

Support MN ADOPT for **give** TO THE **MAX** 

NOV. 17, 2016

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Welcome to **MN ADOPT Insider**, a quarterly newsletter that gives you updates about current events and happenings at MN ADOPT, as well as provides 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.

State Adoption Exchange Celebrates 19th Annual Circus of the Heart



The 19th annual **Circus of the Heart**, held **November 6th**, was a smashing success! Over **600 people** of all ages attended this celebration of adoption and



salute to adoptive and foster families. A multitude of games, activities, prizes, food and entertainment made the day a lively and fun event for adults and children. The Teen Room, as always, was popular with youth 13 and older. Options here included Guitar Hero, self-designed tee shirts and spectacular henna tattoos. And it was right next to the always popular reptile exhibit!

This year's program included live performance of a lovely song accompanied by a video of waiting youth. Hennepin County social worker **Betty Woodland was honored** as well as **KSTP television's Twin Cities Live** program where 'Kid Connection' is making a difference in the lives of children.

The prize drawing was better than ever, with items of interest to families and teens. The warm and sunny day was a perfect setting for the petting zoo, pony rides and Oakdale fire truck. Counties, private agencies, the Adoption Support Network and Department of Human Services staff joined MN ADOPT at Resource tables to answer questions from seasoned parents as well as those folks exploring for the first time the idea of adoption.

A special thanks to all of the volunteers and prize donors who helped make this year's Circus a tremendous success! A good time was had by all ~ we look forward to celebration number 20 on November 5, 2017!

Interested in adopting from foster care? Contact us at 612-861-7115 or info@mnadopt.org for information on how to get started.

An Introduction to HELP Program Utilization

Did you know that the HELP Program's supportive services are available to others, not just adoptive families?

In addition to assisting any Minnesota family who adopted a child who was under state or tribal guardianship; internationally (around half of all family callers!); or through private domestic infant adoption, MN ADOPT HELP Program staff also assist:

- Adoption and Home Study Workers
- County Workers and Case Managers



- Community Professionals (i.e. School Staff, Medical Staff, Lawyers...etc.)
- Adopted Persons
- Birth/First Parents and Family Members
- Kinship Adoptive Families
- Foster Families

Below are examples of some of the feedback we have receive from those who have received support through the HELP Program.

"Thank you so much for the work you all do at the HELP Program - it really is a priceless tool that is provided to us as agency workers and families!" - Adoption Worker

"I have felt so alone for so long and that others didn't get it. Talking with someone who understands has been a great experience. Thank you." - Adult who was adopted

"It's like a weight has been lifted. I finally have some direction and support. Before now I was so unsure." - Adoptive Parent

"I didn't know quite what to expect when I called the hotline, but your help and our conversation far exceeded my highest expectations! What a wonderful service and I would love to see similar services in all 50 states to sup support adoptive families and children!" - Adoptive Parent



Meet Our HELP Staff:
Emily Alewine, Andrea
Brubaker, Heather Van Brunt
(top to bottom)

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!

Education Program Launches Consultation Based Workshop Series

In November, MN ADOPT launches a new type of workshop for professionals and



parents! We're gathering with Krista Nelson, LICSW, LMFT and Deena McMahon, MSW, LICSW for workshops which will include a case consultation component. Parents and professionals are excited to discuss current behaviors they're seeing and gain feedback on how to best handle situations.

Also in November we are wrapping up the Beyond Consequences Series in both St Paul and in Mankato. Feedback has been very positive the past several weeks, including this comment from one attendee, "I didn't know what to expect, but it exceeded what I thought. I feel like I am gaining actual and useful skills for parenting my children."

Please consider joining in on our upcoming webinars **"Mommy Am I Next? Discussing White on Black Racism with Transracial Adoptees"** with Darron Smith, PhD. on Wednesday November 30th, and **"Marital Conflict: The Hidden Hurt of Foster Care and Adoption"** with Paul Buckley, LMFT on December 6th. For more information on our upcoming workshops, please visit our website mnadopt.org/training/mn-adopt-trainings.

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://mnadopt.org/training)

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

MN ADOPT New and Events

MN ADOPT Receives Grant from The Rosen Family Foundation

Thanks to the generosity of the Rosen Family Foundation, MN ADOPT has received funding to hold statewide recruitment and awareness events. Current locations being considered for these events are Rochester, Bemidji, Duluth and Mankato.

A major goal of these events will be to bring community businesses, organizations, faith communities and other stakeholders together in a collaborative effort to raise awareness about the need for families for Minnesota kids in foster care. We would love to hear from you if you are connected to an organization or business in one of these communities and want to participate in this initiative. 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!

GiveMN November 17th

Minnesota Give to the Max day is right around the corner on Thursday, November 17th. This is a day for Minnesotans to come together and collectively support the important work being done in our communities. You can have a direct impact on Minnesota's Waiting Children by supporting MN ADOPT through GiveMN.



Year End Giving

You can also support MN ADOPT through your year-end giving. Your Tax Deductable donation will be used to support children in need of adoption as well as adoptive families who need ongoing support and education. Please consider making a one-time 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.



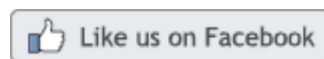
If you're interested in learning more about how you can use your talents to support our mission, please contact Rachel Walstad at rwalstad@mnadopt.org or 612-746-5127

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 July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016.

KSTP Twin Cities Live

Cathy Bruer Thompson

Noel Lutsey

Star Tribune

Rachel Flanders

Paul Gourley

Minnesota Zoo

Jodi Funk

Renae & Dean Tyo

Crayola Experience	Angela Peters	Dianna Peterson
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Rachel Anderson	Cheryl Weber	David Hapka
Judith Smith	Penni Asmann	Troy Tiedeman
Chris Hasling	Nicole Hoplin	Cathy Montain

Thank you!!

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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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