



# FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS

## The Gift of Family

### On the Cover

*You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.*  
~Desmond Tutu

As we head into the holiday season, when the prospect of gift-giving can be daunting, we think of the gifts we see every day at Wichita Children's Home.

Every day the children show us the depth of their resilience despite turmoil in their lives. They open their arms for a hug. With coaxing, we'll see a smile and it's a gift when we hear them laugh.

When they arrive, we swaddle them physically and emotionally to let them know that they are loved and that someone cares about them. That is the essence of family. For many, it is not something they have known in their short lives.

It is the greatest gift we can give each child that comes through our doors: to make them feel at home, safe and loved. It comes freely from people who care deeply about the children. Here, family comes in many shapes and sizes.

From playing "mummy" with a simple roll of toilet paper for Halloween to having clean clothes for them to get dressed in, to being here for them at all hours of the night

when they need us, are all part of the WCH "family" life.

It is possible because of the many supporters of Wichita Children's Home who show that you, too, care about the children. Whether through gifts of yourself volunteering or monetary gifts to keep our doors open to welcome the children, we know you are there supporting the work we do 24/7.

Whether the children will eventually be reunited with their family or ultimately adopted, we're privileged to be part of helping them on their way. Dedicated to giving them the gift of a family for whatever length of time they are with us.

The children don't choose us. But we choose to be here for them and accept them into our family. We hope it is a lasting gift they take with them.



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Volunteer Opportunities

*If you know a victim of abuse or crime who needs help, please contact the Home at 684-6581. We can provide referrals for assistance.*



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Children's Home

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# Celebration of education



June 14 was a special day in the lives of 46 youth served by the Wichita Children's Home--graduation. Whether receiving a diploma or certificate for a trade program, it was a day of pride for the students, their family members and for everyone at the Wichita Children's Home.

The 5th Annual Celebration of Education included a commencement address by

Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer, and addresses by WCH Board President Dr. Jon Tilton and BRIDGES Manager Teresa Buchanan. Khanh and Jordyn, both graduates were chosen to address their peers. Certificates were presented by WCH Chief Executive Officer Sarah Robinson and the graduates were introduced by Connie Dietz, vice president of USD259 Board of Education.

Among the students, 20 were high school graduates, six earned their CNA certificate, and seven earned certificates from trade schools, six earned certificates from Midwestern and Bethel House, and seven earned their Associates degree from area community colleges.

Thank you to USD 259 for providing teachers, tutors, paraprofessionals, counselors, social workers, administrators, supplies and transportation. We also want to thank all of the wonderful families, donors and staff who made this celebration possible.

## Fostering is a family affair for the Smiths

"We just always knew we wanted to do this," said Heather Smith. "Our background is bible-based and we just saw this as a fulfillment of our purpose on earth."

In their case, they signed on for emergency foster placements, meaning they have the children about 72 business hours, while they are in police protective custody (PPC).

"We've had about 50 children during this first year, including a couple of sets of twins and siblings," Smith noted. "Most are young, infants to four-year-olds, but we've had some older pre-teens."

Choosing to foster and welcoming each child who enters their home is definitely a family affair at the Smith house. Smith and her husband, Dan, sat down with their girls to discuss becoming a foster family. From the start, their five daughters aging from three to 12, were excited about becoming foster sisters.

Smith doesn't think her family is that special. She explains they want to give each



**The Smith family: Kailey, Bethany, Daniel, Heather, Holly (top back), Heidi, and Madeline.**

child a sense of stability and love right away and said that she has been amazed to see some of the changes in the children even in the short time they are with the Smiths.

"The team at Wichita Children's Home is a huge support," said Smith. "Kristina and Kristin have always been there for me and they host lunches each month that allow all of the foster families to share experiences

**Continued on page 8**

# Happenings at the Home



Twins Shane and Blair Pullman generously asked friends and family for donations to the Wichita Children's Home to celebrate their Sweet 16 birthday.



For Stacy Leuhrs' 9th birthday, she asked for presents for the children at Wichita Children's Home. With the help of her parents, she delivered 100 presents for the children.



Badges for Backpacks was the School Supply Drive hosted by Simon Malls and the Wichita Police Department.

**Pictured:** Officer Wayne Ensle, Director of Public Safety for Towne East and Towne West and Officer Michael Loyd.



Volunteer Pat Henry helps in many ways around WCH, from organizing children's clothes that have been donated to sitting with the children waiting for their foster family to pick them up.

I've learned about  
teamwork and respect.

~ Chris, 15

# Second year for Classic Cars for Kids Gala a great success



**Classic Cars for Kids returned to the Century II Exhibition Hall for the second year of this gala fundraiser for the Wichita Children's Home. More than 600 people attended to help raise funds for the children.**

## Committee Members

Stephanie Ayesh  
Chuck Bouilly  
Tara Clary  
Charlotte Hackett  
Sean Hudspeth  
Barbara Ray  
Stuart Ray  
Kathy Rosell  
Cindy Schwan  
Nancy Shonka  
Jon Tilton  
Marilyn Tilton



**Thanks to many Wichita businesses and individuals, there were dozens of silent auction items for bidding.**

**Save the date!**  
**Classic Cars for Kids**  
**April 11, 2013**

## Hanna's Holiday Lights for Kids

Visit the beautiful holiday light display at the Hanna home and make a donation to benefit the Wichita Children's Home.

**Hanna Lights for Kids** is located at  
2 West Parkway North  
Wichita, KS 67206  
(Between Rock and Webb on Central)

On April 5, the Exhibition Hall at Century II was transformed into a colorful venue for an evening of incredible classic cars, fabulous silent auction packages, and just over 600 attendees there to help the Wichita Children's Home raise funds at the Classic Cars for Kids Gala.

The show included 43 fully restored classic cars and trucks. These beautiful vehicles were on display by owners from throughout the Wichita area.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres were served along with an open bar. Silent and live auctions were also part of the event with travel and entertainment packages and items donated by more than 60 Wichita businesses and individuals.

"We had many people come to us after last year's event and ask to be involved this year," said Janet Pack, director of development.

Ticket sales and auction items raised \$101,983 for the Wichita Children's Home. As one of two major fund raising events for WCH, Classic Cars for Kids is becoming ever more important as the need in the community has increased.

## Our Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

### Special Sponsor: Warren Theatres

Bank of America  
BAS  
Carlson Hydraulics  
Cindy & Barry Schwan  
Cox Communications  
Davis-Moore Auto Group  
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Mid-American Credit Union  
Mojack Distributors, LLC  
Preferred Health Systems  
Scholfield Honda  
Zurich Programs

# Holiday Wish List

## Infants & Toddlers ages 0 - 5 years

Wal - Mart/Target /Simon Mall  
 Gift Certificates  
 Diaper Rash Cream (Trial Size)  
 Wipes, Baby Bath, Lotion, Baby  
 Oil and Shampoo  
 Diapers and Pull Ups  
*(Preemie through size 6)*  
 Socks & Underwear  
 Bottles, Nipples, Pacifiers,  
 Sippy Cups  
 Teething Rings  
 Sleepers and Onesies  
 Infant & Toddler Toys (Fisher  
 Price/Playskool)  
 Clothing & Shoes *(Preemie - size 8)*  
 Diaper Bags



## BRIDGES Transitional Living (16 1/2- 21 years)

Radio Alarm Clocks  
 Towels and Washcloths  
 Dish Sets  
 Flatware Sets (Forks, Knives, Spoons)  
 Glasses/Plastic Cups (any size)  
 Vacuum Cleaners  
 Twin-sized Comforters, Blankets,  
 Sheets, and Pillows  
 Kitchen Utensils/Bake ware  
 Pots and Pans  
 Laundry hampers and baskets  
 Microwaves  
 Iron/Ironing Board  
 Small Kitchen Appliances  
 Can Openers  
 Bus Passes



## General Needs for All Departments

Wal-Mart or Target/Simon Mall Gift Certificates  
 Hygiene Items (Lotion, Deodorant, Hairbrushes, Bar Soap)  
 X Box 360 and Wii games (Rated E for everyone)  
 Socks and Underwear (Adult Sizes)  
 DVD Games (Scene It, Family Feud, Monopoly)  
 CD Players/Stereos/MP3 Players  
 Activity Passes (Roller Skating, Ice Skating, Movies)  
 Board Games (Monopoly, Battleship, Sorry, Dominoes)  
 Guitar Hero/Rockband 3 for Xbox or Wii  
 Batteries (AA and AAA)  
 Wrapping Supplies *(Tape & Paper)*



## Teen Boys ages 13 - 17 years

Wal-Mart or Target/Simon Mall  
 Gift Certificates  
 CD Players or MP3 Players  
 Boxer Shorts (Adult Sizes S - XXXL)  
 Pajama Bottoms (Lounge Pants)  
 Hooded Sweat Shirts (Dark Colors/Adult Sizes)  
 Athletic Shoes (Tennis Shoes)  
 White Undershirts (LG - XXXL)  
 Belts (sizes 30 - 40)  
 Watches  
 Body Wash for Men (Axe/Old Spice)

## Boys and Girls ages 6 - 12 years

Girls Sweatpants/J Jeans (size 6-12)  
 Pajamas (size 6 - 12)  
 Boys Jeans (size 6 - 12)  
 Backpacks  
 Shoes (size 11 -6)  
 Socks & Underwear (size 6 - 14)

## Street Outreach Homeless and Runaways

Individually Packaged Snack Food such as:  
*Easy Mac & Cheese Individuals, Chef Boyardee Microwave  
 bowls, Pop Tarts, Nuts, Cheese & Crackers, Beef Jerky,  
 Cornuts, Fruit Cups)*  
 Individual First Aid Kits  
 Juice Boxes (100% Juice)  
 Individual Laundry Soap  
 Sweat Pants and Hooded Sweatshirts  
*(Dark colors sizes XL, XXL, XXXL)*  
 T-Shirts  
*(Package in Dark Colors Short & Long Sleeved)*  
 Food Certificates  
*(Dillons, Fast Food \$5 increments)*  
 QuikTrip Gift Certificates  
*(\$15 Increments)*  
 Bottled Water (8oz - 16 oz size)

## Teen Girls ages 13 - 17 years

Wal-Mart or Target/Simon Mall Gift  
 Certificates  
 Flat Irons  
 House Slippers  
 Scented Lotions  
 Make up for all Races  
 Pajamas w/Pants  
 Bras  
 Hair Accessories  
 Costume Jewelry  
 Nail Polish and Nail Art  
 Journals & Stationary  
 Purses & Belts  
 Bead Making Kits  
 Ethnic Hair Products



**WICHITA  
 Children's Home**

810 N. Holyoke • Wichita, KS 67208  
 316.684.6581 • 316.684.7249  
 Visit us at [wch.org](http://wch.org)

## 29th Annual “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament still growing

### Heartfelt “Thank You”

to Woody Austin, PGA Touring Pro, for his support of the Home and participation in the tournament.



**A Hole In One! Woody Austin, using a 4 iron, shot a hole in one on hole number 17 during the tournament. With him are witnesses: Gerald Blackford, Ron Harnden, Bill Hanna, and Cy Nobles.**

With a weekend preceding the 29th Annual “Fore the Kids” Golf Tournament that included some of the fiercest weather Kansas can offer, the day dawned sunny and a little windy on Monday, May 21. Crestview Country Club hosted 209 golfers who came to play for the children who depend on the Wichita Children’s Home.

“This is an important event for us,” said Sarah Robinson, chief executive officer of the Wichita Children’s Home. “We are grateful for all of the players, sponsors, volunteers and Crestview Country Club that make this event a success each year.”

Format was a four-person scramble at 7:30 a.m. and a lunch round beginning at 1:15 p.m. Prizes were awarded to the top teams in each round.

The tournament featured PGA Touring Pro, Woody Austin, who played the 17th hole with each team. Every player had a hole-in-one opportunity to win a two year lease on a Lexus GS 350. Perhaps it was karma, as Austin has been a long-time

supporter of the tournament and WCH, to be the golfer who shot the hole in one.

Preceding the tournament on Sunday, May 20, the Junior Golf Clinic returned after a positive reception last year. Children age 8 and older had the opportunity to work on their game with Austin, Rod Nuckolls and other local pros during the clinic at Crestview Country Club.

This was followed by an evening for the adults with drinks and lots of conversation with Austin. Silent auction items included special travel packages.

When the tournament wrapped up, golfers and bidders had helped the Wichita Children’s Home raise \$113,629. Both funds raised and the number of golfers topped last year’s tournament.

With 149 more children needing temporary emergency shelter this past year, pushing us closer to the 2,000 mark, the support shown at this year’s tournament means more to us and the children than we can put into words.

*From the youth,  
“I am learning...”*

*To be positive  
--Ray, 15*

*How my choices affect me  
--Jonathan, 16*

*To control my anger  
--Francis, 14*

## Tournament Underwriter

Fugate  
Enterprises

### Player Gift Sponsor

Shannon & Woody Austin

### Champion for Children

Bank of America  
Hawker Beechcraft  
Landmark Resources, Inc.  
Scholfield Auto Plaza  
Speedy Cash

### Golf Cart Sponsor

Murphy Tractor & Equipment  
White & Ellis Drilling

### Scoreboard Sponsor

Cox Communications  
House of Schwan

### Eagle Sponsors

Carlos O'Kelly's  
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Davis-Moore Automotive  
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Sauerwein Construction Co.  
Wesley Medical Center

### Birdie Sponsors

Delta Dental  
Fahnestock Plumbing, HVAC &  
Electric  
IMA, Inc.

Retirement Plan  
Solutions  
Sarah Robinson

### Hole Sponsors

Auto Craft  
Collision  
Baxter &  
Associates,  
Inc.  
Capitol  
Federal  
Cigna  
Insurance  
Conco  
Construction  
Devlin  
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Lahey  
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Jack Simpson and Family  
Klenda Mitchell Austerman &  
Zuercher LLC  
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Consultants  
Ritchie Exploration  
Sherwood Construction  
Southwest National Bank  
United Heartland, Inc.  
Utility Contracting  
Vincent Oil



**Woody Austin, Chuck Bouly, WCH Trustee, Shannon Austin at Drinks with Woody the evening before the "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament.**

Rolling Hills Country Club  
Willowbend Country Club  
Scotch & Sirloin  
PF Chang's  
Fox & Hound  
River City Brewery  
Yia Yia's Eurobistro

### Tournament Committee

#### Event Chair

Allen Couture, Trustee

#### Golf Committee

Shannon Austin, Trustee  
Stephanie Ayesh,  
Advisory  
Chuck Bouly, Trustee  
Kurt Cornejo, Trustee  
Will Momsen  
Scott Post, Trustee  
Mike O'Bryhim  
Kathy Rosell, Trustee  
Nancy Shonka, Advisory



**When you receive a mailing from WCH, such as the "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament invitation, the Triumph Aerosystems volunteers helped prep pieces for mailing.**

### Hole in One Sponsor

Lexus Champion for  
Charity

### Gifts in Kind

Tangible Advertising  
Pepsi Bottling Group

### Prize Sponsors

Crestview Country Club  
Sand Creek Station Golf Course

**Mark your calendar  
for the "Fore the Kids"  
Golf Tournament  
June 3, 2013**



810 North Holyoke  
Wichita, Kansas 67208

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#### OUR MISSION

To assure the safety and well-being of children and to create healthy families by providing: Assessment and intervention services as a temporary home for children at risk of abuse, neglect or homelessness, education, prevention and advocacy initiatives.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Volunteers needed this holiday season!

##### Greeters and Gift Sorters

Dec. 10th  
Two hour shifts  
10am - 2pm

##### Gift Wrappers

December 23rd at 10am  
Call Beth at 681-6704 or  
beth@wch.org

## Foster story continued from page 2

and learn from each other.”

It helps that Smith has an uncle who has fostered for decades, adopting 10 of the children who came to his home as fosters. She draws on his experience and mentoring.

You can hear the pride in her family when Smith talks about their involvement with the children. Likewise, you can hear the love in her voice when she talks about their decision to foster.

“We try to help give them a fresh start, something they haven’t had, and know there are people who love them,” she added.

For a child who has had a rough start in life, love is the most important gift they can be given. Smith will tell you they are not a family with a lot of money, and that there are emotional sacrifices that come with the children, but she will also tell you “I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Foster families are always needed, more than 1,900 children came through our doors. If you would like to know more about becoming an emergency or long-term foster family with the Wichita Children’s Home, contact Kristina at 316-684-6581.



## Make a Donation Online

It’s easy ... just go to our web site at [www.wch.org](http://www.wch.org) and click on Donate.