

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Adoption Celebration 2011 to be held in Bismarck Oct. 29**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Love is the cornerstone of all families and supports happiness, hope, and a lasting bond. That's why "*Chosen in Love*" is this year's theme for the 2011 Adoption Celebration on Sat., Oct. 29, 2011, at the First Evangelical Free 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 Adoption Celebration will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the church located at 205 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE. There will be a formal program at 1:30 p.m. with remarks and individual and family recognition awards. The public is invited to join the celebration. Refreshments will be served and organizers have planned children's activities.

"Every child in North Dakota deserves a permanent home and loving family," said Carol K. Olson, executive director of the N.D. Department of Human Services. "It is an inspiration to see the happiness brought to families because of adoption."

This celebration is a joint effort between the N.D. Department of Human Services and licensed child placing agencies. They include: Catholic Charities North Dakota, Christian Family Life Services, God's Children Adoption Agency Inc., LDS Family Services, All About U Adoptions, Adults Adopting Special Kids, and PATH North Dakota.

During the program, organizers will present numerous awards honoring families and individuals who have made a difference in the lives of children through adoption.

- A couple from **Bismarck** and a couple from **Fargo** will receive the **2011 North Dakota Foster Care Adoptive Family Award**.
- The recipient of the **Youth Excellence Award** is a teenager from **Fargo** who was adopted from foster care.
- The **Adoption Triad Award**, which honors individuals involved in an open adoption, will be presented to a **Fargo** couple and a birth mother.
- A **Williston** couple will be honored with the **Multicultural Family Award** for their efforts to nurture the cultural heritage of their six children adopted from Ethiopia.
- The **Adoption Advocate Award** will be given to individuals from **Argusville**, **Bismarck**, and **Webster** for their dedicated work on behalf of children and families.

**(More)**

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In North Dakota, 13 children in foster care are now waiting to be adopted and do not have an identified adoptive family; they range in age from 2 to 15. Some of them are featured in the North Dakota Heart Gallery Gala, a related event, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo. The gallery features portraits of North Dakota children in foster care who are seeking adoption.

Last year, 285 adoptions took place in North Dakota. Of the adopted children, 108 had been in foster care prior to adoption; 14 were from foreign countries; 33 infants were voluntarily relinquished for adoption through a private licensed child placing agency; and 130 were adopted by their stepparents.

For adoption information, contact the N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division at 701-328-2316, toll-free 1-800-245-3736, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888, [dhscfs@nd.gov](mailto:dhscfs@nd.gov), or go online to [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption).

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