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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.



## **Foster Parents Needed**

In Minnesota [DHS Foster Care Fact Sheet]:

- Approximately 6,750 children and young adults are in out of home care on any given day
- Approximately 11,235 children and young adults experience out of home care throughout the year

There are approximately 3,400 licensed foster homes in MN currently, and we'd love to see that number grow.

If you're interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please reach out to <u>kyoung@fosteradoptmn.org</u>, or submit our <u>Foster Care Inquiry Form</u> to get connected to agencies near you.

## **Foster Care Resources**



#### Foster Care 101 Podcast Series

This series includes topics beneficial to anyone exploring or providing foster care. These podcasts are specifically designed for potential foster and kinship providers, or foster parents currently providing care.

# Let's Talk FAQ's of Foster Care and Adoption

Googling your commonly asked questions about adoption and foster care in Minnesota can lead you down the rabbit hole of confusion. Join us to hear the correct answers from Foster Adopt Minnesota staff as they share frequently asked questions from those interested in adoption and foster care. **National Foster Parent Association** 

## Learn more at Foster Adopt MN's 5k: Resource Tables Available

Foster Adopt MN's 4th Annual 5k is on a pretty easy day to remember this year: come join us on 5/5 for 5K of fun run/walk/roll!

This super fun event raises funds for Minnesota youth in foster care to go <u>back-to-</u> <u>school shopping</u>. Resource agencies will be present to answer questions you may have about the foster care and adoption process.

WHEN: Sunday, May 5, 2024

RACE DAY INFO: Check-in begins – 9:00 am

WHERE: Rosland Park 4300 W 66th St Edina, MN 55435

10:00 – Kids 1/4 mile run 10:15 – Kids 1 mile run 10:30 – 5k Start

**Cost: \$40** Kids in your family are free with one paid adult.

**REGISTER TODAY** 

## Featured Child | Meet Taj



**Taj is an active** 11-year-old and willing to try new things. He strives to become an allstar boxer! He is a very intelligent kid and does especially well in math and reading. Taj believes in God, is interested in the Bible, and enjoys going to church.

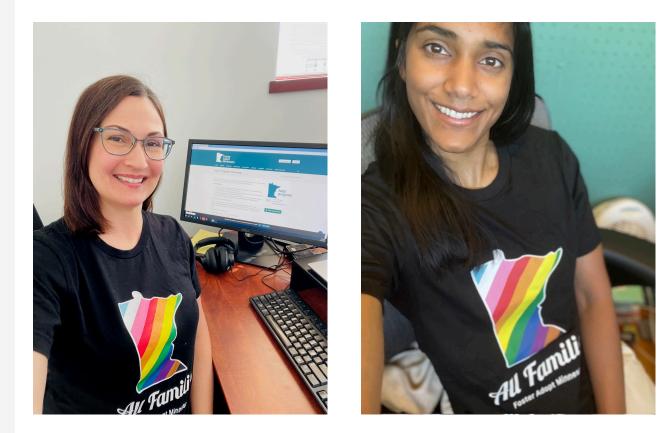
Taj says that he "loves building relationships, but hates losing them". He is a fun kid to be around with a great sense of humor. He enjoys trying different foods such as African and Chinese food but reports he would choose pizza as his favorite. Taj has a variety of interests including boxing, swimming, Pokemon, video games, gardening, and going to Valleyfair!

He is a very good writer and is very insightful! When Taj gets to spend quality time with the adults in his life, he feels very special and values these moments. He is sweet, helpful, and caring.

Learn more about Taj

## Foster Adopt MN All Families Shirts Available!

Back by popular demand, our All Families shirts are <u>available for purchase</u>! Get yours in time for Pride Month. <u>Order Now</u>.



Foster Adopt Shop: How to Donate Permanency Services Resource Hub



We're are seeking to increase our inventory for our Foster Adopt Shop. All new items for children 0-18 are appreciated, including clothes, toys, books, outerwear, sports equipment, toiletries, etc.

Find out <u>how to donate</u> through Amazon or locally.



The <u>Permanency Services Resource Hub</u> is a new centralized tool and site to find a wide range of resources and support services for the kinship, foster and adoption communities across Minnesota and the professionals who serve them.

View available resources

In need of items? Fill out the form.



#### FOSTER ADOPT MINNESOTA BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING EVENT

When a new school year approaches, many children across the State of Minnesota look forward to gearing up for their first day back in the classroom. However, for children in foster care, this time of year can be particularly challenging. They may not have the resources or support they need to start the year off on the right foot.

That's why Foster Adopt Minnesota is hosting our 6th Annual Back-to-School Shopping Event for children in foster care. Our goal is to provide these children with a shopping trip in August that will build the confidence they need to succeed in school.



We cannot do it without your help. We are asking for your support to make this event a success. Your donation will go to children in foster care, so they can pick out clothing, shoes, tech gear or any other essential items to start their new school year. This experience means the world to children with limited opportunities.

Thank you for considering supporting our Back-to-School Shopping Event. Together, we can make a positive impact on the lives of children in our community.

**Give Today** 

## Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, and during this month of awareness and celebration of AAPI heritage, we would be remiss to not acknowledge and amplify an issue that has impacted thousands of adults who were adopted internationally by U.S. families—the issue of citizenship. While the origin of international adoption can be traced back to the 1940s (following the conclusion of World War II), the numbers of U.S. families adopting internationally increased exponentially during the Korean War.

In the decades following, U.S. families were adopting children internationally, but there was no guarantee of U.S. citizenship for these children until the passage of the Child Citizenship Act of 2000. The law guaranteed U.S. citizenship to foreign-born children who were adopted by U.S. families who met certain guidelines. However, this law offered no protections for adoptees who were 18 and older (adult adoptees who were born or whose presumed birthdates were prior to February 27, 1983) at the time the legislation was enacted.

This has left tens of thousands of adoptees, an estimated 18,600 of whom were adopted from Korea, without citizenship—through no fault of their own.

And though thousands of adoptees were granted citizenship under the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, many lack the documentation to actually prove their U.S. citizenship and must jump through numerous expensive, time-consuming, and bureaucratic hoops in an effort to obtain that proof of citizenship.

And dozens of impacted adoptees have actually been deported from the U.S.—from the only country many of these adoptees have ever known—back to their countries of origin.

Adoptees who do have documentation to prove their U.S. citizenship are also not immune to the constant scrutiny and need to prove their citizenship.

As of April 1, 2024, intercountry adoptees who are U.S. citizens, do not have the documentation to prove their citizenship, and who qualify to file a Form N-600 (Application for Certificate of Citizenship)—are no longer are required to pay a filing fee (currently \$1,385) when applying for a copy of their Certificate of Citizenship.

The waiver of the filing fee for intercountry adoptees who lack the official documentation to prove their citizenship is a huge deal, as this fee has presented a significant barrier and financial hardship for adoptees in the past—especially adoptees who have not been able to obtain or maintain employment due to their inability to present the documentation to prove their citizenship.

Visit the Side by Side Project at <u>https://sidebysideproject.com/</u> to hear from Koreanborn adoptees about their experiences with adoption. To hear from intercountry adoptees without citizenship, visit <u>https://www.adopteesforjustice.org/impacted-adoptee-stories</u>.

Check out the links below to learn more about Adoptee Citizenship advocacy efforts and applying for U.S. Citizenship and/or a Certificate of Citizenship. If you are an adoptee without U.S. citizenship and/or documentation to prove your citizenship, we recommend contacting one of the adoptee advocacy organizations included below for resources and support.

Adoptee Advocacy Organizations

- Adoptees for Justice
- Adoptee Rights Law: U.S. Citizenship and Intercountry Adoptees FAQs
- Adoptees United

Applying for U.S. Citizenship and/or Certificate of Citizenship

- <u>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Adult Adoptees and</u> <u>U.S. Citizenship</u>
- Form N-600: Application for Certificate of Citizenship



Information and resources for the foster, adoption, and kinship communities in Minnesota and the professionals who support them.

zero kids waiting

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

help program

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



Information, resources, and referrals regarding post-permanency support in Minnesota.

## education

post search 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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