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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 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.

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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

Matthew & Hunter Seek Northern Minnesota Family



(Matthew, 11 and Hunter 10)

Matthew (age 11) and Hunter (age 10) would like a Northern Minnesota family who supports their connection with their older siblings. Both brothers have great personalities and while Matthew expresses his pride by making the 100-point club in reading and was recognized by the local paper, Hunter says he is nice and energetic and grins as he describes how he had the game winning hit last season while playing baseball.

Both Matthew and Hunter like to try new things and are involved in many activities. They enjoy going to the park, skateboarding and fishing. Matthew is currently on the wrestling team, and Hunter looks forward to joining football next year. Both boys have practiced archery and would like to go bow hunting once they are of age.

Both brothers share a dream of a funny, nice family who enjoys spending active time together. However, each brother had their own personal wants and needs. Matthew insists that wherever he goes he wants his dog, Toby, and two gerbils to go with him to his adoptive home; meanwhile Hunter shares how it is important to stay close to his friends and family and would like to remain in Northern Minnesota.

To learn more about Matthew and Hunter, please contact Lisa Edel at North Homes at 218-332-4123 or lisa.edel@northhomes.org.

World / National News

Foreign Adoptions Hit 15-year Low

January 2011

The Associate Press (AP) reports that the number of foreign children adopted by Americans fell by 13 percent last year, the lowest number since 1995. The AP attributed the lower numbers largely to a halt in adoptions from Guatemala because of corruption problems. While some placing agencies are calling on the United States to reverse the decline, the State Department increasingly is calling for the provision of options so orphans can remain in their country of origin with supports implemented for birthparents and for foster care.

[For more information](#)

Boy Returned to Russia Can't Be Adopted

January 2011

According to the *Moscow Times*, an American mother who sent her adopted son back to Russia unaccompanied on a plane last April is refusing to give up her parental rights, thus preventing him from being adopted by another family. The case was largely responsible for a current freeze on adoptions to the United States from Russia. Russian authorities are seeking \$2,500 a month from the mother to care for the child who is currently living in an orphanage.

Delegations from the United States and Russia met in early December 2010 in Washington, D.C. for the fifth round of talks on a bilateral agreement regarding intercountry adoptions. Several key issues remain under discussion; and according to the United States Department of State, "Both sides remain committed to reaching an agreement."

[For more information](#)

Deportation of Adoptee in Arizona Imminent

January 2011

The Child Citizens Act of 2000 awarded automatic American Citizenship to international adoptees. For those adopted before 2001, the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act may deport them as non-citizens if they are sentenced for a crime they never attained citizenship. A Korean woman adopted at 8 months of age is facing deportation after a second conviction for theft. The Korean government is fighting the decision based on humanitarian reasons since the woman and her three children speak no Korean and have no contact with friends or relatives in Korea.

[For more information](#)

Birthparents Sign Petition to Support Adoptee Access to Birth Certificates

February 2011

The American Adoption Congress has an online petition for birthparents who favor adopted persons getting their original birth certificates. The petition is based on Oregon passing a referendum allowing adoptee access, largely due to 500 birthmothers signing a petition in November of 1998 that helped sway public opinion and enact change. The petition is available at <http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/> and must be completed online.

Winfrey Sister Reunion Creates Media Buzz

February 2011

Oprah's January 24 reunion show with a sister that her mother had kept secret from her for decades has resulted in a media frenzy. The half-sister had learned of her famous relative in 2007, but out of deference to privacy concerns had not alerted the press. On the show Oprah shared what she characterized as an epiphany, that letting go of secrets and shame is healing for all involved, particularly for the mother that she shared with her sister. The aftermath has been a national discussion on blogs, in social media, and in major and well as minor media outlets about the implications of search and reunion within the adoption community.

[For more information](#)

NY Times Recounts Story of Adoption

January 2011

The funeral of 20-year-old Maurice Mannion-Vanover who was born with AIDS to a crack-addicted mother was described in the *New York Times* under the headline, "Against All Odds, a Beautiful Life." His adoptive parents, Tim Mannion and Tim Vanover, were told he would probably live six months. Despite a number of health scares, he was able to graduate from a special education high school, travel around the world and earn his black belt in tae kwon do.

[For more information](#)

"The Blind Side's" Michael Oher Writes Memoir

February 2011

These days Michael Oher, the NFL star whose story was the focal point of the movie, "The Blind Side," is telling the backside of the story in a new memoir. Oher's book, "I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness to the Blind Side and Beyond" was co-written with veteran sports writer Don Yaeger. Oher wants to inspire the more than 500,000 children in foster care to overcome the odds of poverty, drugs and crime. The books tells of Oher's childhood as being one of 13 children growing up in a housing project and being born to a drug-addicted mother and aspiring to achieve the American dream.

[For more information](#)

Celebrities Trace Family Trees in "Who Do You Think You Are?"

February 2011

Back by popular demand, the television show "Who Do You Think You Are?" traces the ancestry of popular stars. Each journey explores America's history to reveal how our collective ancestors still impact today's world. Executive producer is Lisa Kudrow of "Friends" fame who in one episode investigates family members lost in the Holocaust. Among the stars slated for this season are Ashley Judd, Rosie O'Donnell, Kim Catrell, Tim McGraw, Gwyneth Paltrow, Lionel Richie and Vanessa Williams. Season two premiered on Friday, February 4 and will be shown each Friday at 7:00 PM (CST) on NBC.

[For more information](#)

Oprah's Network Showcases Search and Reunion Show

February 2011

The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) is the home of the new documentary show "Searching For..." hosted by Pam Slaton, a professional investigative genealogist and stay-at-home mom. The show follows the real-life work of Slaton and she helps clients through the process of reuniting with lost loved ones. Each story is different and the results are said to be "unpredictable and emotionally charged." The show premiered Monday, February 14 at 8:00 PM (CST) and featured one adoptee in search of her birth mother and another man who was searching for a brother his mother gave up for adoption.

[For more information](#)

Research

Foster Care Declines; Adoption Rises

February 2011

The 17th AFCARS (The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) report reveals that, in federal fiscal year of 2009 the number of U.S. children in foster care (424,000) and the number of awaiting adoption (115,000) declined markedly by 8 and 9 percent respectively. The data is the lowest on record since AFCARS released its first report in 2002. In addition, the number of children adopted from care (57,000) rose to its highest level.

[For more information](#)

Researchers Ask if Donor Kids Are Indeed "All Right"

January 2011

Oscar-nominated movie "The Kids Are All Right" features two teens raised by a lesbian couple (played by Annette Benning and Julianne Moore) who meet their donor father. Researchers from the University of Amsterdam recently surveyed youth born from donor fathers to see if they, as the movie title indicates, are psychologically adjusted. The 78 teens were followed throughout their lives in a longitudinal study that indicated there was no difference in mental health between the third who knew their donor fathers, those permanently anonymous and those who could meet their fathers once they reached the age of 18. Almost all of the latter group intended on meeting their fathers with the blessing of their biological mothers.

[For more information](#)

Research Investigates China's Declining Intracountry Adoption

February 2011

Researcher David Smolin has analyzed causes of the decreasing numbers of adoption from China to fewer girls being born in the country, population control policies and illicit sex-selective abortions. The significant declines in adoption from 2004 through 2010 is a result of one child per family policies, concerns about child trafficking and the sex ratio imbalance within China. Smolin is a Director of the Center of Biotechnology, Law and Ethics at Cumberland Law School at Samford University.

[For more information](#)

More Evangelical Christians Adopt

January 2011

With adoption as a major focus through orphan-awareness Sundays and in sermons, and in the wake of campaigns to promote adoptions, researchers are finding that more and more evangelical Christians are adopting. The group tends to adopt from other countries, particularly after the Haitian earthquake to fulfill a biblical mandate to help the poor and to evangelize children. Researchers characterize the movement as too new to produce data.

[For more information](#)

Inside MARN

Black History Month Offers Recruitment Opportunities

In addition to the remembrance of the events in the rich history of African diaspora, Black History Month in Minnesota is a time for community members to learn of the need for families to adopt African American children. Lorenzo Davis, MN ADOPT Outreach Recruitment Specialist, will have information about children needing families at the following local events:

- Thursday, February 17; Merrick Community Center on St. Paul's East Side from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Saturday, February 19; The Mixed Blood Theatre performance of "Daughters of Africa" at the Maplewood Library in Maplewood, Minnesota from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 22; The Jimmy Lee Recreation Center in St. Paul is holding a community event from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Saturday, February 26; The Midtown Global Market celebrates African American History Month from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Panel of Adoptees Presents Next AHA Webinar

Wednesday, February 23 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

In February and March, Adoptees Have Answers (AHA) will present a two-part webinar featuring a panel of transracial adult adoptees. Registration is now open for Part I, which will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. Join AHA as AHA Advisory Group members Sandy White Hawk, Julie Hart and Robert O'Connor, and AHA Support Group facilitator Amy Fjellman draw from their own experiences and perspectives to discuss some of the key issues in transracial adoption. You are now able to register for both Part I (February 23) & Part II (March 30); prices may vary.

Fee: \$15 webinar only; \$25 webinar & CD (CDs sold separately)

For more information or to register call Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

AHA Hosts Upcoming March Events

On Thursday, March 10, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Adoptees Have Answers (AHA) is hosting an "Adoptee Meet-Up" which will be an informal gathering for adoptees and formerly fostered individuals 21 and older, along with local adoptee organizations, to get to know one another and learn about one another's services. The free evening will include food, drink, music and several short films and will be held at The Lyric, a restored warehouse building located at 765 Hampden Avenue South in St. Paul's up-and-coming loft district. Be sure to bring a friend or two, guests are welcome to bring brochures and business cards. To RSVP, please email Anne Johnson at ajohnson@mnadopt.org by Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

[View Flyer](#)

On Saturday, March 26, 2011, Adoptees have Answers in conjunction with First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI) and Metropolitan State University's Department of Social Work, will host a Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Forum at Metro State's St. Paul campus. The Forum model was first developed by the founding members of the First Nations Orphan Association for First Nations adoptees/fostered individuals, their families and communities to address grief and loss caused by separation from family and culture. For the first time, the Forum will open the doors to an audience beyond the Native community to include all people adopted across race. For more information about the event, visit <http://www.aha.mn/> or contact Julia Decker at 612-746-5133 or j.decker@aha.mn. Online registration will be available beginning February 21, 2011.

[View Flyer](#)**Dr. Delaney Presents in March**

Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

On Thursday, March 3, 2011, Dr. Richard J. Delaney, acclaimed author and psychologist, is slated to present the next MN ADOPT webinar. Dr. Delaney recently spoke to an audience of thirty about the myths and unrealistic expectations when adopting a special needs child and offered suggestions on how the child and family can adjust to avoid the heartbreak of disruption. Please join us on March 3, for the next webinar from the Dr. Delaney series. More information and registration information will be available by February 22, 2011 at <http://www.mnadopt.org/calendar.php>

Fee: \$15 webinar only; \$25 webinar & CD (CDs sold separately)

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

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

#1110 ***Family Dynamics in Adoption: The Impact on the Adoptive Family of a Special Needs Child*** with Dr. Richard J. Delaney

Price

\$15.00 for each CD

CD Collections are now available online!

(Prices include tax & shipping)

To order, please visit <http://www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php>

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

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

#2207 ***Bringing Birthfathers out of the Shadows Into Adoption*** with

Mary Martin Mason

#2208 **Part I - The Skin I Live In: Transracial Adoptees Speak on Adoption** with Sandy White Hawk, Julie Hart, Robert O'Connor and Amy Fjellman

#2209 **Part II - The Skin I Live In: Transracial Adoptees Speak on Adoption** with Sandy White Hawk, Julie Hart, Robert O'Connor and Amy Fjellman

SPECIAL! #2210 Part I & II - **The Skin I Live In: Transracial Adoptees Speak on Adoption** (2-disc set includes Part I & II; \$25)

Price

\$15.00 for each CD

\$115.00 for 9-disc Collection

(Prices include tax & shipping)

To order online, please visit <http://www.mnadopt.org/ahashop.php>

*400 Will Move to ZERO in Minnesota 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.
- 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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Please visit our updated Zero Kids Waiting website at www.zerokidswaiting.org. The new site features highlights and photos from recent MARN events, adoption news, past eNewsletters and profiles of Minnesota Waiting youth.



[Watch Here](#)



Donate Today



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

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