

CHOSEN CHRONICLES

In this Issue:

2020 Gala.....	1
2020 Gala.....	2
VBS.....	2
Boxes Of Blessing.....	2
#betheirvoice.....	2
Donation Hours.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	3
Telling Chosen's Story.....	4

Open Hearts, Open Homes: A Virtual Gala Celebrating the Work of Foster & Adoptive Families



There is a twist to our third annual gala –necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic. Open Hearts, Open Homes will be a virtual event filled with stories of warmth, encouragement and inspiration.

A highlight will be the announcement of plans to open a Milwaukee County Family Closet in 2021, modeled after The Family Closet in Waukesha, which provides free clothing/children's items to foster and adoptive families.

Due to the event's virtual nature, registration for 2020 is free! Guests can choose to donate, at registration, with those funds going to the Milwaukee County Family Closet project. Attendees can earn free tickets to the 2021 gala by hosting

watch parties of at least four guests.

Keynote speakers are Amalie and Jason Bowling, Chosen's co-founders, who will share how their own family journey ties in with the origin of Chosen. Chosen's 2020 accomplishments will be highlight along with plans to respond to an expected dramatic increase in foster care needs due to COVID-19.

Online bidding for silent auction items begins Nov. 9. Several high-profile auction items will be sold "live" at the Nov. 14 event including:

- *Private Mexican villa for up to 4 families with a private chef/maid
- *One week stay at condo in Ft Myers.
- *Wisconsin Badgers handcrafted blanket
- *Large framed painting by David LeBatard ("Lebo")
- *White Lace Inn (Sturgeon Bay) one-night stay and \$50 restaurant voucher.
- *Milwaukee Mile Drive a Race Car

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Open Hearts, Open Homes Continued

The Gala is our largest fund-raiser for Chosen's programs for foster and adoptive families and educational outreach in the

community. We are excited to tell gala attendees how their support helps us meet the needs of foster and adoptive families.

THANK YOU to our 2020 sponsors. Children's Community Health Plan, The Edge Contracting, Foundations, Lori Long, Norris Therapeutic Foster Care, SaintA, Waukesha County Foster Care, Lillian Schmidt, Waukesha State Bank and We Energies Foundation.

For more information: choseninlove.org/2020gala

To Register (required to make a bid on an auction item): bit.ly/chosengala20

Virtual Gala/Access to Silent Auction shopping:

bit.ly/chosengala20

See you there!



Karen and Amalie will be guests on The Morning Blend October 29th. Be sure to tune in to hear about the Gala!

Vacation Bible School 2020

While we aimed for a week-long event, COVID 19 caused us to reimagine our inaugural VBS. Instead, we held a one night/one day event at Waukesha Bible Church with more than 25 kids! We learned about Jesus, sang, did crafts, and gave loaded backpacks to all the kids who came.

What a blessing VBS 2020 was!



Chosen & COVID-19

The Family Closet is still Open! We are taking appointments and shopping for our families. Families are in need even more now with job changes or lay-offs. Caregivers can come in to shop no charge, pick up curbside, or we can work with case managers to get items to families. We have started some virtual events like Story Time! We, along with the fostering community, are expecting a surge in cases as mandatory reports, like teachers, are seeing kids more often. We are taking donations or gently used clothing items during donation hours and continuing to have limited volunteers help us sort and work on various projects through the year.

Boxes of Blessings:

We will resume our Boxes of Blessings program sometime in early 2021. In the meantime, we have an Amazon wish list available with the most needed items (i.e diapers, toys, baby items, etc) for The Family Closet. This is a helpful way to give to foster/adoptive families. Instead of a Boxes of Blessings Drive, would you consider "driving" your social media networks to our site? Follow this link for the list: <https://tinyurl.com/Chosenwishlist>

Thank You for Your Continued Support!

Coming in 2021

We are very excited to gear up to open a second Family Closet location in Milwaukee. Our hope and goal for 2021 is to replicate our Family Closet in the Milwaukee area to help with accessibility for our families.

- 135,000 US Children/year are adopted.
- 1/25 US Families with children have an adopted child.
- It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans have considered adoption; if 1 in 500 adopted, EVERY waiting child in foster-care would have a Forever Family



#betheirvoice

Though our Walk on the Wild Side date was moved to August and then reimagined Virtually, it did not stop our message from getting out that more families are needed to help kids in crisis. Instead, we held #betheirvoice. Followers purchased t-shirts, filled with foster-care facts, walked in their neighborhoods, shared our message on social media and had fun!



Watch for details of next year's walk in May at the Milwaukee County Zoo!

Thanks to our sponsors: SaintA, Waukesha County Foster-care, Norris, Foundations and Children's Community Health Plan!

It's not too late to buy t-shirts – go to: [choseninlove.org/store](https://www.choseninlove.org/store)

NEW HOURS: Starting Nov. 1, 2020

Donation Hours

No Appointment Needed

Thursdays 9:00am-12:00pm

Tuesdays 5:00pm-7:00pm

1st & 3rd Saturday
9:00am-12:00pm

<https://www.choseninlove.org/donation-hours>

Upcoming Event Opportunities for Foster and Adoptive Families in 2020-2021

Virtual Open Hearts, Open Homes Gala- November 14th

Toypalooza 2020- December 12 at The Family Closet in Waukesha

5th Annual Friends of Chosen Walk- May 21, 2021 at the Milwaukee County Zoo

Vacation Bible School 2021- Summer 2021

2021 Open Hearts, Open Home Gala- November 13

Telling Chosen's Story

We have served **375+** families and worked with

14 Agencies with **750+** children in care

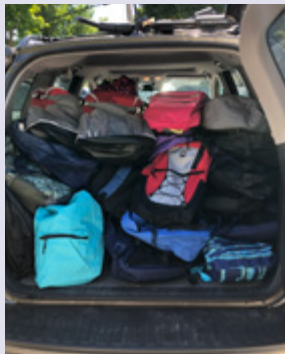
From **12** SE Wisconsin Counties.

More than **25,000** items have been given away
from The Family Closet

Including more than **300** fully loaded backpacks.



Thank you SaintA for helping us get backpacks to families



Did you know that Amazon will donate a portion of ALL OF YOUR AMAZON.COM PURCHASES if you select Chosen as your preferred non-profit? Go to Amazon's webpage to sign up: [smile.amazon.com/ch/47-4449946!](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-4449946)

Your Christmas gift and end of year purchases (and even your Chosen Wish-list purchases) all add and are an additional way to help Chosen!



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