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*Keep reading to stay informed on events and happenings at Foster Adopt MN, 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.*



## Meet Jackie

She's our Marketing and Communications Manager at FAM! Have you ever wondered who sends you the Insider? Do you follow us on social media? Meet the person behind the screen.

Jackie oversees the marketing efforts for the organization including social media, newsletter and fundraising communications.

Jackie created our [new online shop](#)! If you haven't checked out the new apparel and accessories we have available, go do it! Do you want to [share your story](#)? Jackie will be the one to connect with. Sharing your own experiences can help others understand the importance of adopting from foster care and the need for adoptive and foster families. Wondering how you can get involved and support Foster Adopt MN in other ways? [Connect with Jackie](#).

[Visit our staff page](#)

## Represent FAM with new merch!



**Our online store is NOW OPEN!** When you purchase from the FAM Shop, 100% of the profits help support our mission to find and strengthen Minnesota adoptive, foster care and kinship families. You will also be raising awareness by wearing the cool FAM merchandise.

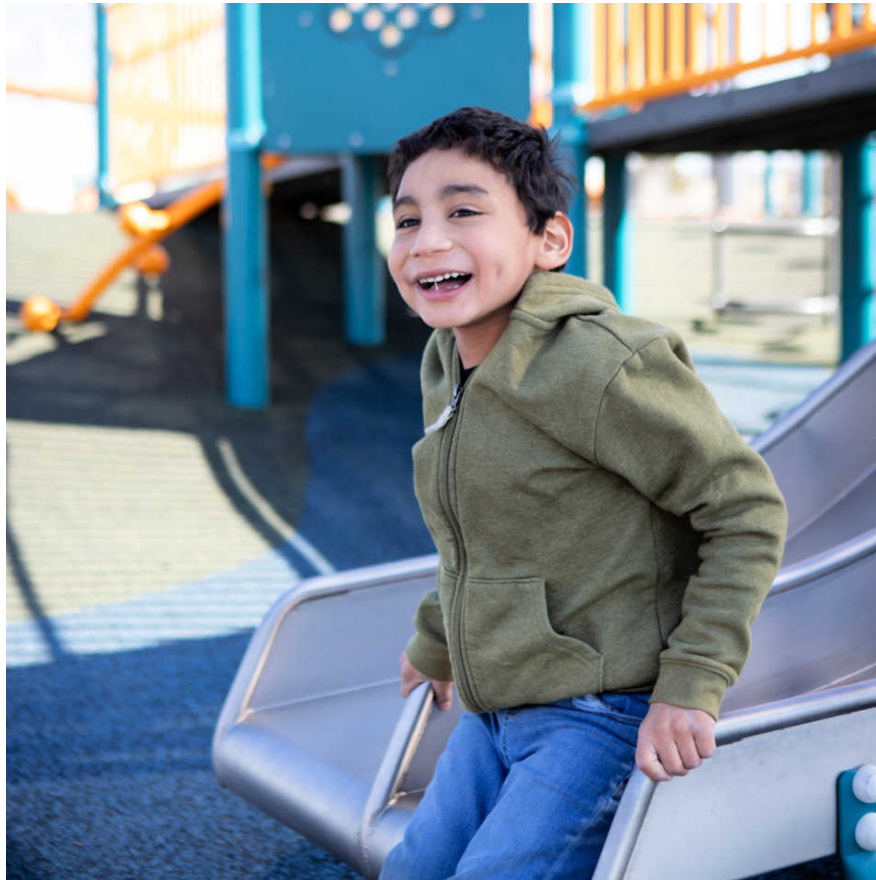
You can check out the many items available. Shopping at our store supports our important work of:

- 💛 Raising awareness about the need for families for Minnesota children.
- 💛 Providing information and referral to those interested in becoming adoptive, foster care, and kinship care families.
- 💛 Offering education relevant to adoptive, foster, and kinship families and the professionals that serve them.
- 💛 Providing individualized support, guidance, and resources to foster, adoptive, and kinship families.

Go browse at what's available to you! ***Please allow time for production and shipping, so order soon to get items in time for the holidays!***

Shop now

## Meet the Kids



### Meet Jenecio (JJ)

Jenecio (JJ) is engaging and laughs easily. He is helpful and considerate. At times, JJ can be concerned about those around him. JJ enjoys playing games on his tablet and watching videos. He likes pretend play, especially pretend cooking. JJ has a special set of cooking and baking toys for play. He is active and enjoys activities such as playing at a kids play gym or spending time outdoors.

It is important for JJ to stay connected to his culture and have ongoing access and participation with tribal practices and celebrations.

Following adoption, JJ will need to maintain contact with a variety of extended family members including a grandmother, aunts, and cousins.

[Learn more](#)

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## Let's Talk about the Holidays

Looking for ways to support the youth in your life during the holiday season? We have two podcast episodes this December just for you!

**Lets Talk: 'Twas the Night Before Holiday Break (released TODAY). [LISTEN NOW.](#)**

### COMING UP:

**Let's Talk: The Gifts We Can Give Our Youth Over the Holidays (releases December 20th)**

We have gotten feedback that people “Love the podcast format- it's great for listening to while driving, cleaning, etc.” which makes it easy to squeeze in some learning during this busy season. Plus, they even qualify for Certificates of Completion!





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## Resources for the Holidays

While the holiday season can be an exciting time for many, it can also be an incredibly stressful time for families who may not have the additional funds to cover holiday meals and gifts for their children. Fortunately, there are many resources available. We have gathered a few resources that maybe helpful, but please keep in mind that this list is not comprehensive and there are additional resources available.

If additional resources are needed, please consider contacting United Way at 2-1-1 or visiting <https://www.211unitedway.org/2023/10/17/2023-holiday-resources/>. Contacting your local United Way will provide even more specific options available in your community.

Most of these organizations are not holiday season-specific, but they could be helpful around this time of year!

### Food

- [Free Meals map](#) (many of these places host special events for the holidays, too)
- [The Food Group](#) (they have holiday boxes in December!)
- [Discounted Groceries](#)

### General/Other

- [Community Action Duluth](#)
- [Family Service Rochester](#)
- [PRISM](#) (west metro)

### Toys/Gifts

- [Toys for Tots](#)
- [Kaitlyns Kloset](#) (Metro)
- [The Toy Shelf](#) (zip codes 55109, 55119 and 55128 only)

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## Foster Adopt Shop

We are still seeking to increase our inventory for our Foster Adopt Shop, in hopes to offer another shopping day for families in the upcoming months.

All new items for children 0-18 are appreciated, including clothes, toys, books, outdoor, sports equipment, toiletries, etc.

If you have something to donate, please email [donations@fosteradoptmn.org](mailto:donations@fosteradoptmn.org).



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## Working together for MN kids in foster care



## Help us reach our goal of Zero Kids Waiting

Every child deserves a home where they can feel safe, loved, and cared for, but that is not the reality for many. On any given day, over 9000 Minnesota youth are in foster care, and more than 500 of them are in immediate need of an adoptive family.

At Foster Adopt MN, we are focused on raising awareness about the need for adoptive and foster families so every Minnesota child has a safe place to call home. We are also committed to ensuring that all adoptive, foster, and kinship families have the support and resources they need to ensure long-term success and well-being.

As you think about ways you can support our work, consider the following:

- [Take steps](#) to learn about becoming an adoptive or foster parent
- [Support our work](#) through your financial contribution
- Support adoptive, foster, and kinship families in your community
- [Share your story](#) to help raise awareness

- Engage your friends and community to help [raise awareness](#) about the needs of Minnesota kids in need of a family

Support our work

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## Social Justice, Race & Equity

### December is Human Rights Month

December 10 is Human Rights Day, which commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948.



The UDHR is an expression of the fundamental values shared by members of the international community in recognizing the inherent dignity and rights of all human beings, and is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace throughout the world.

Our world today is seeing significant challenges to human rights, with many experiencing discrimination, racism, violence, and lack of access to necessary resources for health, safety, and wellbeing. This month of recognition also creates an opportunity for us to come together and take a stand for human rights.

Below is a link to the United Nations Human Rights site, which provides an opportunity to read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including an illustrated children's version, and to explore additional resources, events, and activities.

[United Nations Human Rights](#)

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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-permanency 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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