Children’s Home Society
Prevention Initiative

Goal – to eliminate domestic violence and child abuse in our state through community education, training of professionals, intercession with at-risk families, and public awareness campaigns.

We hope to attack this on many fronts through any and all of our CHS programs. CHS is viewed as a leader in the fields of child abuse and domestic violence. We want to leverage our wisdom and our connections to create safer communities for children. A few of our current educational activities include:

- **Children’s Home Child Advocacy Center** – MDT trainings for CAC work and the “What If...” presentations to general public
- **Children’s Inn** – Amy Carter and staff and their DV, Safe Dating, Bullying, Common Sense Parenting and other community presentations
- **Children’s Home Residential Treatment programs** (SF and BH) – “Beyond Consequences, Logic and Control” trainings for home settings and classroom settings
- **Bright Start** – prevention program that teaches pregnant women how to provide a safe and healthy home environment for their children
- **Children’s Home Community Based Services** – training foster and adoptive families to work effectively with traumatized children

Our areas of focus as our Prevention Initiative develops are:

- **Advocacy** – influencing public policy that would advance prevention activities.
- **Coalition Building** – collaborating with other organizations to maximize effect and avoid duplicating efforts.
- **Communication and Public Awareness** – increasing public awareness of these issues in our neighborhoods and informing about how to respond.
- **Education/Training** – providing parenting education and/or support to families and training to professionals about how to effectively respond to the needs of families to break the cycle.
- **Grassroots Engagement** – Enlisting the help of officials and volunteers in every South Dakota town.
- **Interception** – Strengthening low to medium risk families to keep them from escalating to high risk families through applicable programming.
Plans for the future include putting infrastructure in place at CHS to grow our prevention work, including.....

- Staffing (programmatic, training, and support staff)
- Endowment development/growth
- Website makeover

.....which will enable us to provide:

- Regional MDT trainings and associated community trainings
- Train the Trainers for South Dakota school districts, offering guidance in selecting/implementing curriculum
- Hosting capabilities for training webinars (already preparing Minimal Facts training and Mandatory Reporting)
- Regional mass media campaigns on domestic violence and child abuse topics