

[Donate Now](#)

Follow us on:  
[f](#) [t](#) [You Tube](#)



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 support our mission of promoting and supporting successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families.

## State Adoption Exchange: FAQ



As of September 2016, there were 489 Minnesota Children in need of an immediate family. 75% are between the ages of 6 and 18.

**489** Help Us Reach Our Goal of **ZERO** Kids Waiting

As of September 2016 there were 489 children under guardianship of the State of Minnesota in immediate need of a permanent home. 277 of these children are currently featured on MN ADOPT's State Adoption Exchange, which you may also recognize as the "Meet the Kids" section of our web site. Below are some common questions we get regarding the State Adoption Exchange.

**Q: Why are there only 277 children listed instead of all 489?**

The State Adoption Exchange is just one of the tools used to recruit families for children in foster care. Some of the other ways that both child and family workers connect families and children include a state-wide email system and regular meetings that include information about waiting children and families.

**Q: How come I can't see all 277 children when I go to the State Adoption Exchange Site?**

One thing a lot of people don't know is that there is a private site to the State Adoption Exchange that can only be viewed with a special login. Agency and County staff have access to this site, which has information about all 277 children, as well as profiles about families interested in adopting from foster care. Often, the decision to have a child's information on only the private site is due to safety concerns or the preference of the child, especially for teenagers who are not comfortable being listed on the public site.

**Q: What are the ages of the kids featured on the State Adoption Exchange?**

The children featured on the State Adoption Exchange range from toddlers to teenagers, with 88% being school age and 57% being between the ages of 12 and 18. Additionally, most of the younger children featured are part of a sibling group that also includes older children. Because of these demographics, we put special emphasis on highlighting the teenagers waiting for families.

**Q: What happens when a child on the State Adoption Exchange turns 18?**

Typically, when a child turns 18 their worker stops looking for a family for them and they are removed from the State Adoption Exchange. Over the last year approximately 50 children were removed from the State Adoption Exchange because they turned 18. While there are services in place to assist these young adults until they turn 21, without a family to support and guide them they face pretty steep odds, with higher rates of homelessness, incarceration and unplanned pregnancy and lower rates of educational achievement.

**Want to Learn More?**

Interested in learning more about adopting an older child from foster care? We have information on our web site at [www.mnadopt.org](http://www.mnadopt.org) about adoption and a listing of agencies that can assist you with the process. You can also contact us at 612-861-7115 or [info@mnadopt.org](mailto:info@mnadopt.org) for information on how to get started.

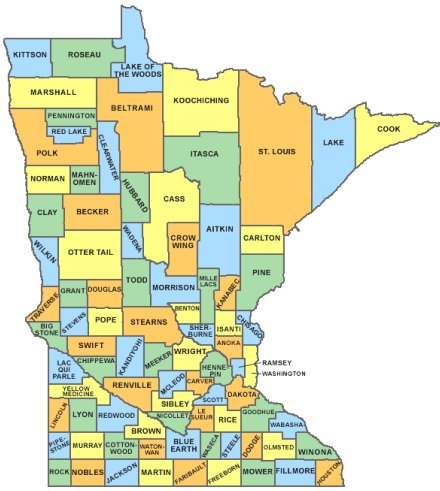
**The learn more about specific waiting children visit**

**<https://www.mnadopt.org/waiting-kids/>**

## Education Program: New Opportunities

**More Educational Opportunities in Greater Minnesota**

Over the last several months, the MN ADOPT Education Program has been focused on



expanding educational opportunities to families and professionals throughout Minnesota

With this in mind, we have been focused on increasing our educational offerings to locations outside of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area, with workshops being held in Rochester, Mankato and Moorhead, as well as future ones planned for St. Cloud and the Duluth area. These opportunities have been made possible through collaborations with many counties, private agencies and tribes throughout the State. If your organization or county would like to partner on a future educational opportunity, contact Stephanie Regnier at [sregnier@mnadopt.org](mailto:sregnier@mnadopt.org) or 612-746-5122

### New Educational Offerings Featuring Local Experts

We have also increased the types of educational opportunities being offered, with the addition of topic based consultation sessions with Deena McMahon and Krista Nelson, as well as a Beyond Consequences Continuation Series with Brenda Benning. Available to families who have completed our Beyond Consequences Series, this continuation series is held on Saturday mornings and provides support and resources while Brenda discusses new behavioral issues not covered in the 8-week series.

### Previously Recorded Webinars Available for Download or On-Demand Streaming

We know that child care, time and distance can be a barrier for many people who want to attend one of our trainings, so we have been working on making our pre-recorded webinars more accessible. We are happy to announce that our previously recorded webinars are now available for both on-demand viewing and download from our web site. You can access our webinar library at <https://www.mnadopt.org/training/webinar-library/>

To view upcoming educational opportunities visit <https://www.mnadopt.org/training/mn-adopt-trainings/>

## HELP Program: Fast Facts

Since 2011 MN ADOPT HELP Program has been providing easily accessible, reliable and expert support to the Minnesota adoption community. The following information covers some of the commonly asked questions about our services and who can utilize them.

### Who Can Use HELP services?

The HELP Program assists anyone in Minnesota who is need of knowledgeable guidance regarding adoption related issues. Some examples of people who contact us include:

- Adoption agency staff

- County adoption workers
- County children's mental health workers
- Adopted persons
- Birth/first parent or family members
- School staff or school social workers
- Community organizations
- Adoptive and foster families
- Relative caring for children
- Therapists
- Out of state callers (families and professionals)
- Students seeking guidance on school projects.



### Why Do People Seek HELP Services?

HELP Program staff are here to meet the unique needs of each individual who contacts us seeking information or services. The following are the most common reasons we get contacted.

- Education on issues such as early trauma, attachment, and transracial adoption
- Connections to supportive, educational or therapeutic resources to assist with a specific situation or need
- Parental support needs
- Need to process sensitive information with a neutral party
- Need for funding assistance for therapeutic services

### Did you know?

A common misconception is that the HELP Program primarily serves families who have adopted children from foster care, but that is far from the reality. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, 51% of the families assisted by the HELP Program were families who have adopted internationally. The HELP Program is here to assist ALL Minnesota adoptive, kinship and foster care families, as well as to provide information to those that support them. Our goal is to ensure that every Minnesota adoptive families have the tools, resources and support needed to help them navigate the complexities that come with adoption.

To learn more about HELP Program services visit

[www.mnadopt.org/help-prog/](http://www.mnadopt.org/help-prog/)

**MN ADOPT New and Events**

**GRANITE CITY**  
food & brewery

**Dine 2 Donate**

**Dine at your local Minnesota Granite City Food & Brewery on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> to support:**

**MN ADOPT**

Present this flyer to your server and **20%** of your **TOTAL** tab will be donated to

[www.gcfb.com](http://www.gcfb.com)  
Can't make it? To-Go orders are included



## Dine-2-Donate for MN ADOPT

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, you can eat at any Minnesota Granite City Location and 20% of your entire tab, including beverages, will be donated to MN ADOPT. This is a great opportunity to have some fun with family and friends while supporting the work MN ADOPT does for Minnesota children and families.

So mark your calendars, grab some friends and the below linked flyer, and have some fun for MN ADOPT!

[Dine-2-Donate Flyer](#)

**mnADOPT**

**MN ADOPT Adoption & Foster Care Resource Fair Featuring: FIDGETY FAIRY TALES!!**

**FREE PERFORMANCE**

**RESOURCE TABLES**

**FAMILY FUN**

Curious about adoption or foster care? Already in the process or currently an adoptive or foster family? Looking for resources? We invite you to join us for a FREE informative, fun, entertaining and theatrical event featuring youth performers presenting Fidgety Fairy Tales. A variety of adoption-related resource tables will provide information on adoption of Minnesota's Waiting Children, post adoption support and other topics of interest to adoptive, foster and kinship families. Light refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, March 5, 2017, 1 to 3:30 p.m.**

Langford Recreation Center  
30 Langford Park  
St Paul, MN 55108

For questions, contact Wendy Lee Raun  
612.746.5123 / wraun@mnadopt.org

Fidgety Fairy Tales - The Mental Health Musicals is a production of the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH).  
The Spring 2017 Show is a 40 minute performance that includes three stories about children's mental health:  
- Humpty Dumpty (trauma)  
- The Three Little Pigs (abuse)  
- The Ugly Duckling (bullying)  
Learn more: <http://www.macmh.org/fidgety-fairy-tales/>

**Fidgety Fairy Tales**  
Mental Health Musicals

## MN ADOPT Resource Fair March 5th

Back by popular demand!! MN ADOPT will once again be holding a resource fair. We invite you to join us for this FREE informative, fun, entertaining and theatrical event featuring youth performers presenting Fidgety Fairy Tales. A variety of resource tables will provide information on foster care and adoption of Minnesota's waiting children, post adoption support and other topics of interest to adoptive, foster and kinship families. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 1 to 3:30 p.m.  
Langford Recreation Center  
30 Langford Park  
St Paul, MN 55108

**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](mailto:rwalstad@mnadopt.org) or 612-746-5127

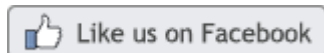
---

### 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 October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

KSTP Twin Cities Live	Rosen Family Foundation	Christine Schwarz
Star Tribune	Minnesota Wire	Teresa Damm
Bud Rotter Family Foundation	Sandra Levine	Jennifer Hamlin
CliftenLarsonAllen	Sarah MacRae	Kristine Minke
Partners in Pediatrics	Heidi Schelhas	Amy Meyer
Chris Tiedeman	Larry and Toni Forsland	Sheryl Malfeld
Jen Erickson	LR and GR Sipprell	Judith Anderson
Rachel Flanders	Jan Grimes	Diane Malfeld
Steve Rudolph	Wynne Hendrickson	Michelle and Jerry Weyandt
Dave Buckman	Nicole Nogosek	Kelly Senesac
Cathy Bruer-Thompson	Pro Kart Indoors	Mary Boo
Dan Porter	Roller Garden	Gloria Guinee
Dorene Kainz	Build-A-Bear	Gretta Thorson
Melissa Mendez	Steve Bede	Jill De Long
Anthony Hartwig	Cindy Perusse	Thomas and Missy Mound
Anne Johnson	Tracy Kangas	Elisabeth O'Toole
Jennifer Drewyor	Janet Johnson	Ronald Engh
Krysta Reuter	Paula Achenbach	Melvin Hoplant
Leslie Bautista	Kelley Schneider	Angela Peters
Laura Hertzell	Valerie Sanchez	John Vasiliou
Sara Zimmerman	Kaela Larson	Nolan Flynn
Nicole Vernon	Jeannie Fisher	Mary Gastner

Penelope Needham

Mitch Odland

John Stern

John Wilinski

Rebecca Bollingmo

Tony Porter

# Thank you!!

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



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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [rwalstad@mnadopt.org](mailto:rwalstad@mnadopt.org) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today