

# Journey



## Growing in Rural Minnesota

By: Audra Klinkner

It has been a year of expansion and growth at Bethany Christian Services – Minnesota. Especially, here in Central and Southwest Minnesota. The Lord has continued to open doors in ways that only He could do. We continue to have conversations with local social work agencies expressing their desire to partner with Bethany Christian Services. In January the Minnesota Department of Human Services reported they expect a staggering 17,000 children in the state of Minnesota to be placed into the Foster Care System.

**17,000 Children in the state of Minnesota will be placed into the Foster Care System in 2019.**

**- MN DHS**

That is an extremely large number of children – and it is becoming an even larger number with the growing opioid epidemic. We are so blessed that we at Bethany get to help find safe homes for children. Ultimately, what an awesome opportunity for us to serve the Kingdom of God.

One of the reasons I love working for Bethany is because of our rooted foundation in the gospel. We have stuck to our values of sharing the love of Christ in every way we possibly can. My husband and I haven't been called to foster care or adoption at this point in our life. But one thing I

value about Bethany is that we may not be called to adopt or foster, but we are being called to support those in our church and our community who are taking on this huge calling of obedience. Whether foster care or adoption is for you, you know someone who is, and we all need to be equipped to help and support those who are.



That is why I believe Bethany is continuing to grow in our area. Churches are stepping up and alongside brothers and sisters in Christ who have taken this calling seriously. We are feeling the growing pains of the need of support services for our families out here and it is a wonderful thing!

To God be the Glory great things He has done and is still doing!

Audra Klinkner  
Greater Minnesota Outreach & Development





## Growth & Healing

Sara Barber

This summer was exciting for our office as we were able to host Adoption Camps for families in our area. This camp helped parents and children

with social skills, identity, self-regulation, grief & loss, self-esteem, and identifying and managing emotion. We had a wonderful turnout and a great time with the families! Stay tuned for the dates for the next Summer Adoption Camp.

Our Counseling Services continue to expand in exciting ways. We have hosted Trust Based Relationship Intervention (TBRI) Training for Sunday School Teachers & Volunteers, as well as been asked to host TBRI training next year for an agency in Southern Minnesota.

Currently, I am meeting with fifteen families and individuals, focusing primarily on adoption and foster care-related issues. It has been fun to see families heal and grow when they begin to understand and implement trauma-informed principles and parenting strategies.

I get to see God at work every day in our office! Thank you, churches, donors, and faithful prayer warriors, for supporting what we are doing to help families and children!



## Sharing in the Mission of Hope

Christy Groen  
Expectant Parent Advocate

Every year we get to partner with Hope Pregnancy is showing support to Expectant Mothers. Hope Pregnancy

Center had a record number of individuals at their Hope Banquet this fall.

As an Expectant Parent Advocate, I cherish organizations like Hope Pregnancy Center in Willmar, and Choices Pregnancy Center in Redwood Falls. These places and their partnership in reaching individuals in crisis is something I believe



is the reason why Bethany continues to grow. Knowing how we fit together and how to best serve everyone is how we continue to thrive and expand.

Last year, Bethany served 2,786 parents facing unexpected pregnancies. That number will only continue to grow as we know that 6.1 million pregnancies in the United States were unintended, in 2018, and 42% of those unintended pregnancies ended in abortion. There is a need for services like Hope and Choices, as well as for Expectant Parent Advocacy that Bethany has.

We continue to thank you supporters for helping us financially, so that we can continue to provide free services to women with unexpected pregnancies.

**A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.**  
Ecclesiastes 4:12

**NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH**

For information go to **Bethany.org/national-adoption-month**

**We belong to each other. You can help.**

Adoption is a lifelong journey, not a single event. No one should feel alone during their adoption experience. But too many children and families are working without a net. Will you catch them?

National Adoption Month NOVEMBER 2019 Bethany.org/NAAM #NotAlone



Bethany Christian Services of Kent  
(253) 458-2150 | Bethany.org/Kent

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## MEET THE NEED

Noel Kautz

Great and wonderful things are happening here at Bethany! In the past 3 months we Bethany Christian Services

– Willmar:

- Had a Kandiyohi County Foster Family that was placed with 2 kids within a week of being licensed
- 3 kids in pre-adoptive homes
- 1 family finalized the adoption of a 7-year-old in August and is considering starting the adoption process again.
- 5 Foster Care-Adoption Families waiting to Adopt.

We are looking for more foster families. We continue to get inundated with calls from the county asking us if we have anymore families. We NEED more families available to meet the NEED.

If you are interested in foster care, foster care-to-adopt, or adoption please call me at (320) 214-0601 or (320) 333-2915.

## Final Thoughts

As you can see wonderful things continue to happen in our region. We are continuing to grow, by the grace of God. If you would like us to meet with your church, are interested in our services, or are interested in supporting or volunteering please give me a call!

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