

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Family Foster/Adopt Training Conference to be held in Grand Forks**

BISMARCK, N.D. – “*Fostering Hearts - Promising Futures*” is this year’s theme for the North Dakota Family Foster Care Conference on Oct. 1-2, 2010, at the Clarion Inn and Ramada Inn in Grand Forks.

“This is an important annual training conference that offers an opportunity for foster parents to come together to learn, listen and support their collective work of providing care to children in the foster care system,” said Tara Muhlhauser, director of the Children and Family Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services.

The two-day conference will feature educational workshops on the Indian Child Welfare Act, long-term effects of child abuse and neglect, Internet and texting safety, attachment disorders, and use of and understanding psychiatric medications. A highlight of the conference is a panel discussion led by former foster care youth who will share their first-hand experiences in foster care.

Pre-conference workshops will begin on the afternoon of October 1 and will focus on fire safety, first aid, and CPR, as well as a presentation focusing on foster parents supporting relationships between children and their families.

Other conference highlights include the ND Foster/Adopt Parent Association annual meeting and luncheon, the PATH North Dakota annual meeting, and a foster parent and provider recognition dinner.

The conference is a joint effort between the ND Foster/Adopt Parent Association, the Children and Family Services Training Center at UND, the Children and Family Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services, and PATH of North Dakota, Inc.

Muhlhauser said over 300 individuals are expected to attend the conference. Pre-registration is encouraged, but registration will be accepted at the door on the day of the event.

For more information on the conference go to [www.cfstc.und.edu/calendar.php?sdate=1287810000](http://www.cfstc.und.edu/calendar.php?sdate=1287810000)

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