



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT**  
**Darcy Dwyer**  
**218-822-7025**  
**Darcy.Dwyer@crowwing.us**

## **Crow Wing County Celebrates Adoption Awareness Month**

November is Adoption Awareness Month. It's a time to recognize and celebrate with families who have adopted children from the foster care system or are in the process of adopting. In 2016, 8 adoptions were finalized in Crow Wing County and so far in 2017, 5 adoptions have been finalized. 21 more children are in pre adoptive homes awaiting finalization.

"We would like to congratulate all adopted children in Crow Wing County and their new families. Setting aside a month to acknowledge adoptions, foster families, volunteers and child welfare staff is a wonderful way to celebrate the importance of those who make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people in Crow Wing County." says Licensing Social Worker, Jen Froderman. "Adoptions could not happen without kind hearted families who have opened up their hearts and homes to children who are in need of not just a home, but a family."

Crow Wing County is grateful for the supportive adoptive families, as well as dedicated foster care providers. A licensing social worker walks potential foster families through the licensing process. The process to become a licensed foster care provider takes about 3 to 6 months. It involves meeting with a licensing social worker, completing an application, passing a background check, training and having a home that meets the guidelines. Individuals and families who apply to be foster parents are given training and support before, during and after they are licensed. There is a monthly stipend to cover the foster child's expenses.

Froderman adds, "Foster parenting is a great way to be a part of a community that works tirelessly to provide kids and teens with a greater future. People who have experienced foster parenting and adoption walk away with a greater sense of what is going on in their community and have amazing success stories to share."

There are currently 180 children in foster care in Crow Wing County. Many of which are in need of permanent homes. If you are considering adoption or foster care contact Crow Wing County Community Services at 218-824-1140.

Crow Wing County's Department of Community Services administers more than 70 federal and state benefit and assistance programs totaling more than 130 million dollars annually. The department is dedicated to performing its mission of promoting and protecting the health and well-being of all Crow Wing County residents.

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**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota's favorite place.

**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.