

Born in that suburban Maryland basement 10 years ago, NOFAS is now the world's leading clearinghouse for information on fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects. I am proud to say that my wife and I serve on its board of directors.

At the reception the other night, I was asked to say a few words about why I support NOFAS. I could have cited its pivotal role in the significant advances in our understanding of fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effect. Ten years ago, we knew very little about fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effects, its only slightly milder version. Today, we know that as many as 40,000 children are born each year in this country with FAS and other alcohol-related conditions, costing Americans more than \$3 billion a year in direct health care expenses.

We know that fetal alcohol syndrome is the leading known cause of mental retardation among children. We know that FAS and FAE are both 100 percent preventable when pregnant women abstain from alcohol. And we know now that there is no safe level of alcohol use during pregnancy. That is progress, and it is possible we still would not know these things today were it not for 10 years of diligent and dedicated work by the National Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Instead, I talked about two other reasons that I support NOFAS. Those reasons are Karli Schrider and Lucy Klene. If you ever drop by the NOFAS office in Washington on a Friday afternoon, there is a good chance you will run into Karli. She volunteers at NOFAS every Friday stuffing information packets. It is one of her many volunteer jobs.

Twenty-eight years ago, when Karli's mother, Kathy, was pregnant with Karli, it was not uncommon for expectant mothers to be told to "drink a beer a day for a fat, healthy baby." Women who were in danger of miscarrying were sometimes hospitalized and given alcohol intravenously for 5 or 6 hours in the mistaken belief it would prevent miscarriage. Back then, it never crossed Kathy's mind that her occasional glasses of wine might be harming her unborn child. Besides, just the year before, Kathy had had another baby who was perfectly healthy, and she drank during that pregnancy, too. The first time Karli was misdiagnosed, she was an infant. A doctor attributed her developmental delays to chronic ear infections.

When he was 4 years old, a psychologist offered another explanation for Karli's difficulties. He said she was being "willfully disobedient." When Karli was 8, a team of specialists misdiagnosed her again with cerebral palsy. Eight years later, when Karli was 16, Kathy was training to be a substance abuse counselor. As part of her training, she attended a conference on crack babies. Sitting in the audience,

she was stunned. Every characteristic of crack babies the lecturer described, Karli had. But Kathy had never used crack. She tracked down the few studies that had been done at that time on the effects of alcohol on fetuses. Again, she saw the same list of symptoms.

Years later, researchers would announce that most of the symptoms they originally thought were the result of fetal exposure to crack were actually the result of fetal alcohol exposure, and that alcohol is much more devastating to fetuses than crack or any other drug. That was 11 years ago, before NOFAS was born. Learning the real cause of Karli's special challenges has not erased those challenges. FAS and FAE are lifelong conditions.

But knowing the truth has enabled Kathy—and others in Karli's life to focus less on Karli's deficits, and more on her strengths. One of those strengths is Karli's extraordinary kindness and empathy. In addition to her volunteer work at NOFAS, Karli also volunteers to help people with cerebral palsy and the elderly. Two years ago, she was named one of America's "Thousand Points of Life" by former President Bush. She is an inspiration to everyone who meets her, and one of the reasons I believe so deeply in the work NOFAS does.

Another reason I believe in NOFAS is because of a pint-sized little girl named Lucy Klene. Lucy is 4 years old. She spent the first two years of her life in an orphanage in Russia. When she was 2, she was adopted by Stephan and Lydia Klene, of Herndon, VA. The Klenes also adopted a son from Russia, Paul, who is 3 years old and has no apparent fetal alcohol effects. Within a month after bringing Lucy and Paul home, Stephan and Lydia began to suspect that Lucy had special challenges. Over the next 16 months, Lucy was evaluated eight times by pediatricians and other specialists. Not one of them recognized the symptoms of Lucy's fetal alcohol effects. Finally, scouring the Internet, Stephan stumbled on the truth. He and Lydia took their research to Lucy's pediatrician, who read it and confirmed their hunch.

Today, Lucy is a talented little gymnast who attends special education preschool. While it is still too early to know for sure, her doctor and parents think there is a good chance she will be able to live an independent and productive life when she grows up. Together, Karli and Lucy illustrate some of the progress that has been made in the 10 years since NOFAS was born. We still have a long way to go. Today children with FAS and FAE are being diagnosed earlier. That means they are getting help earlier, which means they have a better chance at full and productive lives.

It took Karli's family 16 years to get a correct diagnosis. It took Lucy's family 16 months. That is progress. Eleven

years ago, when Karli was diagnosed, there was very little research on the effects of alcohol on fetuses. Ten years later, Lucy's father was able to find an enormous amount of information on the Internet. Slowly but surely, the studies are being done and the information is reaching the people who need it. That is real progress. When Karli was diagnosed, there were few, if any, people Kathy could turn to for support and advice. Today, Stephan and Lydia attend a NOFAS support group for parents of children with FAS and FAE, and they know they are not alone. That, too, is progress.

At the reception the other night, we celebrated an incredible milestone, the 10th anniversary of NOFAS. But next Thursday, June 15, will mark another milestone. At the urging of Stephan and Lydia, in Fairfax, VA, the school district will hold its first ever meeting to help preschool teachers recognize FAS and FAE and help children and families living with this challenge each and every day. And NOFAS will conduct the training. That is real progress.

I hope everyone today will recognize how fortunate we are—those of us lucky enough to be born healthy, those of us lucky enough to be born without fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol effect.

I hope everyone will congratulate those who have worked so diligently over the course of the last 10 years to make NOFAS what it is today, and to recognize NOFAS for the difference they are making in the lives of Karli and Lucy and hundreds of thousands of others who live with the challenges of FAS and FAE, and for millions of babies who have been born healthy these last 10 years because of NOFAS. May their next 10 years be even more remarkable.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### THE HOUSE THE SENATE BUILT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today the Senate has resolved to embark upon a unique partnership with Habitat for Humanity International. That is what I want to speak about this morning. In honor of National Homeownership Week, which concludes tomorrow, the Senate will resolve today to lend its support and its elbow grease to a project we call "The House the Senate Built."

The idea of this project is to bring Members of the Senate, their staffs, local Habitat affiliates, volunteers, and sponsors together to build simple and decent, affordable housing for low-income families in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, and to do this by the end of 2001.

The project will begin with a "model build" right here in Washington, DC,

slated to begin before National Homeownership Week in 2001. Following this event, Habitat for Humanity International will link Senators with local Habitat affiliates in their respective States. The Senators will then work with these local affiliates to build at least one Habitat house in their States during 2001.

So we are going to have 51 houses built by the Senate before the end of 2001.

For over 24 years, Habitat for Humanity International has been at the forefront of turning the American dream of owning a home into a reality. Founded by Millard Fuller in 1976, Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical Christian housing organization to eliminate poverty housing, end homelessness worldwide, and make a decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Since its inception, Habitat has built over 80,000 homes that have housed over 400,000 people worldwide. This September, Habitat will build its 100,000th home, and they seek to build another 100,000 by 2005. So they started 24 years ago. By September they will have built their first 100,000. In the next 5 years, they hope and anticipate building their next 100,000 homes.

I have talked personally and visited a number of times with Millard Fuller. I have had him out to Kansas and hosted him there. He is quite a dynamic individual. He has a great heart and wants to see people around the world living in good housing. And he is getting there, one home at a time, but they are building up fast.

Habitat for Humanity relies solely on volunteer labor to build their homes. The remarkable success of Habitat is in large part attributed to the tireless efforts of its founder, Millard Fuller, to continually bring new building partners on board.

Over the years, Millard has enlisted the services of foreign Ambassadors, former Presidents—President Carter probably being the most noteworthy and most frequent builder—and even the House of Representatives has helped to aid in building homes at various sites across the country. This year, Millard Fuller has turned to the Senate to build some houses.

I ran into Millard as I was waiting to catch my flight back home at the airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, this past January. Sitting there in a small waiting room, thousands of miles away from home, Millard shared with me the vision he had for bringing the Senate together with Habitat for Humanity International.

He was in Nepal, building houses and announcing a program there, but at the same time he was also thinking, what could he do to build some through the Senate? That is where we discussed this program.

The "House the Senate Built" project that was born out of this vision

will undoubtedly be a successful one. We will build the houses. I think we will build a lot more than 51 houses. That is our target. Benjamin Franklin once wrote: "Well done is better than well said." I think that may particularly apply to the Senate. We talk frequently about things. Here is a chance for us to do something about homeownership.

I think it is going to be a great project for us to be able to put people in homes. I can come to the floor today in the middle of National Homeownership Week and tell you that we should be committed to end homelessness across the country and eliminate poverty housing, but instead of telling you that, I would rather show you. I would rather pick up a hammer and demonstrate my commitment to affordable housing, nail by nail.

I am proud to come to the floor today and discuss this important initiative. This Senate is saying that words of support are not enough. Nothing less than the sweat of our brows will do in expressing how committed the Senate is in making the American dream of homeownership a true reality.

I thank the Chair and hope we are going to be able to adopt this resolution yet today. I believe it has been cleared.

#### PARTICIPATION IN AND SUPPORT OF ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 319, submitted by myself and others. I believe it is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 319) expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, we have 55 cosponsors in the Senate on this bill. My understanding is it has been cleared by both sides of the aisle, that there is no objection. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 319) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 319

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas affordable housing may be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, cooperatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas although the United States is the first nation in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families, 1/3 of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of families in the United States that are not homeowners are low-income families;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity is organized in all 50 States with 1544 local affiliates and its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporate status and locally elected completely voluntary board of directors.

Whereas Habitat for Humanity will build its 100,000th house worldwide in September 2000 and endeavors to complete another 100,000 homes during the next 5 years.

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the first week of June 2000 has been designated as "National Homeownership Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) everyone in the United States should have a decent home in which to live;

(2) the Members of the Senate should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism;

(3) during the year between National Homeownership Week 2000 and National Homeownership Week 2001, the Members of the Senate, Habitat for Humanity, and contributing organizations, should sponsor and construct 2 homes in the District of Columbia each of which should be known as a "House That the Senate Built";

(4) each "House That the Senate Built" should be constructed primarily by Members