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Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

September 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 28

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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

Roscoe's Eager to Explore His Native American Heritage



Roscoe, age 12, is a resilient, energetic and engaging young man. He is full of personality and seems to wear a smile at all times. He is not afraid to try new adventures like sports, acting or an exotic cuisine. Roscoe does well in school, participates in after school activities (sports and theater) and has his own paper route one day a week. He loves the active pace of his current foster family, whether it involve camping, fishing, watching sports or helping out with the daycare kids. Roscoe has settled well into the community and school where he currently lives and has expressed a desire to remain there if possible. He wants to remain in touch with his mother and siblings no matter what his future holds. Having little information about his Native American heritage, he is eager to know more. Roscoe says he is excited to become a part of a new family, hoping they will be as active and as engaging as his personality.

For more information about Roscoe, please contact Joe Wild Crea at 612-670-6485 or joe@ampersandfamilies.org.

World / National News

Korean Adoptee Helps Korean Single Mothers

August 2010

Shin Joo Ae was adopted from South Korea and raised by American parents when she was 5 months old. In 2006, she returned to South

Korea where she began working as an English teacher. Surprisingly, she was able to find her birth mother within a week of looking. Shin Joo Ae's birth mother, Jang Ji-young said the decision to put her daughter up for adoption had been difficult but was mainly due to societal prejudice that faces single mothers in South Korea.

Both mother and daughter have started a social enterprise to support Korean single mothers and their children, as well as Korean adoptees. Their organization, Little J Family was created to help break Korean society's prejudice against single motherhood by helping single mothers find jobs and providing Korean adoptees a chance to learn about their Korean culture.

[For more information](#)

Australia Issues Apology to Birth Mothers

September 2010

West Australia has issued an official apology to unmarried birth mothers who were illegally separated from their babies between the 1940s and early 1980s, when harsh adoption practices were in place. This apology is the first government worldwide to admit hospital and welfare authorities were wrong to take babies away from their mothers without consent. Experts believe tens of thousands of babies were illegally adopted during this time.

[For more information](#)

Foster Care Rolls Decline

September 2010

Federal figures show that the number of children in foster care has dropped 8 percent in one year and more than 20 percent in the past decade. Many attribute the drop to shortened stays in foster care, putting adoptions on the fast track and providing early interventions to families at risk of losing their children.

As to whether the down trend is being done safely, Dr. William Bell, president and CEO of Casey Family Programs, insists on a "safe reduction over having a reduction at all costs." He promotes placing children who must be removed from their families in the least restrictive setting possible (with families rather than in group homes) and testing the best use of government funding in providing services.

[For more information](#)

Florida Claims Model for Preserving Families and Protecting Children

August 2010

Secretary George H. Sheldon of the Florida Department of Children and Families stated in his "State of the Child 2010" speech that "Florida is a national leader in child welfare due to its substantial

progress in preserving families and providing safe and permanent homes for children affected by abuse or neglect. We are leading the nation in some very important ways." Secretary Sheldon credits Governor Crist's administration that began nearly four years ago which has reduced the number of children in foster care by nearly 36 percent and was ranked number one among the states in 2010 by the federal government for achieving timeliness of adoptions. Florida has become the first state to use federal dollars based on the needs of children and not primarily on children in foster care, which hopes to dramatically reduce the number of children in foster care by 2012. ([Florida Department of Children and Families](#))

[For more information](#)

Maryland Reports Increase in Adoption

August 2010

According to the Maryland Department of Human Resources approximately 8,760 children have been placed with guardians, adoptive families or reunited with their parents which has helped the state achieve a 20 percent increase in the number of adoptions over the past three years. Governor Martin O'Malley says his "Place Matters" initiative aims to find more stable and secure homes for children in foster care. Much of the progress is taking place in Baltimore where the number of group home placements has dropped 71 percent. "Three years ago, the state had difficulty even establishing the number of children in foster care" says Governor O'Malley.

[For more information](#)

Klobuchar Introduces New Legislation

August 2010

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) along with three other senators from around the nation have proposed legislation with the hope to strengthen pre- and post-adoption services for American adoptive families. The Supporting Adoptive Families Act was inspired in part by the recent case of an American mother who returned her adoptive son to Russia because she was unable to care for him. "One of the biggest challenges facing adoptive parents is that there are simply not enough adoption support resources available," Klobuchar said. The proposed act would develop and expand training and resources for families adopting domestically and internationally, ensuring both parents and children have the assistance they need to stay together. The bill recently passed the Senate and has been sent to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

[View Bill](#)

Foster Youth Under Kinship Care Receive Benefits

September 2010

According to Fostering Connections Resource Center, youth who have left foster care, 16 and older, who are under a relative's care may receive Independent Living Services and educational vouchers. The law enacted in 2008 was designed to further the priority of relationships between children and relative caregivers and assist those who need help transitioning from school to adulthood.

[For more information](#)

Adopted Woman May Be Granddaughter to Churchill

August 2010

Rhonda Noonan, now 54 years old, remembers at the age of 12, hearing a conversation between her maternal grandmother and a caseworker who repeated the words she overheard during the adoption process, "If you knew the last name of the baby, you would know immediately who it was, because they're famous." It was not until much later that Noonan began putting the pieces together. According to her records, her birth mother and Randolph Churchill, son of former prime minister of Britain, Winston Churchill, were said to have met at an Oklahoma bar frequented by government officials and military officers the same year Noonan was conceived.

At this time, no DNA tests have been conducted. The only written evidence comes from a former DHS official, now deceased, who signed a handwritten statement describing a meeting in which Randolph Churchill signed adoption papers.

[For more information](#)

Adoptive Mother Chronicles Adventures in Memoir

August 2010

Rebecca Patton Falco, attorney, adoption advocate, equality activist and now author chronicles her journey from infertility to building a large multi-racial family through both open and closed adoptions in her book, *Everything In Its Own Time...A Mother's Memoir About Adoption Children and The Ones That Got Away*. Her book talks about the life lessons and love stories surrounding the challenges and joys of finding family in sometimes unexpected places. Profits from the sales of her book will benefit the Baobab Home in Tanzania, Africa, a nonprofit orphanage that provides interim care, meals and educational resources for abandoned children who have become "orphans" due to HIV or other causes. ([About the Author](#))

www.rebeccafalco.com

Research

U of M Study Seeks Children Diagnosed with FASD

September 2010

Dr. Jeffrey Wozinak at the University of Minnesota's Children and Adolescent Neuropsychology Clinic is seeking families who have children diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), ages 2 to 5 years old, to participate in a nine-month study. Researchers will be assessing the benefits of using Choline as a nutritional daily supplement as related to the diagnosis.

For more information, please call 612-624-0142 or FASD@umn.edu.

Preschool Depression - Possible or Not?

August 2010

A *New York Times* article recently explored whether depression occurs in preschoolers, citing how the history of mental illness has "lowered the bar to entry." The article purports that depression has historically been viewed as an adult diagnosis that might originate in childhood but didn't happen with children. Although clinicians are reluctant to pinpoint this disorder in younger children, researchers are investigating the possibility and identifying characteristics of depression among preschoolers.

[For more information](#)

Korean Adoptees Gather in Seoul

August 2010

The 2010 International Korean Adoption Association Gathering focused on promoting dialogue and a greater understanding between Korean adoptees and Korean society. The annual gathering took place in Seoul on August 3-8, 2010 and hosted over 500 Korean adoptees from 20 different countries. The [Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute's](#) study of Korean adoptees' perceptions of international adoption was part of the second International symposium on Korean Adoption Studies. To read the full study, go to <http://bit.ly/bLxtxk>.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Re-entry Into Foster Care Soars

August 2010

According to the *Star Tribune*, one in four children entering the state's foster care system will exit, only to return again, giving the state one of the highest rates of foster care recidivism. The state's 24 percent reentry rate was, according to the article, among the highest in the nation when compared to the federal goal of 9.9 percent or less. Minnesota was described as being more prone than other states to send children back to birth parents rather than to relatives or into adoption placements. Behavioral problems that result from abusive and neglectful backgrounds were also cited as a factor.

[For more information](#)

Rope Course Tests Youth

September 2010

Travis and Sara Coumbe-Guida call their new rope challenge course "a challenge by choice." As teachers and child advocates, the Guidas manage a character training camp at Eagle Beach Resort in Park Rapids with a focus on children in foster care or adoption. At the camp, youth meet other children with similar pasts to learn life and social skills, play sports, swim, kayak and much more. The new rope challenge course pairs life skills lessons with recreation. Included are a zip line, rope ladder and similar activities that require assistance from team members. Exercises are designed to build the trust that many children with troubled backgrounds often lack.

Free sessions for educators on Saturday, September 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information please call 218-760-8442.

[View Flyer](#)

Adoption Documentary Premieres - September 23

September 2010

"Can you help me find my birth mother so I can know who I am before I die?" A question posed by an 86-year-old adoptee inspired award-winning film maker Jean Strauss to investigate the answer for this and other adoptees. Strauss's documentary, *ADOPTED: For the Life of Me*, will be shown in the Twin Cities on September 23, 2010 at St. Louis Park Recreation Center Banquet Center and will air on PBS affiliate, KTCA. The film follows the journey of older adoptees who decide in their twilight years to investigate their unknown pasts, revealing the obstacles they encounter and the impact of what they discover. Strauss will speak to audience members about the process and inspiration for making her film.

A free showing of ADOPTED: For the Life of Me will take place at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center Second Floor Banquet Room, 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park, Minnesota on Thursday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Free Workshops Slated

September 2010

ARC Greater Twin Cities invites parents to an "IEP Walk Through." Families are to bring the current IEP and summer reevaluation to a Wednesday, September 15 event from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. which includes free dinner with childcare provided. The event will take place at the Sabathani Community Center - Room F on the third floor, Room 310E at 38th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, please contact Sierra at 651-917-2370 or sierra@mofas.org.

For parents and caregivers of children newly diagnosed with FASD, Brad Wing will speak on "Got the FASD Diagnosis: Now What?" on Tuesday, October 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hutchinson Campus Common - HCO 1280-90 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. For more information, please call 320-222-5213.

Inside MARN

Circus of the Heart Celebration Adds Activities for Older Youth

September 2010

The 13th Annual Circus of the Heart is slated for Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Prom Center Event Facility located at 484 Inwood Avenue in Oakdale. The event kicks off Adoption Month with an annual Circus of the Heart celebration. The free event focuses on the recruitment of families for Minnesota Waiting Children and honors the families who have recently adopted in Minnesota. The event will provide an opportunity for prospective families to better understand the population of children and youth served and the need for families of all ages. The day includes a program, special entertainment, pony rides, games and prizes. This year activities are planned especially for youth, ages 13 and older, which include hip-hop dance lessons, canvas art, an opportunity to record their own vocal CD and a chance to win a laptop.

For more information, please [click here](#) to view the flyer.

Moldova Officials Visit MARN

September 2010

Two Moldovan government leaders spoke to MARN staff through an interpreter on September 13, 2010. Chifa Svetlana, Municipal Directorate for Protection of Children's Rights, and Crudu Valentin, who leads the country's Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education, arrived with questions about American child welfare practices particularly around adoption. During the visit it was revealed that Moldova, now an independent republic that has separated from

the USSR and from Romania, has increased the time from six months to two years to find families inside their country before facilitating international adoptions for children.

**Last Chance to Register for September Webinar:
*Adolescence, RAD and Attachment: Guiding the
Adopted Teen Towards Adulthood* with Krista Nelson**

Please join **MN ADOPT** as Krista Nelson, Licensed Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist presents a 90-minute webinar on Friday, September 17, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT). Nelson has over 19 years of therapy and social work experience working with children and families going through difficult transitions. This webinar will focus on teens with attachment trauma histories who are asking "What do I do now?" Gain tools to help a teen move forward from destructive behaviors to find safer ways of coping, communicating and connecting with others.

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. CEUs are not available for online trainings at this time.

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.

AHA September Webinar: *How to Start an Adoptee Support Group for Youth* with Penny Needham

Please join **Adoptees Have Answers** as Penny Needham, AHA Advisory Group member, Minnesota educator and adoption support group facilitator, talks about how to start an adoptee support group for youth. Needham will present her model and share her experiences organizing and facilitating support groups within the public school system. As an adopted individual herself, Needham can attest to the benefits of a support group for adopted adolescents when identity, self-confidence, and peer and support are critical.

Substantial time for discussion, questions and answers will be included in this 90-minute webinar presentation. Adoptees, 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. CEUs are not available for online trainings at this time.

Fee

\$15.00 webinar only
\$20.00 webinar & C

* CDs are available for \$15.00.

To register, 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

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

Price

\$15.00 for each CD
\$105.00 for 8-Disc Collection (\$105.00 Value)

* Prices include tax & shipping

[View Flyer](#)

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 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

Price

\$15.00 for each CD

\$50.00 for 4-disc CD Collection

* Price includes tax & shipping

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

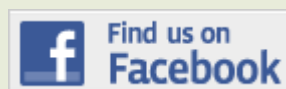
Zero Kids Waiting

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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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Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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