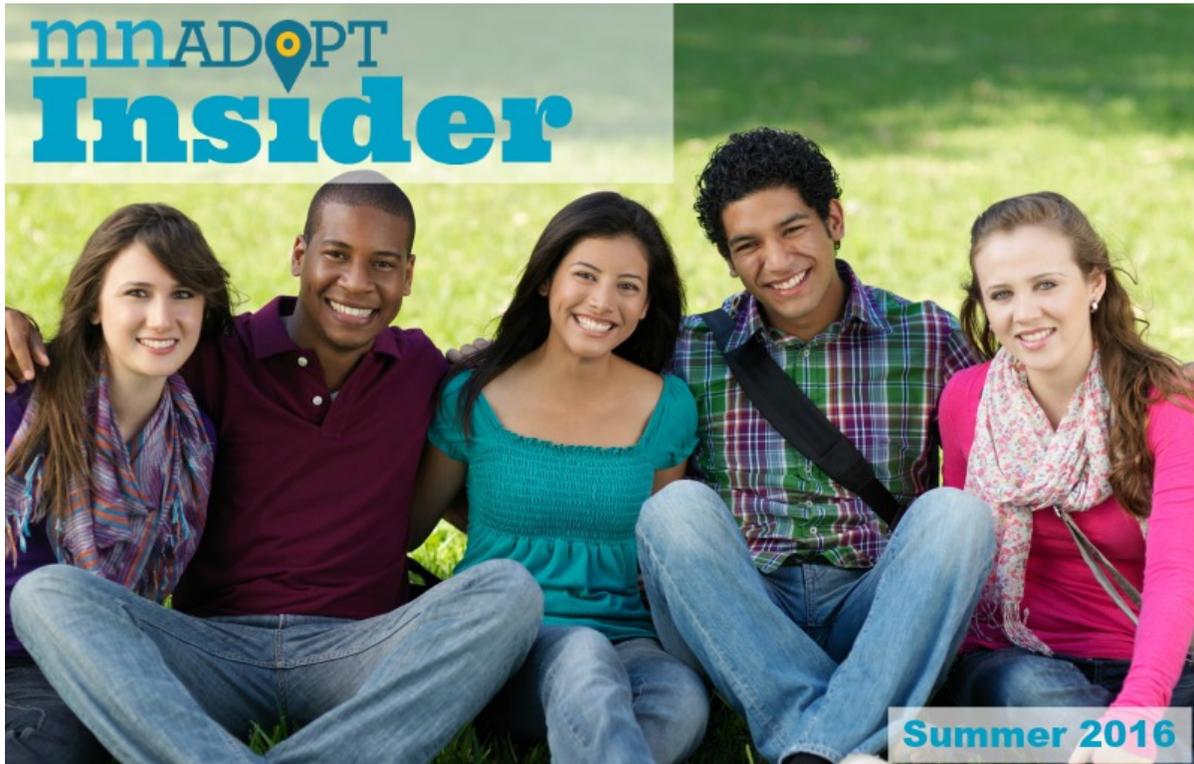


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Follow us on:



Welcome to the first issue of **MN ADOPT Insider**. This new version of our newsletter will come out quarterly and will give you a chance to stay informed about current events and happenings at MN ADOPT, as well as provide you with in-depth information about our programming and ways that you can help with our mission of promoting and supporting successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families.

This first issue will be a little longer because we want to take an opportunity to give an overview of our programming and the work our dedicated staff do on a daily basis. So grab a cup of coffee and take a few minutes to reintroduce yourself to MN ADOPT!

State Adoption Exchange Connecting Children and Families for 35 Years



For over 35 years MN ADOPT has worked with the State of Minnesota to recruit for, place and support Minnesota children in need of permanent, loving families! The children are of all ages and ethnicities, yet predominantly of school age. Some are in



Click the picture above to Meet 13-year old Razziya and watch his video

sibling groups and many are teens. One of MN ADOPT's goals is to raise awareness of Minnesota's Waiting Children through a variety of activities. The State Adoption Exchange (SAE) is an important part of this, although one that for the most part is behind the scenes. We work on behalf of children in foster care through a database where families are matched with Minnesota children and youth, through a variety of public events such as festivals and fairs, media like the Star Tribune and television, and matching events where home studied families can meet and interact in fun ways

with the waiting children. We also provide adoption information and resources for all aspects of adoption, from first call through finalization and beyond. If you have any type of question about adoption, give us a call! Take a look at our comprehensive website and [Meet the Kids!](#)

As we end our most recent fiscal year we would like to share a number with you ~ at this moment, approximately **293 youth** are registered on the SAE. These children are in immediate need of permanent, committed families. Some are in foster families, some are in group homes. All are waiting for someone like you to give them a place they can call home, forever. Considering recent changes in child welfare policy, there will be more children coming into foster care--children of all ages.

Within the last year MN ADOPT engaged with KSTP television's *Twin Cities Live* to create a brand new weekly feature called *Kid Connection*. Check out this beautifully done program here: [Kid Connection Features](#). Within the first year, 22 youth were featured and 10 found adoptive homes with the help of Kid Connection! At this time, 14 have been matched and are on their way to a new life.

Our question to you is this: If you could make a difference in the life of a child, would you? Contact us at 612-861-7115 or info@mnadopt.org for information on how to get started.

HELP Program

Support and Referral for Families and Professionals.

Did you know that Minnesota has a unique FREE program specific to providing post-adoption clinical support and resource linkage assistance to the Minnesota adoption community?

The HELP Program is an innovative program developed by the MN ADOPT organization to provide post-adoption clinical support and resource linkage to the Minnesota adoption community. Since it began in 2011, the HELP



Program has experienced considerable program growth and increasing use by members of the adoption community - from July 2015 - July 2016 alone, the HELP Program assisted a total of **286 adoptive/foster/kinship family** and **275 community professional** situations!

Why might someone contact the HELP Program?

Adoption comes with unique challenges and needs that require expert, knowledgeable support and guidance throughout the lifespan. Receiving ongoing support from professionals that understand the many layers that adoption has can be crucial for the individual and family's stability.

Below are just a few examples of why people contact the HELP Program:

- families or community professionals experiencing child(ren) behavioral challenges within the home or school environment
- the need for adoption competent therapeutic referrals (the HELP Program manages a large pool of vetted adoption competent therapists across the state)
- assistance getting connected to parental focused support and education on early trauma, attachment, identity that is tailored to their unique situation and needs...etc.

The following links give additional examples of why individuals/families and professionals contact the HELP Program for assistance.

[Why Individuals/Families Contact the HELP Program](#)

[Why Community Professionals Contact the HELP Program](#)

To learn more about the HELP Program and ways in which they can support your family or the adoptive families you work with, please visit our newly updated [HELP Program webpages](#)

or contact the HELP team directly at 612-746-5137 (Toll-free: 1-866-303-6276) or HELP-program@mnadopt.org

The HELP Program team, Emily Alewine, Heather Van Brunt and Andrea Brubaker, would welcome the opportunity to assist you in whatever way that they can!

Training Program Online, In-Person and On-Demand

Over the past year, MN ADOPT has offered **52 training sessions**, which have provided educational opportunities to **972 individuals**. We offer training opportunities for adoptive, kinship, and foster families and the professionals who serve them, as well as needed resources, tools and information that go beyond our sponsored trainings.



Below are some of the low-cost training opportunities available through MN ADOPT.

RAD LABS and Beyond Consequences Training Series

MN ADOPT offers two ongoing training series that are scheduled throughout the year. They include the Reactive Attachment Disorder Learning Alternative Behavioral Strategies (RAD LABS)

series and the Beyond Consequences Training & Support series. Both series guide, support and educate caregivers who are parenting children with trauma histories. These specialized trainings provide a safe environment for parents and caregivers to share and normalize their unique experiences often found in adoptive, foster and kinship families. For more information about the training series, please visit: <http://www.mnadopt.org/training/mn-adopt-trainings/>

Online and Live Training Opportunities

MN ADOPT provides online trainings (webinars) or live trainings throughout Minnesota.

Our trainings cover a wide variety of topics that have included:

- Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Adolescent Attachment
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Transitions
- Siblings
- Complex Trauma
- Grief & Loss
- Sexual Abuse
- Children's Mental Health
- Adoption & Racial Identity
- Understanding Behavioral Problems in Special Needs Adoption

CD's and Downloadable Webinars

The majority of our webinars are made available for purchase in CD or downloadable formats. Additionally, individuals can complete a questionnaire to receive a certificate of completion for their self-study training.

To view the MN ADOPT training calendar or for information on how to purchase a webinar CD, visit our web site: [MN ADOPT Trainings](http://www.mnadopt.org/training/mn-adopt-trainings/)

Please email Stephanie Regnier at sregnier@mnadopt.org if you have questions or suggestions for future training topics.

MN ADOPT New and Events



Welcome Stephanie Regnier!



~Stephanie Regnier

In May, Stephanie Regnier joined the MN ADOPT team in the role of training coordinator. Stephanie brings over 12 years of experience in the adoption field, most recently as manager of the Waiting Children Program at Lutheran Social Service and Children's Home Society.

"I'm very grateful to be working at MN ADOPT and within the adoption community again. I'm excited about my role as Training Coordinator because I can assist families and professionals through education and resource building."



19th Annual Circus of the Heart

The 19th Annual Circus of the Heart will take place on Sunday, November 6

Save the date!!! This year's Circus of the Heart will take place on Sunday, November 6th from 1pm-4pm at Envision Catering & Hospitality (formerly Prom Center) in Oakdale. This afternoon of celebration, activities, games and prizes is a great way

to kick off National Adoption Month. This free event is open to all adoptive families, as well as those interested in learning about adoption. There will be a resource table with staff from local counties and agencies who will be available to answer questions about pre- and post-adoption services and resources.

We also need donations for the free prize drawing that is the highlight of the event. If you're interested in contributing a family or teen oriented prize, please contact Rachel Walstad at rwalstad@mnadopt.org or 612-746-5127

Support Our Work

The important work we do is made possible through the contributions of people like you who have a deep commitment to ensuring that all Minnesota children have safe, nurturing home in which to thrive. The following are ways that you can have an impact on our mission to promote and support successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families. Together we can make a difference!

Make a Donation Today

The contributions we receive, no matter the size, have an



immediate and important impact on our ability to help children find homes as well as support families created through adoption. You can make an online or recurring donation by clicking on the "donate" graphic to the right or by clicking [HERE](#)



You can also mail your donation to us at 777 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55114.

Volunteer Your Talents

Do you have a talent you think would benefit our work? MN ADOPT has a need for volunteers and board members with the following skills, background and experiences: Office/data entry, research, grant writing, human resources, legal fundraising, social media and graphic design.



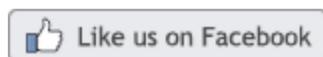
If you're interested in learning more about how you can use your talents to support our mission, please contact Rachel Walstad at rwalstad@mnadopt.org or 612-746-5127

Advocate for Children in Foster Care

The 500 Minnesota children in foster care need **all of us** to work together to ensure they can each have a safe and nurturing family to call their own. The following are ways that you can help make this a reality:



- Learn about the possibility of becoming a foster, adoptive or respite family to a child in foster care.
- Encourage those in your community to consider becoming a resource for a child.
- Spread the word about children in need of a family! Follow MN ADOPT through social media and share our posts that highlight children in need of a family.



With Appreciation

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, organizations and foundations that support our mission through the donation of services, time, in-kind donations and monetary

donations.

A special thanks to the donors below who contributed to MN ADOPT's work from January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016.

KSTP Twin Cities Live	Science Museum of MN	Angela Peters
Star Tribune	Dave Buckman	Laura Hetzel
Fidgety Fairy Tales	Dan Porter	Jennifer Hamlin
CliftenLarsonAllen	Tony Porter	Krista Barber
Virteva	Dorene Kainz	Melissa Olson
Minnesota Lynx	Melissa Mendez	Jen Erickson
Granite City	Cathy Bruer-Thompson	Chris Tiedeman
Jamberry Nails	Amanda Meyer	Marthanne Merton
Skyzone	Margaret Toohey	Penelope Needham
Average Joe's Archery	Beth Lewis	Gina Fruncillo
Afton Alps	Jodi Funk	Jeffrey Meacham
Vertical Endeavors	Anthony Hartwig	Diane Malfeld
Angelfood Bakery	Courtney Wheeler	Tim Sullivan
3rd Lair Skateboard Park	Rachel Flanders	Brad & Marsha Ballinger
Como Park & Conservatory	Steve Rudolph	

Thank you!!

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network | 612-861-7115 | rwalstad@mnadopt.org | <http://www.mnadopt.org>



Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, 777 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55114

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