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# Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

November 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 30

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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

### Zipporah, Answers to "Squirrel" or "Zippy"



Like kids her age, Zipporah, age 14, has many faces. She is a caring sister, daughter and aunt. She is a concerned friend and always has suggestions to make them feel better. Zipporah loves to sing and draw and has a great eye for design. Zipporah works hard in school

despite the challenges of certain subjects, her 'Student of the Month' award is a testament to her commitment to school.

Zipporah respects adults who are honest and forthright, affording her the respect and trust that come with her age. She wants to remain close to her birth family and would like to stay in the city to be close to her birth mother. When asked about what she values the most in potential family, Zipporah says, "patience, trust and a deep desire to bring out my best is important in adoptive family."

#### **Letter Written by Zipporah**

*Hey this is to all of you families out there that are looking to adopt a child or two. Right? Well, I'm one of those thousands of kids out there that needs a home. My name is Zipporah, but you can call me "Squirrel" or "Zippy." I am 14 years old and will be 15 in December. I'm a really good kid, and I'm really shy around new people that I don't know. I sometimes love to talk a lot. That's why everyone calls me "chatterbox." Other than that I am usually really quiet.*

*I love to play the Wii in my free time if I don't have any homework. I love, love, love babysitting. Babysitting is my favorite thing to do on a daily basis or volunteering at a nursing home.*

*Even though I have a learning disability, I can still learn. I am just a little bit slower than others. I love to draw and to do pinch pot pottery. Just to let ya'll know, everyone makes mistakes. I have made some not so good mistakes. We always have to remember that we can't go back and always fix everything. I hope you guys will adopt Zipporah!*

For more information about Zipporah, contact Joe Wild Crea, Permanency Specialist at Ampersand Families at 612-670-6485 or [joe@ampersandfamilies.org](mailto:joe@ampersandfamilies.org)

## **World / National News**

### **Utah Awarded by Feds for Fost-Adopt**

November 2010

Utah is following a national trend of increasing the number of children being adopted from foster care. Their success has resulted in an award of more than \$432,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Like many states, Utah has focused on adoptions of older youth by recruiting relatives, teachers and other persons already known to youth as possible adoptive parents.

[For more information](#)

### **President Obama Signs Disability Legislation**

November 2010

Recently, President Barack Obama signed two significant pieces of legislation for people with disabilities. The first, "Rosa's Law," changes references in federal statutes from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability." The second, the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, will make it easier for people who are deaf, blind or living with a visual impairment to take advantage of

modern technology, including accessible smart phones to closed captioning on the Web.

[For more information](#)

### **ABC Reports Older Adoptees Search for Identities**

November 2010

While most adoptions today are fully disclosed, for an increasing number of older adopted persons the need to find birth family and background information grows with age, according to an ABC broadcast. The report focused on Carol Cook, 68, who as a grandmother in New Jersey is prohibited from getting her original birth certificate. Tennessee, Alabama, Delaware, New Hampshire, Maine, Oregon and recently Illinois enacted laws to allow adoptees access to their birth record. Kansas and Alaska never sealed records.

[For more information](#)

### **Rod Steward Reunited with Birth Daughter**

October 2010

Rock icon Rod Steward recently was reunited with his birth daughter who greatly resembles him. The two had briefly met previously but rarely kept contact. Learning of the death of his daughter's adoptive mother, Stewart reached out to re-establish contact. He has introduced Sarah Streeter as his eldest daughter to family and friends.

[For more information](#)

### **"I Love My Hair" Muppet Inspired by Adopted Child**

November 2010

The newest Muppet on Sesame Street is the inspiration of long-time writer for the show. When his 5-year-old daughter, Segi, adopted from Ethiopia longed for a Barbie doll with long blond hair, Joseph Mazarino had trouble reassuring her that her hair was beautiful. His response was a Muppet who sings, "In a clip or in a bow, or let it sit in an Afro. My hair looks good in a cornrow...I love my hair." The song has gone viral and created a media storm as girls around the country have downloaded it from YouTube.

To see a clip of "I Love My Hair," [click here](#).

### **New ABC Show Examines Adoption**

November 2010

Actor Taye Diggs, known for his role on ABC's Private Practice is producing a new show "Match" inspired by authors Cara Haycak and Kiersten Van Horne. The show looks how a team of Los Angeles-based lawyers, doctors and caseworkers collaborate during the complex world of adoption.

[For more information](#)

## Research

### Critical Need for Post Adoption Services Identified

November 2010

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute has released a policy brief revealing the adoptive families are not getting service needed to preserve and make adoptions healthy. Of concern are those children whom, according to Executive Adam Pertman, "live with emotional, psychological and developmental consequences on having been abused, neglected or institutionalized before they were adopted. The good news is that most of them, and their families, are doing just fine; the bad news is that the ones who need help too often aren't getting it."

The Institute recommends forming a national task force to shift policy and practices, allocating federal funding for needed services and initiating research to reveal outcomes and effectiveness of services.

[For more information](#)

### Women in Prison Outnumber Men

November 2010

A report commissioned by the Institute on Women & Criminal Justice finds that the number of women prisoners surpasses the male prison population in the United States. Imprisoned mothers often lose custody of their children who enter foster care if family members are unable to care for them. Sixty-seven percent of women incarcerated in state prisons are mothers of children under 18. Seventy percent of these women compared to 50% of men had custody of their dependent children prior to incarceration. Six percent of women are pregnant when they enter prison. In almost all cases, the woman is abruptly separated from her child after giving birth.

## Local News

### Fiscal Cuts Threaten to Increase Absenteeism for Missing Fathers

November 2010

The loss of federal funding threatens a successful state program that identifies absent fathers in Minnesota. The federal government's reward payment to counties with 80 percent or higher paternity-identification rates was cut on October 1 in the federal debt reduction act of 2005. County and state child support workers cite stable funding as improving Minnesota's rate that was ranked as 16th highest in America last year. *The Star Tribune* estimated that without federal reward funding, approximately 13,811 children will lack support in 2011.

[For more information](#)

### Children's Theatre Offers Specials for Adoptive Families

November 2010

Foster and adoptive families can get discounted tickets to two plays at the nationally acclaimed Minnesota Children's Theatre during the holidays. A high-powered, action-packed *Robin Hood* (November performances) and the classic "You'll Shoot Your Eye Out" *A Christmas Story* (November and December) are available now. Families may order online using the following directions:

How to Use Your Discount Coupon Code:

1. Go to <http://www.childrenstheatre.org/ticketoffice/singles.html>
2. Select your desired performance and your seats
3. Proceed to checkout
4. **Before** you enter credit card information, click on Discount Coupon Code. This will pop up a field to enter the code, then hit enter. A new price will be added. **DO NOT ENTER CREDIT CARD INFORMATION UNTIL A LOWER DISCOUNT PRICE IS LISTED.**
  - o For *Robin Hood*, enter code 21108
  - o For *A Christmas Story*, enter code 21109
5. If you should have any difficulties, please contact Children's Theatre ticket box office at 612-874-0400

[View Robin Hood flyer](#)

[View Christmas Story flyer](#)

## Inside MARN

### Soccer Start Headlines MARN/Baja Sol Gala

November 16, 2010

U.S. World Cup soccer player Tony Sanneh returns from training Greek and Turkish youth in Cyprus in time to be a special guest for MARN's Baja Sol gala, November 16, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Program at 7:00 p.m.) at 5681 Blaine Avenue, Inver Grove Heights. The second annual benefit features a silent auction, entertainment and appetizers to highlight the need for families of Minnesota waiting children and youth. Among the auction items is a one week 2011 resident soccer camp, donated by Sanneh and valued over \$500.

**Walk-ins are welcome** to the \$75/person event. For questions or to register, call Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.



(U.S. World Cup Player Tony Sanneh)

MARN would like to thank the following Baja Sol Gala hosts...

Tony & Bridget Sutton  
Dorene & Jeff Larson  
Mike & Sue Campbell  
Tim & Emily Berkness

Thank you to the following individuals/businesses for donating items for the silent auction...

Brad & Marcia Ballinger  
Dorene Larson  
Chris & Ceynowa & Madden's Resort in Brainerd  
Tim Hokanson, Mt. Olivet Careview Homes  
Bruce Stahlbert, Affordable Energy Solutions  
Geraldo Ruiz. Solar Flow Energy  
Kim Roderffer Funk, Artist,  
James Whelpley, Twin Cities Attorneys, PA  
Tom Conlon Photography  
Kristen Cardena, Simonson's Salon & Spa  
Posters on Board  
Catherine Bernard  
Paula Graff  
Sara Reisdorff  
Rachel Flanders  
Tony Sanneh  
Lindsey Sullivan

### **Circus of the Heart Attracts Over 600**

November 7, 2010

The 13th annual Circus of the Heart changed venues, added a "teen only" component, and took place on Daylight Savings Time. Despite all the changes, over 600 attended the yearly event that officially launched National Adoption Month in Minnesota.

In addition to the pony rides, clowns, team mascots, games with prizes, and petting zoo for the younger youth, a room was set aside for those 13 years of age and older. Teen activities include hip-hop dance lessons provided by Hollywood Studio of Dance, air brush

tattoos from Frankenstein Creations, t-shirt designs, canvas art and scrapbooking. Youth were able to produce their own vocal CD assisted by professionals Brian Bradley and Nick Barr. A laptop and two iPod Nanos were among the prizes won by teens in a drawing exclusively for them.

The celebratory event heightened the need for families for children under state guardianship who are available for adoption. Many who attended and who volunteered were prospective parents who picked up information materials and asked thought-provoking questions of workers who were in attendance.



(Conner brothers raffle winners of iPod, Laptop and Timberwolves Suite)

### Give to the Max Day, November 16

In what is called the Great Minnesota Give Together, November 16 is set aside as "Give to the Max Day." For 24 hours, contributors have an opportunity to rally around MARN and Zero Kid's Waiting mission and work to find families for Minnesota waiting children.

For more information, visit [www.give.mn.org](http://www.give.mn.org)

### Archived MN ADOPT Webinars Available on CD



The following MN ADOPT 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.

#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

#1108 ***Adolescence, RAD and Attachment: Guiding the Adopted Teen Towards Adulthood*** with Krista Nelson

**NEW!** #1109 ***Pathways to Permanency and Stability*** with Dr. Richard J. Delaney

[View Order Form](#)

**Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\$115.00 for 9-Disc Collection

*(Prices include tax & shipping)*

To order, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

**Webinar Addresses "Passages: A Lifetime Perspective on the Developmental Tasks of Adopted Persons"**

December 9, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (CDT)

On November 9, Jae Ran Kim, distinguished adoption presenter, researcher and AHA Advisory Group member will discuss the model created by psychologist David Brodzinsky, Marshall Schecter and Robin Marantz Henig to illustrate how the developmental tasks of adoptees differ from those of non-adoptees, and how these unique differences manifest through the adoptee's lifespan. Kim also discusses ambiguous loss, a concept originally hypothesized by Pauline Boss, author of *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief*, and how it impacts the lives of people within the adoption community.

**Fee**

\$15.00 webinar only

\$20.00 webinar & CD

\$15.00 CD only

To register, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

**Archived AHA Webinars Available on CD**



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

#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 an Adoptee Support Group for Adults*** with Penny Needham, Sandy White Hawk and Kate Ingalls-Maloney

#2204 ***How to Start an Adoptee Support Group for Youth*** with Penny Needham

#2205 ***Beyond Boarding Schools: Truth, Healing and Reconciliation in the Native American Adoption & Foster Care Community*** with Sandy White Hawk

**NEW!** #2206 ***Passages: A Lifetime Perspective on the Developmental Tasks of Adopted Persons*** with Jae Ran Kim

**Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\$75.00 for 6-disc Collection

*(Prices include tax & shipping)*

To order, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

## MARN Thanks...

MARN gratefully acknowledges the family of Carol Trout Raun for designating memorials be made to MARN. A tree will be planted on Arbor Day in a national forest to commemorate the life of Carol Raun.

## \*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.

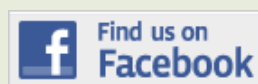
## Zero Kids Waiting

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### PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



Look for daily inspiration and tips to support adoption during November, National Adoption Awareness Month

twitter

## Donate Today



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.

To make a secure, tax deductible online donation, click [Donate](#)

### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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