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## New Hires continued....

### Suzanne Monda, LCSW, TFC Permanence Specialist (Wisconsin)

Suzanne Monda has returned to ANU Family Services from a part-time Independent Contractor position to the full-time Lead Permanence Specialist as of 10/27/2011. Suzanne continues to service TFC homes in the Milwaukee area and outlying counties. She will also be providing the Clinical Supervision for staff who are obtaining their clinical hours for credential/licensing. Suzanne had been practicing full-time, out-patient therapy services for the last 18 months. Suzanne was a TTH employee (Clinical Case Manager and Supervisor) for over ten years prior to conducting therapy. Suzanne continues to enjoy cooking, reading and being outdoors in her spare time. She is thrilled to be back servicing TFC parents and clients on a full-time basis.

### Kasi Haglund, BSW, TFC Permanence Specialist (Minnesota)

The quote, "Find something you love to do and you'll never have to work a day in your life," by Harvey MacKay, puts nicely into words the excitement and joy I feel working for Anu Family Services! I started my career working in foster care and adoption, and although I explored other areas of social work, I feel I have made my way back to where I belong! Grief, loss, and trauma have been a common thread in my career. I have worked with children, families, and adults from birth through the end of life, as a Social Worker, Mental Health Practitioner, and Director of Social Services. Anu Family Services' research-informed model on grief, loss, and trauma was an "aha moment" for me!

My husband and I live in Rochester with our three children. Ava is eight years old, Reece is three years old, and Macie is 15 months. They keep our home busy and full of so much love and happiness! I can't wait to see what the future brings for Anu Family Services – Minnesota! Watching the excitement on the faces of foster parents, county workers, and community members, as they learn about all Anu has to offer, has been amazing!

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IN 2012

The newsletter of Anu Family Services  
**Holiday 2011 | issue 06**

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Holiday 2011 | issue 06

# Anu connections

The newsletter of Anu Family Services

Holiday 2011 | issue 06



## We create permanent connections to loving & stable families.

*"Oh there's no place like home for the holidays, 'cause no matter how far away you roam, if you want to be happy in a million ways for the holidays, you can't beat home, sweet home."*

I think Al Stillman had an insight to a very fundamental human need when he wrote those lyrics back in 1954. Fifty years later, and in one-hundred and fifty years, I think the same sentiment applies. It speaks to a core, fundamental human need to have a place to belong, to rest, to be safe, to know and be known.

So very often the children and youth who are served by Anu do not have this fundamental need met. They have histories of being moved multiple times and being part of many temporary families, often still not knowing when they will be part of a permanent family where they will belong "for good", be claimed and be truly known.

Can you imagine not having a home to

go to celebrate with your family for the holidays? All of the warm and cozy thoughts of family, belonging, and love which are conjured up by the songs, events, and the spirit of the holidays are often lost on our youth.

For many, it is a time which can be a painful reminder of what is missing in their lives. We know that many people who have experienced grief and loss struggle more significantly during the holidays.

Take extra-special care of our youth, of yourself and of each other during this important time of the year. Be so very grateful for the many blessings in your life, as I am for all of you who do this profoundly important work. And remember, each time you feel that warm holiday glow—or maybe it's that empty pit in your stomach that reminds you of a loss you've had—that our kids are counting on us to work with a sense of urgency to get them home for the holidays.

If not this year, then when?

- Amelia Franck Meyer, CEO



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	Anu Model	TCIF	New
	In Minnesota	Tips	Hires

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## Items on your checklist: *HOLIDAY TRADITIONS*

By Erin Wall, Lead Family Connections Specialist

Gifts bought? Check. Food purchased? Check. Candles lit? Check. Cards sent? Check. Cookies baked? Check. Foster youth's traditions incorporated? Hmm...I better check!

The holiday season is a time for family, friends, and traditions! Every home has their own tradition on how they celebrate the holidays! During this time of the year, take a moment from the hustle and bustle to sit with your foster youth (even if it's in the car on your way to the store or yet another appointment) to ask them how the holidays are practiced in their family.

We are always encouraging our kids that it's good to learn and try new things! This is a great opportunity to practice what we preach!

## The Anu Model Enters Minnesota

In September, 2011, Olmsted County approved a host County agreement for Anu to provide an array of services in Minnesota.

The Minnesota team, Ken and Kasi, with support from the organization is busy at work recruiting and licensing foster families. There are a series of trainings and information meetings scheduled for SE Minnesota in December.

The Minnesota program is in phase 1 of implementation, focusing on South East, Greater Metro, and Central

How fun would it be for your foster youth to show you how they do something in their family! Perhaps they have a favorite food that they eat, and they know the recipe! If not, can you call the birth parent and ask for it?

What a great way to show the youth and birth parent that their traditions are important to you! As we take this time to honor our family and traditions, remember that these are just as important for the youth we work with and have in our home!

So, check one more thing off of your holiday to-do list, and who knows, maybe you'll add a new tradition to your home for years to come!

Minnesota. We have a number of families in the licensing process.

In addition, we are in negotiations with a Metro County to provide intensive services to their most challenging cases. We anticipate having 7 families licensed by the end of January.

Please visit [anufs.org](http://anufs.org) for information on being licensed in Minnesota, we are currently offering financial incentives for making referrals and to families who are issued a license to provide foster care.

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## Congratulations

You did it! You discharged a child(ren) to permanence\*

TREATMENT FOSTER PARENTS	CLIENTS TO PERMANENCY
Butler, Sharon & Mark	1
Kuester, Frances & David	1
Verdegan, Lucinda & Goebel, Justin	3
Miller, Jennifer & Michael	2
Bartelme, Kelly & Tom	1
Bustillos, Becky	2
Slowiak, Kimberly & Matthew	1
Bartelme, Latina & Timothy	1
Downs, Mary & Mike	1
Maciosek, Tammy & Edwin	1
Barnfield, Karen & Frank	1
Seaman, Gae & Jesse	1
Vaaler, Kim & Jason	3
Phillipps, Lynn	2
Hermans, Virginia & John	1
Mathison, Corinne & Olaf	1
Woller, Karin	1
Goodman, Jessica & Nick	1
Peres, Carla	1

\* Includes children discharged 7/1/11 - 11/30/11

## Anu hires new lead staff in Minnesota

Kenneth L. Hanna Jr., Chief Development Officer, holds an MBA from University of St Thomas, MSW from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelors Degree from St. Cloud State University, also in social work. In addition he holds a two year certificate in chemical dependency counseling from St. Cloud State University. He is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker.

Ken joined Anu in 2011 and is leading program development efforts in Minnesota. Ken has 13 years of experience in the field of foster care including roles in direct service, management and administration. Ken has additional experience in the development of Independent Living Skills programs, group home, and residential programs and direct work in chemical dependency programs. Ken is also actively involved in the African American community in the St Cloud area.

## TCIF\* – TIPS AND REMINDERS

By Mechele Pitt, Western Regional Director

The focus for this month comes from the 4 questions we ask ourselves when assessing a potential crisis situation. The first question we ask is **What am I feeling now?**

The first step in controlling our behavior and what we communicate to the youth is being aware of our feelings. Factors that may influence our feelings are:

- Personal background & experiences
- Values
- Beliefs about others
- Experiences as a parent
- Influence of other family members
- Personal interpretations of the organization's goals & philosophy about the care of youth
- Ethnic & cultural background

Being aware of these factors as well as how they influence our

feelings is an important task. Managing our anger is important when dealing with a potential crisis. Remember, "when we are at our angriest, we are at our stupidest". Being aware of our triggers and avoiding negative self-talk can be helpful in managing our anger.

So, keep asking yourself, "What am I feeling now?" when faced with a potential crisis situation. Greater self-awareness can ensure that the outcome of a crisis is a safe and therapeutic one.

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**  
Thursday, December 15th  
11:30-1pm Teleconference

## NEW HIRES TO THE AGENCY

**Alisha Lehnherr, MSW, TFC Permanence Specialist (Wisconsin)**

For most of my adult life thus far my job has been to be a professional student. I graduated from University of Wisconsin - La Crosse with a Bachelors degree in Sociology and a minor in Spanish. I had great experiences here and learned so much, but I was ready for more. That led me to think about getting a Master's degree, and it fit so nicely with social work. My master's education at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee opened my eyes to the world of social work and to the needs of our communities. My internships throughout the years have been working at a group home for girls in Milwaukee and working as an in-home therapist through the agency St. Charles. The experiences I gained through working with these people have been more valuable than anything I could have done through writing papers and reading books. I'm so grateful for Anu to take me on this wonderful team and allow me to continue working with great people.

**Shannon McCarthy, MSW, TFC Permanence Specialist (Wisconsin)**

Shannon earned her graduate degree in Community Counseling from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. Shannon is currently taking graduate classes in the school counseling certificate program and is enjoying the child development and character building aspects of her classes. Shannon has a Bachelor degree in Business Administration with a major in marketing as well as a Speech Communication major. Her emphasis areas as an undergraduate were Service Marketing and Organizational Communications.

Shannon's education and professional areas of interest have helped Shannon grow a successful clogging club. Her 80+ member group, Walworth County Cloggers, emphasizes team work and confidence building. Shannon coordinates 7 volunteer instructors to teach the weekly classes and a core group of volunteer leaders to plan group events such as family fun nights, performances, parades, fundraising events and the groups participate in Relay for Life.

Some staff may remember Shannon as a Case Manager at TTH. Shannon lives with her husband and three children on a dairy farm in Elkhorn. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time outside, gardening and reading.

Continued on back page

## Upcoming Treatment Foster Parent Trainings

Family Connections Training – Madison  
Part 1-March 24  
Part 2-March 31  
9am-3pm

TCIF Training – Madison  
February 16, 17, & 18  
9am-6pm

## Treatment Foster Parent Anniversaries

Mary and Michael Downs	18 yrs	11/15/1993
Renee and Larry Lynch	15 yrs	10/20/1996
Bobbi Jo & Joseph Vojtasek	14 yrs	11/14/1997
Tina and Leonard Lutzow	14 yrs	11/18/1997
Gregg Topp	13 yrs	1/5/1999
Nancy and Donald Adams	13 yrs	2/5/1999
Sharon and Mark Butler	12 yrs	11/16/1999
Sharon and Earl Jensen	11 yrs	11/15/2000
Deb and Herb Vincent	10 yrs	1/1/2001
Steve Wiedemeier	10 yrs	1/23/2002
Donna Kramer	9 yrs	1/6/2003
Jessie Collins	9 yrs	10/7/2002
Deanna and Roger Gordon	9 yrs	12/5/2002
Karen and Jack Bartelme	9 yrs	3/13/2003
Kathy Szpara	9 yrs	3/25/2003
Evelt and Hank Westphal	8 yrs	11/10/2003
Billie Jo & Joseph Hancock	8 yrs	12/10/2003
Jodie and Phillip Klamm	8 yrs	12/20/2003
Carla Peres	8 yrs	1/13/2004
Eula and Joe Johnson	7 yrs	2/18/2005
Jessica and Nick Goodman	6 yrs	11/2/2005
Kimberly & Matthew Slowiak	6 yrs	1/6/2006
Melanie Fleischmann	6 yrs	3/29/2006
Darla and Earl Nick	5 yrs	1/15/2007
Kelly and Tom Bartelme	5 yrs	1/24/2007
Gae and Jesse Seaman	5 yrs	3/2/2007
Cheryl and Scott Simer	5 yrs	3/2/2007
Suzan and Paul Bourassa	4 yrs	10/9/2007
Donna and Gordon Squire	4 yrs	10/29/2007
Kristine and Peter Hanson	4 yrs	2/28/2008
Justin Goebel & Lucinda Verdegan	3 yrs	10/13/2008
Suzanne and David Frazer	3 yrs	10/27/2008
Mandy and David Collier	3 yrs	1/2/2009
Becky Bustillos	3 yrs	2/5/2009
Rakia Vaughn	3 yrs	3/18/2009
Betty and Mark Wells	2 yrs	10/8/2009
Rita Lockett	2 yrs	10/12/2009
Cindy and Franklin Mielke	2 yrs	10/22/2009
Karin Woller	2 yrs	1/11/2010
Latina & Timothy Bartelme	2 yrs	2/3/2010
Norma Shaw	1 yr	12/3/2010
Carol Tollefson	1 yr	12/23/2010
Lynn Phillipps	1 yr	1/2/2011
Michael Williams	1 yr	1/4/2011
Meri and Dione White	1 yr	1/18/2011
Jeanne and Patrick Walsh	1 yr	3/1/2011