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mountain states
CHILDREN'S HOME

Serving Children & Families Since 1960

Honoring Houseparents

From the Daily Times Call, October 1969: Dean "enthusiastically requests seconds of his wife's [Doris] homemade pinapple orange sherbet".

Houseparents are the heart of our ministry on the "front lines" caring for the children on campus. They are selflessly dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the youth placed in their homes.

Today we pay tribute to one of those extraordinary couples, ***Dean and Doris Graham*** (pictured on the left). The Grahams came to Mountain States Children's Home in 1966 with their two children, Rodney & Subrena, embarking on a journey that would leave a lasting mark on the lives of those they touched. They opened their hearts and their home to children in need, providing not only shelter and sustenance but also unwavering support and encouragement. In later years, Dean worked on campus any chance he got. Whether it was painting with his son Rodney or working with the Sojourners when they came to campus each fall. After 63 years of marriage, Doris passed away in 2020, and we lost Dean this past January.

As we honor the memory of Dean and Doris Graham, let us also celebrate the enduring commitment of *all* houseparents at Mountain States Children's Home (pictured right). Their tireless efforts, often performed behind the scenes, are the foundation upon which the hopes and dreams of vulnerable children are built. They are the unsung heroes whose compassion knows no bounds and whose impact reverberates through generations.

Current Houseparents (*from the top*): John & Kathy, Shelley, Alan & Haylee w/ their youngest son, Josiah, and Matt & Adriana

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From the Executive Director

Nick Mears
Executive Director

Like so many service-oriented organizations, our staff is our greatest asset. Being a nonprofit ministry, but also licensed by the state of Colorado, you may be surprised to know how many staff it takes to successfully operate Mountain States Children's Home.

Roles such as office administration, database management, marketing and communications, event planning, maintenance, and fundraising all play an important role in our operational success. Then there are the ever-important direct-care positions such as counselors and teachers. These positions play a crucial role in shaping and guiding the children and families that we work with so closely.

But when it comes to the day-to-day discipling and mentoring of our kids and the implementation of our program, the lifeblood of our staff here at MSCH is our Houseparents. Without their incredible dedication to ministry and youth, we would not be able to have the impressive success that we do when it comes to the healing of families and the individual growth of children.

Houseparenting is a great way for husband-and-wife teams to work alongside one another in a rewarding mission field, while still having time to invest in their own family, without leaving the States. Perhaps said best by one of our very own Housedads, *"We spend our days together and wake up every morning with the certainty that we are doing something that matters."*

If you would like to know more about houseparenting, please feel free to call or email (303) 776-6841 or nmears@msch.org). And if you would like to know more about MSCH and what we do, we would love to visit with you! If you are ever in the northern Colorado area, we would like to encourage you to stop by for a tour!

As staff here at MSCH, we feel so very blessed to be a part of such an amazing ministry. But we all know that it is because of the incredible support and generosity from people like you that make it possible for us to do what we do. Thank you for the crucial role that you play in this organization!

Nick Mears

We are changing the way we process your donations!! We will be moving away from PayPal and are very excited about the added benefits. One significant improvement with this transition is that our new merchant will cover the transaction fees on any donation up to $3,000. This means that for donations within this threshold, 100% of your generous contribution will go directly towards supporting our mission. Be on the lookout for more information including how to update automated monthly donations.

THE MOUNTAIN STATES CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Lynch, Editor
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Office Phone: (303)776-6841 Website: www.msch.org

Walter Williams
Director of Capital Advancement

A WORD FROM WALTER

Spring is upon us! At Mountain States Children's Home, springtime means we are gearing up for our 8th Annual Sporting Clay Tournament in July. This event, along with our Gala Dinner and Auction in October, are two special events that play a critical role in our success each year.

Undoubtedly, we host these events to see old friends and to raise money. As a privately funded organization, we do not rely on the government for support. In fact, over 80% of our annual budget is funded by individuals like you! Events like these not only help generate funds to further our mission, but they also help raise awareness about our cause for children and attract new donors. I love to hear people say they were first introduced to MSCH by coming to one of our events.

These events can create a memorable experience for those who attend. They also increase our visibility in the community and strengthen our impact in the region. If you plan to sponsor a squad at the Sporting Clay Tournament or buy a table at the Gala, consider bringing people unfamiliar with MSCH – we love new donors! Please contact our office or visit our website to learn more. If you are in the area, stop by and let us give you a tour of campus. We would love to see you this spring!

The young adults in our Transitional Living Program are in need of reliable & economical transportation. If you have a vehicle that would be a good fit, let us know!

Do you have a donation or a contact in the retail, travel, or food industry?
Reach out to
Diane Mester
dmester@msch.org
303-776-6841

ONLINE AUCTION	LIVE EVENT
Stay tuned for a link to bid online	Embassy Suites Loveland
10/4 - 10/12	Saturday 10/12

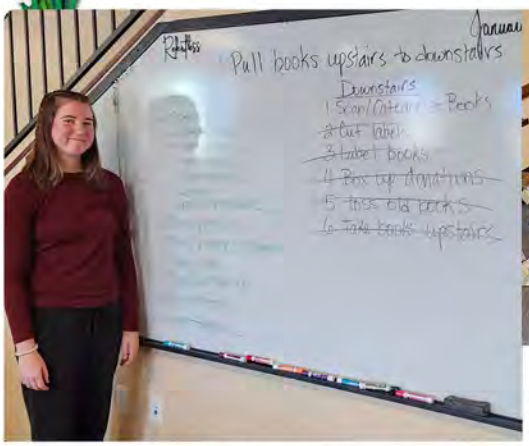
We all enjoyed Christmas goodies and time around the tree with the CMA group (above left). On the right, Michael poses with a gift from Revival House Fellowship.

Christmas Celebrations!!

We were undoubtedly blessed again this Christmas. In addition to several groups bringing gifts to our kids, we were able to spend some time with our friends from **Barton Supply** & the **Christian Motorcycle Association** (CMA) at parties on and off campus.

Some of our kids pose with "Barton Santa" at Get Air.

Castle Rock Rocks!



One of our favorite groups continues to shower love on our campus. Not only do they come out a few times a year to feed and hang out with us, but Miss Heidi chose to update our school library as her Redcoat Leadership Project! She organized a trivia night to raise money for books and even new furniture for a sitting/reading nook. It was such a labor of love cleaning out and organizing ALL of our books, including getting them all added to a database to make it easier for kids to find and check out books.

Small but Mighty

We have been incredibly blessed by a men's small group from **Flatirons Church** here in Longmont. Currently, they are a group of 9 men, and they take up a collection each time they meet. Every few months, they come out and spoil one of our cottages (houseparents too)! They have made their way through all our cottages and are excited to start over! One of the group members had this to say, *"All I can say about it is it's an honor and a privilege for us to work with and support the efforts of MSCH."*

SPRING Break

What better way to start Spring Break than with a little culture?! The girls were able to take in a play at CU Boulder, and then woke early the next morning to attend the grand opening of Colorado's first Buc-ee's! Contrary to popular belief, that is not their housedad Alan in the beaver costume.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

November 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024

MEMORIALS

Linda L. (Knight) Allen
Lynn Allen
Travis and Marie Allen
Anonymous
Travis G. Allen
North Side Church of Christ, Robert Lee, TX
Tom and Pat Atkinson
Lola Pitney
Kathy Bartlett
Sharon Maag
Melissa Bauer
Ken and Jackie Bauer
Larry Becker
Michael & Alison Butt
Doreen Beeson
Glenn & Linda Hardy
Ryan Berdinner
Rick & Karen Berdinner
Bob and Helen Bland
Jerry & Loma Megilligan
Edward Blank
Emily Becker
Carol Berry
Carol Gallagher
Harold Humphries
Pamela Kelly
Nancy Light
Gail McDowell
Diane Shea
Steve & Suzann Smith
Barbara Sweet
August and Dorothy Blond
Dolores Nelson
Gary Brackett
Jerry & Charleen Ledgerwood
Elaine Brinton
Forrest & Terri Binder
Jerry Burkey
Curtis & Keri Fleming
Ed & Wilma Seela
Richard "Rick" Burkman
Nancy LaFleur
Bob & Stacey Simpson
Lynda Byrd
Lakeview Church of Christ, Tacoma, WA
Debi Collins
Casper Church of Christ, Casper, WY
Paul A. Crews
Ernie & Sandy Anderson
Shirley J. Crews
Ernie & Sandy Anderson
Marvin and Vyla Belle Crowe
Gayle & Lisa Crowe
Ronnie Danielson
Terry & Linda Gore
Ernest Davidson
Anita Davidson
Ed DeMoss
Gerald & Kumaree Madeley
Bill Dismang
Michael & Nanci Bottcher
Linda Dismang
Clarence and Barbara Dixon
Patricia Ballard
Michele Doheny
Petrea & Ron Rauch
Darcy Drewes
Gordon Drewes
Myda Drewes
Gordon Drewes
Kathy Duffner
Leonard & Jean Lewis
Connie Duncan
Betty Keen
Roger Dunn
Jim & Judith Hammond
Darrel Fenter
Dennis & Margie Franklin
Gage Ferguson
Dennis & Debby Coryell
Alvin and Carol Fornwalt
Dan & Susan Carroll
Jerry Foster
Sherry Foster
Jerry Frappier
Lee & Addah Gadson
Junior and Bonnie French
Ella & Lonnie Ford
Jerry Fulfer
Marjorie Hooper
Norene Gardner
Arthur & Frances Dudenhoeffer
Karen Sloan Garner
Sharon Maag
Robert B. Giezentanner
J.B. & Gwanda Giezentanner
Bobby Gissendanner
Betty Gissendanner
JoAnn Streeter Glasse
Flagler Church of Christ, Flagler, CO
Phyllis Glover
Scott & Rachel Williams
Dean Graham
Bruce & Terri Bennett
Sharon Townsend
Doris Graham
Dean Graham
Gary Graham
Craig & Deb Graham
Lindell Grover
Kathy Grover
Sharyn Gueterman
Wally & Vickie Wolanski
Leonard and Bonnie Hall
David & Suzette Hall
Millie Haney
Bruce & Terri Bennett
Kent & Phyllis Blakelock
Dean Graham
Sharon Townsend
Fred & Jean Wilmington
Bryan Hayhurst
Virginia Churchman
Jerome Church of Christ, Jerome, ID
Dan Heitmann
Dennis & Margaret Heitmann
Earl and Ruth Herrington
Dennis & Andrea Herrington
Lucy Herrmann
Dennis & Debby Coryell
Nancy Higginbotham
Jerrold Higginbotham
Julie Hinds
Helen Hinds
Edward Hirschfeld
Judith Hirschfeld
Dianne Hood
Joy May
John Hopper
Dennis & Debby Coryell
Jim Hostetter
Dwayne & Zona Vig
Howard W. Huravitch
Julia M. Huravitch
Roy and Maria James
Sharon Maag
Roy James
Sharon Maag
Patricia Clayton Jensen
Cathy Burgess
Gary Johnston
Dave & Cindy Arterburn
Phil & Janelle Ator
Tim & Debbie Baisch
Bellevue Church of Christ, Bellevue, NE
Bellevue Church of Christ - Children's Ministry
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Barb Carey
Lesa Crockett
Terry & Pam Denny
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Butch & Rhonda Huseby
James & Debra Jansen
Marietta Keller
Marlene Kelly
Steve & Mona Krogstad
Tim & Barbara Kruger
Sierra Machart
John & Carolyn McMillan
Jamesena Moore
Ono Pinay Kitchen
Curtis & Marilyn Petrik
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Eric & Jeana Poole
Petrea & Ron Rauch
Brenda Richt
Debra Steele
Justin & Crystal Stoll
Maureen Williams
Wayne and Katherine Joslyn
Carolyn King
Karen - Russ Kusler's Sister
Bruce & Terri Bennett
Breanna Leigh Kelly
Shirley Kelly
Kathryn Kelsey
Casper Church of Christ, Casper, WY
Billy Killingsworth
Diane Garcia
Mac and Nell Kilpatrick
Teresa Carney
Marlowe Kinkade
Dwayne & Zona Vig
Nat Kinlund
Jack & Marge Burman
Becky Kobos
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Sally Law
Mrs. Miriam Hoffman
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David & Nancy Warrilow
Alverna Leis
Sharon Dewees
Debbie Lewis
Leonard & Jean Lewis
John and Mildred Lewis
Michael & Nanci Bottcher
Dale P. Lindeman
David & Mary Lindeman
Sherry, Tana, & Jaime Lindeman
Tom & Lori Oster
Dan & Diana Schlaffman
Ron & Connie Thury
Stella Lively
Linda Keller
Ernie and Leta Maag
Sharon Maag
Roger Maag
Sharon Maag
Patsy Mahanay
LaRhea Pepper
Kevin Maki
Gladys Maki
Robert Marks
James Yannacito
Janice Mester
Bruce & Terri Bennett
Val Mileger
Nancy Mileger & Friends
Max and Mildred Mowrer
North & Marianne Witcher
Homer and Sandy Mundell
Sharon Maag
Kathy Magnani Newhouse
David & Nancy Warrilow
Connie Oberholtzer
Sharon Compton
Brian O'Hanlon
Maura Quinn
Dawson Trotman Page
Mary L. Fields
Dwayne Perkins
Marjorie Hooper
Lee Peshek
Allyson Peshek
Hester Petty
Sharon Dewees
Margaret Piel
Beth Campbell
George (Preston) Pierce Jr.
Carl & Karen Helms
Tony Pippin
Joy May
Dave Plumb
Bruce & Terri Bennett
Richard & Cheryl Foster
Jerry & Darla Geiger
Sharon Townsend
Jan Pontow
Sherry Foster
Steve Powers
Charles & Elaine Lauger
Midwest Auto Body
Rod Pringle
Junell Pringle
William "Bill" Prout
Norm & Anita Birt
Tom Rayside
Mary Ann Rayside & Family
Jennie Reams
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Danley
Roger & Deb Lowry
Betty J. Reese
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Danley
Cley R. Richendifer
Shirley Sides
Jerry Ritter
Craig & Deb Graham
Margaret Ritter
Phyllis Rommel
The Locke Family
Cody Sargent
Casper Church of Christ, Casper, WY
Frances Schledwitz
Sharon Maag
Rae Lynn Schneider
Marsha Davis
Frances Lenora Schroeder
Joe & Ava Partridge
James Schroeter
Cencora
Margaret Schuman
Jerald & Janet Rucker
Ed Seela
Charles & Bev Baker
Marjorie Burkey
Carthage Church of Christ, Carthage, MO
Class of 1959, Carthage, MO
Todd & Julie Cunningham
Maureen Dunaway
Jerry & Darla Geiger
Dennis & Sandra Hartley
The Holland Siblings
Larry & Donna Lawhon
Kim & Teri Lovelace
Charles & Mirtie Morrison
Terry Peacock
Mary Ann Rayside
JR & Davan Sampson
Pamela Scott
Pamela Talarico
Bob & Martha Thomas
Susan Towles
Billy & Maxine Tucker
Douglas Wheeler
Bill & Laresa Yick
Jennings Segraves
Treece Segraves
Grace Sheaman
Max Sheaman
Jesse Sims
Janice & Ron Hiner
Cheryl J. Smith
Ernie & Sandy Anderson
Gordon and Jini Smith
Michael & Nanci Bottcher
Jack "Shelton" Smith
Sharon Townsend
Jim Squires
Dwayne & Zona Vig
Deb Steinhoff
Robert Steinhoff
Betty Swenson
Todd & Lisa Burgesser
Richard and Maxine Tamlin
Becky Tamlin
Ronald and Patricia Tash
April Uriarte
Mark & Diana Van Horn
Mack Thompson
Cheryl Ruth, Richard Foster, Natalie, & Meagan Families
Marion Toillion
Timothy Decker
Paula Rivoire
Alan Townsend
Sharon Townsend
Bud Travis
Colene Ingraham

Jan Troxell
Jerry Troxell
Mary Troxell
Alan Troxell
Carrie Trumbo
Bruce & Terri Bennett
Eddie G. Usher
Janet Usher
McGee Vansickel
Dwayne & Zona Vig
Carl Waldrum
Charles & Nyleen Barrows
Brandon Walker
Roger & Pam Elliott
Marcia Walker
Kay Sanders
Robert "Bob" Waterman
Glenna Waterman
Joe Watson
Karen Watson
Dorris Welch
Ada Greer
JB Welty
Sharon Maag
Sylvia Whisenand
Gerald Whisenand
Cissy Whitman
Beth Campbell
Don Winger
Patrice Jensen
Jeff & Janet Winger
Delmar and Jeannette Woods
Robert & Ronda Richardson
Lucy Wright
Roger & Deb Lowry

HONORARIUMS

BIRTHDAYS

Katherine Hosler's 1st
Grandma & "Sarge" Huelga
Violet Lewis' 101st
Betty Gissendanner
Gerald Smith's 90th
Colville Church of Christ, Colville, WA
Rachel Williams
Danny & Brenda Spain

CHRISTMAS

Frank and Bellena Arnold
Justin & Michele Kitto
Sharon Compton
Shari Cernelic
Sandy Chambers
Cyndi Edmunds
Lewis and Pam Finch
JP & Mandy Zuehlsdorff
Betty Gissendanner
Violet Lewis
Mae McCune
Carmen Meyer
Norm and Marde Williams
Scott & Rachel Williams

GENERAL

Bruce and Terri Bennett
Ward & Loree Weisman on behalf of The Weisman Family Foundation
Olivia Berry
Scott & Rachel Williams
Bill Cofer
Stacie Lynch
Christ
Jeff Ravet
Dustin Hanna
Scott & Rachel Williams
Danny Spain
Scott and Rachel Williams
Walter Williams
Royce Vickery

VALENTINE'S DAY

Mae McCune
Carmen Meyer

We are so proud of our two graduates this year, Feven (left) & Rayn (right). Both will graduate this May and are exploring options within our Transitional Living Program. If you would like to send a card with prayers for success or words of encouragement, you can mail it to the office, and we will deliver it to the girls. Thanks to people like you, young adults such as Feven and Rayn have the necessary tools and support to succeed.

Are you looking for a unique way to honor **mom** or **dad**?

Give a Donation in Honor

Would you like to say **thank you** in a special & thoughtful way?

Thank You Youngs!

We said farewell to Houseparents, Cliff and Kristine at the end of last year. They came to us in July of 2020 and served as both girls and boys houseparents. We wish them (and their son Max) all the best in their next chapter.

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CHILDREN'S HOME
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