

HELLO ADOPTION AMBASSADORS!

Ambassador Opportunities are Everywhere!

Thank you for the response I received after the last newsletter. I have been mailing out Ambassador Kits and care packages to those of you who need more materials to post in local businesses and give away to people interested in adoption. I am pleased to announce in February alone I sent out almost \$125 in reimbursements for mileage and materials to those of you who filled out an activity log. Keep it up; what you're doing must be working. I have received more inquiries these last two months than normal. It eases my mind to know you are out there helping me spread the word about the children who need Forever Families. Not only do you take care of your family, you find time to give to other families who aren't as fortunate as we are and for that I applaud all of you. With every inquiry you send me, the voices of the waiting children are heard with more volume. The children's voices are soft and sometimes go unheard. We can continue to turn up the volume to the point that it can not be ignored. WE are true advocates for the children; we are their voices.

Let's continue to shout out together!

Tim Lorentz
REACH Project Coordinator



A TIME TO PLAY

March came in like a lion. I guess in 8 days we had about 30 inches of snow. That's not a bad thing if you have children. My foster boys along with my 16-month old son and I made an 8-foot tall snowman. The snow was perfect for outdoor activities not to exclude a friendly snowball fight if there is such a thing. It's always amazing to me when we have foster children and do activities like the snowman; it's the first one they ever made. They are 15 and 16 years old. It makes me stop and realize what a wonderful childhood I had. The things we do as a family that are normal to us are Greek to these children. I find myself compelled to do more activities just to make sure these children can have the experience and hopefully share them with their children in the future. Send me a picture of what your children did in the snow (or the outdoors this spring, if you don't have winter pictures.) I will pick a winner and put it in the next newsletter. It can be something they built, sledding, plowing, shoveling, and wading in snowmelt... anything fun. This is mine.





FEATURED AMBASSADOR

Hello! My name is Beth Pankratz. I'm a mom to 10 beautiful children, soon to be 14 (sibling group waiting to join us.) I am blessed to be married to Van, the love of my life. We live in the country, way OUT, in northern MN (on the Canadian border). My husband and I knew that we wanted to adopt long before we had children. We grew up with adoption and foster care as part of our lives. We waited on God's timing to pursue adoption; one day Van and I looked at each other and knew it was time. So, thus our adoption journey began.. What a wonderful experience it has been. Our boys both have special needs and yet the things we have all learned have been amazing. Real life... it's hard but Oh what a reward! Even though our family is larger than normal we are a very active out going family! Our favorite things to do as a family are travel, camp and swim. I hope I can encourage others in their adoption journey.

REACHing Out To Communities

Congratulations to the children of Beth and Van Pankratz who correctly returned the number of people holding hands in the last newsletter. Due to the fact that they were the only ones who responded to that question they will receive all three 5-dollar bonuses to share with their biological and adopted siblings.

Thanks to Cori Chilson for driving their 15-passenger van around with our REACH magnets displayed on its side. A big red van full of a happy family can only help our cause.

I have listened to your ideas and have taken them to heart. Thank you for bringing to my attention (Luana) the farm and home show in Windom the 10th of March. I was there with my booth. Thank you (Karen and Ruth) the owners of Ma's Cupboard in Madelia for giving REACH free booth space at the Madelia Expo. I am registered for the Crow Wing County Fair in Brainerd July 31- Aug 4 . Due to popular response I will be returning to the Mower County Fair in Austin on August 7-12 and the Freeborn County Fair in Albert Lea July 31-Aug 5.

This is a partial list of the events I will bring the REACH booth to. But as you know, fairs are open a lot of hours and we need help spreading the adoption message. I would love for some of you to join me at these fairs. You will receive free admission, fair food, mileage reimbursement and good company. Please check your calendars and give me a call!



For more information on
adopting a child from foster care
call 1-866-79-REACH or
log on to www.adoptinfo.org.

