

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**  
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## **Adoption Award Recipients Honored**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. John Hoeven and First Lady Mikey Hoeven presented recognition awards to 11 individuals and one news organization at the Adoption Month Celebration today in the Capitol. Adoption agency staffs and representatives of the N.D. Department of Human Services organized the event to raise awareness about adoption and foster care, and to highlight the need for families for North Dakota foster children who are waiting to be adopted.

“Stable, loving families contribute to the overall quality of life that we enjoy in North Dakota, and foster and adoptive families truly deserve recognition and our ongoing support,” Gov. Hoeven said.

**Harlan** and **Monica Fixen** of **Williston**, N.D. received the 2005 Special Needs Adoptive Family of the Year Award. The Adults Adopting Special Kids program nominated the Fixens who provided foster care to two infants with special needs and subsequently adopted them. Both children are thriving. **Tim** and **Tammy Rector** of **Mandan**, N.D. and birth mothers **Kate** and **Buffee** shared the Adoption Triad Award in recognition of their efforts to maintain an ongoing, open relationship following the adoption of their children as infants.

The Hoevens presented two new awards this year. **John Savageau** and **Mary Jo Sinner** of **Bismarck**, N.D. received the Multicultural Family Award, which recognizes international adoptions, and **Andrew Klabo** of **Antler**, N.D., received the Adopted Youth Excellence Award. Klabo was adopted at age 11; he regularly shares his foster care and adoption experiences with prospective foster families and adoptive families.

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Adoption Advocate Award recipients included retired district judge **Gary Holum** of **Minot**, N.D., state employee **Delores Friedt** of **Bismarck**, N.D., and **The Grand Forks Herald**. Holum was involved in finalizing many adoptions during his legal career, and according to nominators, made the hearings memorable and positive for families and children. Catholic Charities nominated Friedt for excellent work coordinating services to birth and adoptive families and the agencies that work with them. Friedt works with adoption cases that cross state boundaries and is employed by the N.D. Department of Human Services.

Mike Jacobs accepted the award on behalf of The Grand Forks Herald. Recruitment of foster parents and adoptive parents is an ongoing effort, and Herald staff members regularly work with local child advocates to support public outreach efforts through reporting and advertising assistance while remaining sensitive to confidentiality constraints and privacy issues.

Marion Houn of Senator Byron Dorgan's office presented **Allen** and **Kristina Lindeman** of **Dodge**, N.D., with the 2005 Angels in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. The Lindemans have two adult sons as well as four adopted sons who were previously in foster care. They are the 2003 recipients of North Dakota's Special Needs Adoptive Family of the Year Award.

Currently about a dozen North Dakota children now in foster care are ready for adoption placements but do not have identified adoptive families. Organizers held a "calling out" segment during the event to draw attention to the need for more foster and adoptive families.

The Frank O. Becker Endowment Fund, a component of the North Dakota Community Foundation, provided funding for the adoption celebration.

For information about adoption, contact the Children and Family Services Division, N.D. Department of Human Services at 701-328-2316, 1-800-245-3736, e-mail [dhscfs@state.nd.us](mailto:dhscfs@state.nd.us), or go on-line to [www.nd.gov/humanservices/services/childfamily/adoption/](http://www.nd.gov/humanservices/services/childfamily/adoption/).