



SPRING 2017

newsletter

*Changing the Future...Two Lives at a Time*

*Your support today*



*Changes our tomorrow*

Phone: 406 442 6950 Fax: 406 442 6571 [inquiries@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:inquiries@florencecrittenton.org)

[www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide innovative, comprehensive services and nurturing programs that empower young pregnant women and parenting families to thrive and build productive lives.

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## WHO WE ARE

Florence Crittenton provides support and therapies to young mothers, their children, and young families. With a comprehensive array of services including therapeutic residential care, home visiting, community classes, trainings and assessments, Florence Crittenton is a leader in providing trauma-informed maternity, parenting, and early childhood services.

## Dear Friends,



This week I once again read the autobiography of Charles Crittenton titled "The Brother of Girls". As you most likely know, Charles Crittenton was the founder and visionary behind the Crittenton model which started in 1883 in New York City. He gave the following accounting of his first meeting with young girls who wanted very much to change their lives. "As we were about to say good-bye, I said - 'go and sin no more'. Immediately a voice seemed to speak to me and say, "Where are they going; there is no door open to them from the Battery to Harlem unless similar to ones they have been going

in and out of for the past several years." At that point, he built the first Florence Night Mission to provide an open door.

This is the founding belief of our mission. For many young women and their families, there has been "no open door". Today, just as in 1883, Florence Crittenton remains the open door and a symbol of hope, change and a future for young families. The course of their lives and the lives of all they encounter has been forever changed due largely to your generosity.

In this newsletter, you will hear about how hope and change lasts for a lifetime and reaches deep into the community. There is no better example than that of Kathy Brown and her daughter Nikki. As a teen mother, she chose adoption for her baby and, over 30 years later, can clearly see and understand the long-term impact of this decision. It almost seems too good to be true, but every word of their story is a true testimony to the power of providing opportunity and hope for a different future.

Thank you for your continued support for the mission and vision of Florence Crittenton developed so many years ago, and for being a beacon of hope shining through an open door.

Warmly,

Barbara Burton, Executive Director



District 37

Florence Crittenton is an approved project by the Lions Club, District 37.



**FOLLOW US!** Florence Crittenton Home & Services

## THE ENDURANCE OF A MOTHER'S LOVE

Kathy Brown came to Florence Crittenton at the age of 15. Her beautiful daughter was born 4 months later. Kathy made the decision to make a loving adoption plan for her daughter. She knew this would be the hardest decision of her life, but the best one for her daughter. Kathy also knew in her heart that one day they would see each other again. She wrote a letter to her daughter saying she would always love her and she would be there, whenever, if ever she wanted to find her. Kathy promised to keep her contact information current with the adoption agency so if or when the time came her daughter could find her. She requested an "update" from the agency, and a few months later she was overjoyed to receive one. She learned her daughter's name was Nicole (Nikki) and other basic information including grades, school interests, her overall health, her family, musical interests, and more.



Nikki grew into a wonderful young lady with her adoptive parents and younger brother. As life changes occurred with her family, Nikki's parents parted ways and she and her brother remained with their dad. Soon thereafter, Nikki began asking her dad about her biological mom, but being only 12 at the time, her dad said it was too early. As her high school graduation neared, Nikki's dad asked what she wanted for her graduation and she said, "I want to meet my mom." So began the process.

Kathy always imagined what it would be like if she got the call from her daughter. In fact, the morning of the call she had a vision of it happening. At work that day she was on the phone when a message was slipped on her desk...it was the adoption agency. The call had come just one week before Mother's Day. That night Kathy spoke to Nikki's dad for the first time and he told her to ask anything. She had two burning questions: What was Nikki's middle name, and what instrument did she play? She discovered that Nikki played viola, and this was the beginning of striking similarities between the two; Kathy had played the violin.

Kathy met Nikki one week later, just after Mother's Day. As Nikki and her dad pulled up to the house Kathy rushed to the curb to meet them. Nikki, (several inches taller than Kathy) - stepped out and into her mother's arms, an instant bond that was unmistakable. Nikki's first words to her mother, "You're so tiny!"

From here a relationship blossomed between mother and daughter. Kathy attended Nikki's high school graduation and never missed another milestone. The two caught up on memories and learned about each other. While Nikki was so grateful to have her biological mom in her life, she also recognized the important sacrifice Kathy had made for her as a baby. Nikki once told Kathy, "Thank you for 17 wonderful years," alluding to the wonderful childhood she received with her adoptive family.



Twenty-three years after their reunion, the two are as close as ever. Kathy was an integral part of Nikki's wedding and shared the mother-of-the-bride honor with her adoptive mother. Life has come full circle for both Kathy and Nikki, as Nikki and her husband became foster parents to two beautiful girls over a year ago. Mother's Day will be even more special this year when Kathy will be by Nikki's side as she and her husband officially adopt their youngest foster daughter. Kathy tells us her family will be complete - she has the daughter she always loved and the grandchildren she always dreamed about.

Although life has had its ups and downs, Kathy and Nikki's story is truly a fairy tale. Their story shows the enduring love of a mother and the unbreakable bond between mother and child. The families you help every day at Florence Crittenton know that life is far from perfect, but they have learned it does not have to be perfect to be wonderful. We are honored to be part of the journey for the families we serve, knowing that while we cannot predict how life will turn out for them, we are giving each family a chance to build an unending bond that will carry through their lives. From all the families served by Florence Crittenton over the years, thank you for believing in fairy tales.



## POWER IN PARTNERSHIP



### PERSONALIZING TECHNOLOGY

*Anderson-ZuhrMuelen Technology Services and Florence Crittenton Partner to Bring IT Excellence to Human Services Work*

Florence Crittenton is proud to announce its partnership with Anderson Zurmuehlen Technology Services (AZTS) as we continue to strive for excellence for our clients, donors, and contracting agencies. FCHS began working with AZTS after learning about their new product, DaaS (Desktop as a Service) at the MNA Conference this past fall. After working together to determine the needs and best solutions for FCHS, AZTS offered a partnership opportunity that will allow FCHS to move to the next level of technology while managing IT costs.

#### GET YOUR BUSINESS INVOLVED!

*Corporate partnerships are a win-win!*

There are many great partnership opportunities across all sectors with Florence Crittenton. From partnerships similar to those referenced with AZ Technology Services, in-kind donations of services and products, to employee giving programs, corporate matching to product drives, the possibilities are endless.

If you would like more information on our corporate partnership opportunities, or feel you have a product or service that may benefit both your organization and Florence Crittenton, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will work with you to find what works best for your company!

Contact Brittney Shirley at  
406.442.6950 x205 or  
brittneys@florencecrittenton.org  
to schedule a discussion

In an interview with AZTS Senior Manager, Pat Sassano, we asked why this was an important partnership for AZ. Mr. Sassano cited AZ's long-standing commitment to non-profit organizations across Montana, highlighting the company's belief in the significant value these organizations provide to the communities AZ serves. AZTS liked the idea of being able to work with a long-standing non-profit organization to prove that the partnership between the two entities could be both cost-effective for the non-profit and profitable for AZTS. "We believe DaaS is the perfect solution to deliver an affordable, yet very powerful technology to FCHS, enabling them to focus on helping families thrive."

Technology Services is a new venture for AZ, the well-known accounting firm across Montana. When asked why tech services from an accounting firm, Mr. Sassano said it was a natural fit given the level of technology and security of the accounting industry. AZTS began implementing DaaS with their own accounting business in 2013 and provides the service to organizations throughout Montana and the United States. Mr. Sassano says that IT built for business, by a business is one of AZTS's greatest attributes.

The need for high quality IT services and equipment continues to rise for human service agencies, as the need to protect privacy, increasing security risks, and the ability to move with mobile technology continues to grow. Working with AZTS has been a great fit for addressing these needs at Florence Crittenton. Barb Burton, Executive Director says "It has been a wonderful experience working with the team at AZTS. The passion their staff brings to their job is incredible. It is another great example of the long-standing partnership between AZTS and Florence Crittenton."

## YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

Your donations and support are transforming your community every day. The foundation set with families at Florence Crittenton carries throughout their lifetime and affects everyone they touch.

For more information on these statistics please visit our website.

### IN THE LAST 5 YEARS



**69**

# of Mothers Served in Residential Programs



**67**

# of Infants/Toddlers Served in Residential Programs



**22**

# of Montana Counties Served / 40% of Montana's Counties

### IN THE LAST YEAR



**608**

# of People Served in Community-Based Programs (FY16)



**58%**

Increase in # of People Served in Community-Based Services (FY15 to FY16)



**31**

# of Women Served in Parenting Classes at Riverside Correctional Facility

### WHERE THE CHANGE BEGINS

**92%**

# of families in Residential programs that left State care due to their time at FCHS

**100%**

# of mothers working towards their education goals and made improvements in their education.

**13%**

Community's Return on Investment for comprehensive, high-quality, birth-to-5 early education and care.

### HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

With your help, Florence Crittenton has become a multi-faceted organization focused on making real and lasting change in our communities by offering **support, housing, education** and **therapeutic services** to families that often have struggled for generations. We recognize the importance of treating **whole families** with a comprehensive approach that identifies the core of their struggles, the role **complex trauma** has played in their lives, and a path to make a new start for their families.

#### CURRENT SERVICES

- Therapeutic Residential Program – mothers ages 12 – 21 and their children
- Community Based Supported Housing for young families – parents ages 18-24 and their children
- Child Enrichment Center – highest level of nurturing childcare for infants ages 0-2
- Community Based Services – home visitors, parenting classes and family activity groups for young parents and children of all ages.

## CHANGE COMES THROUGH YOU!

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT: SHANE LARSON, EMCEE EXTRAORDINAIRE

*We sat down with our favorite emcee, funny man, and one of Florence Crittenton's biggest fans.*

#### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH FLORENCE CRITTENTON?

I got involved 3 1/2 years ago after being approached by the staff of Florence Crittenton to help with *Paint the Town Pink*. Until that point, I knew next to nothing about Florence Crittenton. I was able to get more information, take a tour, and have been "hooked" ever since.



#### WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IN FCHS?

I believe in FCHS because it touches my heart. I have a mother, whom I love to the moon and back, and I also have children that I love the same. FCHS is designed to help mothers and babies. And in certain situations, mothers and babies need a little extra help. That is where FCHS comes in. They help those mothers, mothers-to-be, and babies in a variety of ways from education to emotional support.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF PINK AND SUPPORT OUR GIRLS?

That's a tough one! I have been involved in both over the past few years. The community support for PINK is tremendous. It seems the enthusiasm and attendance grow every year. The more people that attend, the more bidding wars and more excitement. Support Our Girls is a little smaller venue, yet still receives a lot of support. The auction packages are incredible. The donors spend a lot of time making custom bras and include an abundance of gifts and extras. It's a tough choice, but Support Our Girls has a slight edge, mainly because I get to test my auctioneering skills and the FCHS staff gives me free reign on my attire.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU TELL PEOPLE ABOUT FLORENCE CRITTENTON?



There is so much I could tell other people about Florence Crittenton. The basic is that "it takes a village to raise a family." Florence Crittenton is the "village" for a lot of mothers and babies that have minimal family support or guidance. They provide top quality support for young mothers and babies, and they require charitable donations in order to grow and continue to give support to those in need. Go to the internet, schedule a tour, and support an honest, terrific cause!!



### COMING SOON!

We are gearing up for our 7th annual Support Our Girls on **Thursday, August 17th.**

This is not your "usual" fundraiser! Prepare for an exciting evening with a fun-filled and hilarious live auction of decorated bras adorned with bits and baubles donated by local bratists and fabulous community. Our emcee will be all the entertainment needed, as the infamous Shane Larson dazzles you with his wit, dancing, and always stunning fashion sense! The event will be held at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds Atrium and catered by Chili O'Brien's. Visit our website for tickets and details beginning in June. Please join us for this hilarious night out to support our young moms, babies, and families.

# Be Part of the Change



*Supporting Florence Crittenton means the babies are the real winners. Having families that are able to break cycles of abuse and neglect, heal from past traumas and show LOVE and COMPASSION for their precious babies is the best gift of all. There are so many ways YOU can help!*

## Honor Your Mom

Honor that special mom (or dad!) in your life, by making a donation to Florence Crittenton that will help other parents be the very best they can be. Honoring your parents is simple: go to our website and click on the special Mother's Day donation button. Your honorees will receive an acknowledgement and their name will appear in our spring and fall newsletters. We will also send a special letter to the person of your choice for memorial donations, acknowledging your kind gift in memory of their loved one.

## Become a Believer

Have an impact all year by making monthly or quarterly gifts. Please contact Amy Smiedala if you would like to make a larger impact helping young families with monthly or quarterly gifts at 406.442.6950x204 or email [amys@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:amys@florencecrittenton.org)

## Gift Cards

Gift cards are a great way to assist the young families at FCHS. Gas cards to Costco, Exxon, Cenex and Sinclair stations help transport young families to well-baby and healthy pregnancy appointments. Gift cards to Costco, Target, Walmart, or even Visa gift cards are a HUGE help throughout the year for necessary food, clothing, medication and household item needs.

## A Donation in Your Will

You can make an impact on young families at Florence Crittenton for many years to come by making a gift to Florence Crittenton in your will. Making a designation in your will is simple and can complement your plans to care for your heirs. These gifts can be directed however you wish, from Endowment gifts, to everyday operational funds. If you would like more information on leaving a legacy with Florence Crittenton please contact Amy Smiedala at 406.442.6950 x204 or email [amys@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:amys@florencecrittenton.org). Or you can visit our website for sample language and more information.

## Day of Service

Invest in young families through service. There are many ways that you, a group of friends or your church, work, or civic group can help Florence Crittenton. From cooking and meal preparation, to facilities and outdoor projects, to gardening, we are always in need of great groups of hard working folks that are willing to pitch in around our home! For more information about one-day or ongoing volunteer opportunities please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Emily Roehm at 442-6950 x215 or [emilyr@florencecrittenton.org](mailto:emilyr@florencecrittenton.org).



# PINK 2017 SPONSORS & DONORS

Thank you to all of our amazing corporate sponsors and auction donors for the 2017 Paint the Town Pink. Your support makes this evening possible and helps ensure that every penny raised the night of PINK goes straight to helping our young families in need.

## PINK CORPORATE SPONSORS

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*Thank You So Very Much*

## PINK AUCTION ITEM DONORS

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## PINK AUCTION ITEM DONORS

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### ANOTHER FUN & SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT PINK 2017!



It was a floral paradise at the 15th anniversary Paint the Town PINK gala on February 11th. Thanks to **YOU**, our loyal sponsors, auction donors, volunteers, and attendees, it was another record-breaking year! Because of your amazing support, we could gross over \$277,000 for the young families served at Florence Crittenton. This support helps so many families across the state of Montana and in the Helena community receive the housing, therapeutic care, education, and support they need to be the very best they can

be for their families. Every dollar raised at PINK and throughout the year comes right back into your community in the form of stable, productive families today and healthy, flourishing children for our tomorrow. Thank you all so much for another great year.

**We will see you next year on February 10, 2018 for the 16th annual PINK!**



# IN-KIND DONORS

Donations made January 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017.

Donations of over \$100 value listed.

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*Believer's Circle members make a gift to FCH every month or quarter.*

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*Names in bold are those being honored.*

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*Names in bold are those being remembered.*

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Chris and Beth Wubbolt

**Audrey Omholt**  
Roger and Myrl DeBruycker

**Our Mothers, Jane and Mary**  
Walter and Pamela Milton

**Jan Peccia**  
Jackie Peccia

**Elenor L. Pulver**  
Louis and Peggy Pulver

**Bill Rehm**  
Beverly Rehm

**David T. Ricci**  
Margaret Ricci

**Mavis Rogers**  
Mary Doubek

**Jacquie and Allie Sather**  
Jim & Aileen Sather

**John Sheehy**  
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Rena Smith

**Evelyn Storez**  
Julia Martin

**William Mark Stout**  
Fred & Gayle Stout

**Helen Grace Taylor**  
Robert and Lois Groman  
Charles R. "Bob" Taylor

**Pearl Valach**  
Frank Valach

**Patty Williams**  
Russ Williams

**Erica Young**  
Mary Doubek

## FLORENCE CRITTENTON'S LEGACY SOCIETY

*Legacy Society donors have made a commitment to future families at FCHS by making a gift to our endowment or naming FCHS in their will.*

Dick & Margaret Anderson  
Donna & Carey Cain  
J Empson  
Barb Moy  
F. Thomas Shellenberg

Jean Barrett  
John & Anne Collins  
Marcella Hull  
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## FLORENCE CRITTENTON CONTINUES EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE



Florence Crittenton is proud to announce it has achieved national reaccreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). In March 2017, COA conducted an extensive on-site evaluation of all components of Florence Crittenton's programs. In addition, they evaluated management and administration, including the organization's ethical practices, financial transparency, and oversight of the organization as a whole. As a result of their evaluation the agency was awarded an expedited reaccreditation status.

COA accreditation is an objective and independent validation of an agency's performance. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce, with a commitment to ongoing quality improvement.

Accreditation of this nature highlights Florence Crittenton's commitment to delivering the highest quality of care to young families. Florence Crittenton is the only provider of these specialized services in Montana and in several surrounding states. Accreditation provides a benchmark by which the organization can ensure continued quality and measure the impact their programs have.

*~As an organization committed to transparency and high quality services, the process of accreditation ensures an independent 3rd party review based on national quality standards. We are proud to provide our stakeholders with this assurance. Barbara Burton, Executive Director*