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mnADOPT Insider

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.

Support our work

Get to know us



Meet Cathy

Zero Kids Waiting
Program Manager

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

I have been with MN ADOPT for about 14 years and have had various roles within our agency over the years. Currently, I am the Zero Kids Waiting (ZKW) Program Manager.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy spending time with my family, going for bike rides on scenic trails, coming up with home decorating ideas and drawing. I also love watching funny

movies - Laughter is so important!

What is your favorite season, and why?

Summer is my favorite season. It allows us a bit of a break from hectic schedules that always seem to be a challenge to manage during the school year. Spending time by the lake or pool, going for a boat ride and sitting by the fire making s'mores are just a few of my summertime favorites.

Meet the MN ADOPT Staff

MN ADOPT: Then and Now

Part 3: THEN

MARN becomes MN ADOPT



Having provided immensely popular programming for 5 years under the MN ADOPT contract, and to alleviate confusion with the various names of programming available through MARN, a decision was made in 2014 to change the organization name to MN ADOPT.

2018 – Due to legislative changes in 2017, our contract with DHS expanded once again to add services focused on Minnesota foster care and kinship communities. While we had already been doing this work on an informal, limited basis, this change allowed added programming and funding to better serve these communities. Programs added under this contract included Fostering Network, HELP's Post Adoption Navigator, and the Post Search Program.

Learn more about MN ADOPT

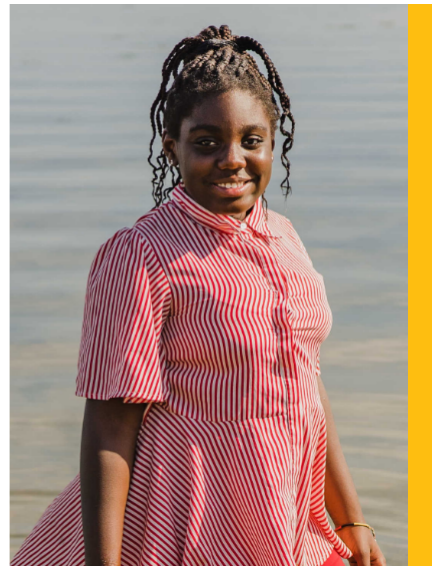
Circus of the Heart

On Saturday, November 5, MN ADOPT and the Minnesota Department of Human Services hosted the 25th Annual Circus of the Heart. Over 400 families registered for the event, which included 2,020 individuals! We were blown away by the numbers. This was a private, online event that was full of activities, information, resources, prizes and giveaways!

It was a great morning celebrating National Adoption Awareness Month and honoring families who have grown through adoption and kinship care, and to provide information about adopting children and youth under state guardianship.

Meet the Kids

Meet Onnesti!



Onnesti, 11, enjoys listening to music, dancing, telling jokes, and making others laugh. She describes herself as sassy, stubborn, and hilarious. Onnesti's favorite food is pizza, tacos, and anything sweet. She would do best in an active family with a structured and consistent parenting style who can support her racial identity.

Following adoption, Onnesti will need to maintain contact with her grandparents and siblings.

Only families living in Minnesota are being considered at this time.

[Learn more](#)

Resource Corner

Adoption Awareness

November is National Adoption and Adoptee Awareness Month. This month, we want to elevate adoptee voices.

- You can find 80 adoptees who are raising awareness about the adoptee journey. Cameron Lee Small, from [Therapy Redeemed](#), compiled a list of accounts of adoptees on Instagram you can follow: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CkgOMRbuP4E/>
- [Adoptee Manifesto](#) from Angela Tucker
- Flip the Script: <http://www.thelostdaughters.com/p/flipthescript.html>
- Our Stories, Our Selves: <https://paccminnesota.com/about/pacc-our-stories-our-selves/>
- Lifting Youth Voices: <https://cascw.umn.edu/spa/national-adoption-month-lifting-youth-voices/>

Community Connections

THANK YOU DONORS!

MN ADOPT gratefully acknowledges the following individuals & organizations for their contributions to the [Circus of the Heart](#). Through the contribution of the prizes & time, they have been instrumental in the success of this years event.



Minnesota Wire | Minnesota Twins | Minnesota Vikings
Bakken Museum | Cafe Latte | Minnesota United FC
Mississippi Market | Crayola Experience
Great Lakes Aquarium | Punch Pizza | Top Golf
Children's Home Society and Lutheran Social Service
Kelli Hanson | David LaRochelle | Urban Air Trampoline
Science Museum of Minnesota
Shoreview Community Center | Northrup Auditorium
Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center
North Homes Children & Family Services
Cowles Center for Performing Arts | Campfire Bay Resort
Choice Bank | Fleet Feet | Flaherty's Arden Bowl

Give to the Max!

On Thursday, November 17, Minnesotans have the opportunity to donate to causes near and dear to their hearts. Would you consider donating to MN ADOPT this year? It's because of our donors that we can continue our efforts to ensure that every Minnesota child has a loving, safe, and nurturing family.

Your donation will support our important work of finding homes for Minnesota children and supporting all Minnesota adoptive, foster, and kinship families through ongoing education and support.

Give Today



Social Justice, Race and Equity

November is National Native American Heritage Month, which celebrates the history and contributions of Native Americans. [Learn more.](#)

On November 9, SCOTUS heard the case of Haaland vs. Brackeen regarding the future of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in the United States. MN ADOPT stands strongly in support of upholding the constitutionality of ICWA. Since 1978, ICWA has provided protections for Native American children with regard to forced separation from their families, Native nations, and Indigenous culture.

Today, Native American children continue to be placed into foster care at a disproportionately high rate, making the protections created through ICWA as

important as they were when the laws enacted.

To learn more about the historical context, listen to [the podcast](#) This Land.

[In this episode](#) of Ohio State University's Inspire Podcast, Sandy Whitehawk, Executive Director of the First Nations Repatriation Institute, shares her personal adoption story – a story of a young girl placed for adoption in a white family before the passage of ICWA.

Sandy shares the deep pain, trauma, and long-term challenges that resulted for her and the episode delves into the research and the impact that the Indian Child Welfare Act has had on Native adoptees since.



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