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# Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

August 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 27

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## Welcome!

**Zero Kids Waiting** is the monthly e-newsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 30-year old organization that creates and supports lifelong nurturing families for children needing permanency. As an email subscriber to Zero Kids Waiting, you will receive a monthly update about what our organization and others are doing to promote adoption of Minnesota children and teens.

To opt out of receiving **Zero Kids Waiting** click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

Your email will be used solely for the distribution of the newsletter and training announcements and will not be shared or broadcast.

To learn more about Minnesota's waiting children and our goal to reach Zero Kids Waiting visit [State Adoption Exchange](#)

## Waiting Youth

### Kayla, 13, Loves to Color Her Hair



"I once accidentally dyed my scalp pink!" exclaimed Kayla, age 13, who says she loves to change the color of her hair. In addition to changing hair colors, Kayla loves music and recently sang in a talent show. Kayla is very proud to share that she has an awesome memory for names and numbers. She also embraces a variety of activities including skateboarding, biking and walking around town. "I am great with babies and love to be around them," says Kayla. When asked what she wants from a family she replied, "I am looking for a family that will give me clear rules and boundaries and will be consistent with consequences and rewards."

For more information about Kayla, please contact Bambi Holloway, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Child-Focused Recruiter at 320-529-0862 or [bholloway@pathinc.org](mailto:bholloway@pathinc.org) or Amanda Giese, McLeod County at 320-864-1217.

## World / National News

### Coincidences Mount in English Reunion

August 2010

A Manchester, England man recently found birth family members that he regularly saw or knew for forty years. In the past Peter Byrne, 66, had regularly knocked on his now-deceased birth mother's door to pick up a colleague who turned out to be his step-sister. He also worked along side his older half brother Stuart at an engineering firm. A former wife and younger half sister had been waitresses together at a local restaurant.

[For more information](#)

### Magazine Explores Adoption Termination

August 2010

In *Brain/Child: The Working Mother Magazine*, Dawn Friedman investigates disruptions of adoption that occur before finalization and dissolutions that occur after finalization. Focusing on international adoption, the article title "Myth of the Forever Family" follows several adoptions to families with children diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Calling adoption termination "the industry's dirty little secret," Friedman suggests having realistic expectations on the part of both parents and placing agencies. She cites experts who recommend not pathologizing children, but rather adjusting expectations and appreciating the child behind behaviors that result from deprived environments.

[For more information](#)

## North Carolina Eases Reunion for Adoptees

August 2010

A new bill will take effect in North Carolina on October 1, 2010 that will lower the age of adoptees from 21 to 18, allowing them to use a Confidential Intermediary Program to locate birth family. The program will also be available to adult biological siblings of adult adoptees, adult biological half siblings of adult adoptees, adult family members of deceased adoptees and adult family members of a deceased biological parent.

[View Bill](#)

## Adoption Pioneer Dies

July 2010

Annette Baran, a crusader for full disclosed adoption, died at the age of 83 on July 11, 2010. The clinical social worker and psychotherapist co-wrote *The Adoption Triangle, The Effects of the Sealed Record on Adoptees, Birth Parents, and Adoptive Parents*, a 1978 book that argued that an adoptee's knowledge of birth parents is crucial to healthy identity. Many credit this book with shaping the open adoption movement.

[For more information](#)

## DNA Expert Locates Birth Family

August 2010

Genetics expert Andrew Rowan learned he had been adopted after the death of his adoptive mother in 1993. Rowan set out to find birth family members. Before locating them, he said, "It is quite ironic that I work with DNA on a daily basis. It will be DNA technology, DNA tools that will in the end help me to identify any mother, father, brothers or sisters." Television, rather than DNA, connected Rowan to his relatives following a report that aired on BBC's *Reporting Scotland* program.

[For more information](#)

## Illinois Release First Birth Certificate under New Law

August 2010

On August 9, 2010, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn presented a 73-year-old Illinois adoptee with the first non-certified copy of an original birth certificate made possible under new law that took effect in late May. "When I was born in 1937, adoptees' birth records were never sealed," said Joel Chrastka of Berwyn. "But, by the time I was an adult and had learned about my adoption, my original birth certificate had already been retroactively seal for 100 years."

[For more information](#)  
[Watch YouTube video](#)

### **TIME Magazine Explore Social Networking in Adoption**

August 2010

The *latest* TIME magazine (August 16) analyzes the complexities in today's adoption community. In the section called WEB WATCH, the reporter evaluates the effects of social networking on adoptive families especially concerning search and reunion.

[For more information](#)

### **Oprah Plans Search & Reunion Show**

July 2010

Now that Oprah Winfrey has started her own network, OWN or Oprah Winfrey Network, she plans to partner with New York professional genealogist Pam Slaton in a series based on search and reunion. In 1996, Slaton helped rap artist Darryl McDaniel of DMC fame find his birth mother when he learned at the age of 35 that he was adopted. Slaton appeared on a February 2010 episode of the *Oprah Show*, facilitating four reunions along with Troy Dunn from "The Locator" series.

[For more information](#)

## **Research**

### **Childhood Abuse Linked to Adult Heart Disease**

August 2010

University of Toronto researchers have discovered a significantly elevated rate of heart disease in adults that experienced childhood physical abuse. Some had 45 percent higher odds of having heart disease when compared to peers that had not experienced abuse after adjusting for the known risk factors for heart disease.

John Frank, Director of Scottish Collaboration for Public Health Research and Policy said, "This finding, if replicated in other studies, suggests that patients known to have experienced child abuse or neglect should have their cardiovascular risk factors managed somewhat more aggressively than other persons, since they are at a greater risk."

[For more information](#)

## Abused Children Benefit from Skills Training

August 2010

Researchers from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in a random trial of 150 foster children have discovered that mentoring along with training in coping skills can help them improve their mental health and their satisfaction with life. Cited as "a promising model," the nine-month program significantly improved outcomes for children who participated in skills groups that met regularly and follow a curriculum that include anger management and building healthy relationships. Each child was also provided a mentor.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### CLC Adapts Holistic Approach with Foster Youth

August 2010

The Children's Law Center (CLC) of Minnesota advocates for foster children through legal representation and systematic reform. To better address the multiple challenges that foster youth face, CLC is adapting a holistic approach that goes far beyond legal representation. While volunteer lawyers assist with such matters as expunging juvenile records, immigration, appellate advocacy, health law, and public benefits, CLC also helps foster children find summer camps, scholarship opportunities, job training, financial management, mentors, tutors, therapists, or appropriate treatment facilities.

Children's Law Center of Minnesota  
450 North Syndicate Street, Suite 315  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-644-4438  
[www.clcmn.org](http://www.clcmn.org)

### Data Lags on Recession's Impact on Families

August 2010

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation *2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, improvements in child well-being ushered in during the 1990s stalled just before the current economic downturn. The number of Minnesota children in poverty has increased as has the number of children in single-parent households. The Casey information was gathered in 2007 and 2008, leading the Foundation's researchers to warn that the full impact of the recession will not be recorded for another year or perhaps longer.

[For more information](#)

## Youth Writes About Finding Family

August 2010

In this poem, Jermeisha, age 14, expresses her feelings in joining her new family.

### "My Family"

by Jermeisha

Adoption.

This time it's really happening,  
Having a family,  
Who loves me.  
Even though it seems so long,  
God is letting this go on.

They're so nice and sweet.  
They're caring to me.  
I know this will work out.  
Without a doubt.  
It feels good to know I have someone.  
It's good to know that they won't give up on me,  
I've never felt this happy in a long time,  
Because I know this family will be mine.

It took so long to happen,  
But I knew they were mine in just a second,  
Even though it's taking long,  
It feels good to just talk on the phone,  
But this is my family for now on!

## Inside MARN

### Zero Kids Waiting Goes Center Court

August 2010

The August 1, 2010 Minnesota Lynx game was designated as "Faith and Family Night." Minnesota communities of faith filled the stands to watch the professional women's basketball team go against the Seattle Storm and to hear a post-game concert at the Target Center. A Zero Kids Waiting promotional appeared on the Jumbo-tron throughout the game, and at half-time Lorenzo Davis spoke briefly to the crowd about the need for families for Minnesota children.

### AHA Launches International/Transracial Support Group

August 2010

To meet a growing demand, Adoptees Have Answers - AHA's International and Transracial Support Group will begin on Monday, August 30, 2010. The monthly group will meet the last Monday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Roseville Library located at 2180 Hamline Avenue North in Roseville, Minnesota.

Adults who were adopted from other countries or adopted transracially, are the ages of 18 or older, may attend at no cost. Please reserve by emailing Amy Fjellman at [amyfjellman@gmail.com](mailto:amyfjellman@gmail.com) or Julie Hart at [jhart513@yahoo.com](mailto:jhart513@yahoo.com).

For more information about support groups in your area, visit AHA online at [www.aha.mn](http://www.aha.mn).

### **RAD LABS Return in September: *Reactive Attachment Disorder - How to Survive & Thrive Beyond the Diagnosis***

Join us for a six-part LABS series (Learning Alternative Behavioral Strategies) beginning Monday, September 13 through Monday, November 22, 2010 with Deena McMahon, MSW, LICSW and Krista Nelson, LICSW, LMFT.

[For more information](#)  
[Register Now](#)  
[MN ADOPT Training Calendar](#)

### **Dr. Richard J. Delaney to Present August Webinar: *Practical Strategies for Helping Troubled Adopted Children with Complex Histories: Focus on Anger Issues***

Please join MN ADOPT as Dr. Richard J. Delaney internationally known speaker, acclaimed author and consultant to foster, kinship and adoptive parents presents a 90-minute webinar on Wednesday, August 25, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT).

Substantial time for discussion, questions and answers will be included in this 90-minute webinar presentation. Parents, professionals and others are invited to participate in this interactive online training. All you need is a computer with internet access, a telephone and a pioneer spirit.

[View Flyer](#)

#### **Fee**

\$15.00 webinar only - [Register Now](#)

\$25.00 webinar & CD - [Register Now](#)

\* CDs are available for \$15.00

For questions or to order a CD, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

## Archived Webinars Available on CD



The following MN ADOPT and AHA webinar presentations are available on CD. All CDs include training content (PowerPoint) and audio commentary by each presenter. CDs run approximately 60 to 90-minutes.

### **MN ADOPT**

#1101 *Tough Questions, No Easy Answers: Some Useful Tips for Raising Hurt Kids* with Deena McMahon

#1102 *Back to School with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)* with Kari Fletcher

#1103 *Silent Night: Calming the Holidays for Children with Sensory and Neurological Differences* with Kari Fletcher

#1104 *The Mosaic: When Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) Meets Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)* with Deena McMahon & Wendylee Raun

#1105 *Great Ideas for Increasing Biculturalism in Transracial Families* with Robert O'Connor

#1106 *Avoiding Power Struggles & Healing Hearts: Responsive Parenting to Engage the Reactive Child* with Paul Buckley

#1107 *Practical Strategies for Helping Troubled Adopted Children with Complex Histories: Focus On Anger Issues* with Dr. Richard J. Delaney

#### **Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\$85.00 for 7-Disc Collection (\$105.00 Value)

\* Prices include tax & shipping

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### **Adoptees Have Answers - AHA**

#2201 *Adoptees Have Answers: Enlisting the Experts* with Adam Pertman

#2202 *Minnesota Orphan Train Riders: Historical Reflections on Adoption Over the Lifespan* with Renee Wendinger

#2203 *How to Start a Support Group for Adult Adoptees* with Penny

Needham, Sandy White Hawk and Kate Ingalls-Maloney

**Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\$40.00 for 3-disc CD Collection

\* Price includes tax & shipping

For more information, contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122 or

[ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org)

## \*400 Will Move to ZERO in Minnesota if...

- Each Metro church pledged to find a family for a waiting child or sibling group.
- Corporations promoted adoption "in-house" through bulletin boards, kiosks and newsletters.
- Populations who have been identified as potential parents -- older career women, empty-nesters, communities of color -- were better targeted in recruitment.
- Bureaucracy and barriers to adopting were reduced (Call us at 612-861-7115 if you are encountering either!)

\* The number of Minnesota children waiting for families has decreased from 650 to around 400. While this shows progress our target is ZERO waiting children.

## Zero Kids Waiting

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**PSA Airs on You Tube**

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The Zero Kids Waiting e-newsletter reaches parents willing to adopt children that are not reached by general recruitment measures. Please consider donating as much as you are able to that we can reach ZERO -- Zero Kids Waiting.

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