

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Minot agencies hold candlelight walk Nov. 16 to celebrate adoptions

BISMARCK – The Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program and N.D. Department of Human Services' North Central Human Service Center are co-hosting a candlelight walk, Nov. 16, 2007, on Broadway in Minot to celebrate adoptions – especially adoptions of foster children.

“The light is a very powerful symbol of a new beginning, hope, and the human spirit,” explained AASK adoption worker Maggie Hulberg. “When adoptions are finalized, many families hold a candle lighting ceremony to honor the birth parents, adoptive parents, children, and the professionals involved in the adoption. We want to celebrate the families created in our community through adoption.”

The public is invited to bring a lantern, flashlight, or candle to Catholic Charities North Dakota at 216 S. Broadway. At 5:30 p.m., participants will walk from the licensed child placing agency along Broadway to the human service center, which is located in the Town and Country Shopping Center, 1015 S. Broadway. Event organizers will hold a short ceremony recognizing parents, families, and the North Dakota foster children who are waiting for families to adopt them. Refreshments will be served, and music will be provided by Heather Dockter.

In 2006, 334 adoptions took place in North Dakota. Of the adopted children, 115 had been in foster care prior to adoption. The Adults AASK program is a collaboration involving the department's Children and Family Services Division, Catholic Charities North Dakota, and PATH ND. The agencies work together to promote and support the adoption of children from the foster care system.

Event sponsors include the Ground Round restaurant, Northwest Music, and North Central Human Service Center. For information about the event or the AASK program, call 701-852-2854.

Adoption information is available on the N.D. Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division web site at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption>.

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