

## Featuring Mary Grossnickle

Mary experienced the foster care system before being adopted at the age of three. Mary presents workshops to adoptive and foster families



through Speaking of Adoption, a post adoption training organization. She is the author of *A Place in My Heart*, an illustrated children's book about divided loyalties. As the former coordinator of a state-funded post adoption resource center, Mary has experience working with both foster

and adoptive families. That experience, combined with Mary's personal journey, gives her a unique perspective and insights that she shares with families during her workshops.

### Sponsors:

#### Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire

Western Wisconsin Advocates for Adoption

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin

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## From the Heart: Voices of Adoption



March 12 in Eau Claire

## 2011 WESTERN WISCONSIN ADOPTION CONFERENCE

### From the Heart: Voices of Adoption

A SEMINAR FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS,  
FOSTER PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS.



**Saturday March 12, 2011**  
**Sacred Heart Hospital**  
**Eau Claire, WI**

Featuring

### Mary Grossnickle

**Adoption Professional, Adult Adoptee**

Meets requirements  
for 6 interactive education hours.



Western Wisconsin  
Advocates for Adoption



# Conference Agenda

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS

**From the Heart:**

**Voices of Adoption**

*Sacred Heart Hospital*

**900 W. Clairemont Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011**

8:30 a.m - 9 a.m.  
Registration

9:00 – 10:30 Keynote Presentation  
**Voices from the Heart:  
Talking about Adoption**

*by Mary Grossnickle*

*Explore the reasons that children may not ask about adoption, how to find natural and appropriate ways to discuss adoption, how to talk about adoption to family, friends, and strangers when your child is listening, and what to expect when talking about adoption as your child grows and develops. Whether your child wants to talk about adoption a little or a lot, you'll benefit from your take-home list of "Ten Tips for Talking."*

10:45 – 12:00 Panel Discussion

**Voices from the Choir:**

*A Panel of parents and adoptees speaking from the heart*

*facilitated by Mary Grossnickle*

12:00 – 1:00 PM - lunch (provided)

Afternoon Sessions: See description far right

1:00 – 2:30 PM Session I

2:45 – 4:15 PM Session II

4:15 – 4:30 PM

Gather together for evaluation and door prize drawings.



# Conference Registration

**REGISTRATION FEE OPTIONS:**

\$30.00/person - \$50.00/couple - \$50.00/professional

**LODGING:**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Plaza Hotel & Suites. Call 1-800-482-7829 by February 26 to make your reservations. Please refer to group # 7297 to receive the special conference rate of \$82.00.

*\* A limited number of partial scholarships are available for registrants with childcare needs as childcare is not offered at the conference. An application is required. Contact Christy with Friends of Adoption to apply (see contact info below)*

**QUESTIONS??**

Contact Christy with Friends of Adoption  
715-832-6644 ext. 18 or [creppe@cclse.org](mailto:creppe@cclse.org)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRI FEB 25**

## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please xerox this form for multiple registrations.**

**CONFERENCE FEE**

\$30.00/person

\$50.00/couple

\$50.00/professional

Make checks payable to "WWAA"

Return this form with payment to:  
WWAA, c/o Catholic Charities  
448 North Dewey St. Eau Claire, WI 54703



# Afternoon Workshops

**AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**

**Session I:**

**1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Finding Your Voice: Grief and Loss in Adoption and Foster Care**

*by Marnie Hersrud, MSW, LCSW*

*How do parents navigate grief and loss with their children? How can parents discern adoption issues vs. normal developmental issues? How do I handle my own grief and loss regarding my child's losses? This session will focus on long term grief and loss issues for children no matter what their adoption/foster care stories are.*

*Marnie has been with Children's Service Society of Wisconsin for over 25 years. She's been a program manager, clinical supervisor and provider of counseling services to children and families including a wide range of adoptees, foster children, birth parents, foster parents and adoptive parents.*

**Session II**

**2:45 – 4:15 p.m.**

**Uniting Our Voices for the Choir:  
Sharing Your Voice to 'Sing' for Your Kids**

*by Josh Kroll, Project Coordinator, NACAC and Jackie Tiller, Adoptive Parent, Child Advocate, 2010 Angel in Adoption Recipient*

*Basic tools, tips and tricks to support your voices as Adoptive/Foster Parents with Family, Schools, and Decision Makers. This session will also include the latest information on the Federal Adoption Tax Credit.*