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Keep reading to stay informed on events and happenings at Foster Adopt Minnesota, as well as information about our programming and ways you can help with our mission of finding and strengthening Minnesota adoptive, foster care, and kinship families.

Support our work

Get to know us

The *Behind the Scenes* Team

Meet the people behind the scenes and what they do to support Foster Adopt Minnesota's programs.



Rachel Walstad

Executive Director

Rachel is fortunate to be in a role that allows her to see all our programs and staff in action, doing amazing work for the communities we support. While her job involves a lot of boring, administrative work behind the scenes, her key responsibility is to ensure FAM staff have the support and resources needed to allow their ideas and creativity to positively impact FAM's mission and programming.

Mary Bruce

Accountant

As the Accountant at FAM, Mary works with the Executive Director to develop the organizational budget and provide budget monitoring, oversight, and feedback throughout the fiscal year. This includes monthly reporting to DHS, organizational leadership and FAM Board of Directors.

Why did the accountants cross the road?
Because they looked in the file and that's what they did last year.





Jolie Ritchie

IT Manager

Jolie brought her technology and team building skills to the Foster Adopt Minnesota team in 2005. Jolie oversees all crucial IT info structure, including all office IT, the FAM website, State Adoption Exchange database and ongoing tech development.

Jackie Brovold

Marketing & Communications Manager

Jackie oversees marketing efforts for the organization including social media, newsletter and fundraising communications. She enjoys being creative and using that skill to bring awareness to our communities of the work we do.



Find HELP with Back-to-School Transitions

As the calendar turns over into August, many of us are fitting in what we can to the last weeks of summer fun. And... many are looking forward to, many are groaning at the thought of “back-to-school.”

The [HELP Program](#) at Foster Adopt MN is here to support no matter the reaction you or your kids are experiencing right now.



Tools and support around transition planning are so important to have a head start on, to be reminded of, to feel a little more prepared with when it comes to this back-to-school time. Kids and teens who are adopted, have experiences in foster care or familial separation often are experiencing some complex layers when it comes to transitions.

Resources from the HELP team on this topic:



[Supporting Transitions](#) - Beacon House

[Effective Back to School Strategies for Parents](#) – Beyond Consequences, Institute

[Back to School – What Parents and Educations Should Keep in Mind](#) – Center for Adoption Support & Education

[**School Concerns Fast Fact Sheet**](#) – Foster Adopt MN & Stephanie Mestery, LCSW

[**School Challenges Section**](#) – Foster Adopt MN Webinar Library



Could you use more support on topics like this? Looking for an adoption, trauma, attachment competent therapist? Looking for supports in your community that really understand and can help you with your unique needs?

Please reach out directly to the HELP Program at 612-746-5137 or help@fosteradoptmn.org.

We are here to intently listen and get you to a new spot of hope and tangible supports!

FAM Education Resources for Back-to-School



FREE Webinar for Foster Parents

Understanding How the ACE's Impact the ABC's - Wednesday, August 23

[Learn more](#)

August Podcast Series

Tune in as we gear up for Back-to-School!

August 16: Preparing for School - at School with Brenda Benning

August 30: Homework for Parents with Maureen Morrow

[Visit our Podcast Library](#)



Meet the Kids

Meet Ethan 🙌



Ethan, 15, is polite, kind hearted, and gets along with peers and adults easily. When first meeting Ethan, he can be reserved. Once he gets to know someone, he loves to make them laugh by telling jokes or playing pranks.

Ethan has an awesome sense of humor. He is the first to stand up to a bully and ensure that others are always treated fairly and equally.

Ethan has a love for gospel music and watching Monster High, Winx, and Disney movies. He really enjoys going to school; especially his jewelry making class. Ethan also enjoys swimming and going shopping. Ethan participates in softball, soccer, and floor hockey. Ethan enjoys all animals, but he is not a fan of spiders or snakes.

Ethan needs a family who can provide a lifelong commitment to him.

Following adoption, Ethan will need to maintain contact with his siblings.

[Learn More](#)

Community Connections

Thank you donors!

197
kids

Thanks to YOU, 197 kids
in foster care get to go
back-to-school shopping



FOSTER ADOPT MINNESOTA
BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING EVENT

Thank you to our generous sponsors and individual donors for making our 5th Annual Back to School Shopping Event a success!

We raised almost \$40,000 providing 197 children in foster care with a shopping trip for back-to-school. We could not do this without everyone's support!

Event sponsors:



Circus of the Heart

Nominations are now open for Foster Adopt Minnesota's 2023 Distinguished Service Awards!

This is a great opportunity to acknowledge those who have dedicated their personal or professional lives to making a difference in this work.

As part of Circus of the Heart, two Distinguished Service Awards are presented to individuals and organizations/corporations that have made outstanding contributions within the Minnesota adoption, foster, and kinship communities.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration when reviewing nominees:

- Type of contribution
- Impact of contribution
- Length of service or commitment

Nominations will be accepted through September 14, 2023.

[Nominate today](#)

Social Justice, Race and Equity

Equity in Education

As families and children throughout Minnesota prepare for a new school year, we would like to share the following resources, which highlight both the need for education equity among Minnesota students, as well the important work being done so that every child receives the support and resources needed to develop their full academic and social potential.

[Equity in Education: A guide for educators](#)

[Education Minnesota: Racial and social justice resources](#)

[Learning for Justice: Disability is Diversity](#)

[Minnesota Collective for Educational Equity](#)

[Minnesota DOE Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Center](#)

[Schools for Equity in Education](#)

Our name has changed, but our services remain the same.



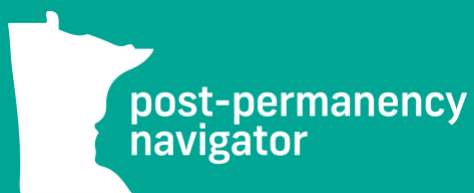
The Zero Kids Waiting Program is the gateway to information about adoption, foster care, and kinship in Minnesota.



The Fostering Network Program provides awareness, information, support, and referral to improve the safety and well-being of Minnesota children in foster care.



Support, guidance, and resource connection for Minnesota's adoption, foster and kinship communities



Information, resources, and referrals regarding post-adoption support in Minnesota



Our Education Program provides workshops on topics relevant to foster, adoptive, and kinship families.



Provides information and referral to adopted persons, birth families, and adoptive families who need records or have questions about the search process.



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