

# Meet Karleen...

*"My name is Karleen Waller. I served on the Crittenton Center's Board of Directors for 20 years; two of those years, I served as Board President.*

*I was asked to join the Board in 2004. At that time, I was a newly retired high school English teacher as well as a wife and mother. When asked to be a member of the board, my criteria for choosing to serve must include helping children, women and families as well as enhancing education. Crittenton Center gave me the opportunity to serve in all three of these areas. Being a member of the Crittenton Center Board was an eye-opening, gratifying and growing experience. It allowed me to work with and become better acquainted with many community leaders and volunteers. In addition, I was able to become better informed about The United Way of Siouxland and other non-profits.*

*My board and volunteer involvement centered around Crittenton Center's Shelter (now known as "The Mansion" by its occupants or Transitional Therapeutic Home), the Stella Sanford Child Development Program and Fundraising. As president I implemented, along with a dedicated committee of community volunteers, the first signature event for Crittenton called 'Design and Dine'. This event has been well attended for several years and has helped raise funds to meet the needs of children, from ages 0-18 years, and to provide education and resources to needful families. The Transitional Therapeutic Home (Shelter) is a valuable and a much needed facility in the Siouxland area and beyond. It provides an immediate safe place for at-risk children 0-18 years of age. For the past few years there has been the planning, developing and fundraising for the building of Tiny Homes for the teenagers who age out of [foster care] the day they turn 18 and are left homeless. What an asset this has been for those kids to learn how to manage a job, live independently and still have the support and guidance from a qualified staff when needed.*

*The third program I had the opportunity to be involved in is the Stella Sanford Child Development Programs. This program has grown leaps and bounds with added facilities in the Siouxland area, and has become a model for many other areas.*

*All in all, my experience with Crittenton Center as a board member and volunteer to be able to see first-hand the passion of the staff and the generosity of the community to help grow this organization, and to meet the needs of Siouxland, has been both rewarding and humbling."*

**-Karleen Waller, former Board President and member, Volunteer, Fundraising Committee member, and Community Advocate.**