This is a season for “Thanks Giving”!

I understand that there is a bountiful harvest this year. Family Connection too is reaping a harvest of blessings through those that have helped and served with us in the past months to make the hospitality house project something to be celebrated. This newsletter is dedicated to “thanks giving” for those who have contributed time, talent, energy, goods, services, and money so that the families and children of those who are incarcerated may come and visit their loved one and be welcomed with dignity and care.

Because people care, our harvest of gifts include a garage with storage and additional parking, new carpeting the in the director’s house, safer windows, faithful volunteers, and other varied gifts. I am always in awe of the blessings, and when I consider those blessings, I cannot help but think about each one of you. We thank God for you, your gifts, and the care you extend to others. Most of what you give goes to individuals and children you do not know, yet you give. The compassion that is shown through your support is a source of hope and dignity to the families and children we serve. I have heard the amazement of some of our guests as they come to understand that the hospitality house is a project of compassion for them in their situation, amazement that someone cares about them.

In a recent publication of the Acton Institute, Guide to Effective Compassion, Family Connection was honored as one of the 160 charitable organizations from around the United States to be a model of Effective Compassion. This honor was given to finalists of the Samaritan Grant program that spanned 1995 thru 1998. Of the thousands of applicants from that three year period, Family Connection was chosen to be among the organizations to be included in the publication. What an honor and what a blessing that is for our ministry!

At the risk of being trite, Family Connection has been “Touched by Angels” who are ministering to those who are strangers to most of us. Our service to the families who come not only blesses them, but we too have been blessed by them. We are ever mindful that when we serve others we are serving the Lord who is the source of all our blessings. Because you care and extend that care through tangible service and support, we are able to serve. We dedicate this newsletter to you for the purpose of
As autumn leaves soar onto the crisp ground change engulfs us. Change is inevitable. Change can lead to uncertainties but can also lead to growth. Hello! My name is Amanda Koster and I am one of the most recent changes at the Hospitality House. I moved into the position as Operations Director on the first of August. It was an exiting change in my life, and I am looking forward to the years to come.

I am nearing the completion of my studies toward my Bachelors Degree in Social Work with a minor in Criminal Justice. I have previous experience as a childcare and personal counselor with Lutheran Social Services, interning as a lobbyist for the SD Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and as a facilitator in the program Alternatives to Violence. I love meeting new people and enjoy being around others. I feel this position is a perfect fit for me.

When I first became the Director I was welcomed with so much warmth and love from volunteers, past guests, board members and other supporters of the Hospitality House. I feel very fortunate to work in an environment with so much love and appreciation.

When I first toured the House I was amazed to hear that everything in the House is here because of people who are generous and embrace the spirit of giving. It still touches me now, as I reflect on the time, energy, prayers and gifts that have gone into the Hospitality House.

As a result of your kindness our services are still continuing to grow. We are now offering childcare service during visiting hours in the prison. Our cheerful and bright playroom makes the perfect surroundings for the “Smiles and Giggles” childcare service! Thanks to all the volunteers who are helping to make it possible!

In conclusion a few simple words capture my thoughts: “Thank you and God Bless each one of you.”

Warm thoughts,
Amanda Koster

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Top Five List of Family Connection Thanks Giving From Guests:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. The Hospitality House eases financial burdens making visitation easier.</td>
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<td>2. The Hospitality House provides a relaxed and homey environment.</td>
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<td>3. The Hospitality House provides a meeting ground for families who share the same situations.</td>
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<td>4. The Hospitality House is located in a convenient location.</td>
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<td>5. The Hospitality House has caring and supportive staff members and volunteers.</td>
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100% of every dollar donated goes directly to ministry

**HOW YOUR GIFTS ARE SPENT**

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR RECORD OF EFFICIENT USING YOUR DONATIONS

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**Board of Directors**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
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<td>Ann Marie Rossing</td>
<td>Wayne Peterson</td>
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**Secretary/Treasurer**

Phyllis Fromelt

- Steve Anderson  
- Mike Billion  
- Cathy Brechtelsbrauer  
- Norman Eitrheim  
- Mike Flynn

- John Gehm  
- Larry Hallstrom  
- Leroy Iseminger  
- Steve Lee  
- Darlene Klinghagen

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**Advisory Board of Directors**

- Rev. Roger Fredrickson  
- Glen & Phylis Jorgenson  
- Msgr. John McEneaney  
- Herman Solem  
- Kelby Krabbenhoft  
- Fran Borchardt  
- Del & Bernice Duncan  
- Don Dunham Jr.  
- Bishop Norm Eitreim

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**ADOPT-A-ROOM**

**PURPOSE:** To provide the funds needed by the Family Connection Hospitality House project to retire the debt on the Contract for Deed for the property currently being used for this project.

**GOAL:** To raise $135,000. This amount will retire the capital debt and allow Family Connection to add a children’s playground and off street parking.

**RECOGNITION:** To those contributing funds sufficient to Adopt-A-Room, a plaque will be displayed in honor the room was adopted.

**AREAS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:**

Each room or space as designated on the room layouts. The donor may choose the available room or space for adoption.

100% of your donation to this project will be used for the Adopt-A-Room plan.

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**MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT:**

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

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<th>Street</th>
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Gift Enclosed: $ __________  I Will Pledge $ __________

Please check the appropriate boxes for more information:

- I would like information about volunteering
- I would like a speaker for our group or service club
- I am interested in touring the house
- I am interested in serving on a Board or Committee

PLEASE RETURN THIS PLEDGE CARD OR PLACE YOUR DONATION IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED
Fall is a time of harvesting and thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed. I would like to share some of the blessings that Children’s Connection is thankful for this fall and give thanks to those angels who have so richly supported our program.

A grant given by the Sioux Falls Area Foundation and their generous donors made it possible to attend the Family & Corrections conference, *Investing in the Child, The Family and the Community* held in Bethesda, Maryland in September. The harvest was plenty including opportunity to meet people from all over the country who are working with children and families of the incarcerated, to attend workshops providing materials and experience in running children’s groups and to learn about numerous other program possibilities. The benefit from this opportunity is enormous. As a result of this experience new materials have been ordered to use in various ways with our children and the community as well as a new plan developed to serve the children both in the Sioux Falls area and those visiting the Hospitality House. A heartfelt thanks to the Sioux Falls Area Foundation and their benevolent donors for making this grant possible.

Thanksgiving is also extended to the administration and the staff at the S.D. Penitentiary for inviting Family Connection staff to visit with all new inmates approximately every two weeks to talk about our services at the Hospitality House and Children’s Connection. Amanda Koster and I visit, share information and give the inmates the opportunity to request further information or follow up for their families about our services. We give thanks to the Sheriff’s Department likewise for inviting us to speak to their new employees about our services. These contacts have allowed all inmates to know about our services and to support our mission to encourage visitation and strengthen the family bond.

As the holidays approach emotional and economic needs for the families of the inmates grow. We are thankful for the church groups who have contacted us with interest in providing gifts for the children. In advance we want to sincerely thank them for their kindness and generosity.

As you can see Children’s Connection has received a bounty of blessings and we deeply appreciate these as well as all the support, gifts and prayers we receive from you. We thank God for each one of you! Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!
Family Connection would like to acknowledge each person who has shared their time and energy by volunteering. We have been served by so many angels, on our board of directors, hostess staff, cleaning crews and maintenance. Thank you for this precious and priceless gift.

Join the Family

Helen Keller once said “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” Volunteers at the Family Connection agree with this statement, and explain it is the warmth and peace surrounding the Family Connection that make it such a wonderful place to volunteer at. The experiences are broadening and as diverse as the people we serve. Some volunteers express appreciation for all of the new families they have met through their volunteer experience. Sandy Parham, a volunteer states “It is a great way for me to meet new people and know I am helping others”. Other volunteers will tell you they enjoy the quiet time and solitude captured at the Family Connection when waiting for guests. During this quiet time volunteers are able to catch up on some work from the office or enjoy a good book. No matter what you are looking for in a volunteer position you will find your niche at the Family Connection. If you or your organization have a few extra hours to fill we have the following volunteer opportunities available.

Host / Hostess Position-This is the person who makes our guests feel welcome and at home. The hostess will answer phones, visits with guests and oversee the Hospitality House. The hours for this are extremely flexible and the experience is rewarding. Because we serve only women and children at this time, we ask that men be accompanied by a woman volunteer (like a husband and wife team.) If you would like to volunteer but do not have much time the overnight position is a great way to serve others and get a good nights sleep at the same time. A commitment of 8 hours per month is requested.

Office person-This person assists with daily office routines such as filing, typing and answering phones. The hours are 8 am to noon or noon to 4 pm Monday thru Friday. A minimum commitment of 8 hours per month is requested.

Cleaning individuals or cleaning crews- these people may come in for a one-time service or routinely and provide housekeeping services. Guests are encouraged to be as independent as possible so housekeeping tasks are minimal.

Childcare providers- Teenagers or anyone who loves children can get involved in volunteering by providing childcare to children of inmates at the Smiles and Giggles Childcare Service at the Family Connection. The time commitment is 4 hours a month on a Saturday.

Seasonal outdoor work and maintenance- This position includes being a fix it person around the Family Connection and assisting with shoveling snow, raking leaves and etc.

Bakes good are needed for the guests to nibble like cookies, rolls, or bars. Guests especially appreciate a home cooked meal. If any of these positions interest you we would love to have you join the Family Connection family of volunteers. Call Amanda today for your interview and tour at 357-0777.
Family Connection Hospitality House was Touched by These Angels in '98

Monetary Gifts

South Sioux Kiwanis, SF
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Anna Circle, SF
Doreen & Melvin Ronning
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Rejoice Circle, SF
Ed & Diane Nesselhuf
Mrs. R. Cronk
Evalynn Gieser
Norma Meinjohans
Leroy & Orpha Iseminger
SD. Synod, WELCA, Befesford
Connie & Clancy Matauda
Richard Braithwaite
St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Lambert Church, SF
First Presbyterian Church, Board of Deacons, SF
Evelyn Bergh
Lake Preston WELCA
Ginny Ericson
Pollock WELCA
Keith & Gloria Thompson
Sioux Falls Area Foundation
First Baptist Church, SF
First Baptist Seniors
Pamela & Michael Dirksen
Ed & Rose Litgerberg
Larry R. Puthoff
Hope & Harold Limmer
Ed & Diane Nesselhuf
Parish of St. Michael, SF
Medary Conference WELCA
Highland Church Women, Brandt
Msgr. James Michael Doyle
Willow Creek WELCA, Dell Rapids
Our Savior’s Lutheran, Fellowship Circle, SF
Moe Parish
Richard & Pat Hardie
Sheldon F. Reese
Foundation
Presbyterian Women, Madison

Wade Aikins
Robert & Angela Oliver
Mrs. Raymond Cronk
WELCA Prairie Coteau Conference, Sisseton
Charles & Carol Austin
Mrs. Richard V. Johnson
Norway Ladies Aid, Glenham
Florence Uhre
Richard Lewin
Church of St. Mary, Parish, SF
Hope Lutheran Church, SF
Church Women United, SF Unit
Ms. Gail Carlson
Ellen Zimmerman
Rushmore Electric River Cooperative, Inc., Rapid City
Roseini Lutheran Church, Beresford
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church WELCA, SF
Medary Conference WELCA, Clear Lake
Ruth Bergh
Sioux Falls Woman’s Alliance Foundation
Dakota Heartland WELCA, Wessington Springs
Wilmot Lutheran ELCA
Grace Lutheran Church, Sisseton
Mary Alice Halverson
Elvira & Keith Severson
Helen Plowman
Marilyn & Harley Petersen Mr. Oliver Everson
Mary Montoya Dr. Lucy Fryxell
Msgr. John McEneaney
Jim Dedrickson
Donald Humphreys
Wally Ahrendt, Ahrendt Home Improvement
E. Kay & Milan Andrus, MD
Ted Thoms

Sioux Valley Optimist, SF
Don Adams
Ruth Lemon
Mrs Joan Hilme
Flynn Outdoors
Mike & Sue Flynn
The Evangelical Lutheran, Good Samaritan Society, SF
Women of Grace, SF
Nancy Wilson
Jean Nelson
Rose M. Sprimirrell
Judy Miller
Trinity WELCA, Estelline
Rotary East
Church Women United, Watertown
United Methodist Church, Clark
River Park Foundation, Pierre
St. John WELCA, Madison
Hudson Lutheran Church Women
G.F.W.C. Woman’s Club of SF
SD Synod ELCA, Grace Lutheran Church, Watertown
Elsie Robery
Janet Luce
Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids, WELCA
St. Paul Lutheran WELCA, Stickney
Huron Church Women United
SERTOMA Club of SF
Florence Uhre, Mitchell
New Hope Lutheran Church Women, Hayti, SD
Larry Puthoff
Church Women United of Madison
Mrs. Dorothy Waaf
Trinity WELCA, Estelline
Church Women United of Madison
Rev. Robert & Joanne Berndt
Lake Campbell Lutheran Church, WELCA, Volga
Art Kriens, Almoners Fund
John Jones
Lily Magstadt
St. John’s WELCA, Hosmer
Barb Johnson
Dorothy Austad
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Women, Brookings
First Lutheran Church Women, Brookings
Florence Lutheran Parish WELCA
St. John’s Lutheran Church, WELCA, Hosmer
William & Donna Howlett
New Hope of SF
First Lutheran Church Women, SF
Northern States Power Co., Minneapolis, Mn.
Elmen Family Foundation

In-Kind Gifts

American Lutheran Church, Webster, SD
American Lutheran Church (Rebecca Society), Huron
Grace Lutheran Church (Sarah Circle), SF, SD
Estelle Pearson
Grace Lutheran Church (women), Sisseton, SD
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (Anna Circle), SF, SD
Our Saviors Lutheran Church, (8th grade, Sunday School) SF, SD
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Viborg, SD
St. John American Lutheran Church, SF, SD
Eastside Presbyterian Church, SF, SD
Rev. Robert & Joanne Berndt
T & S Vending (Tom Garrison)
Viking Vending, Inc.
Minnehaha Republican Women, Valley Springs, SD
Betty Best
Ginny Ericson
Mike Flynn
Aurora Hybertson
Bernice Melemseter
Nancy Tader
Susan Jump
Angels Of Love, Kingwood, TX
David Schwartz, Floor Covering International
Donna Riggert
Anne Burkard
Sioux Printing
K.A. Lesner
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Dominos Pizza
Little Caesars Pizza
Joan Reddy-Siouxland Libraries
LaVerie Stevens
Emmanuel Lutheran/Rural Iroquois
ISL/Fellowship Circle
WELCA Convention
Debra Singleton
St. Michael’s Parish
St. Vincent de Paul Society, SF, SD
Joyce Thompson
Waste Management, SF, SD
Roger Buus
Jean Surdez
Pearl Delorenzo
Bernice & Del Duncan
Virginia Hayenga
Orpha Iseminger
Mrs. Ken Bertness
First English Lutheran Church, Lennox, SD
Central Baptist Church SF
In Memory of Inga mother of Marjorie Berger
Anetta Setnes
Zoar Mission Circle
West Nidaros, AAL Branch 7646
Rocky Denholm
Steve Andersen
Bernard Kock
Jerry Brown

Jeff Thur moy
Larry Hallstrom
Church Women United, Wolsey, SD
Hope Lutheran, SF
Church Women United of SF
Norway Ladies Aid, Glenham SD
Sun Enterprises, Inc.
Mary Chilton Chapter DAR
Rev. August Borchardt
Gary Litschie
Richard Mange

A special thanks to Arlen Viste for his assistance in the production of this newsletter.

We deeply apologize if your name was overlooked on our list. Please note that each donation and gift is appreciated.
Family Connection
Wish List

Supplies Needed:
- laundry products (detergent, dryer sheets)
- baby clothes (new or used) and diapers
- chlorine bleach
- trash bags, small and leaf bags
- light bulbs, flash lights and batteries
- nonperishable and freezable food
- ice melt and shovels
- postage stamps and stamped post cards
- business envelopes and paper for copy machine

Equipment Needed:
- copy machine and fax machine
- upgraded computer, mouse and printer

Items Needed for the House:
- dehumidifier and ceiling fan
- insulation for attic in both houses
- central air for Director’s house
- mirrors for walls in guest bedrooms
- wall hangings and silk plants
- shower unit for half bathroom

Erik Christensen completes Eagle Scout Project with helpers

Connecting Points

Family Connection
PO Box 100
Sioux Falls SD 57101

“Helping families stay together while they are apart.”