

# 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.

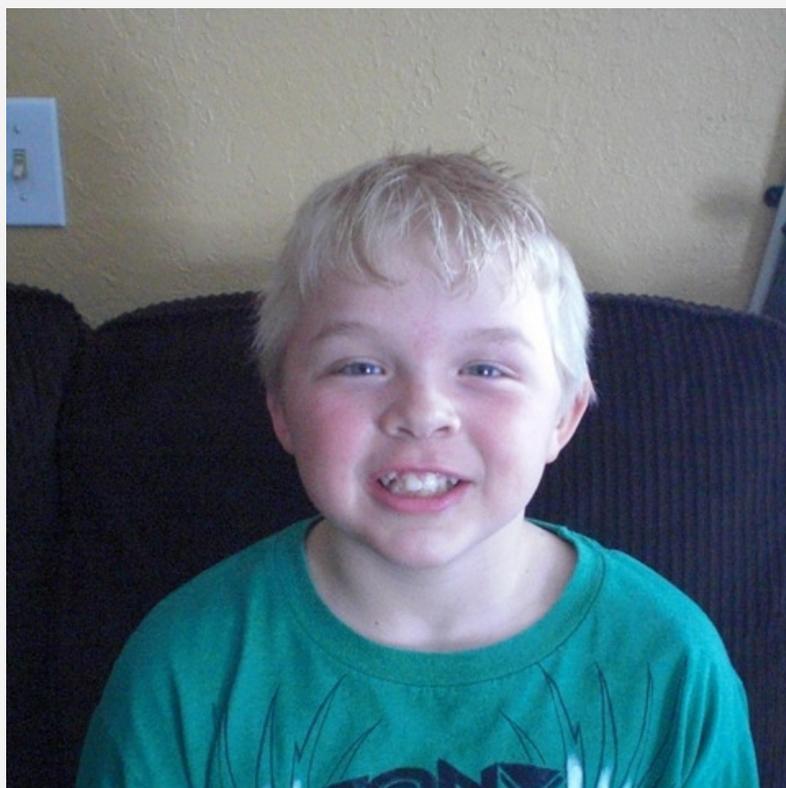
To opt out of receiving **Zero Kids Waiting** and other announcements from Minnesota Adoption Resource Network including MN ADOPT training emails for parents and professionals, please click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

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

### Isaac (11) Sports a Million Dollar Smile



Ask **Isaac, 11**, to describe himself and he's likely to tell you, "I'm smart, I'm lovable, I'm fun, I like to laugh and I have a great smile!" With an energy and spirit that lights up the entire room, he has a sense of humor that often evokes tears of laughter from those around him.

With aspirations of becoming an elementary teacher and a volunteer fire fighter, Isaac dreams of a family that takes road trips to help him learn about historical places like the Black Hills and Mont Rushmore. His dreams include a family that will support him as he matures and flourishes to his full potential. He prefers country living and animals to city living, but is open to living in the city with a mom and dad. "I'm fine as an only kid," he says, "but I also think it would be neat to have older siblings." The absolute "must have" list for Isaac includes parents who are honest and straight with him and who provide him with supervision, structure and stability. They also need to be active and keep him busy as he pursues his many interests that include riding bikes, rollerblading, ice skating, fishing, swimming and jumping on the trampoline.

For more information about Isaac, contact Bambi Holloway, Kindred Family Services at [bholloway@kindredfamilyservices.org](mailto:bholloway@kindredfamilyservices.org) or 320-529-0862

**World / National News**

### **Supreme Court Slated to Hear Custody Case**

On April 16, 2013, the United States Supreme Court will hear the Baby Veronica case. This custody case follows a lower court's interpretation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in awarding a toddler to her birth father, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation, in December, 2011. The adoptive parents have petitioned the Supreme Court to decide the case that may set a precedent for subsequent cases related to the ICWA.

[For more information](#)

### **NPR Profiles Foster Parents**

A March 21 broadcast of National Public Radio provided the prospective of two veteran foster parents who talked about "What Foster Parents Wish Other People Knew." Michelle Burnette said that the job of foster parents is to allow children in care time to be a child without worries. One caller said that the structure and rules he provided was shared with the nuclear family when the child left his care to return to that family.

[To hear a transcript](#)

### **New Law Gives Broader Access of School Records to Child Workers**

On January 16, 2013, President Obama signed a law that allows child welfare workers information about a child's education history needed to make informed placement recommendations. Access to foster youth school records is needed by social workers to find placements near the child's current school and to provide educational supports such as special education. Schools must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) that is now amended to allow agencies to obtain educational records from schools in cases involving children in foster care.

[For more information](#)

### **Khmer Cousins DNA Project locates Relatives of Adopted Cambodian Children**

When Kari Lemons was unable to help her two boys adopted from Cambodia find their birth parents, she resorted to using DNA to locate a fifth cousin. The DNA test, developed in 2010, creates a DNA market profile of over 900,000 markers for each individual. The success spurred her to start the Khmer Cousins DNA Project to help other children find family. Currently there are 42 members in the project with 39 completed test results; 32 of the tests have found a cousin match.

[For more information](#)

### **AdoptUSKids Finds Families for 20,000 Children**

Twenty thousand children who were photo-listed on the AdoptUSKids national website are now living with adoptive families. Minnesota Adoption Resource Network provides profiles and photos of waiting children in the state to AdoptUSKids. AdoptUSKids' free photolisting service connects caseworkers of waiting children with prospective families who are home studied and approved to adopt. More than 60

percent of children placed in adoptive homes after being photolisted on AdoptUSKids were children of color. Approximately 75 percent of the placed children were eight years of age or older at the time of their adoptive placement. Nearly half of the children (44 percent) were photolisted with one or more siblings. This confirms the need for adoptive homes for children of color, older children and sibling groups.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### Minnesota Supreme Court Decides Custody Case

On March 27, 2013, the Minnesota Supreme Court in a divisive case ruled in favor of an adoption of African American girls by their white foster parents rather than by their grandparents. Although state law proscribes that cultural needs be considered in such cases, the court ruled that the sisters could be damaged if removed from the only home they had ever known.

[For more information](#)

### Permanent Adoption Tax Credit Lauded at Event

Efforts by Sen. Amy Klobuchar to make an adoption tax credit permanent were highlighted at a celebration on April 14, 2013 at the Jewish Community Center in St. Louis Park. Families who were able to utilize the tax credit gathered to talk about how the credit that is now a permanent part of the tax code had helped them defray the cost of adopting. Jonathan Hayes, 13, told the audience that he hoped more families will adopt older kids like him and his brother and encouraged other waiting children not to give up hope of finding a family

[View story](#)

## Inside MARN



**Here's your chance to Run Walk and Support MARN...**

....under thousands of lights  
on May 10 at Valley Fair -  
a chance to support Minnesota's waiting children.  
For more info or to sign up go here

JOIN OUR TEAM!  
When signing up, look for  
**Minnesota Adoption Resource Network** and come run/walk with  
us!

THE RAVE RUN MINNEAPOLIS at Valley Fair  
Shakopee, Minnesota  
Friday, May 10, 2013  
<http://theraverun.com/minneapolis/>

### **MN ADOPT's Jane Seymour Slated to Present April Webinar - PART II-Helping Children with Sexualized Behaviors: What Parents and Professionals Need to Know**

Jane Seymour, MN ADOPT HELP's Clinical Specialist, presents the second part of her popular "Helping Children with Sexualized Behaviors: What Parents and Professionals Need to Know" on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm (CDT).

#### **Fee**

\$15 webinar only. [Register Now](#)

\$25 webinar + CD. [Register Now](#)

\$15 CD only. To purchase any webinar CD, please visit  
<http://www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php>

To purchase CEUs for an additional \$30, please register as a  
"professional"

Questions? Contact Anne Johnson at [ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org)

### **Ten Session Series: Beyond Consequences Training & Support with Brenda Benning**

June 6 - August 22, 2013

[www.mnadopt.org/training](http://www.mnadopt.org/training)

### **MN ADOPT to Host Two Day Conference Featuring National Adoption Experts**

MN ADOPT announces a two-day conference for adoptive, foster, kinship parents and professionals on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the Marriott Minneapolis West in Saint Louis Park, Minnesota. Come hear from the experts as they present "Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma" featuring Dr. Gregory Keck, founder of the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio and Dr. Anne

Gearity, faculty member at the University of Minnesota and innovator of the Developmental Repair model.

[View conference flyer](#)

- **Friday, May 17** (A Day for Professionals) Promoting Survival in Traumatized Children and Families: Raising the Standard in Effective Interventions - [Register Now](#)
- **Saturday, May 18** (A Day for Adoptive, Foster, & Kinship Parents) Promotion Survival in Traumatized Children and Families: Helping Children Still Believe - [Register Now](#)

## \*468 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 500. 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

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