

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2008 N.D. Adoption Celebration is Nov. 22 in Fargo

BISMARCK – Governor John Hoeven and First Lady Mikey Hoeven are joining North Dakota child placing agencies, the North Dakota Department of Human Services, families, and others to celebrate adoptions at a special event on Nov. 22, 2008, at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Fargo. The public is invited to attend and recognize some special parents and adoption advocates.

The celebration will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., and the formal program begins at 1:30 p.m. at the church on 710 10th St. S. The event includes remarks, individual and family recognition awards, and a “calling out ceremony” to raise awareness about the North Dakota children waiting to be adopted. Organizers have planned children’s activities. A Fargo area non-profit, the North Dakota Heart Gallery, and local professional photographers are sponsoring a portrait gallery of waiting children that will be on display.

“Mikey and I are pleased to help celebrate the families created through adoption, and are inspired by and honored to help recognize adoptive parents, birth parents, children, and workers and advocates,” Hoeven said.

The Hoevens will present the 2008 Special Needs Adoptive Family of the Year Award; the 2008 Foster/Adopt Family of the Year Award; the Adoption Triad Award that recognizes individuals involved in an open adoption; the Multicultural Family Award, and four Adoption Advocate Awards.

Last year, 272 adoptions took place in North Dakota. Of the adopted children, 100 had been in foster care prior to adoption; 12 were international adoptions; 33 were healthy infants; and 127 were adopted by stepparents.

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, or go on-line to <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/adoption>.

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