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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 31-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

**"Just Call Me CB"**



At age 17, Christopher prefers to be called CB and is eager to find a family that will be with him past the age of 18. However his ideal family has to believe in him and understand that boys make mistakes. CB is a typical teen who loves outdoor activities that include skateboarding, biking and camping. When CB is not busy socializing with friends he also enjoys writing, drawing and singing. When asked to describe himself CB says, "People say that I'm sweet, lovable and charming and I definitely like to look good." CB would prefer parents who are married who either have no kids or have older kids who are completely on board with adoption.

To learn more about Christopher, please contact Bambi Holloway, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child Focused Recruiter at 320-529-0862 or Belva Britton-Williams in Sherburne County at 763-241-2602.

## Headline

### **MARN Weighs in on Sibling Separation Case**

The Nebraska Supreme Court is considering a sibling separation case that Mary Martin Mason, executive director of the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network (MARN), believes "holds significant issues regarding best practices in adoption and child welfare." After Jeff and Karen Halverson adopted Damon and Aleeah in Minnesota, a sister was born in Nebraska where she has been in foster care since 2007. Child welfare experts are watching the outcome that tests a 2008 federal law requiring states to make reasonable efforts to keep siblings together. The case could set a precedent for adoption procedures in other states.

[For more information](#)

## World / National News

### Haitian Orphanages Keep Families Apart

According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), an estimated 124,000 children lost one parent and 7,000 children lost both parents after the earthquake in Haiti last January. However, today many believe that the majority of these children in orphanages are not orphans at all, including children who were placed before the disaster. Many of these children have living parents and relatives who feel they do not have the economic resources to house, clothe, feed and school them and are given the option to place them in orphanages with the hope of a better life. However, there is no guarantee that these children are treated well and given access to health care or education, or whether they are being exploited, abused or trafficked. "Some Haitian orphanages are run by well-intentioned people who have the means and ability to properly care for groups of vulnerable children, but many of these facilities are unregulated and routinely disregard basic human rights," says Jennifer Morgan, coordinator of the International Rescue Committee's (IRC).

[For more information](#)

### Cambodia, Vietnam Adoptions May Resume

Child trafficking concerns led to the suspension of adoptions from Vietnam in 2008 and Cambodia in 2001. Negotiations with the United States through a US Envoy may lead to the countries resuming adoptions, assuming they can pass the Hague Treaty International guidelines.

[For more information](#)

### Spain Faces History of Stolen Babies

Ricard Vinyes, historian at the University of Barcelona, documents the history of baby theft in Spain. After decades of rumors and speculation, the Spanish government is confronting its dark past. Vinyes estimates that tens of thousands of children were taken during the 20th century. Spanish dictator Francisco Franco inspired a political regime to remove children born to imprisoned women dissidents in an attempt to "improve" the Spanish "race." By the late 1940's, a new form of baby stealing emerged. Individual doctors and nurses took newborns and sold them to prospective adoptive parents. In each case, women gave birth to what they believed was a healthy child then was later informed the infant had died and that it was impossible to see the body. Ongoing testimony from the victims of these crimes is an attempt to persuade Spain's legislature to pass a law that would help the victims and make it easier to prosecute the perpetrators.

[For more information](#)

## **Families Need Not Apply to Adopt Japanese Orphans**

Following the Haitian earthquake, Save the Children and other charities released statements that children impacted by disasters were better off being cared for in their country of origins. Inquiries about adopting Japanese children following the earthquake and tsunami have prompted Japanese and others to insist that their culture's emphasis on biological ties precludes intercountry adoption. Japan has traditionally neither practiced nor accepted adoption, and as a fully developed nation feels that extended family will care for children.

[For more information](#)

## **TIES Program Connects Adoptees to Countries of Origin**

For more than 18 years, families have looked to The TIES Program to offer birth country experiences for international adoptees. TIES promotes these trips as an opportunity for a child to visit his or her birth country by providing the information and tools they need to get comfortable with who they are. "More and more, parents are realizing that a heritage journey is one the most significant factors in the identity building process of internationally adoptive children," says Becca Piper, founder and director of The TIES Program. The TIES Program organizes several trip options for families to thirteen different countries. To request more information, please visit <http://www.adoptivefamilytravel.com/>

## **Adoptive Family To Receive \$54,000 Tax Credit**

CNN recently profiled the Thelma and David Ward family of North Carolina who through the Federal Adoption Tax Credit will be receiving a \$54,000 refund. Despite making \$39,000 annually, the Wards adopted five children to add to their seven. Not making enough money to qualify in the past years, the Wards accumulated the tax credit that became refundable this year, making them eligible for a one-time tax credit of up to \$13,170 for each child. The refund was appreciably larger than average for the Wards who had adopted children with "special needs." Thelma Ward says they did not become foster parents with the intention of adopting, "but when we started being foster parents we couldn't let a child leave us without a place to call home."

[For more information](#)

## **Ted Nugent Reunites with Birth Son**

Adopted persons often fantasize about movie or rock stars as birth parents. For Ted Mann, the fantasy was realized after learning that

his biological father is rock star and guitarist, Ted Nugent. The reunion led Nugent to remark, "It's all win, win, win, win, win, win, win," while Mann says he has joined "the coolest family in the world."

[For more information](#)

### **Brother and Sister Reunite through Dating Site**

Siblings separated by divorce as children met at a British pub for a first date after chatting on a "Forget Dinner" dating website and finding they had a great deal in common. Sarah Kemp and George Bentley learned they were brother and sister as they matched childhood stories. Odds for this reunion are 500 million to one according to bookmakers.

[For more information](#)

### **Long Island Mom Wants Baby Back**

El Salvadoran woman Vilma Ramirez is accusing Kelley and Andrew Grant for using deceptive law tactics when adopting Ramirez's infant daughter. Ramirez who has little command of the English language believed she was agreeing to an open adoption which would allow continued contact with the child. "I really did not understand the legal language, and no one explained them to me at the time," says Ramirez. An attorney for the Grants insists that Ramirez's allegations are "off the wall" and the case will now be brought to Manhattan Surrogate Court.

[For more information](#)

## **Research**

### **Most Relatives Prefer Guardianship Over Adoption of Kin**

A study published in the February 2011 *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal* found that relatives prefer guardianship over adoption of children in their care. The research examines 830 family members caring for children who were relatives. Adoption rates increased if kin were prepared through inclusion and education about the child's case plan and if the child had decreased communication with birth parents. Researcher Ramona W. Denby recommends parity between adoption and guardianship in order to increase adoption.

[For more information](#)

## **Inside MARN**

## Minnesota Soccer Team Hosts Event for Foster Families

To celebrate Foster Care Month in May, several counties and the Minnesota Department of Human Services are teaming up with [The Sanneh Foundation](#), a not-for-profit corporation started by U.S. World Cup player and Minnesota native, Tony Sanneh. The day uses the appeal of soccer to unite diverse communities and help foster children achieve success on and off the field. The [NSC Minnesota Stars](#) professional soccer team will be hosting the event on May 7 at the National Sports Center in Blaine, Minnesota. The event includes an outdoor picnic for foster families, a raffle drawing, a free soccer clinic with Tony Sanneh and attendance to the NSC Minnesota Stars vs. Miami FC Strikers soccer game.

For more information about foster care, contact your county social service agency. Foster parents in the following counties, Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Scott, please contact your licensing worker for more information about getting tickets no later than April 22.

## Adoptees Share Stories at Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Forum

On Saturday, March 26, a diverse group of adoptees from the Native American community, Korea, Latin America and Canada gathered at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul for the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Forum. The Forum was facilitated by First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI) group leaders and was developed to address the grief and loss among First Nations adoptees and fosterlings as way to reconnect with their tribal culture. For the first time, the Forum was open to all adoptees, formerly fostered individuals, and interested community members. Nearly 60 adult adoptees, friends, family members and professionals from nine states, including California, Utah, Florida, Washington, Massachusetts, Indiana and the Midwest came together to share personal stories of adoption and participate in community building activities. To view more photos, [click here](#).



(Community Circle at Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Forum)

### **Author Cheri Register Reflects on 30 Years of International Adoption**

Tuesday, April 26, 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

On Tuesday, April 26, AHA will host a webinar with award-winning Minnesota author Cheri Register as she discusses her evolution as the parent of two daughters, now 30-years-old, who were adopted from Korea. Register's most recent book (2005) on adoption, *Beyond Good Intentions: A Mother Reflects on Raising Internationally Adopted Children* received kudos for shedding light on "the conventional wisdom about raising internationally adopted children."

#### **Fee**

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

To register online, please go to <http://www.aha.mn/webinars>

### **AHA Hosts Author Reading & Open Mic**

Adoptees Have Answers is pleased to announce an author reading and open mic evening on Tuesday, May 3 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at The Lyric of Carleton Place in St. Paul. The evening will include readings from several Minnesota authors, all adoptees. Emceeding the event will be Kate St. Vincent Vogl, author of a recently released memoir, *Lost and Found: A Memoir of Mothers*. Also reading from their works will be Deborah Jiang Stein and Jennifer Kown Dobbs. All adoptees and formerly fostered individuals are welcome to share their work. The evening is open to everyone and there is no cost.

For more information please visit <http://www.aha.mn/aha-events/>

### **MN ADOPT & Adoptees Have Answer (AHA)**

## Webinars Available on CD



All MN ADOPT and Adoptees Have Answers (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.

### Price

\$15.00 for each CD

CD Collections are now available online!

*(Prices include tax & shipping)*

For presentations hosted by **MN ADOPT**, please visit

<http://www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php>

For presentations hosted by **Adoptees Have Answers**, 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.
- Barriers to adopting were reduced (Call us at 612-861-7115 if you are encountering either!)

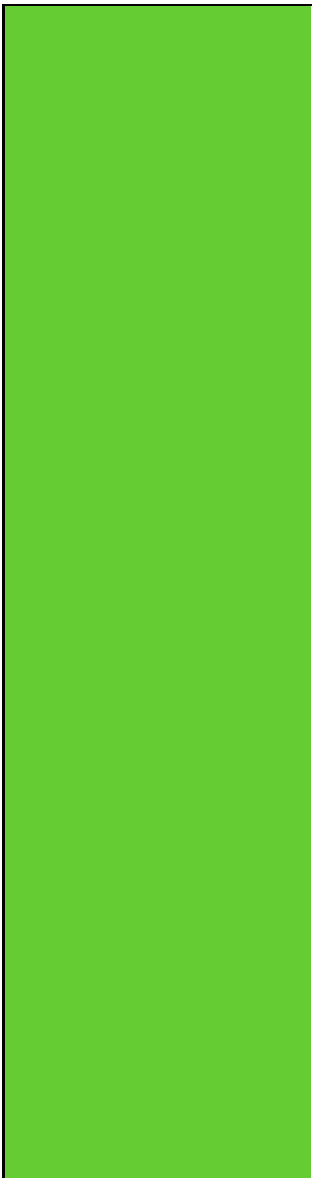
\* The number of Minnesota children waiting for families has decreased from 650 to around 400. While this shows progress our target is ZERO waiting children.


## Zero Kids Waiting

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Please visit our updated Zero Kids Waiting website at [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://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 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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