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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.



While National Adoption Awareness Month is an opportunity to celebrate families created through adoption and raise awareness about the need for adoptive families for kids in foster care, we feel it is equally important to elevate, honor and listen to adoptee voices on the complexities and nuances of their experiences.

Below are resources created by adult adoptees that feature adoptee voices and experiences:

 [The Value of Adoptee Voices \(article\)](#)

 [Who Am I...Really? Adoptee \(podcast\)](#)

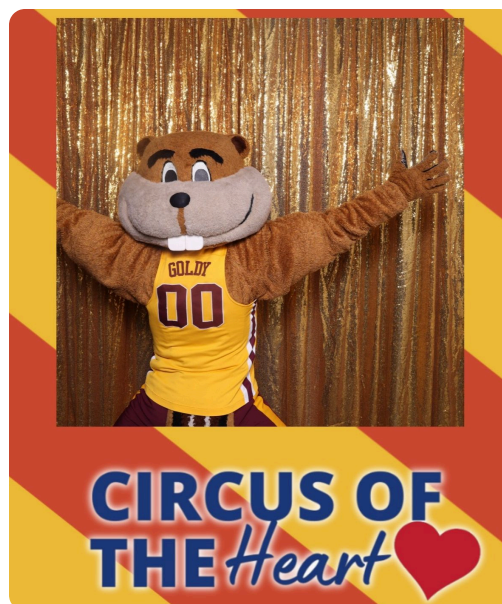
 [Adoption: The Making of Me \(podcast\)](#)

 [Adoptees Speak \(video\)](#)

CIRCUS OF THE *Heart*

On Saturday, November 2, Foster Adopt MN and the Department of Children, Youth and Families hosted the 27th Annual Circus of the Heart.

Over 1300 people registered to attend either in-person or virtually. This event was full of activities, information, balloon art, resources, prizes and giveaways!



It was a great afternoon acknowledging 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.

Please join us next year! Look for information to come Summer 2025.

Distinguished Service Award Recipients



This year's Distinguished Service Award is special because the individual award is being given jointly to **Char Matheson and Katie Rodel**, two Adoption/Kinship Social Workers who are also coworkers at St. Louis County.

As long-term social workers and colleague, both Char and Katie have reputations for excellence in serving the adoption, foster care, and kinship communities, often going above and beyond to ensure Minnesota children have the permanency and support needed to thrive, both now and into the future.

With the recent changes in Minnesota post adoption laws, the passion and dedication that Char and Katie bring to their work has been especially impactful.

TRADEHOME SHOES

The Organizational Service Award was given to **Tradehome Shoes**. What started as student noticing a classmate in need of shoes has turned into an epic event for foster, adoptive, and kinship families in MN. For the third year, Tradehome Shoes has partnered with the MN Vikings for a Back-To-School Field Event specifically for Minnesota's foster, adoptive, and kinship families.

The Back-To-School event is a family friendly event where youth receive a new pair of shoes, a backpack, socks, and other goodies. During the event, Tradehome Shoes had several staff who met with youth individually, measured feet, and ensured each participant left with shoes that fit them. Staff were kind, gracious, and approachable making the event easy and seamless for families.

Tradehome went above and beyond to create a safe and welcome environment so that youth with a variety of needs were able to participate with ease. All registered participants left with shoes, including youth who had unique medical conditions impacting their shoe needs.

[Learn more](#)

Foster Adopt Minnesota **gratefully acknowledges** the following individuals & organizations for their contributions to the **2024 Circus of the Heart**.

Through the contribution of prizes and time, they have been instrumental in the success of this years event.

Adoption Medicine Clinic	MN Landscape Arboretum
Ampersand Families	MN Twins
Anoka County	MN Wire
Bakken Museum	MN United
Bell Bank	Ninja Warrior Gym - Woodbury
Bell Museum	Nexus Kindred Family Healing
Bunker Hills	North Homes Children & Family Services
Can Can Wonderland	Punch Pizza
Children's Home Society & Lutheran	Ramsey County
Social Service of MN	Science Museum
East Silent Resort	Stages Theatre
EVOLVE Family Services	Nexus Kindred Family Healing
Families Rising	SGT Peppers
Hennepin County	Target
Great Lakes Aquarium	The Works Museum
Honey & Rye	Time to Heal Counseling Center
MPLS Sailing Center	Wild Boar
MN Historical Society	Wild Mountain
MN Indian Women's Resource Center	

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

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Featured Child: Atlyss



Atlyss, 17, enjoys swimming, painting, tennis, and participating in cheer. He has an eclectic taste in music which includes artists such as Lana Del Rey, Billie Eilish, Nicki Minaj, Lil Tracy, and opera. He likes watching science fiction, action, Marvel, and DC movies. He also enjoys watching plays, anime, and reality shows.

When considering his future, Atlyss has an interest in biology, chemistry, being a foster parent, and traveling. His favorite book is *The House of the Scorpion*.

Atlyss will need to maintain contact with his siblings.

[Learn more](#)



Give for Good. Give for Zero Kids Waiting for Permanent Homes.

Foster Adopt Minnesota (FAM) has always stood at the heart of one vision: ensuring every child finds a loving, permanent home. As Give to the Max Day approaches your support will help ensure that hundreds of Minnesota children have the stability and support they deserve.

Our work is also about finding and strengthening Minnesota adoptive, foster care, and kinship families. We offer educational workshops, individualized support, and a network of professionals to help guide families through adoption and foster care.

Please consider supporting our organization this season. **Donate today and your donation will be matched!**

[Learn more and donate.](#)

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to recognize achievements and contributions of Native Americans, and to honor the rich culture and heritage of those indigenous to this country. The below resources provide opportunities to learn, celebrate and support, during this month and beyond.

[Minnesota Events](#)

[Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance](#)

[Our Home Native Minnesota at MHC](#)

[Books by Indigenous Authors](#)

Where in the State is Foster Adopt MN?

Find us in the community

Foster Adopt MN Family Day at

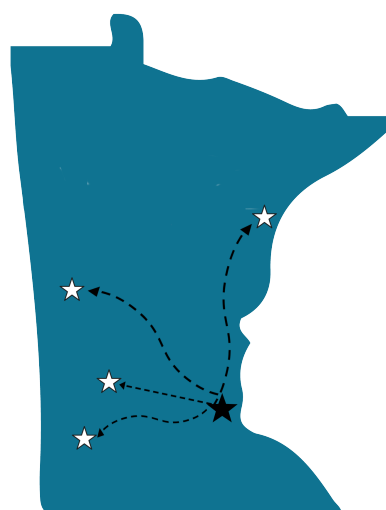
Sea Life: Sunday, November 17, 2024 at Mall of America, Bloomington, MN. Registration required. [Learn more.](#)

Debunking Myths and Engaging Community About Foster Care and Adoption (Virtual):

November 19, 2024 with Big Stone County. [Register here.](#)

Ramsey County Adoption Day

Celebration: Saturday, November 23, 2024 at the Children's Museum. Registration required.



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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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