

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2009

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Families, advocates, and officials will gather to celebrate adoptions on Nov. 14 in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services, the Adults Adopting Special Kids program of Catholic Charities North Dakota, and other licensed child placing agencies are co-hosting the 2009 Adoption Celebration on Sat., Nov. 14, 2009, at Ascension Church in Bismarck. The event honors families formed through adoption, birth parents, and advocates, as well as the children in North Dakota's foster care system who are waiting to be adopted.

The celebration will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the church's education building on 1911 S 3rd Street. The formal program begins at 1:30 p.m. and includes remarks, and individual and family recognition awards. The public is invited to attend and join the celebration. Organizers have planned children's activities, and refreshments will also be served.

During the celebration, organizers will present the 2009 North Dakota Foster-Adoptive Family Award, the Youth Excellence Award, the Adoption Triad Award that recognizes individuals involved in an open adoption; the Multicultural Family Award, and the Adoption Advocate Award. Award recipients reside in communities from across the state.

Last year, 322 adoptions took place in North Dakota. Of the adopted children, 126 had been in foster care prior to adoption; 20 were from foreign countries; 44 were healthy infants; and 132 were adopted by their stepparents.

Many foster parents adopt the children in their care. In North Dakota, 24 children in foster care are now waiting to be adopted and don't have an identified adoptive family; they range in age from 4 to 16.

When children have been removed from their families due to neglect (such as a lack of food or leaving a child who is unable to care for herself alone), or physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, North Dakota and other states work to place children with other family members. Foster parents also provide needed care for these children while parents receive parenting education along with other services and support. If parents are still unable to parent safely and reunification is not possible, the state terminates the parents' rights. The children then become available for adoption.

For adoption information, contact the N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division at 701-328-2316, 1-800-245-3736, or dhscfs@nd.gov, or go online to <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption>.

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