



Fall 2021



*Hello everyone,*

*Here we are at another fall! I hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful autumn temperatures as much as I have, perhaps even at one of our family events happening near you. My family was able to join me recently for the fall orchard event in Galesville, and it was such a lovely day with great weather, fun activities, and happy memories made. It was so nice to see some of you there and enjoy it along with you.*

*With National Adoption Awareness Month in November, I want to express again how vital the adopted person's voice is to our continued growth in understanding adoption. In this issue, I'd like to take some time to acknowledge and thank someone who has been working with our program for many years in*

*differing capacities, and who makes such an impact in her work within the adoption community. Tonya Hughes is an adult adoptee, adoptive parent, and mental health practitioner in the Eau Claire area. For the past five years, she has been sharing her experiences through participation in adoption-focused panels in the community and trainings for pre-adoptive parents. She has also been a part of the WISAPSP Eau Claire area regional advisory board for our program since it's official statewide beginning in 2019. In addition to these areas, Tonya and I have co-facilitated 4-week sessions exploring the intersection of race and adoption, and she continues to facilitate our monthly online support group for adult adoptees (see box below). Not only that (!!), through her work as a mental health practitioner (you can find her listed in [the mental health practitioners directory on our website](#)), she assists many local adoptive & guardianship families in our community at the Clinic for Christian Counseling.*

*So Tonya, so much heartfelt thanks to you from all of us, for your*

*generosity in sharing yourself and your time with us and the adoption community for the benefit of other adoptees and their families. Without you and the others who share their lived experiences through trainings, panels, or groups, we would all be missing out on so much understanding, and our program's services to all of those impacted by adoption would fall far short of what they need to be. So, to all of those who were adopted, we acknowledge your experience and recognize your unique stories. We also strive to offer continued and relevant support for you, and encourage you to make use of current offerings like the [monthly group facilitated by Tonya](#), or the [WI Adult Adoptee Facebook group](#).*

*Best to you all this fall season – take good care!*

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## ADULT ADOPTEE VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 2nd Wed. evening of every month

Join other adult adoptees in Wisconsin for a monthly online group – this is a great space for discussing your adoption experiences amongst others with shared experiences, as well as for just getting to know one another. The group discusses a wide range of topics, including openness and search, relationships with family of origin, birthdays, ambiguous loss, adoption as portrayed in the media, transracial adoption, and much more. The group is facilitated by an area adoptee. For more details and to register, [click here](#).



## WISAPSP Family Highlight - The Clapham Family

This fall, we are excited to highlight the Clapham family. They reside in Plover, Wisconsin. The family is made up of parents: Daryl and Lori. Their children are Jonathan (11), Faith (8) Grace (6) Joy (3) and Happy (8 months).

The Clapham family enjoys camping, biking, swimming, woodworking, and playing games as a family. Jonathan loves piano and doing woodworking activities.

Faith and Grace love soccer and gymnastics. Joy loves all activities, especially playing with their little puppy. The highlight of their summer was going camping as a family and being outside.

The Claphams attended many of the WISAPSP events this year. For Lori, her

favorite event was the Wood Pallet painting in Wausau this past spring. The family's favorite activity was getting a state park pass and hiking that day. They have used the pass so many times this year to explore parks all over the state.

If the Claphams were to give any advice for other adoptive/foster families it would be to reach out to find support



*...reach out to find support groups/people. You might need to be bold and put yourself out there, but the rewards are amazing!*

know what they love and make a connection to them. Make the time to be child directed. It doesn't need to be a big, planned



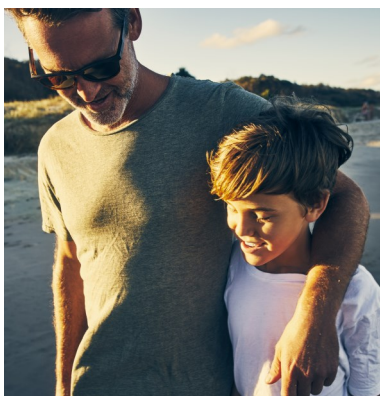
groups/people. You might need to be bold and put yourself out there, but the rewards are amazing. It never hurts to ask, the worst that can happen is the person will say no or that group isn't the best fit.

Another piece of advice is that each child in your home is different. Take time to be with each of your children, one on one when possible, to get to

out event. It could be as simple as playing a game with them without any interruptions, including no phones.



*Thanks so much for sharing your story with us Clapham's family!*



### Family Activity: Highs and Lows of the Day

Have each family member share: What was the best part of your day? What was hardest? Sharing the lows can actually be the best part because a little weight is lifted when you share the tough stuff with the people who love you.

Highs and Lows of the Day can be an especially great conversation-starter in the car coming home from school or evening activities. Or make it part of your daily dinner table or bedtime routine. Great for little and big kids and the adults too!

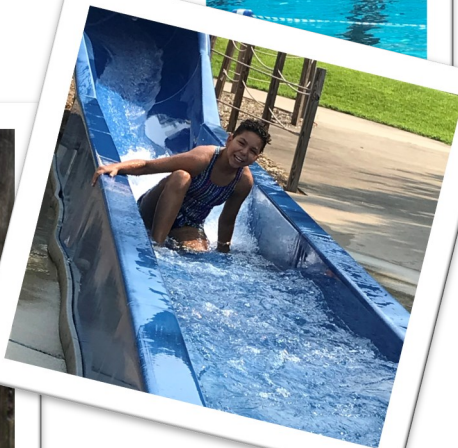


## *In Case You Missed It...*

### **FUN AROUND LA CROSSE!**

Much fun was had by families out in the sunshine. In July families enjoyed a Pool Party, sliding and diving their morning away.

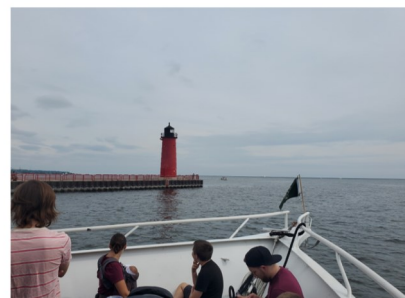
In August, we ventured to Viroqua for a nice evening at the Dragon Park. Lots of exploring and playing was had by all.



### **MILWAUKEE TAKES A RIDE!**

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, we all enjoyed a beautiful Saturday boat ride aboard beautiful "Harbor Lady" as we cruised along the Milwaukee River.

The weather was lovely as we watched sea birds float upon a soft breeze and sail boats pass by with waving passengers. The boat captain gave us a bit of a thrill as he steered the big boat beyond the break waters into Lake Michigan. The boat bobbed along the waves, giving us all a short but exciting ride. Once we returned to the Milwaukee River the boat's captain offered all the kids a chance



### **Duluth Train Ride!**

WISAPSP would like to extend a thank you to the families who attended the [North Shore Scenic Railroad](#) Music & Pizza Train event in Duluth, MN on Saturday, August 21st.



Families enjoyed a narrated train tour up the North Shore and ate a pizza dinner onboard with live music playing. Thank you to [Jockey Being Family](#) for sponsoring this event!



to visit the wheelhouse to sit in the captain's chair and steer the boat! What a day of wonderful memories!

Thank you to [Jockey Being Family](#) for sponsoring this event!



*Check out all of our Fall Activities. To learn more about each event or to register visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://www.wisapsp.com/eventbrite.com).*

## Visit our Eventbrite page to check out upcoming Activities!



Check out all of our Fall Activities. To learn more about each event or to register visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](http://wisapsp.eventbrite.com). Below are in person events, but there are so many additional webinars and online opportunities listed in [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite). Be sure to check them out! Please RSVP for ALL events as notifications of any changes or cancellations will, in most cases, be sent to registrants only.



WI Community	Activity	Date	Location	Time	Cost
La Crosse	<a href="#">Adult Adoptee Dinner</a>	10/8/2021	Señor Villa	6:00pm	Free
Greenbush	<a href="#">Wade House</a>	10/9/2021	Wade House	1:00pm	Free
Wausau	<a href="#">Fall Fun</a>	10/16/2021	Willow Springs	10:00am	\$2-\$10
Milwaukee	<a href="#">Your Transracially Adopted Child</a>	10/20/2021	Holy Grounds Coffee House	7:00pm	Free
Madison	<a href="#">Fun at Roller Rink</a>	10/21/2021	Fast Forward Skate Center	5:30pm	\$7
Bonduel	<a href="#">Fall Family Fun</a>	10/23/2021	Porter's Patch	10:45am	\$2
Madison	<a href="#">Bowling at Dream Lanes</a>	11/7/2021	Dream Lanes	1:00pm	Free
Milwaukee	<a href="#">Family Bowling Night</a>	11/12/2021	AMF Lanes	4:00pm	Free
Green Bay	<a href="#">Bowling in Ashwaubenon</a>	11/10/2021	Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley	5:30pm	Free
Wind Lake	<a href="#">Relaxation Hour</a>	11/14/2021	Blue Lotus	2:00pm	Free
La Crosse	<a href="#">Bowling at Pla-Mor Lanes</a>	11/15/2021	Pla-Mor Lanes	4:30pm	\$0-5
Wausau	<a href="#">Family Bowling</a>	11/20/2021	Day's Bowl-A-Dome	11:30am	\$2-\$5
Eau Claire	<a href="#">Bowling with WISAPSP</a>	11/21/2021	Bowl Winkles	11:30am	\$10
Rice Lake	<a href="#">Coffee Chat</a>	12/2/2021	Cabin Coffee	3:30pm	Free
Green Bay	<a href="#">Making Holiday Ornaments</a>	12/2/2021	Glaze and Paint—Manitowoc	5:30 pm	Free
Weston	<a href="#">Coffee Chat</a>	12/4/2021	Fixations	9:30am	Free
Eau Claire	<a href="#">Sensory Issues</a>	12/9/2021	Catholic Charities	6:30pm	Free
Wauwatosa	<a href="#">Coffee/Book Talk</a>	Multiple Dates	Colectivo Coffee	10:00am	Free

It's Contest Time



[FACEBOOK Contest time!](#) Respond to this question and you could win a gift card! What is your favorite children's book about adoption? Feel free to share a picture showing your family enjoying the book!





## Meet Staff Member - Judi Hoang

Judi Hoang manages the Madison Office of WISAPSP. Prior to this, she worked for 5 years in the Post Adoption Resource Center with Catholic Charities Madison. Here's a little bit more about her...

### What did you study in college?

I have an undergraduate degree from UW-Stout in Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and a graduate degree from UW-Madison in Rehabilitation Psychology.

### What other jobs have you had?

I worked as a special education teacher, vocational rehabilitation counselor, and as a disability services coordinator for a college.

### Do you have kids?

I have a 20-year-old daughter in college and a 13-year-old son who is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade this year.

### Favorite place to visit?

I loved traveling to Vietnam. I traveled twice to adopt my 2 children. It is a beautiful country.

### Do you have any pets?

I have a 3-year-old adorable Havanese dog named Kenzie. She is a sweetheart.

### What states have you lived in?

I have lived in Florida, Maryland, Kansas, and Wisconsin.



### Self-care activities?

Walking my dog and kayaking with my family.

### Favorite part of your job?

I love meeting so many wonderful families! I love seeing families connecting with other families and kids playing with other kids who share similar stories.

## *a place in my heart* VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

FEATURING NATIONAL SPEAKER & AUTHOR

**BRYAN POST**

“PARENTING FROM FEAR TO LOVE”



ONLINE PROGRAMMING ON  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Registration ONLINE at [PIMH2021.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pimh2021-virtual-conference-tickets-15088888888)



This year's VIRTUAL conference (please note this change in format) will be full of opportunities for education, support, and connection with others! **Please note that all of the online programming being offered on Saturday is for adults only.**

The virtual conference will run from 9AM-2PM with a lunch break from 12:15-1:00PM. Two opportunities for connection with others in your region of Wisconsin will be available (one at the first morning break, and the other from 12:45-1:00PM). Anyone registered prior to this change will receive an email with details on the change. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email [anne@wisapsp.org](mailto:anne@wisapsp.org).



## SHAPING YOUR SCHOOL ADVOCACY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD



Back to school is well underway, and no matter how that looks for you and your family this year, understanding and navigating the school environment can be tricky. Schools are continuously working to improve curriculum on social and emotional skills as well as trauma informed teaching, however, you are always your child's best advocate and can make powerful improvements to their school experience and success in learning. Here are a few helpful suggestions on ways you can prepare your family, and your school, to provide your child the greatest environment to thrive as a student.

- ⇒ Deal with new transitions early. It is always a great idea if you can find the time to practice the basics. That might include visiting a new school, testing out new computer programs, or talking through expectations. Not only will this help ease your child's anxiety about new experiences, but it often answers questions they didn't know they had.
- ⇒ Meet with your child's teachers to discuss their needs. Teachers have many kids to take care of, and although they will come to know and love yours as well, it never hurts to get a head start by meeting with them (bringing a photo can be helpful too if your child isn't with you) and letting them know all the important things about your child you want them know. School staff appreciate knowing key facts as the school year starts so they can be mindful of your child right from the start. Don't forget your school's support staff as well! The more they are kept in the loop, the better.
- ⇒ Speaking of support staff—the school psychologist, school counselor, RtI team (Response to Intervention), and the special education team are there to help you. If you feel your child needs social/emotional support, learning accommodations and supports, or anything else, don't hesitate to let your school's support staff know. This is especially true if there is a big life event, or if you're noticing any changes in behavior at home.
- ⇒ Ask about family related assignments. These can be unintentionally non-inclusive, and cause anxiety for kids that have a non-traditional family. These assignments can include family tree assignments, birth story assignments, etc. Instead, letting your child's teacher know there are alternatives that address the core learning associated with the assignment allows them to pre-emptively go a different direction, and avoids any student feeling lost or "outed" by an assignment.
- ⇒ Know what supports are available for your child. It isn't always easy to know what is out there for support. Many schools offer small groups for social and emotional support, have school-based therapists that can meet with your child during school hours, and have a referral system in place to connect you with services on whatever challenges your child is facing. Additionally, if your child needs accommodations in the classroom, it would be good to know the difference between an informal classroom plan, a 504 accommodation, an IEP (Individualized Educational Plan), and special education services. They often go hand-in-hand, and each has its own place and purpose, but knowing the basics can be crucial. Often the key to receiving the supports your child needs is knowing who to ask and for what.

Don't forget that WISAPSP also has several guides and resources to help you advocate for your child at school as well. We have tip sheets for teachers, educational support groups and webinars on how to navigate the IEP process, as well as many others. Never be shy about reaching out to a specialist for support! We want all our families to feel good about this upcoming school year.

*Article submitted by Christy Timm from our Milwaukee office*





# Virtual Support Groups

WWW.WISAPSP.ORG



**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR ONGOING VIRTUAL GROUPS THAT MEET REGULARLY VIA ZOOM!**

**CLICK ON EVENT TITLES TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE DETAILS  
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[Parents of Older Youth & Teens](#) - Join other adoptive & guardianship caregivers with children in middle/upper grades for a live, video check-in to socially connect and discuss topics related to adoption.

[Trauma Informed Parenting](#) - This is for WI adoptive, kinship and guardianship caregivers who are parenting youth with a high level of need due to complex trauma histories.

[Birth Parent Support](#) - An online support group for individuals who placed a child for adoption. This is a wonderful way to connect with others with a shared experience.

[Waiting to Adopt](#) - A space for Wisconsin parents or parents-to-be that are awaiting the adoption or placement of their child to connect with one another, ask questions and to share concerns and excitement.

[KINnect Relative Caregivers](#)—Morning - Please join us for an online group for relative caregivers across Wisconsin. We will share the daily joys and challenges of being a relative caregiver of children.

[Single Parent Support](#) - An online support group for single adoptive and guardianship parents. This group will meet via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of every month and will be facilitated by Heather Hansen. Join the conversation!

[Adult Adoptees](#) - Connect with other adult adoptees from around Wisconsin. This will be a space for discussing your adoption experiences with others who "get it", as well as for just getting to know one another and talking about life. This group is facilitated by an adult adoptee.

[Sibling Group Support](#) - An online support group for siblings of blended families also part of an adoption or foster placement for a live, video group session to socially connect and discuss topics related to challenges that arise in these family dynamics.

[Adoption Triad Sharing Circle](#) - An online support group for all members of the adoption triad, including birth parents, adopted adults, and adoptive parents, to come together in a safe, confidential, and welcoming space to share their stories.

[Coffee Talk for Adoptive and Guardianship Parents](#) - Grab your coffee and join us for a relaxed morning (virtual) chat with other adoptive and guardianship parents to connect and feel supported. This is an informal group with no set agenda.

[Foster Parent Connections](#) - Join other foster parents for a live, video check-in to socially connect and discuss topics related to foster care.

**Get connected! Call or text us 24/7 at 1-833-WIS-APSP**



# Caramel Apple Nachos

Try  
this

tasty fall treat with your family when you're looking for a sweet and easy dessert! Slices of green apples covered in warm caramel sauce, white chocolate and crushed candy bars!

Prep Time 15 minutes — Total Time 15 minutes

## Ingredients

- 4 large green apples (I use Granny Smith)
- 1 cup Kraft caramels unwrapped (or Kraft caramel bits)
- 1 Tablespoon water
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup miniature chocolate chips
- 1 Heath candy bar crushed

## Instructions

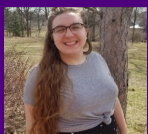






- Clean apples with water, dry with paper towels. Slice each apple into 8 pieces. Arrange apple slices onto a large serving platter.
- Meanwhile, place caramels in a microwave-safe bowl with 1 Tablespoon water. Microwave in 25 second intervals until just melted. Drizzle warm caramel over apples.
- Place white chocolate chips in a separate microwave-safe bowl. Microwave in 25 second intervals until just melted. Drizzle over apples.
- Top apples with mini chocolate chips and crushed candy bar. Serve immediately and enjoy!

*This recipe can be found at [Life in the Lofthouse](#) with many other fall family favorites!*

Life in the Lofthouse



The Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Staff are available to assist you! Please feel free to contact them if you are interested in an event, have a creative event idea, or would love to learn more about local resources. They are here to serve you and your family! They would love to hear from you!

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