

# MN ADOPT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



FISCAL YEAR 2022  
(JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022)

**mnADOPT**



Dear Friends,

Reflecting on our work over the past year, the words that come to mind are innovation, connection and opportunity.

We continue to learn so much about ourselves and the communities we support. Together we are navigating this journey of a global pandemic, which shows all signs of remaining with us in some form for the foreseeable future. We have continued to adapt, focus on our mission, and develop a path forward in supporting the evolving needs of the Minnesota adoption, foster and kinship communities.

Our innovation has allowed us to better support these communities throughout the State, many of whom face geographic barriers to receiving needed support and services. We've seen record numbers of people participating in our online educational opportunities, have raised awareness for the need for families statewide through sixty monthly newspaper features highlighting Minnesota children waiting to be adopted, and are reaching nearly all families who recently finalized an adoption from foster care to share information about resources and services available to them.

We are extremely thankful for the generosity of our supporters and community partners, which has allowed us to share experiences with youth and families that foster feelings of belonging and connection. In addition to the donor and recipient experiences of the Castle and McCormick families shared in this report, MN ADOPT was able to share opportunities for fun and connection with hundreds of families through our partnerships with the Minnesota Timberwolves, Minnesota Lynx and Tickets for Kids. And through your generous support we were able to provide a back-to-school shopping experience to 215 children in foster care so they could begin the school year with confidence and excitement.

We are thankful for these partnerships and are excited about what lies ahead for our organization. With your ongoing support, we can continue to have a meaningful impact on the Minnesota adoption, foster and kinship communities.

Sincerely,

Rachel Walstad, Executive Director

# MN ADOPT STAFF



**Rachel Walstad**  
Executive Director



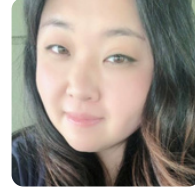
**Mary Bruce**  
Accountant



**Jolie Ritchie**  
IT Manager



**Jackie Brovold**  
Communications &  
Marketing Coordinator



**Christine Heimann**  
Post Adoption  
Search Specialist



**Cathy Stang**  
Zero Kids Waiting  
Program Manager



**Julie Hart**  
SAE Coordinator  
Metro Area



**Margo Kurth**  
SAE Coordinator  
Metro Area



**Kim Sacay**  
Recruitment  
Coordinator



**Kim Young**  
Foster Care & Kinship  
Specialist



**Sarah Clarke**  
SAE Coordinator  
Southern MN



**Hayley Wiesman**  
Adoption Information  
Specialist



**Jessica Miller**  
SAE Narrative  
Specialist



**Bre McMullen**  
ZKW Program Analyst



**Stephanie Regnier**  
Education Program  
Manager



**Kayla Olson**  
Education Outreach  
Coordinator



**Kris Horman**  
Education Coordinator



**Suni Zmich**  
Education Coordinator



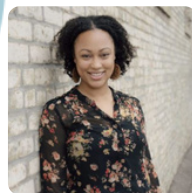
**Heather Van Brunt**  
HELP Program  
Manager



**Andrea Brubaker**  
HELP Program  
Specialist



**Gail Swenson**  
HELP Program  
Specialist



**Danielle Lewis**  
HELP Program  
Specialist



**Amy Turgeon**  
HELP Program  
Specialist



**Brittani Lamb**  
HELP Program  
Specialist



**Christina Romo**  
HELP Program:  
Post-Adoption  
Navigator



**JT Pinther**  
HELP Program  
Coordinator

# MAKING AN IMPACT

We believe children need love, security, family time, a future and dreams!! That is why we help MN ADOPT. They make it possible for children to know these things.

Dan, having grown up in Minnesota, always wanted season tickets to the Minnesota Vikings. Through the years, we have been blessed with the ability to purchase six seats.

We live in Oklahoma and attend some of the games when we can. Each year we donate tickets to MN ADOPT families and funds for extra expenses such as food, parking, and souvenirs so that children who come from different circumstances would have the opportunity to watch a game in person.

A few years ago, we felt God calling us to open our hearts and home to foster children that need a safe place for a while. We have loved on 13 babies thus far; some have gone back to family and some to adoption. We marvel that God entrusts us with his most precious children. We believe children need to develop a beautiful story to share with others.

We challenge everyone to find a way to help families spend quality, fun time together. Sharing the tickets and funds is one way we pass the many blessings we have received.

And should you choose to foster or adopt, get ready for a life-changing experience – for you and the life of a child.

*Dan and Nancy Castle*



*"Thank you - our kids were so excited, we have never done anything like this before. We had an amazing time! Our kiddos had a blast!" - McCormick Family*



# A FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE



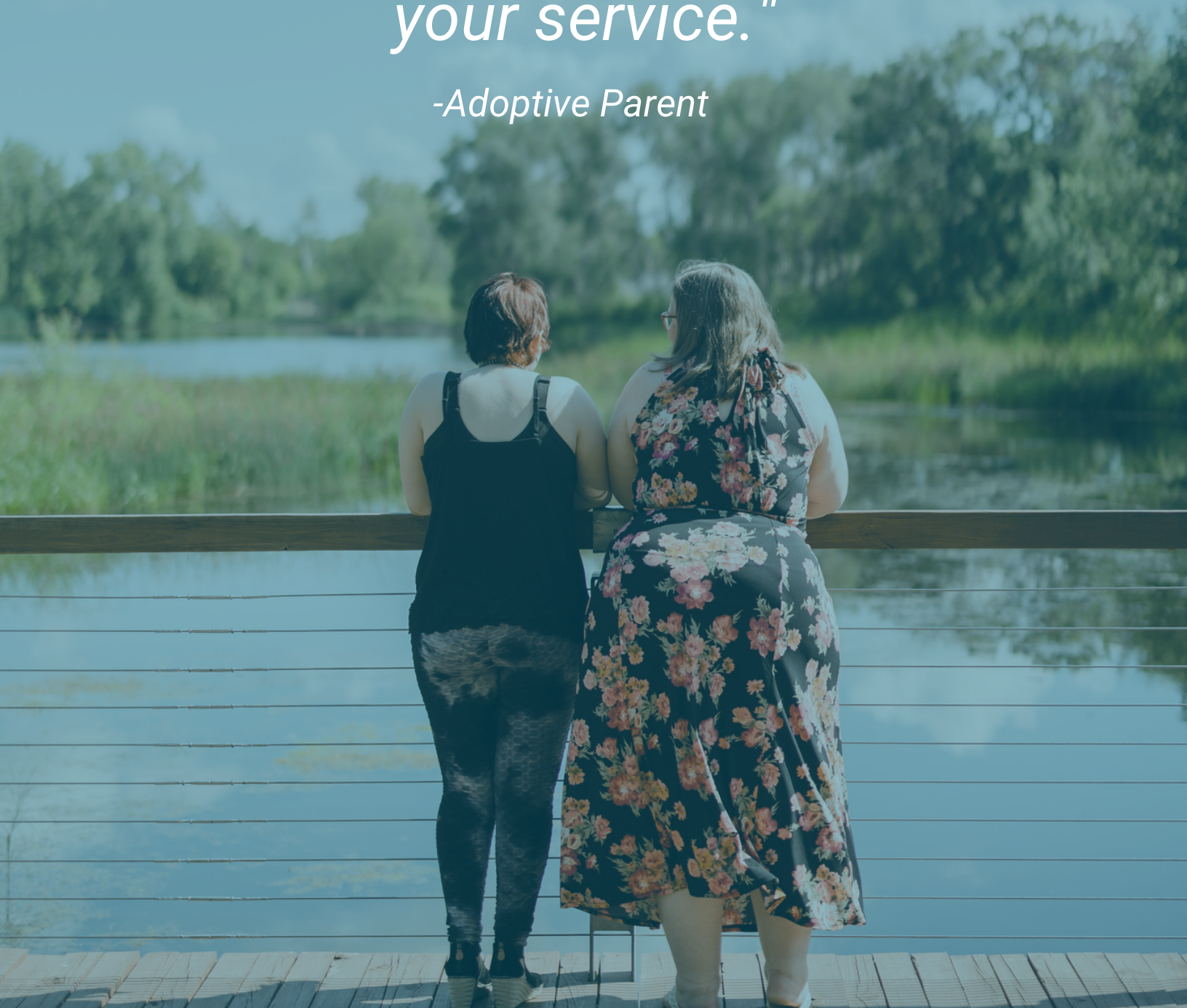
My husband and I are foster parents from Warren, MN. We were made aware of MN ADOPT through our foster care licensing worker. We have been using the webinars to increase our knowledge on some great topics as well as being able to use them towards our continuing education hours.

We have used both the live webinars and also the prerecorded ones and both are fantastic to use! The live ones are great as you are generally able to provide feedback in person or ask questions. The recorded ones are great to use at any time when you have a free moment. My husband works shift work so on his down times at work, he can pull up any of the prerecorded ones whenever it fits his schedule and has time.

The webinars are fantastic and there are a variety of topics to choose from. They are also very receptive to asking what topics we're interested in. The folks supplying the information in the webinars do a great job in relaying the information and are very knowledgeable in what they present. Great work – I would recommend to anyone needing information or continuing education hours. I have learned a lot and look forward to each month's topics.

*"I always feel heard and supported  
after talking to [my specialist].  
Thanks for continuing to support  
adoptive families and parents.  
Our family would not be intact without  
your service."*

*-Adoptive Parent*



# IMPACT AREAS

Number of people who utilized our trainings through the Education Program

**17,390**



Amount raised for our Back-to-School Shopping Event supporting kids in foster care

**\$42,000**



Funding assistance through the HELP Program to support families in need of services

**\$85,538**



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## TOTAL REVENUE

**\$2,708,881**

## TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$2,728,778**

### GRANTS

**\$2,439,374**

### CONTRIBUTIONS

**\$253,250**

### PROGRAMS

**\$11,996**

### INVESTMENTS & OTHER INCOME

**\$4,261**

### PROGRAM SERVICES

**\$2,647,292**

### SUPPORT SERVICES:

**Management & General**

**\$59,212**

**Fundraising**

**\$22,274**

### TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES:

**\$81,486**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sharon Markowitz**

Board Director

*Chair*

**Eric Becker**

Board Director

*Treasurer*

**Dr. Bradley Wolfe**

Board Director

*Secretary*

**Cathy Bruer-Thompson**

Board Director

**Diana Poch**

Board Director

**Danielle Theirl**

Board Director



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