

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

## **600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 3, 2013**

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*May is National Foster Care Month*

### **Foster Parent Training and Appreciation Event is May 11 in Minot**

BISMARCK, N.D. - Foster and adoptive parents, county child welfare staff, and other professionals who work with youth in foster care are invited to attend a Trauma Training and Appreciation event on Sat., May 11, 2013, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Minot's Grand International Inn, 1505 N. Broadway.

The all-day training will focus on identifying the link between trauma and its effect on a youth's behavior, feelings, and attitudes. Individuals will also learn how to help youth cope with traumatic life experiences. Heather Simonich, a research coordinator and psychological assessor at the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute in Fargo and licensed professional counselor, will lead the trauma-informed care training.

There will also be an appreciation social at 4 p.m. to honor foster and adoptive parents from the Minot region, as well as five foster families nominated for their continued commitment to making a difference in the lives of foster youth who need permanent, nurturing relationships.

"Foster parents play an important role in helping children in crisis heal and reconnect with their families," said Dean Sturn, foster care administrator for the N.D. Department of Human Services. "It's important to honor these families for their efforts in enhancing the well-being of youth in foster care."

There is no cost for foster or adoptive parents to attend the training and social, but there is a \$50 registration fee for professionals. To register, contact Alysha Berg at North Central Human Service Center at 701-857-8500, toll free 888-470-6968, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or [alyberg@nd.gov](mailto:alyberg@nd.gov).

Continuing education credits are available for social workers. Foster parents will receive seven training hours for participating in the event.

Event sponsors include PATH ND, Inc., and the Region II Foster/Adopt Coalition, which includes a collaboration of individuals from Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville and Ward County Social Service offices, North Central Human Service Center, REM North Dakota, Easter Seals Goodwill of North Dakota, and AASK Program – Catholic Charities/PATH.

In April 2013, there were 112 youth in foster care placement from Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, and Ward counties.

Individuals interesting in becoming a foster parent, can contact the N.D. Department of Human Services at 701-328-2316, toll free 800-245-3736, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or a local county social service office. Contact information is online at [www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/).

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