



REACH

Rural Expansion of Adoptive
Communities and Homes
A PATH, INC. INITIATIVE

AMBASSADOR CONNECTION

Finding Forever Families

HELLO ADOPTION AMBASSADORS!

THE VALUE OF AMBASSADORS

It's time to act! REACH billboards are decorating highways of MN, ND and WI during November (National Adoption Month) giving contact information about adopting a child from foster care. Please let me know if or when you see one and let me know what you think.

The children are waiting. Some have been waiting a long time and will continue to wait if we don't get the needed information to prospective adoptive parents. As we celebrate our adoptions this month with our families, remember there are children who are still waiting to be able to family

like their friends do. celebrate. They are standing alone waiting for a family to call their own. They're not celebrating adoption. Many quietly smile and go with the flow, wondering inside what it would be like to have a real

After six years as foster parents my wife Heather and I have had thirty foster children come and go. We have had two permanency-planned foster placements for the next four years. Our journey is not over. We are now looking at a sibling group of two brothers who are waiting for a family. When our house is full, there will still be room in our hearts;

our voices will never be silenced. With approximately 550,000 children in foster care nation wide and 118,000 of them waiting to be adopted, we must continue to spread the word ... and we will.

We need your help. Please use the Ambassador Kits you have received. (If you have not received yours, contact me and I will personally make sure you get one.) I am always available to assist you with your adoption- related needs. You can reach me toll free at 1-866-797-3224; on my cell phone at 1-507-382-7619; or by email at tlorentz@pathinc.org



Tim Lorentz
REACH Project
Coordinator

WHAT'S NEW?

**NEW REACH
Team Member
Kelly Mitchell**

**MONTHLY ON-LINE
Chat Sessions
November 16
7:00 to 9:00 pm
central time**



REACH TEAM MEMBER

KELLY MITCHELL REACH COORDINATOR

As coordinator for the Rural Expansion of Adoptive Communities and Homes (REACH) Project, Kelly Mitchell works to raise awareness for the REACH Project among Native American communities in rural North Dakota. Through outreach, including attendance at powwows and other events, Kelly's goal is to increase the number of adoptions of Native American children who are waiting in foster care.

Kelly is also an Independent Living Coordinator for the Professional Association of Treatment Homes (PATH) and brings a background in Sociology and a passion for working with children and families to these positions.

Kelly was previously employed as an Intensive In-Home Therapist for the Pennington County Family Preservation Project in Thief River Falls, MN. Kelly believes her experience working with children and diverse cultures aid her in this new position working with Native American children and families as they consider adoption or foster care.

A graduate of North Dakota State University, Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Women's Studies. She currently resides in Rock Lake, N.D., with her husband Jesse and in her free time loves to garden, travel, work-out, fish and spend time with friends and family.

MONTHLY ONLINE CHAT SESSION

THE IN'S AND OUTS OF ADOPTION CHAT SESSIONS

On the third Thursday of every month, Mary McGowan hosts a REACH chat session. Chat sessions are two hours long - *the time goes by fast from* - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm central time. Information about chat sessions is available at the REACH web site. Go to www.adoptinfo.org/chatroomResource.aspx for a link to the chat room and a schedule of chat sessions through 2007.

These chat sessions have been a great success. Eight to ten families have been participating in each session. The participants decide what the topics are for the next chat session. Registration is required. Provide your e-mail address when registering to receive announcements of future chat sessions. Call JoAnn Crane at 612-259-1606 or email jcrane@pathinc.org to register. If you have any questions, JoAnn is available before and during the chat session.

The next chat session is
November 16 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm central time.
I hope you can join us!



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

