

Outstanding Adoptive Award – Kelly and Troy Booth

On November 22, 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) honored six special adoptive families by presenting them with the 2016 Governor's Outstanding Adoptive Award. Among those families were Kelly and Troy "Bud" Booth, who are Chippewa County foster/adoptive parents that adopted two children, Wesley and Jordan, through the Chippewa County foster care system. The awards were presented during a celebration at the State Capitol as part of Wisconsin's month long recognition of National Adoption Month (November). Kelly and Troy are also parents to McKenzie, Brady and Spencer.



Nominations for the awards were received from social workers, adoption workers, children's advocates, and citizens from Wisconsin who wanted to recognize the incredible families they know who have opened their hearts to provide safe and loving homes to children in need of a "forever" family. The recipients were chosen based upon their stories of exceptional dedication, commitment and sacrifice made in order to ensure their adopted children received the important family bonds that only a "forever" family can provide.

Kelly Booth was raised around foster care. Kelly's parents have been foster parents for over 30 years and even adopted two of their foster children. Kelly also has a sister who is a foster parent in another county, who is in the process of adopting a child through foster care. Kelly's brother and sister in law have a son that was adopted through the Chippewa County foster care system. Kelly and Troy continue to pass the values of helping others and giving back to the community to their children that Kelly's parents taught Kelly and her siblings. Kelly stated that the support she receives from Chippewa County is amazing. "If I ever need anything or I have a question, I feel very thankful. I couldn't do it if I didn't have the support of a good county that looks out for their foster parents." Although she and her family work through some of the daily physical and behavioral challenges, Kelly indicated that she is happy with her decision of adoption. She said there's no difference in how she feels about them (Wesley and Jordan) since "they're a part of the family."

Chippewa County is very fortunate to have committed foster families, like the Booths. Our foster parents assist the Department with providing safe, loving homes to children who cannot live with their parents because they are deemed unsafe, have special care or treatment needs, or other circumstances that result in their parents or family being unable to care for them. Thank you to the Booths and to all of our dedicated foster parents who help our social workers assure that the children we work with are safe and well cared for while their families are temporarily unable to care for them. Without the dedication, commitment, and sacrifices of our foster families, the Department would not be able to meet the needs of the vulnerable children and families we work with on a daily basis. Being a foster parent is so much more than taking care of children. Foster parents open up their homes to children and their biological families. Foster parents often transport foster children to several appointments, attend meetings with schools, social workers, and other providers. Often times, foster parents become a support and resource for foster children and their families after reunification. In some cases, like with Wesley and Jordan Booth, the foster family may become a forever home for children placed in foster care.

