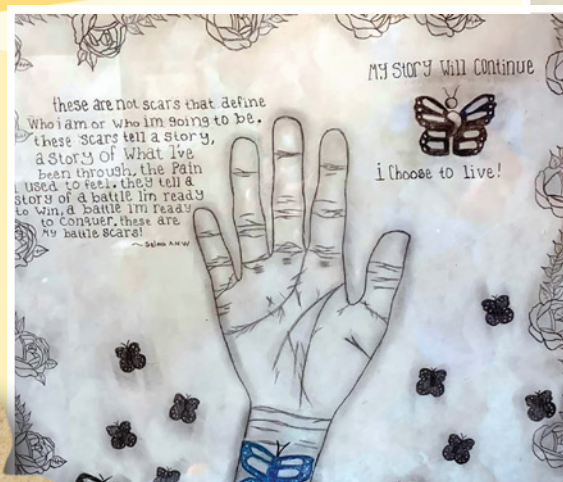
Each child selects a special pumpkin to paint for our annual pumpkin decorating contest.



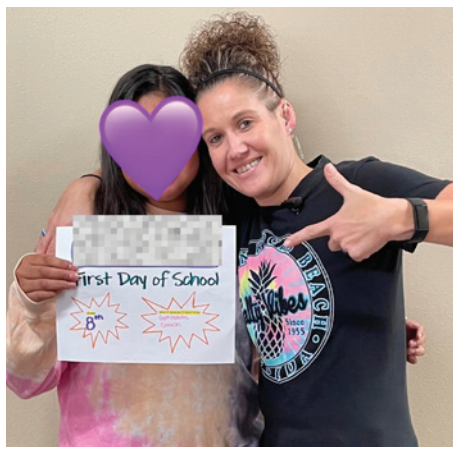
Abbott House staff enjoy dressing up for the holidays to give the girls at our residential facility a special treat for the holidays.



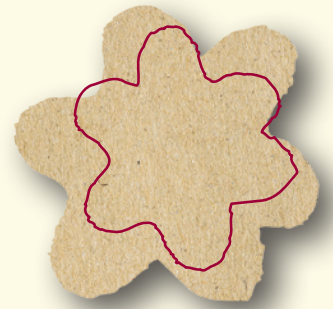
Foster families enjoyed taking the children ice skating- some for the very first time!



Art is a great way for the youth to express what they are feeling when they cannot find the words to articulate their emotions.



Goals are a great way to start the 2021-2022 School year, and she wants to be a Gymnastic Coach. Our teachers always encourage the kids to chase their dreams!



Education is so important! Abbott House offers a year-long school where children can catch up if they have fallen behind or even graduate early.



Valentine's Day is meant to be spent with the ones you love and our foster families really make sure our kids feel loved and appreciated by preparing an extra special meal to eat together.



School picture day is always exciting!



Kids enjoy a field trip to the Prehistoric Indian Village in Mitchell, SD to celebrate Indigenous People's Day. They even had the opportunity to experience a traditional Powwow dance.



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Kids enjoyed staying active and healthy during the winter months when a generous donor provided our foster families with brand new mountain bikes.

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Jacquelyn Johnson	Jim Scull
Lance Koth	

- Abbott House is accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services.
- Licensed by the South Dakota Department of Social Services.
- Approved by the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs.
- Member of the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives and the Residential Care Consortium.

Wish List for Abbott House Children:

- Arts and Crafts supplies (please no sharpeners, only washable and non-toxic materials useable)
- Small stress balls
- School Supplies
- Sports equipment – volleyballs, basketballs, badminton, pickle ball
- Newer Board Games- Monopoly, Pie in the face, Uno Attack, Sorry, Phase 10, Bounce Off, decks of cards, Mexican dominos, Skipbo, Yahtzee, Headbanz, Farkle, Battleship, Escape Room, Pictionary, Emoji game, Rubix cube
- Essential oils: lavender and other calming, soothing or cheery scents
- Lotions with peaceful scents – anything soothing, calming or cheery
- Modelling Clay or Play Doh
- Posters for bedrooms (cute animals, inspirational)
- Fidgets
- Barbies and accessories
- Newer Wii and X-Box Kinect games
- Yard games
- Puzzles/Crossword puzzle books
- Sudoku
- Stickers
- Sketch pads, stamps and ink pads
- Gift cards for Walmart, Maurices, Cato, Shoe Sensation, sports stores, fastfood restaurants
- Tickets to Wild Water West, Thunder Road, Bear Country, caves in the Black Hills
- Tickets to Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History
- Tickets to Hair/Nail salon gifts

Wish List for foster children in Mitchell and Rapid City:

- School Supplies
- Arts & craft supplies (stickers, paper, markers, pencils, glue, stencils)
- Movie tickets and/or movie theatre gift cards (for concessions)
- Play Doh or modeling clay
- Wireless Bluetooth headphones
- Barbies- House, clothes, etc.
- Bluetooth speakers
- Light up speakers
- MP3 players
- Dream Catchers
- Nerf Guns
- LEGO's
- PS4, Xbox, and Wii video games
- Sidewalk chalk and sidewalk paint
- Winter coats, hats and mittens (no scarves)
- New cotton underwear for youth and young adults
- Crochet and Knitting materials
- Puzzles
- Family pass to South Dakota State Parks
- Remote control cars
- Drones
- Legos
- Lava lamps
- DVD Players