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Keep reading to stay informed on events and happenings at Foster Adopt MN, 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.

Meet our New Staff!



Meet Abby.

Hello! I'm Abby and I am Foster Adopt Minnesota's new Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator. In my role, I work to raise awareness about the need for adoptive, foster care, and kinship families. I do this in a number of ways, including working with Social Workers, Child Specific Recruiters, print media publications, and by building partnerships within the community.

I was born and raised in the Twin Cities and currently live in St. Paul with my husband, two daughters, and our dog. When I'm not working, I'm often either volunteering in the community, or spending time with my family and friends. Before coming to FAM, I worked in a variety of education roles for Saint Paul Public Schools. A common

thread throughout my career has been my desire to support families and the community. I love that I am able to continue this work in the foster, adoption, and kinship community with a wonderful organization like FAM.

Meet Mariah.

Hi! I'm Mariah and I am the new Post-Permanency Navigator at Foster Adopt Minnesota. My role is to provide resources and answer questions that arise for families after the finalization of an adoption or transfer of permanent legal and physical custody (TPLPC). With that being said, my main focus will be working with kinship families following the finalization of a TPLPC.



We want families to know that there is someone to turn to after court has adjourned and the social workers stop visiting. Whether it's getting some direction on how to request a new MA card or finding a support group for you or your child, I am here to help!

A little more about me - I grew up in Hutchinson, MN and now live in Marshall, MN with my husband and two boys. During the summer months, you can most likely find us at the lake, at a parade, or at a county fair! Before becoming a Post-Permanency Navigator, I was a child protection social worker and supervisor for several years. One thing I love about my new role at FAM is being able to provide support and answer questions for families after the dust has settled and they enter into life post-permanency.

[Learn more about the FAM staff](#)

CIRCUS OF THE *Heart*

Join us for the kick-off of Minnesota's Adoption Awareness Month, honoring families who have grown through adoption and kinship care. We are thrilled to be back in-person with you all, all while still having a virtual option.

Registration closes October 12.

Find more information about the event and register*:

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

**Register by October 12 to reserve your spot for the in-person or virtual event*

We Need Your Help!

Here are two ways you can get involved in Circus of the Heart:



Prize Donations.

FAM is seeking contributions used for prizes for children, teens, and families who attend the event. Especially important are prizes that encourage family time together enjoying an activity or a new experience.

Examples of prizes that would be well received are gift cards, food items, family entertainment opportunities, event tickets, gift baskets, sports merchandise, electronics, and monetary donations to be used for the purchase of prizes.

If you are able to contribute, please contact us at circus@fosteradoptmn.org.

We Need Volunteers!

We're seeking more volunteers for Circus of the Heart! If you'd like to volunteer for this event, some of the activities volunteers assist with include line management, crafts, games, prizes, food, and greeting attendees.



We're expecting an attendance of around 1,000 people, and we count on our amazing volunteers to make the event a success!

If you would like to volunteer at this year's Circus of the Heart, [please sign up here](#).

Opt-In to Text Messaging



Sign up to receive text updates of current events and happenings at FAM, new resources, community connections and more!

SIGN UP TODAY!

3rd Annual Fall Forum



Registration OPEN for our 3rd Annual Fall Forum!

The Fall Forum offers a [variety of workshops](#) presented by nationally renowned speakers to meet the needs of those on the frontline of foster care, kinship care, and adoption.

- Thursday, November 7
- Wednesday, November 13
- Tuesday, November 19

[Claim your spot](#)

Featured Child: KeVana



KeVana (Kiki), 16, is a happy, silly, creative teenager. She is often described as a "phenomenal artist" and would spend all day drawing, painting, or doing diamond art if given the opportunity. Kiki enjoys singing and dancing and would eventually like to join her school choir or band.

Kiki enjoys staying active during the warmer months by biking and would like to join a basketball or soccer team. Some of Kiki's favorites include Takis, Chinese food, and the color red. Kiki enjoys joking around and making others smile.

[Learn more](#)

Mental Health Awareness Week

October 6th-12th

Whether a child, teen or adult...getting support for mental health is crucial to individual well-being and family health. Here are some resources and events happening with two Minnesota organizations committed to mental health support every day of the year!

Free NAMI MN webinar schedule:

<https://namimn.org/mental-illness-awareness-week-miaw/>

Free MACMH Children's Mental Health Fact Sheets:

[Mental Health FactSheets - Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health \(macmh.org\)](https://macmh.org)

MACMH event calendar:

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

The [Permanency Services Resource Hub](#) is a centralized tool and site to find a wide range of resources to support the kinship, foster and adoption communities across Minnesota and the professionals who serve them.

[View available Mental Health Resources](#)



Minnesota establishes new Department of Children, Youth and Families



Minnesota has launched the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, aimed at enhancing support for children and families. Launched on July 1 under Commissioner Tikki Brown, this new state agency will align outcomes and policies across state government, prioritize funding needs, and focus local partners on improving access to services.

DCYF is designed to sharpen the focus of state agencies on the issues that matter most to families. By embedding a child focus within the Governor's Cabinet, the agency is positioned to provide better services statewide.

This initiative reflects a nationwide trend, as many states have reorganized to better coordinate services for children. The DCYF will include staff from the Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services, along with personnel from the Office of Inspector General and the Departments of Education, Public Safety and Health.

The goal is to create a sustainable and recognizable public face for children's issues in Minnesota, making services more accessible and effective for families.

[Learn more](#)



[Learn more and Go Vote!](#)

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

NDEAM is a time to celebrate and recognize the contributions of workers with disabilities. It is also an opportunity to highlight the importance of inclusive practices that benefit both employees and employers and ensure that people with disabilities have access to jobs. At FAM, this month feels especially important to highlight due to our work in supporting transition-age youth within our communities, families, and foster care system who may already be involved with or are preparing to enter the workforce.

Below are resources to learn more and support.

[Learn about NDEAM](#)

[Tips to create an inclusive workplace](#)

[Minnesota Council on Disability](#)

[Youth Disability Employment Initiative](#)

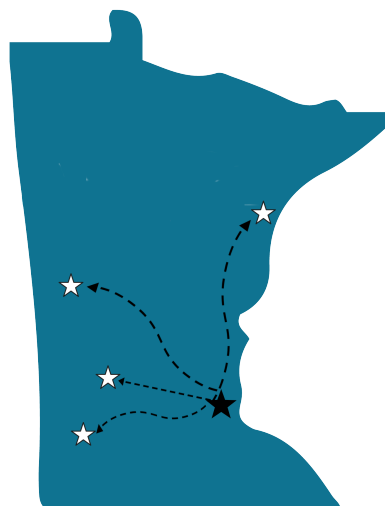
[Employment Resource Guide for Students](#)

Where in the State is Foster Adopt MN?

Find us in the community

Stop by and see us at these upcoming event(s):

- **MSSA Fall Conference - Fergus Falls:**
Wednesday, October 23 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bigwood Event Center, 921 Western Ave., Fergus Falls, MN



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Information and resources for the foster, adoption, and kinship communities in Minnesota and the professionals who support them.

The Zero Kids Waiting Program is the gateway to information about adoption, foster care, and kinship in Minnesota.

Support, guidance, and resource connection for Minnesota's adoption, foster and kinship communities

Information, resources, and referrals regarding post-permanency support in Minnesota.

Our Education Program provides workshops on topics relevant to foster, adoptive, and kinship families.

Provides information and referral to adopted persons, birth families, and adoptive families who need records or have questions about the search process.



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