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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.

Get to Know Us

Kim Sacay **Zero Kids Waiting Program**

Meet Kim! Kim is the Outreach & Recruitment Manager at FAM. She founded and leads the Back-to-School Shopping Event fundraiser.

How long have you been with Foster Adopt Minnesota?

7 years

What's your favorite season in Minnesota and why?

Summer - long days, swimming, art fairs, road trips - there is nothing better than summer in Minnesota!



If you could instantly visit any place in the world, where would you go?

New York City. My daughter lives there, so spending time with her is my main reason. I also love visiting the museums, Central Park, and exploring the neighborhoods.

Do you have a favorite local spot (restaurant, park, coffee shop)?

My favorite go to spot is Como Park - for walking, live music, and biking. It offers a great mix of activity and community.

Do you have a favorite book or podcast you'd recommend?

Books I would recommend is Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents or The Correspondent. They're very different books, but both left a lasting impression on me.

[Check out our staff page](#)

**Backpacks, Smiles and New Beginnings:
200 Kids Are Ready for School Thanks to
You!**

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, 200 kids in foster care will be back-to-school shopping this month!

Each child receives a \$200 Visa gift card to pick out brand-new clothes, shoes and supplies - everything they need to start the school year with confidence and excitement.

We're so grateful for your support in making our 8th Annual Back-to-School event a huge success. You're helping make a real difference in these kids' lives!

Thank you donors!



Thanks to YOU, 200 kids in foster care get to go back-to-school shopping



FOSTER ADOPT MINNESOTA
BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING EVENT

A Recognition of Leadership and Collective Impact



In July, our Executive Director, Rachel Walstad, was recognized with the 2AB Bon Iver Woman of Inspiration Award during a **Minnesota Lynx** game.

While this award recognizes Rachel's leadership, it also reflects the collective impact of Foster Adopt Minnesota's staff, volunteers, board members, partners, and the families we have the privilege to serve.

Every day, our team works alongside foster, adoptive, and kinship families across Minnesota, providing education,

support, connection, and advocacy to help children and families thrive.

We're honored that this recognition shines a light on the importance of foster care, adoption, and kinship care, and on the work that continues every day to strengthen families and communities.



Featured Child | Meet Riley



Riley is creative, inventive, and funny. He enjoys sharing stories and jokes. Riley is a natural conversationalist who easily shares his interests with others. His imagination helps turn thoughts into stories. Riley's inventive and creative side can be seen in a board game he created about fish. He likes working with his hands and playing with LEGO bricks and Beyblades.

In Riley's free time, he can be found playing Dungeons and Dragons or Magic: The Gathering. When the weather cooperates, Riley can be found fishing, riding his bike, going to the park, hiking, or swimming. Some of Riley's favorite indoor activities are playing video games and listening to music. Riley treasures bugs and creatures.

Only Minnesota families and bordering states are being considered at this time.

[Learn more about Riley](#)

Community Connection



Join Children's Home for their annual Back to School Bash! This is a free, family-friendly event.

This event supports children being cared for by relatives and kinship caregivers. Each child who attends will receive a backpack and other school supplies.

This event will take place on **Thursday, August 20** from 5-7 pm.

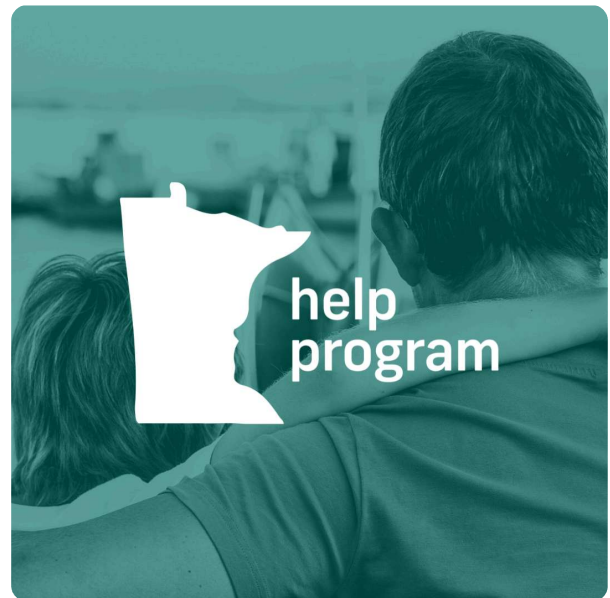
[Learn more](#)

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:



[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 Support Fact Sheet](#) - Proof Alliance

[School Support Section](#) – Foster Adopt MN Podcast Library

[Supporting Your Child's Learning:
What to Do When They Need Extra
Help](#) - Foster Adopt Minnesota
Webinar



[Back to School Resources](#) –
Families Rising

[School Success](#) - Families Rising

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!

**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 [how to donate](#) through Amazon or locally.

In need of items? [Fill out the form.](#)



The [Permanency Services Resource Hub](#) is a 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](#)

Distinguished Service Awards at Circus of the Heart



Do you know someone making a lasting impact in Minnesota's adoption, foster care, and kinship communities?

Each year at Circus of the Heart, FAM presents the Distinguished Service Award to recognize an individual, organization, or corporation whose dedication has improved the lives of children and families across our state.

The selection committee considers:

- ✓ Significance of contributions
- ✓ Impact on children, families, and communities
- ✓ Length of service and commitment

14 **Nomination deadline: September 25, 2026**

Help us celebrate those who go above and beyond—[submit your nomination today](mailto:circus@fosteradoptmn.org).

Seeking Prize Donations for Teenagers

SEEKING PRIZE *Donations*



Planning has begun for our 29th annual Circus of the Heart, being held in November to celebrate National Adoption Month! This event honors and recognizes children and families whose lives have been touched by adoption.

To help make this event possible, FAM is seeking donations for prize drawings for teenagers.

Examples of appreciated donations include electronics, sports equipment, gift baskets, or gift cards. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated, as they provide us the flexibility to purchase additional prizes.

Please contact circus@fosteradoptmn.org with any questions or to donate.

**CIRCUS OF
THE *Heart*** 

 Foster
Adopt
Minnesota


DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN,
YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

August is Black-Owned Business Month

August is National Black Business Month. It was established in 2004 to recognize and support the contributions of Black-owned businesses and address the systemic challenges they face. Here are some resources for supporting Black-owned businesses in your community during August and beyond:

[Minnesota Black Chamber of Commerce Business Directory](#)

[Minnesota Black-Owned Business Directory](#)

[The National Directory of Black-Owned Businesses](#)

[ByBlack Business Directory](#)

Many major retailers, such as Target and Amazon, launch initiatives or feature curated storefronts to support Black-owned brands during the month of August.

Where in the State is Foster Adopt MN? *Find us in the community*

Dakota County Foster Care Picnic

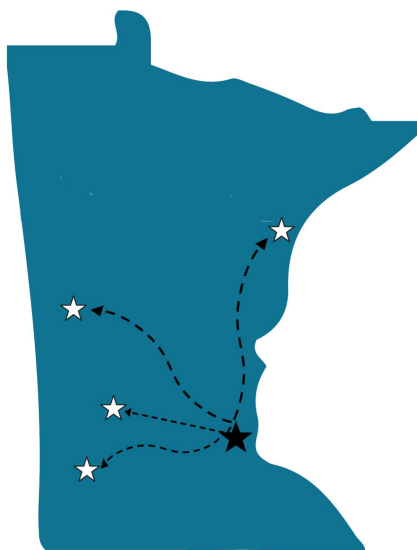
Thursday, August 13, 2026 in St. Paul, MN.

Back-to-School Field Day with the Minnesota Vikings

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 in Eagan, MN

MSSA Fall Conference

Thursday, October 1, 2026 in Redwood Falls, MN.



Check out our [Events Calendar](#).



PERMANENCY SERVICES
RESOURCE HUB

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



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



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.



Foster Adopt Minnesota acknowledges and honors the lived experiences and identities of the individuals and communities we serve.

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