

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

# Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by [Minnesota Adoption Resource Network](#)

April 2012 - Volume 5, Issue 47

## In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Youth](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Research](#)

[Pledge Zero Campaign](#)

[Donate Today](#)

## Quick Links

[Zero Kids Waiting](#)

[MN ADOPT](#)

[Adoptees Have  
Answers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Donate](#)

## 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.

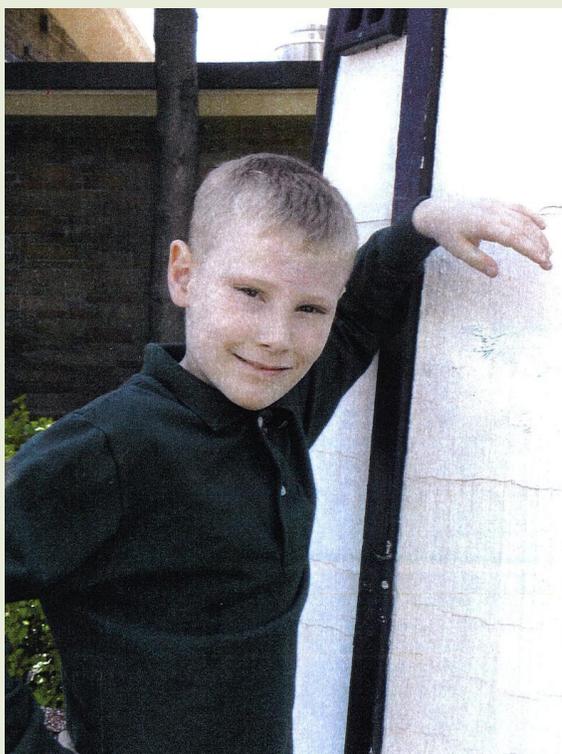
To opt out of receiving **Zero Kids Waiting** and other announcements from Minnesota Adoption Resource Network including MN ADOPT training emails for parents and professionals, please click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

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

### Meet Michael, An Inquiring Mind



Michael, age 11 is an inquisitive and fun-loving boy who loves to discover how everyday things work by patiently observing and asking questions. Michael is fascinated by science and enjoys hands-on experiments. He also likes riding bike, playing with Legos™, remote control cars and Transformers. He is a thoughtful young man and looks out for those he cares about which was demonstrated when he took his foster mother's hand on a slippery sidewalk and said, "I don't want you to fall."

Michael feels he would do best in a home where he is the only child so he doesn't feel the need to compete with others for attention. Michael needs a loving and stable family that can show him nurture and affection. Michael continues to work on his social skills, is a great reader and interacts well with pets.

For more information about Michael, please contact Lisa Edel at North Homes Children and Family Services at 218-322-4126 or [lisa.edel@northhomes.org](mailto:lisa.edel@northhomes.org)

## World / National News

### England Makes Speedy Adoptions Top Priority

The British government ministers recently announced changes to reform and speed up adoptions from temporary care. Plans include a national adoption information gateway, improved services for prospective parents and increased accountability. Last month, the BBC reported 6,700 children in the country were waiting to be adopted. Prime Minister David Cameron recently faulted what he

called "absurd barriers to mixed-race adoption" as delaying adoptions, saying that speed, not ethnicity, should be the primary consideration in getting children into families.

[For more information](#)

### **Canada Urges Government to Investigate Past Adoption Practices**

Ontario's New Democratic Party urged the government Wednesday to look at launching an inquiry into the province's historic adoption practices in the wake of accusations from women who say they were coerced by social agencies, medical workers and churches into giving up their children.

"I would urge the Minister of Children and Youth Services in Ontario to give serious consideration to calls for an inquiry, and to listen carefully to the views of groups representing those who have been affected by these practices in maternity homes and elsewhere," Monique Taylor, the Ontario NDP's critic for children and youth services, said in a statement.

[For more information](#)

### **China Separates Identical Twins for Adoption**

Identical twins adopted from China who joined separate families in Canada have reunited. In some Chinese adoptions, twins are separated and sent to different families without letting the families know they were adopting a twin. The Ontario twins' respective families compared photos at an adoption parent group, leading them to inquire of the Chinese orphanage that denied the girls were twins. A DNA test confirmed suspicions, and the families now arrange visitations in what has become an open adoption. California researcher, Nancy Segal, is studying 15 sets of adopted twin children who are being raised by different families. Most of them are Chinese girls.

[For more information](#)

### **Dan Rather Investigates Forced Adoptions**

Journalist Dan Rather has launched an investigation of women forced to relinquish their babies for adoption. The story was triggered by Australia's Parliament's finding that from the 1940s to the 1980s church and government officials forced women to sign relinquishment papers or told the women that their children had died. A Canadian law firm is filing a class-action lawsuit against Quebec's Catholic Church regarding similar accusations, and Spain is prosecuting an 80-year-old nun for child trafficking in a scandal involving 1,500 newborns. Rather is interviewing American workers, alleged victims, and researchers with similar claims. *Adopted or Abducted?* will air on May 1 at 8:00 a.m. EST. Visit <http://www.hd.net/programs/danrather/>

[For more information](#)

### **Birth Father Case Dismissed in Utah**

An ongoing case in which Robert Manzanares has waged a legal battle to get custody of his birth daughter was recently dismissed by a Utah judge. Manzanares says his ex-girlfriend placed their daughter into an adoption without his consent. Earlier the Utah Supreme Court had reversed a trial court's ruling that the birth father was not entitled to any say in his daughter's adoption. The case has moved across state lines because Manzanares is a Colorado resident while his birth daughter lives with her adoptive family in Utah. The case will now go to a Colorado court for a decision.

[For more information](#)

### **Hundreds of Youth Crossing Texas Border Detained at Lackland Air Force Base**

Hundreds of undocumented, unaccompanied youth are spilling across the Texas-Mexican border, leading The Texas Health and Human Services to address a jump of 77 percent rise in the caring for the children over the past three months. Rather than placing the children in immigrant detention centers, the children will be housed in a 1,000-student dormitory at Lackland Air Force base in San Antonio. The plan is to provide temporary housing until the children can go into foster care or join a family member, should the children seek legal status in the United States. In most cases, migrant children are reunited with their families, and the majority come from Nicaragua and Guatemala.

[For more information](#)

## **Local News**

### **Birth Mother Film 'A Girl Like Her' Airs at Local Film Festival**

Author Ann Fessler's book *The Girls Who Went Away* changed the view of adoption with a history of women who surrendered children for adoption in post-World War II. Readers learned about the social stigma associated with unwed motherhood that gave them few if any choices but adoption. The book, now a film, presents the unvoiced stories that represent over a million unmarried women in the 1950s and 60s.

A documentary, *A Girl Like Her*, based on the book will have two screenings at the St. Anthony Main Theater on Friday, April 20 at 5:15 pm and Saturday, April 21 at 2:30 pm. Author and documentary producer, Fessler will be at both showings and at a free reception following the Saturday showing at Vic's Restaurant. The event is sponsored by Concerned United Birthparents (CUB). Visit Ann

Fessler's website at <http://agirllikeher.com/about-the-filmmaker/>

[For more information](#)

### **Fost-Adopt Film Shows Locally**

*The Kid with a Bike*, a 2011 Cannes Film Festival winner, is showing at local Landmark Theaters. The film follows Cyril, a 11-year-old whose father has abandoned him. Cyril is fixated on finding his father and when he despairs of that search, he turns to locating his missing bicycle. After he is fostered by a kind hairdresser, he risks disrupting the stability and love she offers him with his behavior and constant search for father figures. The film beautifully depicts the journey of a child that many foster and adoptive families will recognize.

[For more information](#)

### **Curriculum to Address Teen Pregnancy Prevention for Foster Youth**

To help address the soaring rate of teen pregnancy among foster youth, the Minnesota Department of Human Services is participating in creating a teen pregnancy prevention curriculum. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the three-year project includes Minnesota as one of five states writing the curriculum that will be provided to staff operating independent living or transitional planning program.

### **ASN Provides Support Group Services**

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) provides a network of support groups for adoptive parents throughout the state. Located outside the Metro area are groups in Northern, Northeast, East Central, Southern and West Central Minnesota as well as a statewide Native American Community. Retreats are periodically held for adoptive parents as are contacts with Parent Support Specialists.

For more information, contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or [ginnyblade@nacac.org](mailto:ginnyblade@nacac.org). To view support groups, go to <http://www.nacac.org/postadopt/asn.html>

### **Local Foster Care Youth Perform**

Talented foster care youth, ages 8-18 are slated to present "A Fidgety Fairy Tale Performance" on Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Lutheran Social Service at 2400 Park Avenue in Minneapolis. The performance is sponsored by the Treatment Foster Care program through Lutheran Social Service. The evening will include the stories of Snow White, Alice in Wonderland and Jack and the Beanstalk which offers creative ideas for families and communities to talk about mental health issues. Admission is free and all are welcome. [View flyer](#)

## A Day of Recognition for Birth Mothers

In response, to the need to recognize the pain of mothers who relinquished children to adoption, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is hosting an event for birth mothers. *A Day of Recognition & Honoring for Birth Mothers* takes place on Saturday, July 14, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at St. Peters Catholic Church, 1405 Highway 3 in Mendota, Minnesota.

The day, exclusively for mothers, will include resources for continued exploration and healing . The retreat is \$15.00 to cover the cost of food. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact 651-291-4506. [View flyer](#)

## Research

### Report Reveals Evolving Practices Drop Secrecy in Adoption

A new report just published by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute reveals an ever growing trend of disclosure and openness in adoptions on infants. Among the findings are that 95 percent of placing agencies offer adoptions where the expectant mother chooses the family. The report finds that in fully disclosed adoptions, birth parents experience more grief resolution, and adoptive parents report satisfaction and positive experiences in fully disclosed adoptions.

[For more information](#)

## Inside MARN

### Sara Tiedeman Dies from Injuries in Crash

Sara Tiedeman, wife of MARN Board member, Chris Tiedeman, died on April 3, 2012 after a March 3 car crash in which both were critically injured. Chris has devoted himself to the mission of MARN to find families for waiting children with Sara accompanying his fundraising and recruitment events. A Tiedeman Recovery Fund has been established by the families of Sara and Chris to offset ongoing medical costs for Chris who remains in a rehabilitation center. Visit <http://tiedemanrecoveryfund.com/>

### 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 am to 3:30 pm at the Radisson Hotel at 1700

American Boulevard East 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 in Kids with Complex Trauma Histories," examines the seven underlying areas that are seen in children with Complex Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD).

[View flyer](#)

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>

\*\*Adoptive and foster parents who attend the training on May 5 are eligible to win a **family pack of tickets to Water Park of America** during a live drawing. Six tickets will be given away at Session One; six tickets will be given away at Session Two. One raffle ticket will be given per parenting couple and you must be present to win.

*This event is co-sponsored by Lutheran Social Service-Minneapolis, Hennepin County and Water Park of America.*

### **Water Park of America Continues to "Make a Splash"**

Water Park of America (WPOA) located at the Radisson Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota is giving \$3 donations to MARN any time purchases to the water park are made using a special flyer. For information on how to obtain a discounted admission to WPOA or to view the flyer, [click here](#)

### **Minnesota Lynx to Host 'Adoption Night'**

Join MARN and the Minnesota Lynx on Sunday, June 3 at 6:00 pm as the Lynx face off against the San Antonio Silver Stars. The former WNBA national champions will be airing a PSA during half-time featuring Lynx Taj McWilliams-Franklin and Minnesota waiting children.

### **\*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 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](#).

### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501 Minneapolis, MN 55403

866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org)

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to [ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org) by [ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network | 430 Oak Grove Street | Suite 404 | Minneapolis | MN | 55403