

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**  
**600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**2007 N.D. Adoption Celebration is Nov. 3 at the Capitol**

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Department of Human Services and North Dakota child placing agencies are cohosting the 2007 Adoption Celebration on Nov. 3, 2007, at the Capitol. The public is invited to attend and to join families, advocates, department and agency staff, and others as organizers present recognition awards to some special parents and adoption advocates.

The celebration will be held in the Brynhild Haugland Room from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The recognition program begins at 2:30 p.m. followed by a “calling out ceremony” to raise awareness about North Dakota children who are waiting to be adopted. Refreshments will be served and children’s activities are planned. Event participants are encouraged to enter the building from the West door.

Adoption Services Administrator Julie Hoffman said, “This event celebrates the families created through adoption, and allows us to recognize adoptive parents, birth parents, children, and the workers and advocates who help bring them together.”

Organizers, she said, will present the 2007 Special Needs Adoptive Family of the Year Award; the 2007 Foster/Adopt Family of the Year Award; the Adoption Triad Award that recognizes individuals involved in an open adoption; two Adoption Advocate Awards; and the Multicultural Family Award.

In 2006, 334 adoptions took place in North Dakota. Of the adopted children, 115 had been in foster care prior to adoption; 19 were foreign-born; 34 were healthy infants, and 166 were adopted by stepparents.

The Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program is a collaboration involving the department’s Children and Family Services Division, Catholic Charities North Dakota, and PATH ND. They work together to promote and support the adoption of children from the foster care system.

Hoffman said children in foster care may have special placement needs because of disabilities, being part of sibling groups seeking placement together, being older than age seven, or being an ethnic or racial minority. Foster families often adopt the children in their care.

For adoption information, contact the N.D. Department of Human Services’ Children and Family Services Division at 701-328-2316, 1-800-245-3736, or [dhscfs@nd.gov](mailto:dhscfs@nd.gov), or go on-line to <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption>.

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