



Wisconsin
Adoption &
Permanency
Support



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our fall newsletter! I love that here in Wisconsin we really do have the opportunity to recognize the different seasons and the feelings they bring about. My favorite things about fall are bonfires, relaxing Sundays at home with everyone watching football, keeping warm in cozy hoodies, and seeing the greens outside turn to warm colors.

Fall also means we will recognize National Adoption Month in November, as well as the more recently recognized National Family Caregivers Month. We will be sharing numerous ways that you might consider your own involvement and engagement with these via our **Facebook page**, so I encourage you to follow us there if you haven't started doing so yet. I also encourage you to find and follow many adoptees during this month on social media, as listening is one of the best ways we can truly honor adoptees during this month. As mentioned, watch our Facebook page as we will be highlighting folks for you to follow throughout the month! And of course, don't miss the Adoptee Voices panel that will be taking place on November 17th (registration information to come).

PUBLISHED OCTOBER 1, 2022

Speaking of adult adoptees, one of the things that all of us at WISAPSP are most excited about right now is the increased involvement we have had from adult adoptees, as well as their expressed desire to be more connected to adoptive families with adopted youth still in the home. I have had the privilege of having several conversations with adult adoptees who are reaching out to find out how they can be more involved and use their stories to guide and support other adoptees. This month, a group of adult adoptees from all over Wisconsin is gathering in Wisconsin Dells to connect with each other (for the first time in-person since COVID) and to further discuss creative ideas for how we might begin to integrate adoptive families and adult adoptees more together.



A few of the possibilities include more adult adoptees as guest speakers at groups such as our **Open Mic Teen Support Group**, as well as in-person family events where adopted youth and adults have more opportunities to interact and get to know one another. The mutual benefit of connections like this have been obvious in past experiences, so we are very much looking forward to how this may benefit all of you in the future.

Whether you are an adoptee, adoptive/guardianship parent, or birth/first parent, If you have ideas of what kind of programming would be most helpful for you or your family, we always welcome your thoughts. Please feel free to always reach me at my contact info below.

Hoping the best for you in this fall season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christy Reppe".

Christy Reppe

Adoption & Permanency Support Coordinator

christy@wisapsp.org

608-519-8057

DID YOU KNOW THAT NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH?

WISAPSP is dedicated to recognizing all voices of the adoption triad. National Adoption Month is an opportunity to expand the voices we read and listen to related to adoption.

We recognize each adoption story is as varied as the individuals involved. Keep your eyes on our Eventbrite and Facebook page for more on National Adoption Month!



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

The Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support is funded by a
grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.

STAFF

Lydia Deering



Eau Claire Office
lydia@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 1

Anne Rozeboom



Eau Claire Office
anne@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 1

Heather Hansen



Green Bay Office
heather@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 2

Breanna Halling



La Crosse Office
breanna@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 3

Jessica Wright



Madison Office
jessica@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 4

Judi Hoang



Madison Office
judi@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 4

Christy Timm



Milwaukee Office
christy@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 5

Pattie Godsell



Milwaukee Office
pattie@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 5

Chelsey Zommers



Wausau Office
chelsey@wisapsp.org
833-WIS-APSP Ext. 6

The Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Staff are available to assist you!
Please feel free to contact us if you are interested in an event, have a creative event idea,
or would love to learn more about local resources.

We are here to serve you and your family and would love to connect with you.

THE STAFF BEHIND WISAPSP



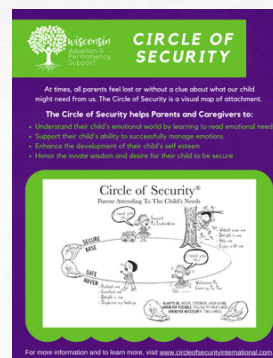
Allison Kunkel
MS, APSW

Meet Allison! She is the current GIFTS Case Manager and leads a regular Trauma Informed Parenting Group each month. She loves learning about the brain and how trauma impacts the brain.

Before she worked in her current role, she worked for Children's Hospital Community Services in Eau Claire, WI for 20 years. She was involved in many different programs but spent the majority of her time working in the treatment foster care program. She says she learned a lot from the foster parents, biological parents, and the youth.

Allison finds that nature inspires her the most as she often reflects upon the inherent connectedness of all life. She finds being in nature therapeutic and prefers the outdoors. She has a huge garden, about half of an acre. Her chickens and goats love the garden too. For relaxation, she goes outside to watch the bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds on the flowers and tries to get a quality photo. Most of them she ends up deleting, but it is still fun!

CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST PRINTABLE RESOURCES!
FIND THESE AND MORE AT WISAPSP.ORG.



Upcoming Events



October 22, 2022 - Discovery Hike at the Wehr Nature Center: Franklin



November 3, 2022 Parent's Night Out: Baldwin



November 17 - Adult Adoptee Meet-Up at Blum Coffee Garden: Greenfield



December 3 - Coffee Morning for Adoptive/Guardianship Parents: Wausau



December 3, 2022 - Pictures with Santa: Green Bay



December 8 - Adoptive and Guardianship Parents Of Teens Coffee Meet-Up: Waukesha

This is a just a sample of all the opportunities for events in your area. For a full listing of events in your region, visit wisapsp.eventbrite.com.

Adoptee Support Groups

OPEN MIC TEEN SUPPORT GROUP

Earlier this summer, WISAPSP began a new virtual support group for teens, facilitated by two of our specialists, Christy Timm and Chelsey Zommers. The Open Mic Teen Support Group has been wonderful! Chelsey and Christy feel lucky to have the chance to facilitate the group with such a dynamic group of youth. We have an exciting session for October. Our next group meeting is on Tuesday, October 11th. We will have an adult adoptee guest speaker who will be joining us for a Q&A.

OPEN MIC TEEN SUPPORT GROUP



PREVIOUSLY CALLED "SIBLING
SUPPORT GROUP."
SAME FACILITATORS--UPDATED
TOPICS

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR ADOPTIVE, GUARDIANSHIP,
AND KINSHIP TEENS AGES 13 TO 17.

JOIN OTHER TEENS OF ADOPTION OR GUARDIANSHIP
FAMILIES FOR A LIVE, VIDEO GROUP SESSION TO
SOCIALY CONNECT AND DISCUSS TOPICS RELATED
TO CHALLENGES THAT ARISE IN THESE FAMILY
DYNAMICS.

STARTING THIS SUMMER
ON TUESDAY JULY 12TH AT
11AM. SIGN UP NOW ON
EVENTBRITE!



Sarah Breland will share her story and answer any questions the group has. Sarah is a Chinese American transracial adult adoptee (pronouns: she/her/hers). She works in cyber security education and is pursuing a second bachelor's degree in Women and Gender Studies. She has a dog named Bandit and loves reading. Moving forward, Sarah hopes to get more involved with adoption organizations in order to amplify the voices of adoptees. There is still plenty of time to sign up your teen for this session.

Find out more about this group and sign up at
www.openmicteensupportgroup.eventbrite.com.

We would love to have your teen join us!

ADULT ADOPTEE SUPPORT GROUP

Connect with other adult adoptees from around Wisconsin in 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.

Find out more about the group at **www.wiadoptee.eventbrite.com**

Annual Birth Parent Retreat



On September 24th, we hosted our Annual Birth Mother Retreat for birth parents statewide. This annual retreat is a collaborative effort of Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This year the retreat took place in the Wausau area. It was a day of connecting, creating, relaxing, and just being with others who have walked the same path. We are grateful to all those who attended. A big thank you to Beyond Blessed Therapies for hosting us and to U Paint and Party for helping make it a special day.

Find out more about our virtual support group for birth parents at www.birthparentsupportgroup.eventbrite.com

EVENTS SPONSORED BY



JOCKEY
BEING FAMILY.

WISAPSP is so grateful for the sponsorship of events by Jockey Being Family (JBF) all around the state. These events are open to adoptive, guardianship, and foster families statewide! Visit wisapsp.eventbrite.com for more events sponsored by JBF in your region!



Family Fun at Ferguson's: Eau Claire

October 1, 2022



Family Fun at Elegant Farmer: Mukwonago

October 15, 2022



High Roller Skating Event: La Crosse

October 23, 2022



Hotel Transylvania Movie Event: De Pere

October 24, 2022



Pizza and Arcade Night: Wausau

November 5, 2022



Afternoon at the Movies: Beloit

December 3, 2022

upcoming live webinars

November 1, 2022

"You're Not My Real Mom!" and
Other Parenting Conversations



November 9, 2022
Ambiguous Loss

December 5, 2022
Workshop on Understanding
the IEP Process



FEATURED RECORDED WEBINAR

Tools for Renewal: A Resilience-Building Workshop

Resilience is the capacity to prepare for, recover from and adapt in the face of stress, challenge and adversity. Learning to increase your resilience capacity can help you to feel greater inner ease and emotional and mental balance when in the midst of everyday and unexpected life challenges. In this virtual workshop you will explore easy-to-learn and use, on-the-go, renewal tools and practices aimed at helping you to take positive, effective action throughout the day when you are feeling depleted by stress.

CHECK OUT ALL THE FUN!

Families had an awesome time attending our Lumberjack Steam Train event, sponsored by Jockey Being Family this past summer. Families were able to ride the steam train, built in 1916, out to “Camp 5”, which is the site of an old logging camp.



Once there, families were able to visit the old buildings, such as the petting corral, blacksmith shop, museum, and more! Thank you to all of the families that joined us!

CHECK OUT ALL THE FUN

Thank you to all the families who came to the mini golf event in Minocqua this summer! A special thank you to “Jockey Being Family” for sponsoring this event. It was so good to see the families having fun on the go karts and seeing the little ones doing pony rides!





FAMILY HIGHLIGHT

This fall, we are excited to feature the Womack Family! We spoke with Lisa Womack about her experience and connecting with adoption in her family. The Womack family resides in the southwest corner of Wisconsin near Plateville. Lisa has five children – 4 biological and 1 adopted. Her children include Amber (39), Blake (36), Logan (32), Zach (30), and Cassen (16). In 2017, just three months after adopting Cassen, Lisa's husband suddenly passed away. Lisa stated her children, along with their spouses (Chris, Amanda, and Natalya) are her best friends and an awesome support system for her. Lisa also has nine grandchildren—7 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. She continues to foster and currently has placement of an 8-year-old.

When asked about how adoption has impacted her life, Lisa said she and her husband always had a desire to be a support to all the children who entered their lives. They provided care for many "officially" through foster care and in Lisa's home daycare. They also made room for many others over the years, providing a soft spot to land while they got on their feet. Their son Cassen has been in their home for nearly 9 years. He was in the Womack home through foster care for 3 1/2 years when he became available for adoption.



The Womack family enjoys doing anything outside, gardening, tubing, firepits, visiting pumpkin patches, sledding, etc. Lisa has a great love of animals of all shapes & sizes. Naturally, she lives on a rural property providing a lifelong home to many 2 & 4-legged furry & feathered friends. The family currently has 3 dogs, 2 cats, 4 cows, 3 horses, 13 Jacob sheep, 70+ geese, 9 chickens & 3 ducks.

Lisa has attended the WISAPSP A Place in My Heart Conference, numerous webinars, and several other WISAPSP events, including the Milwaukee Zoo, a wonderful program called Connecting with Horses & Nature, and most recently the train ride in North Freedom. Lisa has also used the WISAPSP lending library multiple times. She says the family has been given backpacks & many resources to help them in their adoption journey.

Lisa shared that her family has faced many challenges. She recently read the following and said it struck her right in the heart. “I think one of the hardest parts of being foster or adoptive parents is that you're just not enough. Your kisses and hugs aren't enough to fix what they've been through. You're not enough to make those memories go away or fix those scars. You're not enough to undo the damage that's been done from abuse or neglect or alcohol or drugs....and as a mom, I want to be ENOUGH. I want to be able to make it all better and there's just so much I can't heal.

So instead, I have to be willing to just be there with them in the middle of all that brokenness.”

Lisa's advice for other families is to “above all else, have patience.” She adds to “find your people & lean on them when you need support. They in turn can lean on you when they need support.”

A big thanks to Lisa Womack and her family for sharing their story with WISAPSP!





TIPS FOR BUILDING RELATIONSHIP

ENJOYING TIME WITH YOUR CHILD: TIPS FOR BUILDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Spending special time together with your child is good for your child's development and wellbeing. That's because it builds your relationship and boosts your child's confidence. Special time with your child is a chance to:

- give your child your full attention and send the message that they're the most important thing to you
- see the world from your child's point of view
- find out more about your child's likes, dislikes, worries and frustrations
- give your child some guidance, talk to them and listen to them
- be a role model for your child

Sharing special time can be great for you too – it's your chance to be a kid again and just have fun. You'll also feel good about being close to your child and staying up to date with what's happening in your child's life.

Special time with your child can happen while you're doing everyday things like folding the laundry. Or you can make time to go for walks together, play board games and so on. Just sharing happy experiences helps to build your relationship with your child.

Find more ideas on practical ideas for special time with your child here:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/connecting-communicating/connecting/enjoying-time>

All above information courtesy of
Raising Children | 2022
raisingchildren.net.au

ONGOING VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS



Open Mic Teen Support Group



Coffee Talk for Adoptive and Guardianship Parents



Trauma Informed Parenting



Birth Parent Support



KINnect Relative Caregivers of Children



Single Adoptive Parent Support



Adult Adoptees



Waiting to Adopt

New attendees are always welcome at these free online groups, but we do ask you to pre-register.
Attendees must reside in the state of Wisconsin.

GIFTS PROGRAM

The GIFTS Program is our short-term support program for post-adoptive or guardianship families with a higher level of need to support permanency. It is a strengths-focused, trauma-informed program. If a family is determined to be eligible for the program, our GIFTS Case Manager will work closely with that family to assist in:

- Finding resources
- Navigating cross-system needs
- Identifying family strengths and goals
- Offering consistent support and advocacy

To find out more about the program or determine eligibility, give us a call at our toll-free number or fill out our First Step Form.

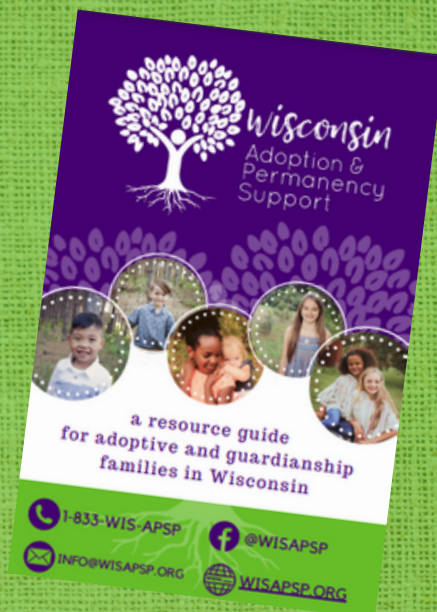
Allison Kunkel
GIFTS Case Manager



[WISAPSP.ORG/GIFTS-PROGRAM](https://www.wisapsp.org/gifts-program)

further resources

**FIND MORE RESOURCES
BY READING OUR
RESOURCE GUIDE.
FIND IT BY SCROLLING
DOWN ON THE HOME
PAGE OF WISAPSP.ORG**



Contact Us!



1-833-WIS-APSP



@WISAPSP



INFO@WISAPSP.ORG



WISAPSP.ORG

Where is the closest office to you?

Office locations for the program
are shown on the map.

Each location includes a
lending library.

Visit wisapsp.libib.com to see what you
can find at your local library.

