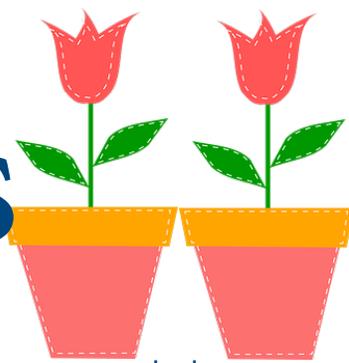


Summer 2020

Heart Times

NEWSLETTER

AASK - Adults Adopting Special Kids



www.aasknd.org



Introducing brothers Skyler & Elyis!

Skyler is a loving, nine year old boy who has a kind heart for all animals and living creatures. Skyler would like to have a pet, preferably a “baby kitty”. Skyler says he loves to eat ramen noodles, pickles, pepperoni pizza, raw vegetables, and brownies. He does not like green beans, cooked vegetables, and over cooked chicken. Skyler is a busy kid who loves to play basketball, soccer, and ride his bike. He also likes playing video games and would love to have a family that wants to play with him.

Eli & Skyler

are to play with “guys” (action figures), play outside, watch Paw Patrol, Blaze, the Monster Machines, super hero shows and movies, and ride his bike. Elyis likes to have people sing silly songs and funny games like “snug as a bug” and cookie monster.

Skyler and Elyis’ team are seeking a skilled and nurturing household with the ability to provide patience, structure and clear expectations. The team is open to families with other children, however, it is recommended that Skyler and Elyis be the children with the highest needs. The boys would do best in a loving home that could provide each of them with one-on-one attention. Skyler and Elyis’ forever family should be willing and able to access the necessary supports and services needed for their success.

Do you feel your family would be a great fit for these brothers?

If so, Contact Nancy at 701-356-8023 to learn more!



Our Mission

AASK commits to building permanency for children from foster care through adoption by stable and nurturing families.



NORTH DAKOTA POST ADOPT NETWORK
A SERVICE OF THE AASK PROGRAM

PATH X NORTH DAKOTA | Specialized Services for Children, Youth, and Families



AASK is a collaborative program of Catholic Charities North Dakota and PATH

Staff Contact Information

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F: 701.224.9747

Dickinson

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F: 701.225.2208

Minot

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Director's Corner

Wow, can you believe summer is just around the corner?

I can imagine the upcoming months might look a little bit different than in past years, but I am hopeful that we can eventually transition to a place of normalcy and stability. During this pandemic time, AASK remains extremely committed to adoption work as we continue serving our wonderful children and families through safe and creative measures. If you have any questions about our services during this time, please reach out! And remember that our North Dakota Post Adopt Network is available for support as well. I wish you and your family a sense of peace and happiness during these times. Stay strong, safe, and healthy!



Our AASK staff continues to grow bigger and better every year....Check out our 2020 AASK team!

Kara Eastlund, MSW, LMSW
AASK Director

To learn more about
any of the Waiting Children,
please visit



www.ndheartgallery.org
or visit the AASK website at
www.aasknd.org



Congratulations to these families
who recently celebrated
the legal finalization of their adoption
from February through April



Lola & Anaya with Brent and Amy

Jocelynn with Ryan and Tamara

Anthony with Kellan and Annamaria

Ica with Shane and Maren

Lorie with James and Jodi

Christian & Mia with Ross and Kimberly

Layton with David and Amanda

Tahna with Travis and Rhea

Uriah, Lita, & Avah with LouAnne

Amirah with Jermaine and Jennifer

Alanna & Isaiah with James and Christine

Greyson & Kaydence with Angelina

Joshua with Patrick and Delilah

Matthew with Chad and Kristine

Anna & Gabriel with Mary

Saphira with Cherie

Jon'Tae & Taelynn with Justin and Joel

Gideon with Corey and Allyson

Joseph with Jason and Michelle

Kyler with Loren and Tonya

Izabel with Carrie

Isaac with Barb

Maliah with LaKeshia

Cayden, Hayden, Miguel, & Viviana
with Cynthia

Kenyon & Maliyah with Byron

What's Cookin'?

Peach Fruit Salad

Ingredients

- 1 can (21 ounces) peach pie filling
- 3 firm bananas, sliced
- 2 cups strawberries, halved
- 1 cup seedless grapes
- 1 can Mandarin oranges, drained



Directions

In a large salad bowl, combine all the ingredients. Refrigerate until serving.

Submitted by Julie Hoffman

Waiting Kids

Meet Sequoia, Kaelani, Tierra, and Jamisen!

Sequoia is 11 years old. In her free time, she likes to do arts and craft projects and listen to music. Sequoia describes herself as creative, silly, and friendly. Sequoia's favorite singer is Ariana Grande and her favorite food is French fries!

Kaelani is 10 years old. She loves to make her sisters laugh and enjoys helping others! Kaelani describes herself as friendly, silly, and a good helper. Kaelani loves to make her sisters laugh and enjoys helping others!

Tierra just turned 10 years old. She enjoys music and recently started taking piano lessons. Tierra describes herself as smart, shy, friendly, and funny. Her favorite foods are pizza and fruit.

Jamisen just turned 9 years old. In his free time, Jamisen likes to play video games, play outside, and play with toy cars. Jamisen's favorite foods are noodles and gold fish crackers.

The children have stated that they would love to have a dog or a cat, or both!

To learn more about these siblings, visit www.aasknd.org or call Savanna at 701-775-4196.



Jamisen



Kaelani



Sequoia



Tierra

Waiting Kids



Justin

Meet Justin!

Justin is a 12 year old boy with a great sense of humor! Justin is insightful and creative which shines in his ability to create inventions and come up with new ideas and concepts. He loves science and art and will impress anyone with his origami skills.

To learn more about Justin, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-356-8023.



Wyatt

Let me introduce you to Wyatt!

Wyatt is thirteen years old and is in seventh grade. He is a kind, caring, and fun young man! He loves being outside, riding scooter and his bike, playing on his skateboard, and going swimming.

To learn more about Wyatt, visit www.aasknd.org or call Marisa at 701-775-4196.



Jerry

Introducing Jerry!

Jerry is a creative and outgoing 11 year old boy. Jerry is always on the lookout for sparkly gemstones or rocks to add to his already impressive collection of rocks, precious gemstones, and agates. He also collects compasses, and loves to show them to his friends!

To learn more about Jerry, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-356-8023.



Carter

Meet 16 year old Carter!

Carter is an amazing young man who has many hopes and dreams. Carter has set many goals for himself and frequently makes plans for how he will accomplish them throughout his life. Carter is extremely active and loves participating in sports, mainly basketball and football.

To learn more about Carter, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-225-3310.



Lashanti

Meet 15 year old Lashanti!

Lashanti is a bright young lady with a soft and caring personality. In her free time, she likes to read and watch Netflix. Lashanti enjoys Harry Potter and her favorite food is pineapple! Lashanti is imaginative, sweet, and funny.

To learn more about Lashanti, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-356-8023.



Maison

Say hello to 14 year old Maison!

This young man is the most creative, imaginative, and constructive boy you'll likely ever meet! Maison has a wonderful sense of humor and has an abundance of witty comments. Though Maison can be quiet at times, he can open up and be very chatty when he has something important to share.

To learn more about Maison, visit www.aasknd.org or call Maria at 701-551-6397.

Waiting Kids



Jaydan

Meet Jaydan!

Mr. Jaydan is a one-of-a kind 10 year old. He is an active kid who loves baseball and basketball. One of Jaydan's favorite things to do is go on nature walks. He would love a forever family who enjoys being active and playing outdoors!

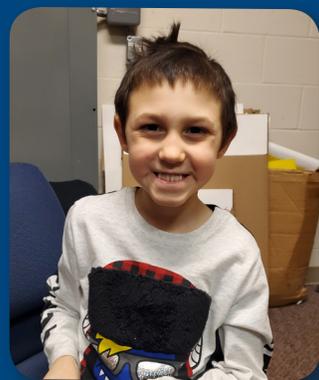
To learn more about Jaydan, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-356-8023.



Avan

Avan is a 9 year old energetic and athletic kiddo. He has the biggest smile, which shows through the greatest dimples! Avan has said he would like to live in a city, however, he has found a new love for the farm life and has been enjoying his time with his pony, Lollipop.

To learn more about Avan, visit www.aasknd.org or call Bailey at 701-775-4196.



Aaron

Meet Aaron!

Aaron is a loving 7 year old who is full of energy! He still has a love for animals, which might include a new favorite each week. He enjoys toys that make noise, remote control cars, and any little gadget he can explore with. His next accomplishment is to learn how to ride his bike without training wheels.

To learn more about Aaron, visit www.aasknd.org or call Megan at 701-775-4196.



Madison

Meet Madison!

She is an upbeat 14 year old who loves Starbucks! She enjoys music, movies, and football. Some of her favorite foods are sea food, chicken hot dish, and chocolate. Those who know Madison would describe her as kind and sweet.

To learn more about Madison, visit www.aasknd.org or call Ambree at 701-255-1793.



Hanna

Meet 15 year old twins Hayden and Hanna!

Hayden has a creative imagination which is evident through his conversations. Hayden has ideas for a video game that he hopes to someday create!

Hanna is a caring and thoughtful girl. She is always looking to make new friends and meet new people. Hanna loves to express herself through music and writing.

Both Hanna and Hayden identify that the most important thing to have is each other in their forever family! Their love for one another is evident. They both look forward to spending time with their adoptive family playing board games.

To learn more about Hanna and Hayden, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-356-8023.



Hayden

Waiting Kids



Introducing the charismatic and talented brothers, Ethan and Aaron!

Ethan is 14 years old, and is one of the most creative and artistic kids you will ever meet! Ethan is kind, quiet and friendly. He enjoys reading book series and watching the movies afterward.

Aaron is 13 years old. He is thoughtful, charismatic and outgoing. Aaron is a social butterfly. He engages with people wherever he goes and is very likeable.

To learn more about these brothers, visit www.aasknd.org or call Ambree at 701-255-1793.

Ethan & Aaron



Meet thirteen year old Phillip!

Phillip is a smart and kind hearted young man. Phillip is filled with many talents, as he has learned to skateboard and play the clarinet! Some of his favorite actives include video games, watching YouTube, and playing basketball.

To learn more about Phillip, visit www.aasknd.org or call Nancy at 701-356-8023.

Phillip



Rylan (10 years old), Herlinda "Linda" (8 years old), and Carlos (7 years old) are affectionate and loving siblings!

Rylan is a caring boy who is always thinking about others. When Rylan gets older he wants to be a professional football player. This summer he wants to sell his toys and save his money for something special!

Linda is a sweet young lady who is wise beyond her years. Her brothers make her laugh and she enjoys anything and everything arts and crafts!

Carlos is a spunky little guy with a big personality! His favorite food is pizza and if he had three wishes they would be to own a small motorcycle, have a racecar, and buy a home.

The children have stated they would like a family who gets along, plays with them, and has pets.

To learn more about these siblings, visit www.aasknd.org or call Bailey at 701-775-4196.

Rylan, Linda & Carlos



Meet the lovely and amazing sisters, Emily and Abigale!

Emily is 11 years old and is funny, kind, and caring. Need helping finding new recipes? Emily is your girl! She loves to look up new recipes on her tablet and enjoys helping make yummy snacks. She recently found a delicious smoothie recipe she can't wait to try.

Abigale is 9 years old and is kind, independent, and determined. Do you need some recommendations for a book to read? Abigale is the person to ask! This girl loves to read and is often found reading three different books at any given time. She is an independent girl who likes to try to do things on her own.

To learn more about these sisters, visit www.aasknd.org or call Tesia at 701-356-7981.

Emily & Abigale

Family Strengthening During a Pandemic

With everything going on in the world lately, I feel like there were so many options to write about this quarter! Maintaining a routine, managing questions regarding COVID-19, the list could go on and on! Instead, we're keeping it simple. With school being remote learning and many parents potentially working from home, here are some activity ideas you can do that will not only provide some entertainment (even if only for a bit), but also promote family bonding.

This is a difficult time for families with all of the unknowns and we know that unknowns can create anxiety for both children and adults. Incorporating some fun family activities will alleviate some of the boredom and hopefully create positive memories of this crazy time!

- Spa Night- create an evening of face masks, nail painting, and relaxation! Many small businesses have been putting together great little packages that include all you need to have a relaxing and fun night in with your kids.
- Tie-Dye- This is a fun project that also allows kids to work on their imagination skills. There's many different tie-dying kits out there as well as natural options such as using avocado pits. Google is your friend here!
- Kids Yoga- Yoga not only promotes movement, but can also help kids (and adults of course) feel more grounded. If you have younger kids, check out Cosmic Kids Yoga on YouTube.
- Family Cookie Decorating Contest- Who doesn't love a good batch of sugar cookies, especially if you're incorporating a bit of a competitive edge. Either vote within the family or consider utilizing social media to also create a bit of connection with family and friends.
- Virtual Zoo's & Museums- We know kids love technology, but this twist gives them some learning opportunities as well. The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (as well as many others like the Georgia Aquarium) have virtual streaming of the different animals that reside there. Again, google is your friend here!
- Create Treasure/Scavenger Hunts- This is an activity that you can utilize outdoors for as well. With the weather getting nicer, it's a perfect opportunity to get out and get moving.
- Scrapbooking- this is a great way to incorporate your child's past (if you have pictures of course) with your family. If your child doesn't have pictures of their birth family, you can focus on a scrapbook that documents their time with you and how you've grown as a family.
- Picnics- This is a great one that can allow kids to help put together a meal for an outdoor picnic.

Whatever activities you choose, remember that family activities that promote bonding are also creating a sense of security, importance, confidence, and happiness for children. Kids don't need perfect parents or extravagant activities, especially during this time. Often, they just want some undivided attention from you and a reassurance that everything is going to be okay.



Vanessa Deibert, LBSW
Social Worker Supervisor



**NORTH DAKOTA
POST ADOPT NETWORK**
A SERVICE OF THE AASK PROGRAM

ND Post Adopt Network

Hello from ND Post Adopt Network!

We are excited to host the fourth annual Camp Connect 2020! Due to COVID-19 and everyone's safety, we rescheduled Camp for August 7-9, 2020. We have also changed the location of camp to be at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp in Medina, ND. In addition to a great camp facility, Crystal Springs in Medina is also a more centralized location for families to travel to.

We are very lucky to have both Mike and Kristin Berry from Confessions of an Adoptive Parent come and speak with our parents again this year! Mike and Kristin are amazing adoptive parents who are honest, truthful, real, and provide a message of hope and healing.

In addition to learning from Mike and Kristin and getting to know other adoptive and guardianship families throughout North Dakota, you will also have an opportunity to spend quality time with your family. Often, we get stuck in the mundane day to day activities of life, but Camp Connect will provide an opportunity for you to reengage in conversations with your child/ren and participate in activities that you do not normally get to do.

This weekend is completely free, but we do request a \$50 per person deposit, which will be returned to you when you arrive at Camp Connect.

Applications for Camp Connect 2020 can be found on our website, <http://www.ndpostadopt.org> under the Parent Resources tab.

We can't wait to see you there!



CAMP CONNECT 2020

**Crystal Springs Baptist Camp,
Medina ND**

August 7-9

Join us for a FREE, fun-filled family weekend!



**Welcoming back
speakers Mike &
Kristin Berry!**

**APPLY BY JULY 7TH!
APPLICATION ONLINE AT WWW.NDPOSTADOPT.ORG**

OPEN TO ND ADOPTIVE & GUARDIANSHIP FAMILIES



**NORTH DAKOTA
POST ADOPT NETWORK**
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Greetings from the Schneider Family!



Hello from the Schneider family of 10! Steven and Susan met in 1997 and have been married for 17 years. We have 8 biological children, Julia (17), Jake (15), Lois (14), Simon (12), Emma (12, yep twins), Andrew (11), Sam (8) and Lucy (7). Our house is full of noise, love, and joy! The kids are busy with dance, football, basketball, and track. We still take time to play family games, have dance parties and go camping. Steven works in information technology at a local hospital. Susan works as an occupational therapist at a local hospital as well.

In the past Susan worked in pediatrics meeting many children who were in the foster care system. It was first time the conversation of adoption presented itself. Truly knowing the children for who they are made the desire to adopt stronger. We are anxiously awaiting to give a child a forever home.

Spotlight On Staff

Hello! My name is Maria Heidrich and I'm an AASK Adoption Specialist in the Bismarck PATH office. In May of 2018, I began working for AASK as a Post-Adopt Coordinator and in November of 2018, I accepted my current position—and I've loved every single day! To back track a bit, I was born and raised in Bismarck. Following my high school graduation, I pursued my social work degree at the University of Mary. Three short years later, I received my Bachelor's degree in Social Work, a minor in Psychology, and a minor in Business Administration. I think the best way to summarize my experience with AASK so far is: I am honored. I'm honored to me a part of children and families' adoption journeys, I'm honored to say I am able to make a difference in the lives of others, and I'm honored to be a part of the family that is AASK!

A few things about me... I recently said "YES" to spending forever with the love of my life and best friend, Alex. We are beyond excited to start our lives together! I love traveling and I'm always down for an adventure; my favorite places that I've explored are Ireland (I definitely left a piece of my heart in Rostrevor) and Italy. I LOVE being an auntie—I have 20 nieces and nephews so my life is never dull! Things I love to do include going to concerts, fishing, spending time on the water during the summertime, crafts, baking, watching Netflix (especially The Office and Friends), and spending time with my family, friends, and fiancé. I also love running... I've ran multiple 5k's, 10k's, and one half marathon! A full marathon is on my bucket list. My faith, family, and friends are everything to me. I am so excited to continue my work with AASK and keep doing what I love!



Maria Heidrich

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CATHOLIC CHARITIES ND
5201 BISHOPS BLVD - STE B
FARGO ND 58104

“Our AASK worker was amazing. She was there for us every step of the way!
Thank you AASK and Vanessa very much!”

-Adoptive Family

MAILING LIST UPDATE: If you have an address change or do not wish to receive this newsletter, please email
Angie Martinez at amartinez@catholiccharitiesnd.org Thank you!

Did you know individuals can also support the program? Online donations can be made on our website at www.aasknd.org. Donations can also be mailed to CCND/AASK at 5201 Bishops Boulevard - Suite B - Fargo, ND 58104.

Donations can be made in memory of a loved one who has passed or to honor a special occasion such as a birthday, graduation, wedding or birth of a child. What a great way to give tribute to someone who has impacted your life while making a difference for a child in the AASK program.

Thank you for your support! It helps the program provide that “special touch” for the children and families we serve!



www.aasknd.org



North Dakota Post Adopt Network
1202 Westrac Drive, Fargo, ND 58103
www.ndpostadopt.org
701-280-9545 or Toll free: 844-454-1139

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