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Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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Welcome!

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 33-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** and other announcements from Minnesota Adoption Resource Network including MN ADOPT training emails for parents and professionals, please click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

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

Waiting Youth

Some Parenting Experience Preferred by Monique



At 16, Monique has made a list of what she prefers in the family she hopes will adopt her. Forget a really small town since she likes the variety of activities and opportunities provided in larger communities. Some parenting experience is preferred, says Monique, "so they can at least be understanding of us teenagers, who I've been told can sometimes be dramatic." She envisions a family with similar interests to her personality that she describes as "outgoing, bubbly, and I like to be around people. I also like to sing and dance, spend time with friends or just hang out at home. I have quite a creative imagination. Some may consider me to be 'a bit out there' sometimes."

Monique's favorite sport is track, while animals are her passion. "After college I hope to work in a field where I am able to help people or animals," says Monique. Although she would like a two parent family, she would be okay with a single parent. It doesn't matter to me if my parents are two moms, two dads, if there are older kids or if I was the only child. I just want a place to call home."

For more about Monique, contact Lisa Edel at North Homes Adoption Program at 218-322-4123 or lisa.edel@northhomes.org

World / National News

Russian People Protest Putin's Ban on U.S. Adoptions

After Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Parliament banned adoptions to the United States, thousands of Russians took to the streets on Monday, January 14, 2013 to condemn the ban. The Russian protest reveals a deep division in the country regarding adoptions to the United States. Many believe the government was retaliating for the United States Magnitsky Act, a law imposing sanctions on Russians deemed to be human rights violators. Locally, Senator Amy Klobuchar met with Children's Home Society & Family Services to voice concern about Minnesota families waiting for

Russian children. The Joint Council on International Children's Services, based in the United States and representing multiple adoption groups, is trying to mediate between the two countries. Last year, nearly 1,000 Russian children were adopted by Americans in a sharp decline in annual adoptions.

[For more information](#)

Senate Approves International Adoption Legislation

In December a standardized accreditation process was passed by the United States Senate so that all adoption service providers will operate under a uniform system. The InterCountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act is designed to standardize the application process and to provide more transparency across the 50 states. Also passed was a bill to support the goals of National Adoption Day/Month to promote awareness of the 100,000 or more children needing families.

[For more information](#)

Reuben Pannor, Adoption Pioneer Dies

Reuben Pannor, recognized as a leading researcher in adoption reform, died on December 22, 2012. He wrote *The Adoption Triangle*, a book that promoted the need for adoptees to know about their origins and that laws preventing this should be abolished. Another book, *Lethal Secrets*, co-written with Annette Baran, addressed issues of secrecy and genetic heritage for those who had children through donor insemination. Reuben received numerous awards for his work including recognition from the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the United States Congress.

[For more information](#)

Myths Dispelled on Adopting from Foster Care

Common preconceptions that keep families from considering adopting from foster care include that it costs too much, that the children are "damaged," that biological families can reclaim the children, and that single persons cannot adopt. The reality is that the cost is minimal and financial supports are available. Children enter state guardianship through no fault of their own, typically due to neglect or abuse. Birth parents, once a child is legally free for adoption, have no legal rights to reclaim children. Unmarried persons are also legally able to adopt. For more information on adopting from foster care, call MN ADOPT at 612-861-7115 or toll free at 866-303-6276 or email at info@mnadopt.org.

Congress Rushes Abuse Bill to Prevent Child Abuse

On January 2, 2013, in a rare display of bipartisanship, the Senate passed a bill creating a commission to prevent child abuse. The bill called, "An Act to Protect Our Kids" following approval in the House

and the Senate was signed by President Obama on January 3rd creating a two-year national commission to develop a wide-ranging strategy for ending the upwards of 2,500 child abuse and neglect deaths a year.

[For more information](#)

Adoption Tax Credit for 2013

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, signed into law on January 2, 2013, includes a provision that makes the adoption tax credit permanent. The adoption credit is capped at \$12,720 for 2013 and will only benefit those adoptive families who have federal income tax liability. The IRS has listed Form #8839 Qualified Adoption Expenses as one of the required forms that will not be available until late February or March. The IRS reports time is needed to update the form and complete programming and testing of its processing systems because of the delay in Congress voting on tax items.

[For more information](#)

Local

Visual Arts Calms, Soothes, and Heals

WCCO-TV recently aired a story of Ezekiel, now 10, who was adopted four years ago and was known to terrorize his family and schoolmates. The first few years of Ezekiel's life included severe neglect and abandonment which left him angry and sometimes dangerous. Joel Hansen from the Washburn Center for Children in Minneapolis applied visual therapy techniques that included folding origami and breathing techniques. Today, Ezekiel is calm and enjoys reading to himself. His mother says, "You would not think that he is the same child."

[For more information](#)

Foster Care Extended to Youth, 18-21

Minnesota youth may stay in foster care until they are 21 years old, if they comply with certain educational and employment qualifications or are incapable of complying due to a medical condition. A new bulletin issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Services provides information on eligibility for extended foster care for social service agencies, foster youth, and families.

[For more information](#)

Adoptees and Formerly Fostered Adults Wanted for Survey

First Nations Repatriation Institute is partnering with the University of

Minnesota to survey adults who were adopted or fostered to determine how these experiences shape lives. The anonymous survey takes 45 minutes to complete and can be found on <https://survey.cla.umn.edu/229953>

For more information, contact Carolyn Liebler, PhD at liebler@umn.edu or Sandy White Hawk at sadoptee@yahoo.com

Inside MARN

MN ADOPT to Offer Free Informational Webinar

Dr. Rowell will be offering a FREE 30-minute Introductory Webinar on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm. This webinar will introduce a new way of thinking about why many adoptive and foster families struggle with feeding and how, with proper support and information, children can feel good about food and their bodies. [Register now](#). Katja Rowell, M.D. aka "The Feeding Doctor," is a family physician turned childhood feeding specialist dedicated to helping establish healthy feeding relationships. She has a special interest in supporting adoptive and foster families with feeding and weight struggles. Her first book, *Love Me, Feed Me: The Adoptive Parent's Guide to Ending the Worry About Weight, Picky Eating, Power Struggles and More* is available on www.Amazon.com and distills the support she offers clients.

This FREE introductory course sets the stage for the Two Part Training Series with Dr. Rowell on Monday, February, 4 and February 11, 2013 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Bloomington, Minnesota. Those who attend the 30-minute webinar will receive a \$15 discount when registering for both sessions. The cost of registration will also include Dr. Rowell's book, *Love Me, Feed Me...* For more information on the February sessions, [click here](#).

To learn more about the upcoming webinar or to register please visit www.mnadopt.org/calendar.php

*394 Will Move to ZERO in MN if...

- Each Metro house of worship 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.
- Barriers to adopting were reduced. Call us at 612-861-7115 if you are encountering any obstacles.

* The number of Minnesota children waiting for families has

decreased from 650 to less than 400. While this shows progress our target is ZERO waiting children.

Donate Today



The Zero Kids Waiting eNewsletter reaches parents willing to adopt children that are not reached by general recruitment measures. Please consider donation as much as you are able so that we may reach ZERO - Zero Kids Waiting.

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

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