

CHOSEN CHRONICLES

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International Monetary Systems

International Monetary Systems (IMS) has been a Gala sponsorship partner with Chosen since 2018. IMS is now partnering with Chosen to help support area foster and adoptive families! If you are an IMS customer and wish to make a trade donation to Chosen, please contact your broker. Your tax-deductible donation will be made directly into Chosen's trade account!



Open Hearts, Open Homes Gala

On Saturday, November 9th, a full room at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee West gathered to celebrate the work of foster and adoptive families at Chosen's 2nd Annual Open Hearts, Open Homes Gala. Local celebrity, Beverly Taylor, was the emcee and Jason and Janelle Johnson, Green Bay area foster/adoptive parents, shared their personal fostering to adoption journey, offering encouragement to those in the midst of this loving journey.

Guests enjoyed Silent and Live Auctions, raffles, and a Disney Raffle. Co-founders, Amalie and Jason Bowling, and co-Executive Director, Karen Schlindwein, shared the state

of fostering/adoption, Chosen's impact, and where the organization is heading going into 2020.

The Call to Partner helped to exceed fundraising goals set for the evening! A scholarship fund (Equip. Encourage. Engage.), established in our Live Auction, will help to fund various equipment and other opportunities for foster children. Watch for details in the near future!

Save the Date for next year's November 14th Gala where co-founders, Amalie and Jason Bowling, will share the backstory of Chosen and their own personal fostering/adoption journeys.

Thank you to all who came to celebrate with us!



4th Annual Friends of Chosen Walk:

Save the Date for Chosen's 4th Annual Friends of Chosen Walk at Milwaukee County Zoo on Saturday, May 16th! Walk

on the Wild Side will include a walk through the Zoo, a great picnic lunch, t-shirt, and a fun-filled day to spend with family/friends at the Zoo after the Walk! Watch our webpage (<https://www.choseninlove.org/2020friendsofchosenwalk>) for ticket information, which will be announced soon.

Sponsors are needed for the event. Contact Karen at karen@choseninlove.org if you would like to help in this way!

New for 2020: Electronic pledges for Walkers!

Jameelah A. Love- Fostering Forever Champion!

At this year's Gala, Chosen recognized Jameelah A. Love, as their 2019 Fostering Forever Champion. Love, a former foster youth, has dedicated her life/career to helping disadvantaged youth. Her position as a SaintA Peer Mentor alone is remarkable, but Jameelah went beyond that by founding The J.A. Love Project to continue serving young people in her community. Their mission is to strive to create a tomorrow that is unlike today and better than yesterday by empowering youth to make the impossible, possible. Thank you, Jameelah, for all you do for the vulnerable youth in our community!

A Huge THANK You!

During Chosen's 2019 Gala, 3 special Chosen Champions were recognized for their dedication to Chosen! Anne Domach, our inventory volunteer coordinator, continues to ensure that our inventory control system is running efficiently. Mystie Kiefer and Stephanie Drewa have both spent many hours raising funds online and in other creative ways for Chosen and have taken to social media to help to promote Chosen's name! Thank you, ladies.

Thank you also to the many, many volunteers who have blessed us greatly in 2019 by sorting clothes, serving on a committee, helping with events, coordinating drives, etc.! We couldn't do this work without you!

Olivia Kouhel – a Legacy of Love

Traci and Olivia Kouhel's story is a heart-warming mother/daughter journey that Chosen wanted to highlight at the Gala. A video sharing Traci's story and decision to foster Olivia (and later adopt) her despite her short life expectancy. Karen Schlindwein said it best, "Traci never saw Olivia's disabilities; only her possibilities.". Traci gave Olivia a full life filled with adventures, fun and smiles abounding. She went home to be with Jesus in May and is missed greatly. Thank you, Traci, for your example of unconditional love!

In honor of Olivia, the Kouhel family has established the Olivia Grace Scholarship Fund to help with educational costs for foster/adoptive children. The Kouhels and Chosen will partner together to administer the program. Watch for future details!

Thank You 2019 Business Sponsors!

International Monetary
Systems
Norris Center: Beyond
Fostering
Waukesha County Foster
Care
Foundations
SaintA
Children's Community Health
Plan
Waukesha State Bank
Heritage Quality Printing
WE Energies Foundation
Michael Best & Friedrich, LLC
Bangles & Bags
Law Office of Mark Knutson



The Edge Contracting LLC
Flowers by Cammy
Catalyst Construction
Learning RX

We are seeking 2020 sponsors for both our 2020 Walk and Gala events! What a great way to have your business/organization name attached to a worth-while cause! Contact karen@choseninlove.org for more details!

End of Year Giving:

Chosen has so many future goals that we would like to aspire to. Your end of the year donation can help us to reach many of them including:

- 2020 Vacation Bible School (one in Milwaukee County and one in Waukesha County)
- Equip. Encourage. Engage. Help us to raise funds for equipment (including special needs equipment), extra circular activities, etc. for foster children.
- Planning for a future Milwaukee County Family Closet.

Your tax-deductible donations can be made at our webpage: Donate.onecause.com/chosen

Boxes of Blessings sponsors are also needed for hard-goods needed for The Family Closet.

Thank you so much for your generosity in 2019. Your end of the year donations can help us to help more families with children in care in 2020!

Upcoming Event Opportunitites for Foster and Adoptive Families in Early 2020

January 19: Tune into Milwaukee's Philanthropic Community on WISN AM 1130 or newstalk 1130.com from 10-11 a.m. to hear Karen Schlindwein, Chosen's Executive Director of Education/Development and Teresa Cocker, CPO of Norris, Inc. talk about the state of fostering in Wisconsin and the great need for new families to help children in crisis.

Winter Wiggles- February 2020- Location TBD. Watch our Website and Facbook for more information.

February 14th: Elmbrook Rotary Presentation

4th Annual Friends of Chosen Walk- May 16th at the Milwaukee County Zoo

2019 Field Day

On August 3rd, 125 people attended Field Day, held at Spring Creek Church. We started with great outdoor activities (coordinated by Hillside Church, Mukwanago) and then moved indoors because of rain; but that didn't stop the fun for many foster/adoptive families! More than 50 loaded backpacks were given away to foster/adoptive children! Thanks to all who came and to all of our volunteers who helped make it a fun event!



Waukesha County Foster Care

Effective 12/1/19, Chosen is partnering with Waukesha County Foster Care to help to support their families at The Family Closet. We are excited to further our partnership and look forward to working with more families!

Waukesha County Business Non-Profit Alliance Executive Council

Chosen was selected to be a part of a newly formed council helping to connect non-profits to Waukesha County Business Alliance members. Watch for future details!

Memorial/In Honor of Donations:

• In Memory of Margaret Ormsby

- This fall, Meg Ormsby contacted Chosen as her mother, Margaret, passed away and she was looking for a unique way to honor her. Margaret Ormsby adopted Meg when she was two years old. Born with fetal alcohol and drug syndrome, Meg was in the NICU before being placed in foster care for two years until Margaret and Donald were notified that she was alive at which time the adoption process began. They were familiar with the process as they themselves had adopted Meg's older brother. In 2019, Meg lost both of her parents.

- Margaret was known as "the mom to many" as she took in children anytime they needed her no matter what. The Ormsby home was always open to anyone in need. Margaret always gave what she could to those who needed it the most and instilled a spirit of volunteering and donating to charities in Meg. For that reason, Meg chose to set up a donation area for Chosen at her mom's funeral so everyone that came could bring something to give in honor of Margaret's legacy of doing the same.

- Thanks to so many who brought the many items received (socks, underwear, clothing, toys, etc) and for the generous cash/check donations that were made!

• In Memory of Donald Miller:

- Paula and Scott Garland
- Karen and Tom Schlindwein



Thank you to Waukesha
Noon Kiwanis Club for their
generous donation to Chosen!

Telling Chosen's Story

We have served **300** families and worked with

14 Agencies with **600+** children in care

From **10** SE Wisconsin Counties.

More than **20,000** items have been given away
from The Family Closet

Including more than **200** fully loaded backpacks.



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)



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