

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

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Adoption Strengthens Families and Builds Strong Futures

Governor Dalrymple Proclaims November as Adoption Awareness Month

BISMARCK, N.D. – November is Adoption Awareness Month in North Dakota. This month the N.D. Department of Human Services and partner agencies will honor individuals who have strengthened their families through adoptions and will recognize advocates and other professionals whose work supports adoptions.

“All children deserve a family that can provide unconditional love and security to help them succeed,” said Maggie Anderson, the department’s interim executive director. “We need to celebrate families built through adoptions and to raise awareness about children who are waiting for their ‘forever families.’”

One event that is the cornerstone of adoption awareness month is the opening of the 2012 North Dakota Heart Gallery, which features portraits of children in foster care who are seeking adoption. The public is invited to attend a gala and portrait unveiling on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Fargo Air Museum, 1609 19th Ave. N., in Fargo.

Last year, 325 adoptions took place in North Dakota. Of the adopted children, 133 had been in foster care prior to adoption; 11 were from foreign countries; 44 were placed for adoption with a private licensed child placing agency; and 137 children were adopted by their stepparents.

Families and individuals interested in exploring adoption can contact one of the following licensed child placing agencies in North Dakota: Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK), All About U Adoptions, Catholic Charities ND, Lutheran Social Services of ND, The Village Family Service Center, Christian Family Life Services, God's Children Adoption Agency, Inc., LDS Family Services, and PATH ND. These agencies provide services including family recruitment, preparation and assessment, placement, and post-placement support. Agency contact information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption/agencies.html.

The 2012 Adoption Awareness Month proclamation can be viewed online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption/>

The Department of Human Services is the lead agency that oversees adoptions and licensing of all private adoption agencies in the state. Individuals interested in adoption and foster care information, should contact the department’s Children and Family Services Division at 701-328-2316, toll-free 1-800-245-3736, ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888, e-mail dhsdfs@nd.gov or visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption.

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