

Adoption • Chemical Health Assessment & Outpatient Treatment

In-Home Services • Foster Care • School Based Services

Outpatient Mental Health Services

Residential: *Treatment Cottage, Boys Program, Teens in Transition, & Next Step*

*Girls Program & Teens in Transition*

I.T.A.S.K.I.N. Center: *Stabilization Shelter Unit,*

*35 Day Evaluation & Detention Center*



**NORTH HOMES**  
Children and Family Services

August Newsletter, 2014 \* North Homes Children and Family Services

# The North Homes Connection

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*NHCFS held foster care picnics in Grand Rapids, Duluth, and Bemidji areas this summer.*

## A letter from Kim Anderson

*Regional Services Officer*

The last six months at North Homes Children and Family Services has brought many changes and opportunities. The Bemidji Office has moved to a new location 4225 Technology Drive. If you have not visited the new building, please stop by and take a look around! The building has brought a new feeling to our Mental Health Clinic and has created a great moral for our staff. Clients and referral sources have also had wonderful things to say about the new property.

North Homes was awarded additional funding through the School Linked Mental Health Grant. The grant is used for mental health services for children in schools who are uninsured or under insured. We finished our first fiscal year in June and were able to see children access mental health services who may not have been able to previously.

Foster Care and Adoption have seen a large increase in homes and children in care in the past six months. Currently, we have 130 licensed homes and 25 of those homes are approved for adoption. We are averaging about 190 children in care per month.

Mental health services are growing as well. We are excited to welcome to our team

two Doctors of Psychology, one in our Bemidji office and one in our Grand Rapids office. We also hired two licensed marriage and family therapists and a Psychiatric Nurse in the Grand Rapids office. In the Duluth office, we hired a MSW, LICSW. With the new clinicians starting within the next month, we will be able to offer more mental health services to the communities which we serve.

The last six months have been very busy for our organization and we don't for see it slowing down any time soon. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in all of our programs for making North Homes an agency that children, families, probation, social services and tribal workers can rely on. We help children and families everyday which is why we all pursued a career in this profession. Please know that all of your hard work is appreciated and has not gone unnoticed. Also remember to take care of yourself; we know how hard this work can be!

Sincerely,  
*Kim Anderson*

## Chemical Health Specialized Foster Homes

North Homes is excited to welcome two new specialized foster homes into our continuum who specialize in chemical health. Both homes are located in the Deer River area and are now able to receive referrals. To learn more information, to make a referral to either home or to inquire about specific information pertaining to the Chemical Health programming provided to these homes, contact the Grand Rapids Foster Care office.

## Sochi Games come to North Homes Cottage!

*The North Homes Cottage held their own Olympic games in honor of the February Olympic games in Sochi. Events included snowshoe races, sled pull, and hockey. An opening and closing ceremony was also held at the Cottage.*



## North Homes opens new office in Bemidji

*North Homes is proud to announce the opening of the new Bemidji Office located on 4225 Technology Drive in Bemidji.*



An open house was held Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the new building. Services at North Homes in Bemidji include: a Rule 29 Mental Health Clinic with 11 credentialed mental health professionals, Foster Care, Adoption, CTSS, supervised visitation, & Girls Program/Girls Teens in Transition. To learn more about any of these programs visit our website or call (218) 751-0282.

## Adoption renews PPAI contract with the Minnesota Department of Human Services

The Minnesota Department of Human Services' Child Safety and Permanency Division (department) has entered into contracts with five private child placing agencies to provide adoption and adoption-related services to children under state guardianship or tribal jurisdiction, beginning July 1, 2014. North Homes Children and Family Services is one of the five agencies providing services that include: adoption training, home studies, relative home studies, matching and placement, child specific recruitment, and post-adoption crisis services. North Homes has held a PPAI contract since its inception in 1997 and finalized 103 adoptions of Minnesota's Waiting Children in their last grant cycle (FY2010-2013).

### Employee Highlight: Joni McCauley



Joni has been with North Homes for over four years. During that time, she has worked diligently in becoming knowledgeable in various areas of service to assist our continuum. Joni has taken on additional work to assist our chemical health program in providing a better quality of care for our youth on the secure unit. She is always pleasant to talk to and treats employees and youth with the utmost respect and dignity.

# Foster Provider event held in May for Foster Care Appreciation Month

With the mission **“To provide a community-based continuum of quality care to children and families,”** North Homes Children and Family Services served about 3,000 children and families last year from across the state of Minnesota. Currently, North Homes has about 100 licensed foster homes across the state of Minnesota.

With the month of May being foster care appreciation month, staff from North Homes stated they wanted to say thank you to the special families who commit their lives to helping children and families in need by holding an appreciation event on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Walker, Minnesota. About 75 foster care providers from around the state spent the day together meeting other foster families to make personal connections, support each other, and take a break from their demanding routines. Prizes were given away and each foster family received a special gift of appreciation for the difficult work in which they do.

## ITASKIN Center and Cottage Garden Project

The North Homes’ garden project took a hit in early spring, when most of the seedlings became the casualties of a few upset youth. Thanks to the kindnesses of both Beiers Greenhouse and LaPrairie Greenhouse who generously donated their leftover seedlings, our garden bounced right back. The youth from TNT were extremely helpful hauling dirt from the Cottage to the ITASKIN Center. After the heavy lifting was done, the youth enjoyed a pizza party in the sun. The youth from the ITASKIN Center did a great job replanting and all of the staff were proud to see how willingly they contributed toward the constructive work. A few of youth had a hard time being gentle with the plants, but that’s what a “learning garden” is all about.



### Youth were asked what they appreciated about their foster parents...

- Care and love me, they make sure I'm healthy, there not too bossy, but not careless, they support me.
- My foster parents do many things that I appreciate. They take me with open arms, they give me loving advice and good opinions, they make me feel at home, and they are themselves 24/7, which is way more then enough for me. I have the best foster parents ever.
- They keep my safe, they do my laundry, they give me shelter, they care for me.
- Feeds me and buys me good stuff and is fun and she gives me shelter.
- Put a roof over my head, accepted me when no one else did, gives me opportunities that I couldn't get anywhere else, there good people....just don't get on their bad side.
- My foster mom shows a love that I haven't seen from my real mom and anyone can tell by looking at our family that everyone fits in and is truly cared for.
- I like that we get to do fun things like going skiing, shopping and watching movies.
- They treat me the way I want to be treated. They feed me, listen to me, care for me and love me. Also I like being part of their family and being included is really cool.
- My foster parents let me spend time with my significant other and they always make sure I get to work on time and are always there when I'm done.
- They love me and make me feel good.
- The wonderful food Joan makes and when she takes us shopping.
- Cleaning my room, cooking, not yelling at me so much, buying me stuff.
- Helps me make money, takes my shopping, keeps me safe.

# How can you help a child in need?

*North Homes Children and Family Services is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. In order to continuously improve our programming to the youth and families we serve, we accept tax deductible donations and memorial gifts.*

If you would like to help the at-risk youth and families we serve, North Homes Children and Family Services accepts a variety of donations, big or small. Donations can come in the form of cash donations, memorial gifts, pledges, or through items such as clothing or other items. Giving can also come in the form of specialty talents you would like to share with youth. For more information regarding giving to North Homes, please contact Toni Troumbly, 218-327-3000 or via email at [toni.troumbly@northhomes.org](mailto:toni.troumbly@northhomes.org).

**Thank you to those who support us through generous donations !**

- *Beier's Greenhouse*
- *Bloomer's Greenhouse*
- *Keller Fencing*
- *Minnesota Arts Board*
- *LaPrairie Greenhouse*

## Video Guidance System (ITV)

*North Homes recently installed new video conferencing equipment that uses state of the art cloud based video connection system hosted and managed by Video Guidance. **The systems are located in our Grand Rapids, Bemidji, Deer River, and Duluth offices.** This system will allow our staff to communicate "in person" with social service agencies, court officials, medical personnel, and families throughout the United States. Not only will this save time and money for travel, it will also allow for more personal meetings and visits that otherwise could not have been possible.*

## Please Welcome to NHCFS!

**Lisa Riggs MSN,RN, CNP** is a board certified Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner licensed to treat individuals ages 13 and older. Mrs. Riggs graduated from New Mexico State University in 2009 with a Master's degree in nursing and an area of study focused on the treatment of psychiatric illness and substance use disorders. Mrs. Riggs has broad clinical experience in a variety of treatment settings and has worked in the mental health field for over 15 years. After many years of travels and many moves, Lisa and her husband Dan are looking forward to making Grand Rapids their home. Lisa enjoys gardening, reading, cooking and spending time with family, friends and critters.

**Eric Nance MSW, LICSW** received his Master's Degree in Social Work from Portland (Oregon) State University. He is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. Eric currently serves adults, teens and families using a variety modalities including client-centered, cognitive-behavioral and insight-oriented. He has a special interest in adults with severe and persistent mental illness; specifically treatments that will benefit these adults and their families. In addition, Eric is trained in the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral curriculum. Other areas of focus include therapeutic groups, community networking and conducting presentations on mental health-related topics.

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