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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 Education Director!

We're thrilled to announce that **Bridget Leonard, MSW, LICSW**, is our new Director for the Education Program!

Bridget was previously in the Education Coordinator role at FAM and she works out of Fergus Falls, MN.



Here is what Bridget has to say:

I'm so happy to be the new director of the Education Program at FAM. I love the education program for many reasons, but here are my top two:

First, caring for children and teens in foster care, or kinship care, or who have been adopted can at times feel isolating and caregivers can wonder, "Does anyone else feel

this way, or have these experiences?" I think that attending webinars or listening to a podcast can help people feel less alone, more understood, and can build a sense of community.

Second, I love how dynamic the Education Program is. We are nimble, changing with the needs of the communities we serve, listening to feedback, and offering different ways to share information. We're able to provide webinars and podcasts from the lens of adoptees, doctors, researchers, therapists, community and cultural leaders, and so many more on a wide variety of topics.

Okay, there's three: I absolutely love meeting our speakers and guests.

Okay, four: I love my colleagues on the Education team!

[Learn more](#)

Hear from Bridget and Kris about FAM's Spring Summit beginning March 11:



Reserve your spot

Meet Rhylan



Rhylan, 13, has a fabulous engineering mindset and loves to build and create things out of Legos and K'nex. He enjoys playing with dinosaurs and collecting Pokémon cards. Rhylan likes spending time outdoors, exploring nature, fishing, and camping. He enjoyed playing soccer last summer when he scored his first goal. Rhylan enjoys going to trampoline parks, participating in taekwondo, and hanging out with friends. Rhylan would benefit from a family who is active and enjoys being outside doing activities like fishing, camping, sledding, swimming, and hiking.

Rhylan will need to maintain contact with his siblings and grandparents. Only MN families will be considered at this time.

[Learn more](#)

Fifth Annual 5K Fun Run



5TH ANNUAL 5K
SUPPORT KIDS IN
FOSTER CARE

Join us on **Sunday, May 18, 2025** for our next 5K!

We're raising **funds** for the [Back-to-School Shopping Event](#) and **awareness** for the need for families for kids in foster care.

Ways you can help:

- Run or walk!
- Show up and learn more about adoption and foster care.
- Bring a friend and/or family member to join you!

We will have music, yard games, a playground, and a photographer to take your family picture!

There will also be a variety of resource tables to provide information about becoming a foster parent, supports & other topics of interest to adoptive, foster and kinship families.

So, come walk your dog, push your stroller, or run through a 5K with us. It's a great way to be active with your family while supporting Minnesota kids in foster care.

*Can't make it in person?
You can join us virtually.*

REGISTER TODAY!

Get your shoes ready and register

Thank you to our event sponsors!



If you'd like to learn more about partnering with us on this event, please reach out to 5K@fosteradoptmn.org.

Other ways you can support FAM



Any Triathletes out there?

Looking for a triathlon to compete in this summer? Check out the [Lake Minnetonka Triathlon](#)! You can select Foster Adopt Minnesota as an organization to raise money for.

Swim, Bike, Run for FAM!

[Learn more](#)

Round Up for FAM

Round up your order for FAM when you visit White Castle at the following locations:

- Blaine
- Bloomington
- Brooklyn Park
- Columbia Heights
- Forest Lake
- St. Paul (University/Lexington)
- St. Paul (White Bear Ave.)



Where in the State is Foster Adopt MN? *Find us in the community*

Minnesota Social Service Association

Conference: Wednesday March 26 and Thursday, March 27, 2025 at the Convention Center in Minneapolis.

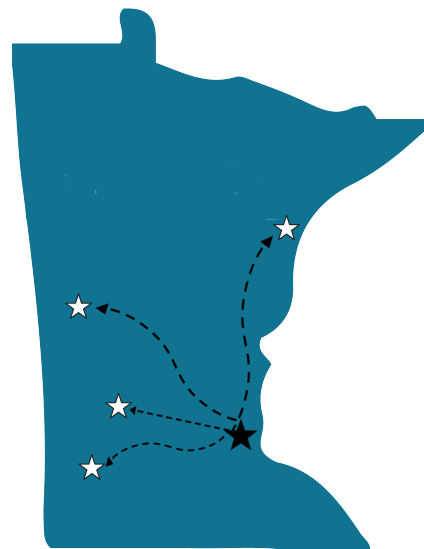
[Learn more.](#)

Child & Adolescent Mental Health

Conference: Sunday, April 27 - Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in Duluth, MN.

[Learn more.](#)

Meeker County Family Fun Day: Saturday, May 3, 2025 in Litchfield, MN



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Since 1987, March has been recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and this year's theme is "We're Here all Year", highlighting the importance of recognizing and advocating for people with developmental disabilities every single day.

The links below provide opportunities to learn more and access resources:

[Treat People Like People – In Their Own Words stories of lived experience.](#)

[Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

[National Disability Institute](#)

Below are three local nonprofit organizations that provide advocacy, support and resources for individuals and families:

[The Arc Minnesota](#)

[Family Voices of Minnesota](#)

[Pacer Center](#)

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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.



Foster Adopt Minnesota acknowledges and honors the lived experiences and identities of the individuals and communities we serve.

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