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Keep reading to stay informed on events and happenings at MN ADOPT, as well as information about our programming and ways you can help with our mission of finding and strengthening Minnesota adoptive, foster care, and kinship families.

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Get to know us



Meet Stephanie

Education Program
Manager

How long have you been with MN ADOPT and what is your role?

I have been with MN ADOPT for 6 years. I started as an Education Coordinator and currently work as the Education Program Manager.

What do you like to do for fun?

I have two daughters so I stay busy with soccer, volleyball, and track. I enjoy spending time with friends, going for walks, reading, painting, and traveling.

What is your favorite season, and why?

I love fall for the cool air, pretty leaves and our wedding anniversary.

MN ADOPT Staff

What's new in our Education Program

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JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

We are celebrating this wonderful
month by offering all trainings in June
for FREE!

mnadopt.org/workshops

We are celebrating Pride month by offering all trainings in June for FREE. Visit our [AdoptEd Workshops](#) to register.

Don't miss Dr. Fowlkes presenting on ***Considerations for Caring for LGBTQ+ Foster Youth*** on Tuesday June 21 from 6:00-7:30 PM. [Register here.](#)



Did you know?

You can access your Certificates of Attendance and the presenters' handouts on our website!

Click [here](#) and create a login today.
Please use the same email address you used to register.

If watching a webinar with a partner, please ensure BOTH people register for the webinar. Each person will access their Certificate of Attendance with their individual email addresses.

Certificate of Attendance Database

Join our Team!

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We're hiring!

Education Coordinator



mnadopt.org/about/employment

Hey, we're looking for another team member! This position is open to candidates living in the Twin Cities Metro.

The person who fills this role will have the opportunity to bring foster and adoptive families, and professionals the education they need.

[Learn more](#)

Our 5K was successful because of YOU!

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team, and the kids in foster care who benefit from this event.

We had over 300 participants, which was almost double our original goal! To date, we have raised over \$12,600 for our [Back-to-School shopping event!](#)

We are truly humbled by all of you. Thank you for your care and concern for youth in foster care right here in Minnesota. So many kids will get to experience this amazing back-to-school shopping opportunity because of all of us coming together to support kids in our community.



Meet the Kids

Meet Tatiana! **Tatiana, 16**, is an energetic and playful teen, who loves to make those around her laugh. She is

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Tatiana enjoys playing with dolls - American Girl dolls, Barbie dolls, and LOL dolls. She also enjoys a variety of sports and enjoys learning new ones.

In addition to her love for dolls and sports - Tatiana enjoys watching videos through social media, listening to music, and spending time with those she cares about. While Tatiana can be very silly, she also has a serious and sensitive side to her.

Tatiana is insightful about her experiences, her feelings, and her dreams for the future. Tatiana is caring and wants those around her to feel supported. She enjoys making people smile, especially when they seem to be having a difficult day. Tatiana frequently recounts times when she has helped others - helping a peer tie their shoes or opening their snack. When Tatiana grows up, she wants to be in a helping role where she can work with children. Tatiana would like an adoptive home where she can cook and bake with her family, enjoy community activities together, and spend time together as a family. She hopes to have a family that will be patient with her and not give up on her. Tatiana is open to a home that has pets. Tatiana is open to a variety of family compositions but would do best as an only child or with older siblings. A family that is able to provide structure, routine, and clear communication and expectations would be best for Tatiana. Following adoption, Tatiana would need to maintain contact with her older sister. Only families living in Minnesota are being considered at this time.

[Learn more](#)[Share](#)[Tweet](#)

Resource Corner

Resources for LGBTQIA+ Youth

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service available 24/7 at **1-866-488-7386**.

- TrevorChat is a confidential online instant messaging with a Trevor Counselor, available 24/7, at trevorproject.org/get-help-now/.
- TrevorText is a confidential text messaging with a Trevor Counselor, available 24/7/365, by texting **START to 678678**.
- TrevorSpace is an affirming international community for LGBTQ young people ages 13-24 available at trevorspace.org
- **Q Chat Space** is a bully-free online community of LGBTQ+ teens that can chat with other LGBTQ+ teens and trained staff from LGBTQ+ centers around the country.
 - You can access Q Chat Space at www.qchatspace.org.
- **Gender Spectrum Lounge** is a global online community for gender-expansive teens, their families and support professionals to connect, collaborate and find resources.
 - You can access the Gender Spectrum Lounge at genderspectrum.org/lounge
- Many **PFLAG** chapters are meeting virtually or providing 1:1 virtual support as requested for parents/guardians or LGBTQ+ youth. Go to pflag.org/find to look up the PFLAG chapter in your area and reach out by phone, email or on social media to learn more about their virtual support options.
- **Family Equality Neighborhood** is a virtual hub for LGBTQ+ families and offers a robust calendar of activities from toddler dance parties to creative writing workshops for teens.
 - You can access the Neighborhood at <https://www.familyequality.org/neighborhood/>

Resources for LGBTQ+ Children and Teens

- **OK2BME** – <https://ok2bme.ca/resources/books-and-movies/>
- **OUTFRONT MN** : <https://www.outfront.org/> ; they have a hotline available for anyone experiencing violence, harassment, or harm.
- **Rainbow Round Table: LGBTQIA+ Resources for Children** – <http://www.ala.org/rt/rrt/popularresources/children>
- **21 Inspiring LGBTQ-Themed Children's Books** – <https://www.pride.com/books/2019/6/25/21-inspiring-lgbtq-themed-childrens-books#media-gallery-media-1>
- **Diverse Children's Books to Support Transgender and Non-Binary Youth and to Understand Gender** – <https://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/books/transgender-youth/>
- [21 Best Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Books for Kids](#)
- **Youth Communication (Represent and YCteen)** – <https://www.representmag.org/topics/gay+slash+lesbian.html>
- **It Gets Better Project** – <https://itgetsbetter.org/>

Additional Resources for Family/Parents:

- **Rainbow Families Support Group** – This group is hosted by NACAC's Adoptive Foster Kinship Connections program and is facilitated by Nitara Frost. Meetings are typically held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Visit AFKC's [support group calendar](#) for a link to the join the group. Contact Nitara at nitarafrost@nacac.org for questions.
- **Rainbow Families Private Facebook Group** – To join NACAC's Adoptive Foster Kinship Connections'
- Rainbow Families group and any of AFKC's other adoption-related Facebook groups, please complete the questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PCGCJ72>.
- **Transforming Families** – TFF provides support for transgender youth and their families. They hold meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month for adults (11:15-12:45) and teens/tweens ages 11-19 (1:15-2:45). Contact info@tffmn.org for information on joining a virtual meeting or TFF's private Facebook group. To learn more, visit <https://tffmn.org/new-events>.
- **Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE)** – C.A.S.E. offers a monthly online support group for LGBTQ+ adoptive parents that meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:00-8:00 PM CST. The cost to attend the group is \$10 per group. To learn more, visit <https://adoptionssupport.org/event/monthly-support-group-for-lgbt-adoptive-parents/2021-06-17/>.
- **Local Resources for Mental Health, Healthcare, etc.**
- **RECLAIM's Resources for Queer and Trans Youth (mental health, healthcare, etc.)** – <https://www.reclaim.care/what-we-do/resources-for-queer-and-trans-youth.html>
- **Transforming Families Resources (peer support, advocacy, education, health, etc.)** – <https://tffmn.org/resources>

June is Reunification Month

Families belong together. Minnesota's foster and kinship providers live out the hope of reunification when they open their home to children in foster care.

“

You have the opportunity not only to help a kiddo be successful long-term, but you have the potential to help restore a family.

–Jay Priebe (former foster youth)

”

June is Reunification Month

home, it includes caring for the people who are important to the child in your home.

In honor of National Reunification Month, we want to highlight resources available to support foster and kinship families who are navigating the joy and complexity of supporting reunification.

☀️ RESOURCES ☀️

- The Talk – An Honest Conversation with a Therapist, a Social Worker, and a Foster Parent with Deena McMahon and Kirsten Langerman - <https://www.mnadopt.org/product/20210510-webinar-the-talk>
*This webinar is free in our webinar library
- In the Best Interest of the Child with Michael Heinen and Stearns County Human Services - <https://www.mnadopt.org/product/20220523-webinar-in-the-best-interest-of-the-child/>
- Podcast: Let's Talk - Foster Care 101 – Part 9: Navigating Complex Relationships with Brandon Jensen - <https://www.mnadopt.org/lets-talk-foster-care-101-part-9-navigating-complex-relationships-in-foster-care/>
- MN ADOPT's HELP program is a warm line that exists to serve foster, kinship, and adoptive families. If you are looking for resources and support as you navigate reunification, please reach out to our HELP staff.
<https://www.mnadopt.org/help-prog/>

Community Connections



Honoring and Celebrating Pride Month and Juneteenth

opportunities throughout the state to celebrate in a way that fits your interests, including parades, festivals, movies, concerts, art shows and sporting events. The below link will give you lots of ideas about how you can celebrate.

<https://tcpride.org/events/>

June 19th, also known as Juneteenth, is one of the oldest celebrated days within the African American community, commemorating the date when all Black Americans were finally freed from slavery. In recent years, this day has become more widely recognized and celebrated. Below are events taking place in the Twin Cities and beyond to learn, celebrate and acknowledge this important day.

<https://spokesman-recorder.com/2021/06/11/juneteenth-events-in-the-twin-cities-and-beyond/>

Give an Experience

Join us in giving MN kids in foster care a back-to-school shopping opportunity

For most kids, this time of year holds endless possibilities and offers a chance to start fresh. However, for those in foster care, it can be a time of trepidation and wondering if they'll be able to join their peers in updating their wardrobe or school gear. With your contribution, you'll be able to help a child join in on the excitement of back-to-school shopping.

Hear from Becca of Nexus Kindred Family Healing



On Race, Racism and Racial Justice

Celebrating Juneteenth



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