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# Zero Kids Waiting

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March 2012 - Volume 5, Issue 46

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## Welcome!

**Zero Kids Waiting** is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 32-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.

Your email is solely used for the distribution of MARN newsletters, trainings and other news 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

### Cora Dreams of Singing in Church Choir



Fifteen-year-old Cora is an extrovert with a bubbly, energetic spirit. Funny and outgoing and she shows sensitivity and compassion towards others and is willing to pitch in and help people in need. She is good with young children and pets. Cora demonstrates a great deal of resilience. While she can be very determined and focused, Cora is loveable and fun to be around.

Her biggest passion in life is singing, love of Christian music and desires to be part of a Christian family. Cora's favorite subject in school is math. She loves Chinese food and hanging out with important people in her life. Cora would prefer a Christian family that will allow her to be actively involved in a church community. She needs a family that will allow her to express her exuberance and love of life and can provide her with a significant amount of attention. Cora would do best in a community that is culturally diverse. Following adoption, she would need to maintain contact with her birthmother and brother.

For more information about Denise Kamm at 507-359-6576 or [denise.kamm@co.brown.mn.us](mailto:denise.kamm@co.brown.mn.us)

## World / National News

### **Australian Senate Recommends Apology to Victims of Forced Adoption**

Following an 18-month hearing, Australian senators are recommending that the federal government, along with participating adoption agencies, issue an apology for past adoption practices now described as barbaric. A report has been issued on testimony from women who from 1950s to 1970s were forced to give up what may be tens of thousands of children. The movement to address past wrongs was driven by women who in many cases had their children stolen from them.

[For more information](#)

### **American Idol Contestant Shares Talent with Birth Father**

On the February 22 episode of *American Idol*, music hopeful Creighton Fraker revealed that his birth father was lead singer for the heavy metal band, Flostam and Jetsam, popular in the 80s. Fraker who "grew up as a preacher's kid, singing church music," revealed, "I always had this rock and roll thing going for me, and it was kind of out of nowhere. Come to find out my birth father, who I never knew until I was 25 years old, was the lead singer of Flotsam and Jetsam. I met my dad and I'm like 'Okay, it makes sense now.'"

[For more information](#)

## Rhode Island Releases Birth Records to Adopted Adults

Starting on February 29, 2012, Rhode Island-born adoptees, age 25 and older, may request non-certified copies of their birth certificates from the State Office of Vital Records, as the Health Department prepares to carry out a new law. Certificates are expected to be released in July with early registration available as they anticipate large volumes of requests.

## IRS Offers Tax Tips for Adoptive Parents

Adoptive parents may be able to claim a tax credit up to \$13,360 if they adopted an eligible child in 2011. The expanded adoption credit is explained on the IRS website found in a factsheet entitled "Six Facts for Adoptive Parents." For more information, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

## NACAC Offers Webinar on Tax Credit

Families seeking information on the United States federal adoption tax credit can participate in a webinar presented by Josh Kroll and the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) on Thursday, March 22, 12:30 p.m. CST. Information regarding access to the refundable tax credits for those who adopted as far back as 2005 will be presented. A 'Questions and Answer' period will be included. For more information, please visit [www.nacac.org/secure/webinarregistration.html](http://www.nacac.org/secure/webinarregistration.html)

## Bi-Partisan Congress Unites Around Foster Care

A bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth has united both sides of Congress including Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.), U.S. Reps, Karen Bass (D-Calif.), Tom Marino (R-Penn.), and Jim McDermott (D-Wash.). The goal of the caucus is to bring stability, support and permanency for more than 420,000 youth currently in foster care.

Senator Bachmann has long been interested in foster care, having been a foster parent to 23 children, and Rep. Bass first became interested in the issue in the 1980s when she saw children entering into care due to their parents' addiction to crack cocaine. The first item to be addressed by the caucus will be the elevated prescription of psychotropic medications to youth in the foster care system.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### Fraser School Offers Adoption Support

A new program called Fraser Adoptive Family Support is available at Fraser School for children who have been adopted or currently are in

out-of-home placements. Fraser serves children and adults with more than 60 types of mental and physical disabilities and is Minnesota's largest and most experienced provider of autism services. Fraser also provides childcare and early childhood education for young children with typical needs and special needs.

The Adoption Support Program helps caregivers with services that include:

- Diagnostic assessments
- Psychological evaluations
- Individual and Family Therapy (in-home and in-office)
- Parent guidance
- Children's Mental Health Targeted Case Management
- Individual and Family Skills Training (in-home and in-office)
- Preschool Day Treatment

For more information, call 612-331-9413 or visit [www.fraser.org](http://www.fraser.org)

## DHS 2012 Goals Announced

Lucinda Jesson, Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), recently announced DHS goals and action steps for 2012. Among the State's department goals are to keep more children out of foster care and to decrease the disproportionate number of children of color in out-of-home placements.

## Inside MARN

### Water Park of America, FOX 9, Radio Disney Promote Adoption

Water Park of America, FOX 9 and Radio Disney have teamed up to support recruitment of families for Minnesota children and teens awaiting adoption. Between March and Spring Break, around April 15, Water Park of America will seek corporate donations, offering half day passes to the largest indoor water park in America with a portion of the proceeds going toward the recruitment of families for waiting children.

As part of the promotion, the local affiliate of FOX TV has produced two public service announcements featuring Yves Spies, who was adopted as a teen, and his parents. The PSA is airing on WFTC - My FOX 29 and KMSB, Channel 9 throughout the month of March. To watch the PSAs, visit [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org)

### Adoption Expert Comes to Minnesota

Internationally known speaker and consultant to foster, kinship and adoptive families, Dr. Rick Delaney, is slated to present on Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Bloomington, Minnesota. Dr. Delaney is the author of several books and lead faculty member

at Portland State University's online training for mental health professionals to achieve adoption-competence.

The morning session "A 3-D View: A Complete Look at the Adopted Child" provides parents and professionals a better understanding of the lives of an adopted child by examining different behavioral issues such as lying, stealing, defiance, anger and running away. The afternoon session, "Seven Underlying Issues into Kids with Complex Trauma Histories," examines the seven underlying areas that are seen in children with Complex Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD). For more information and to view the training schedule, [click here](#).

All-day registration is only \$30 per person; \$55 per parenting couple. Continuing Education Units are offered for an additional \$30 and Certificate of Attendance will be given at the end of each session. Register online at <https://www.mnadopt.org/Events/register>

*This event is co-sponsored by Lutheran Social Service-Minneapolis and Hennepin County.*

### Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow

Gregory Keck, PhD, adoptive parent and founder of the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio knows that time, patience and informed parenting helps adoptees grow and develop beyond what seems possible. On Wednesday, April 25 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT) Dr. Keck presents the webinar "Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow" by offering suggestions on how to raise the adopted child with loving wisdom, resolve and success while preserving the caregivers' stability and well-being. Dr. Keck and his staff treat individuals and families who are faced with a variety of concerns in the areas of adoption, including attachment, substance and sexual abuse, and adolescent difficulties.

**Fee:** \$15 webinar; \$25 webinar + CD

CEUs are available for an additional \$30 per person. Certificates of Attendance will be given at the end of the presentation.

To register, [click here](#) or view the events calendar at <http://www.mnadopt.org/calendar.php>

### \*400 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 "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.

## Zero Kids Waiting

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Please visit our ZKW website at [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org). The 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 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](#).

### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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