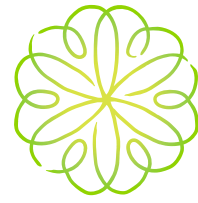


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Bellis



COMPASSION. HOPE. RESILIENCE.

Bellis is here to uphold you in your personal journey of foster care, adoption or loss of parental rights.

COMPASSION

Bellis takes compassion out to the community and brings the community in to support anyone with an adoption or foster care experience, including mothers whose parental rights were terminated by the courts.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Women at the crossroads of grief, trauma, addiction and mental health challenges find hope at Bellis.

Our newest program offers support for grieving mothers—mothers who have been marginalized and ignored by other systems. After loss of parental rights, the impact of a mother’s grief can overwhelm all other areas of life. We’re here to help, with in-person and online expert-led support groups. We have four groups now. Our in-person group meets each Tuesday morning at the Bellis office in Uptown Minneapolis. Online groups meet weekly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. (Our Tuesday online group is exclusively for mothers who are not currently parenting a child.) On Wednesday evening, we meet at the Shakopee women’s prison.

Bellis is the only organization in the country to offer this expertise. We continue to build and expand the program. If you or someone you love needs support after court-ordered termination of parental rights, go to mybellis.org/find-support.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our volunteers tell the stories of adoption and foster care to raise awareness and bust myths and stigmas. With panels that represent the full adoption spectrum (birth parents, adoptive parents, adopted persons, etc.), Bellis volunteers share information with schools, faith communities and other organizations. We continue to seek volunteers with foster care experience to further enrich our panel presentations. Our new volunteer speaker champions, Terryn McClafin and Jason Dressen, would love to hear from you if you're interested in being a volunteer speaker.

EVENING OF ADOPTION CONNECTION

Evening of Adoption Connection typically meets on the last Sunday of the month, from 6-7:30 p.m. It provides a space for any adult with an adoption or foster care connection to share stories and experiences, and to offer support to one another. Our co-hosts Marsha Grund and Pam Hulstrand have both in-person (at the Bellis office) and online meetings planned.

Check our calendar for meeting dates and details at mybellis.org/calendar

FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT TRACY MURPHY

At Bellis, we are in the second year of our innovative, groundbreaking and proprietary support program for mothers whose grief deserves compassion. We're grateful for all the leaders – past and present – who worked so hard with us for the past three years to make this incredibly heavy but important operational lift to host one, then three, and now four weekly meetings for mothers who have experienced termination of parental rights. This perhaps seems miraculous, but it's all the fruit of many years of smart leadership from a large and fearless cast, some of whom have moved on to other areas of work and volunteerism.

Our current board of directors may be smaller than in past years, but we work efficiently and cohesively. Right now, we are in a mode of intentionally recruiting board members who bring specific skills to our mission.

Specifically, we would like individuals with achieved leadership roles in law, finance, business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector. Bellis seeks individuals who are passionate about our mission with a track record of successful completion of projects both individually and as part of an encouraging team. Reach out to me or to Executive Director Jenny Eldredge if you're interested in joining our Board of Directors.



Bellis Board Members (L to R): Jenny Eldredge, Kristine Moser, Tracy Murphy and Monique Lindquist

THREE THINGS TO KNOW...



- 1** **FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND** in the United States, Bellis' grief support groups for mothers with terminated parental rights meet weekly in person and online, and 20 women on average join each week.
- 2** Bellis **OFFERS A PLACE** to be with others who share your lived experience and understand the journeys of foster care, adoption, and someone else parenting your child.
- 3** Weekend and one-day retreats, weekly grief support groups and monthly Evening of Adoption Connection meetings provide space for **YOUR STORY** to be held with understanding and care.

HOPE



Pam Hulstrand (left) and Marsha Grund, Evening of Adoption Connection Co-Hosts

Evening of Adoption Connection got a reboot this fall, thanks to our new co-hosts Marsha Grund and Pam Hulstrand. This Bellis program brings a mix of adoption and foster care experiences together in an “authentic and accepting place,” as one mom described it. Below, our Executive Director Jenny Eldredge, an adoptive mother of 21 years, shares a personal experience from Evening of Adoption Connection.



There’s a sweet country song I love by the High Women called “Crowded Table.” The catchy refrain speaks about a house with room for everyone at the table and by the fireplace. What perfect lyrics to describe Evening of Adoption Connection. (You should join!)

I am surrounded every day by the stories of birth mothers. These stories have changed me, how I parent, and how I view adoption. But few have moved me more than an honest conversation I had at an Evening of Adoption Connection gathering a few years ago.

We started in a big circle for check-ins, then broke into small group discussions. I wandered into the hall once everyone was settled and casually joined a small group with two birth mothers who were perhaps old enough to be my big sisters. They talked about guilt. “Hey, you guys don’t corner the market on guilt,” I said. I described, with a vulnerability I didn’t expect, how I’d always imagined a “phantom parent” as I raised my two girls. It wasn’t a ghostly figure; it was my mental manifestation of how the girls’ birth mothers would have parented them – big decisions and small decisions. A lot.

In fact, I felt guilty for not doing things the way they might have. But here’s the deal ... I had zero sense of anything less than complete and total “you got this!” from both my girls’ birth mothers. I had no reason to believe – ever – that they’d question my abilities. I was piling guilt on myself, perhaps out of an inner concern that I was parenting children born to others. As my explanation spun on and my face turned red (as it does) with the embarrassment of saying these things out loud, the two listening birth mothers stopped me short: “Oh, you gotta let that stuff go. Like, now! Let it go!”

I won’t forget that moment or the loving, concerned expressions of these two women. My fascination with “What would the girls’ birth mothers do? Because it would obviously be better!” was unhealthy for me and for my relationship with my daughters.

That conversation mended something inside me I didn’t want to acknowledge was broken. It encouraged me to trust myself and do the job of mothering in my own skin, with no one (of my own imagination) looking over my shoulder and whispering, “are you sure you’re doing this right?”

As so often happens at Evening of Adoption Connection, the birth mothers in my small group gave me the precious perspective I needed as an adoptive mother. The magic of sharing stories together is that you leave each meeting with a mind shift that makes this journey so much easier.

The last verse of the song works here too, talking about an open door, we’re all a little broken and everyone belongs.



2022 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Nicole Peter
2022 Volunteer of the Year

Nicole Peter shows up.

With compassion, she supports women whose children are parented by others. She publicly shares her own struggles to let others know they aren't alone. And each week, she drives participants to Bellis support meetings.

Thank you, Nicole, for all the ways you help.

We are proud to name you the Bellis Volunteer of the Year for 2022.

TEA & TALK

We love our Tea & Talk gatherings. In 2023, however, we hope you'll join our 40th anniversary celebration events in lieu of a Tea & Talk to continue your generous support of Bellis. Enjoy a peek at the May 2022 event in the photos below.



50 OVER 50 RECOGNITION

On Oct. 25, 2022, Bellis Executive Director Jenny Eldredge received the Pollen Midwest and AARP Minnesota “50 Over 50” award as a “Disruptor.” The award recognizes Jenny as someone who doesn’t settle for the status quo, who tears down obstacles for change, who sees opportunity where others don’t, who breaks new ground, and who shakes things up. Her fearless disruption continues to expand the work of Bellis and move us to places where no one else dares to go.

CONGRATULATIONS, JENNY!



Jenny Eldredge,
2022
Disruptor,
one of
Minnesota's
50 Over 50

RESILIENCE



BIRTH MOTHER NATALIE JOHNSON LEE

Natalie Johnson Lee

"I'm a bridge-builder and a dream-driver," Natalie Johnson Lee said as she described her 20-year career as a business coach and consultant. She is also a former Minneapolis City Council member (Ward 5, 2001 to 2005). And, Natalie is a birth mother who attended Bellis birth mothers retreats this year for the first time.

She had been looking for support for her adoption connection. Her daughter, whom Natalie placed in a closed adoption, had found her. Natalie was on a mission to find a safe space where she could share her story and find support.

While folding clothes one evening in her living room, she heard a news story about an organization that offered support for birth mothers. The next day, she called that organization, which was Bellis.

She has attended the monthly Evening of Adoption Connection meetings. At the one-day birth mothers' retreat in the spring, she learned about the weekend retreat and decided to attend. At both retreats, she found a "comfortable space" and "common language" (some of which was new to her).

Sharing space with women who have similar experiences meant she didn't have to explain her feelings or the language. She found a space to share with birth mothers and she made some connections. Retreat-goers got a list of resources as they left the weekend retreat, which Natalie thought was especially great and helpful.

Natalie's hope is that Bellis continues to make space for birth mothers with experiences like hers. She also would like to be the "voice of invitation" within the African American community, where she recognizes a need for Bellis' support.



BIRTH MOTHER TAMMY LAXEN

Tammy Laxen and her birth daughter, Gale. With open adoption, they have been able to have a relationship.

"As soon as I saw 'retreat' on the Bellis website, I applied to attend," said Tammy Laxen. "At every retreat, staff provides just what I need, even if I didn't know I needed it."

As a teen who found out in the Emergency Room that she was 32 weeks pregnant, Tammy chose to parent her child. After 10 months, she realized she could not provide the stability and consistency children need. She knew little about adoption, but with her school counselor's help, she found a local agency that started the process, and her daughter stayed with a foster family during that time.

Tammy was desperate for resources and spent hours on Google in tears as she searched for people like her. She and the foster family had stayed in touch, and they pointed her to Bellis.

Her daughter was about four when Tammy attended the first Bellis weekend retreat, and she's been back each year. Personal life milestones kept her coming back, and she always found support for whatever was happening in her life at that time.

She tries to stay in touch with other birth mothers between retreats, as much as her schedule allows. Tammy works as a paraprofessional in a deaf and hard of hearing program at the public school she attended while growing up.

At the first retreat, Tammy was timid and quiet and now she works to mentor others at the retreats. She especially enjoys the reflection and writing activities ("writing is in my wheelhouse").

Tammy said, "I wouldn't be who I am today without Bellis. Some comes from maturing, but the common space and experience with other birth mothers has been what I needed."

Relaxation. Education. Friendship.

UPCOMING BIRTH MOTHER RETREATS

ONE DAY WINTER RETREAT

JANUARY 15, 2023

Register now at mybellis.org/find-support

WEEKEND FALL RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2023

(always the 3rd weekend in September)

FINANCIALS

WELL CALCULATED LEAP OF FAITH

Since its inception in 1983, Bellis' financial and operational health has been strong and steady. Within a defined scope of services, we've run lean and kept a well-tended reserve fund. In our current fiscal year, we've taken the biggest leap so far. Let's look at the entire picture.

Just 10 years ago, our annual expenses totaled \$82,000. Each year since then, we've reached further, hired more, added infrastructure and developed better tools. Brick by brick, Bellis leaders put a strong organization into place – one that safely withstood the strong winds of a global pandemic, in fact. We had 168 individual donors in FY 2020, 135 in FY 2021, and 212 in FY 2022.

Thanks to a sound foundation, Bellis was able to build quickly, starting in 2020, when the time arose to greatly expand programming to meet the previously unidentified need to address the destructive grief of women whose parental rights were terminated by the courts.

To responsibly serve women with high levels of trauma, we utilized the skills of many licensed, highly trained and compassionate professionals. We rented office/meeting space in Uptown. We hired a part-time marketing and development staff member. This demanded a bigger budget, and we have tapped into our reserve fund. Our projected expenses are \$304,234 for this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2023). We have found and continue to seek strategic funding partners. In particular, Medica Foundation has stepped forward with a \$50,000 one-year grant to launch new areas of growth. The broader funding community is interested and engaged in our work at the intersection of addiction, trauma, justice involvement and grief. Why? Because investing in this space has such high returns in healing, and in healthy individuals, families and workplaces.

We have a high degree of confidence that we'll be landing on the solid ground of 40 years of organizational wellbeing. We have remarkably wise guidance from many sectors of the community. And we have confidence in our shared vision with donors who see the beauty and benefit of making sure all stories of adoption and foster care have a home with Bellis.

We benefit from programs at several corporations that match employees' donations and volunteer hours. Please contact your human resources representative at your place of employment to see if your donations or volunteer hours can be matched.

Bellis utilizes an outside bookkeeping firm to maintain internal control procedures. While the budget doesn't meet the threshold required for an annual audit, Wipfli's nonprofit group prepares our tax returns and ensures all state and federal reporting requirements are met.

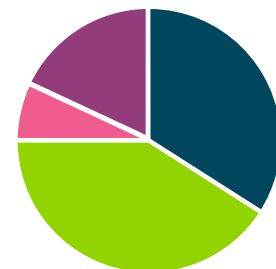
EXPENSES



- 9% Classroom Outreach
- 58% Peer Based Support
- 15% Fundraising
- 18% Management

Projected for current fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

INCOME



- 34% Individual Donors
- 41% Foundation Support
- 7% Corporate Support
- 18% Reserve Fund

Projected for current fiscal year (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)



FROM BELLIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JENNY ELDREDGE

BELLIS IN FULL BLOOM

On a summer day, it's easy to find huge patches of wild daisies in Minnesota. They make me smile because they are one of the best symbols of "Bellis," which is a botanical term that includes daisies and sunflowers. Like these sunny and sturdy flowers, folks with adoption and foster care experiences often feel brighter and stronger in groups compared to standing alone.

As our nonprofit nears its 40th anniversary, our reach has grown. Women from Alaska to Anoka to Atlanta join our expert-led, online support groups for mothers with lost parental rights. Their children are in foster care or adopted. These mothers are very much part of our community, as are those at the Shakopee women's prison who attend our weekly support group there as they grieve their parental rights lost before or during their incarceration.

Bellis stands with all members of our community in their grief, joy, questions, worries and celebrations.

Our expertise is creating safe places to talk openly and honestly about ambiguous loss, which is when we mourn someone who is alive but not in our lives in the way we hoped. It's a unique grief with no ritual (such as a funeral) to mark the loss and with little chance for closure. We know that birth mothers—no matter how it came to be that someone else parents their children—find solidarity in Bellis support groups and retreats. They chart ways to make meaning of their grief, and they share that with adopted persons and with adoptive and foster parents. The roots of our experiences weave the community together.

And, happily, while Bellis stretches into new places, we aren't alone. New friends from Mitchell Hamline's Institute to Transform Child Protection, the Small Business Institute at the University of St. Thomas, Amplify Mission Network, the Medica Foundation, county guardian ad litem and court staff, faith communities and others have come alongside Bellis to offer expertise, networks and funding. Stalwart friends at the Sauer Family Foundation, the League of Catholic Women, and the Catholic Community Foundation have celebrated successes with us and continued as supporters.

***When we hear and learn from each other, we're all stronger, brighter and bolder.
Thank you for supporting this mission!***

OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Kathy Reed serving Bellis retreaters.

We thank longtime volunteer Kathy Reed for cooking, baking, cleaning and serving for the Stronger Together Weekend Retreat in 2022 and most of the past nine years! Lisa Haag and Gina Ehni also set high standards for homecooked hospitality at the retreat over the years. As the program nears its 10th anniversary, we are grateful for the heart and hard work they have poured into the retreat.

We invite volunteers to deliver a homemade meal for 15 on a quarterly basis to the Bellis office in Minneapolis for the women who gather Tuesday mornings for grief support. This meal builds community and offers extra nurturing (and nourishment!). Thanks to Tom and Tracy Murphy for their extraordinary generosity of serving quarterly meals for the last year. As board president, Tracy delights in sharing meals with our guests!

COLLABORATIONS



(L-R around table): **Kristine Moser**, Bellis board vice-chair; **Marylene Herady**, guardian ad litem, Ramsey County; **Meg Payne Nelson**, vice president of impact, Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota; **Julie Ann Greif (Schmidt)**, board member of the League of Catholic Women Foundation Fund; **Jenny Eldredge**, Bellis executive director; **Bridget Sabo**, parent defense attorney, Hennepin County; **Natalie Netzel**, assistant professor, Institute to Transform Child Protection, Mitchell Hamline School of Law; **Kelly Tronstad**, Bellis facilitator; **Lory Sutton** (standing); past Bellis board member; **Paola Schnabel**, Bellis facilitator.

Photo credit to Tracy Murphy

Bellis continues to build and strengthen its capacity of knowledge and expertise by hosting conversations to focus on not only proven outcomes but also aspirations of continuing to improve outreach to serve more women and elevate their unseen but damaging grief.

In mid-August, former Bellis board member Lory Sutton hosted a lovely dinner in her home for Bellis leaders and community partners (see photo caption). The evening gave us space for fellowship around our common focus: mothers whose children are parented by others. Since that evening, Bellis' work has advanced thanks to these partners' guidance and involvement.

With Natalie Netzel's help, we have guidance from two students at Mitchell Hamline's Institute to Transform Child Protection, a great source of knowledge and encouragement for Bellis. Becca Fishman is a master's level social work intern who is in a joint JD/MSW program at the University of St. Thomas. Shahd Abukhdeir is a law student at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Their work will show us how Bellis can best support mothers in their experience in and after the court system. This is strategic, big-hearted work, with our vision for this generously supported by The League of Catholic Women, a fund at the Catholic Community Foundation.

***We hope to hold similar dinners and conversations in 2023.
If you are ready to partner with Bellis, please contact Jenny Eldredge.***

OUR COMMUNITY CARES

Heartfelt hospitality is at the core of Bellis' work. That's why we love it when community members provide Bellis with a basket of delicious goodies to share with our support groups. These "Community Cares Baskets" save precious funds and staff time. Most importantly, it shows the participants that a broad community cares. For more information, please contact Linda McDonald at linda@mybellis.org.

**Can you provide a Community Cares Basket?
Visit mybellis.org/volunteer to get started.**

RECENT BASKET DONORS:

- Asch-Schnell-Kendrick-Lindquist Family
- Megan Mowrey
- Fabric spiritual community in Minneapolis
- Spirit of St. Stephens Catholic Church in Minneapolis
- Catholic Church of St. Katharine Drexel in Ramsey
- Diana Hunter
- Carolyn Baldus

HONORING & REMEMBERING SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES

In Honor of Edie

Jessica Karp

In Honor of Kristine Moser

Melissa Kittcock

Amy Rooney

In Honor of Lis Moriarty

Kate Olson

In Honor of Mary, Allison & Erin

Chad and Andrea Smith

In Honor of Jenny Eldredge for her faithful and creative leadership

Pam & Eric Hulstrand

In Honor of Strong Women Everywhere

Cheryl & Mike Jarvis

In Honor of The Lindquist Family

Rebecca Asch-Kendrick

In Memory of Bob Hamel

Robert Bennett

In Memory of Dick Sheehan and Kay Sheehan

Joyce Kauth

In Memory of Gwen Lawrence

Joan Ackermann

Barbara Bach

Robert & Jill Berntsen

Deborah Freeman

Deborah C. Gerber

Mark & Kathryn Haas

Scott & Joann Haner

Vincent & Doreen Hutterer

Joan Kneeskern

Julie Payeff

Carol Shaler

Gail Pharis & Thomas Shaler

Anne Swenson

In Memory of Mary Lou Stewart

Floyd Stewart

Stephen & Sheila Brzica

In Memory of my parents, Matt & Pudgy Etten

Mary Harms

In Memory of Charles Eldredge

Charles and Kristen Votava

In Memory of Kay Sheehan

Barbara Sheehan

In Memory of Lowell & Marie Dehn

Kevin Dehn

In Memory of my wife, Connie McIntosh

Donnie McIntosh

In Memory of Thomas J. Lausen

Marjorie Lausen

In Memory of Aileen Smith Gaasch

Gifted by the team at FamilyWise Services in support of Bellis grief services for mothers

In Memory of Jackie Radde

Lois Anderson

David & Patricia Barker

Patricia Blessing

Patricia Dvorak

Shirley Johnson

Otto Kaiser

Lois Klug

Ole & Elizabeth Knudson

Meg Larson

Tracy Luke

Jane & Silas Matthies

Kathryn & Silas Matthies

David & Gail McCollum

Marlys Meintsma

Donna Oberg

Sheila Pratt

Robert Radde

Gregg & Susan Scheid

Carol Seaberg

Hugh & Mollie Sherry

Ann Snuggerud

Ann (Klug) Warner

Joanell Zimmerman

Our special thanks to companies and individuals providing in-kind goods and services, including our longtime friends at Christiansen Creative, a talented Hudson-based design agency; Allison Checco, who conducted market research; University of St. Thomas senior, Charlie Eldredge, who volunteered for 40 hours with Bellis as part of his classwork; Emily's Gluten Free Kitchen in Elk River that provided gluten-free treats for our weekend birth mothers retreat; Roxanne Lange, family and friends who found extra furniture for our new office space; Deb Erager who donated office equipment; and so many others who shopped our Amazon wish lists for events through the year.

These lists represent donations made between November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2022. Every effort is made to accurately recognize every individual and organization that has given a financial contribution to Bellis since the printing of the last annual report. This list does not include registration tickets or purchase of clothing items, nor does it include those who have given donations of items for various fundraising and hosting functions. The list of friends, supporters and volunteers is long and we are truly grateful! Please inform us if your name is not presented as you wish.



THANK YOU, DONORS!

Art designed by Tuesday's in-person grief support group.

\$25,000

Foundation

The Sauer Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$15,000

Foundation

Frehls Family Foundation

Individual

Lauren & Willie Harbert

\$2,500 to \$9,999

Foundation

Catholic Community Foundation

League of Catholic Women, held at the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota

Leonette M. & Fred T. Lanners Foundation

Company

Old National Bank

Individual

Tracy & Thomas Murphy

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Foundation

Agape Foundation

The Patricia Grace Founders Fund

Company

Great River Energy

My Adoption Advisor

Individual

Anonymous

Jenny Eldredge & Cam Potts

Jeff & Justine Fritz

Shane & Jessica Slominski

\$250 to \$999

Foundation

Anonymous Family Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation

Church of St. Michael, Prior Lake, MN

Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Balsam Lake, WI

Spirit of St. Stephens Catholic Church, Minneapolis

Team SPS Gives Back Charitable Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation

Company

Elton Eyecare Inc.

General Mills

Maguire Agency

Overson Financial

Individual

10 for \$20 (fundraising club)

John Adams

Joline & Chad Anderson

Janene & John Augustine

Chester T. Eldredge

Marion Eldredge

Sarah Fastner

Hannah Frels

Lisa Haag

Ardyce Harris

Sue Hickey

Pam & Eric Hulstrand

Vicky & Michael Iacarella

Fr. Paul Jaroszeski

Bruce Nowlin & Maggie Jones

Jocelyn Knoll

Rachel Lantow

Tessa Lasswell

Natalie Lee

Ryan & Kristine Moser

Kat & Chris Moses

Kate Olson

Arlis & Margaret Olson

John & Patty Overson

Rose Mary Pratt

Carole Roden

Kelly Roehl

Don & Jenine Rumreich

Cindy Schramm

Steve & Sheila Schumacher

Chad & Andrea Smith

Richard Smith

Andrea Steiner-Manning

Autumn Stewart

Allison & Larrie Thorne

Joe & Danielle Wenker

Andrea Wenker

Kevin Williams

Up to \$249

Foundation

AmazonSmile Foundation

Company

Ameriprise Financial

Apple

Cargill

GEN Financial Management

Larkin Hoffman

UnitedHealth Group

Wells Fargo Community Care

Grants Program

Individual

Erica Adams

Ginger Allen

Kathleen J Armstrong

Kristen Asleson

Roger Battreall

Elwin Berg

Ashley & Corey Blodgett

Lynn Bond

Leo & Carole Breitman

Sally Bruggeman

Edward Caldwell

Cheryl Carlson

Matthew & Samantha Chadwick

Allison Checco

Pamela Coleman

Stephanie Coleman

Shannon Cosgrove-Rucker

Andrew Courneya

Rachel Cushing

Susan Diamond

Steve & Gina Ehni

Mary Eldredge-Sandbo

Brian Engelking

Jeff & Deb Erager

Amy Fox

Jennifer Friedman

Jayne Funk

Mark Gillen

Julie Gordon

David & Tracy Guest

Sarah Hamlin

Jane Harper

John Hedrick

Craig Helmstetter

Laura Henriksen

Alice Heth

Craig Hilary

Kjersta Hoffman

John & Jen Huerd

Eric & Diana Hunter

Cheryl & Mike Jarvis

Katie Jendro

Caitlin Johnson

Rachel Kenney

Grace Kroner

Barb LeCuyer

Danielle S. LeMire

Amy Lewellen-Contreras

Doug & Melissa Lezer

Monique & Mat Lindquist

Becky Loehr

Matt Lynch

David Duxbury & Margaret

Maxeiner-Duxbury

Linda McDonald

Lynn Merkwan

Terrence Miller

Anderson Milton

Mark Moller

Jeff & Lis Moriarty

Rick & Jan Moser

Vanessa Mullenix

Jennifer Neilsen

Margaret Payne Nelson

Katie & Pat Noonan

Clare O'Donnell

Jon Offerdahl

Reno Overson

Paul & Susan Plunkett

Jim & Kathy Reed

Thomas Revord

LeAnn Ring

Elissa Robinson

Brittany Rotz

Claire Sandahl

Timothy Savaloja

Hope Schroepel

Julie Schultz

Carol Simard

Eleanor Skelton

Mona Sofat

Hans Strommen

Lynn & Julie Suilmann

Julie Suilmann

Michele Teeslink

Christi Thompson

Jenifer Thorpe

Colleen Tronson

Kelly Tronstad

Karlee Wagner

Sara Warner

Jean Laing-Weber & Jon Weber

Janet Yackle



Bellis

YOU ARE INVITED

40TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023

Celebrate with Bellis

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENTS

Save the Dates:

- **MAY 2** **Art Show Opening Reception**
- **JUNE 20** **Founders Day Open House**
- **JULY 18** **Volunteers Day Open House**
- **AUGUST 3** **Donors Day Open House**

Each event runs from 4–7 p.m.

All events will take place at the Bellis office in Uptown Minneapolis: 3249 Hennepin Ave. S., Suite 103.

In June 1983, nearly 40 years ago, a committed group of women, mothers, in the Minneapolis area, formed the Adoption Option Committee Inc., which we now know as Bellis™. Over the years, many of you have entrusted your personal and vulnerable stories with us. We invite you to be part of our upcoming 40th anniversary celebration and the inaugural Bellis art show. Submit your original work of words (like poetry) or visual art, to share your journey—your lived experience with its turbulence, unexpected opportunities and life changes—with our community. First-time and long-time artists welcome. The theme for submissions is, *A Home for My Story*.



A grief support group participant shows her artwork from one of the monthly art sessions at the in-person group meetings on Tuesday mornings.

SUBMIT YOUR ART BY JANUARY 10, 2023

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mybellis.org

info@mybellis.org

phone: 952-944-0866