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Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by **Minnesota Adoption Resource Network**

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In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Youth](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Research](#)

[Inside MARN](#)

[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.

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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

Native American Family Needed for Lee Anne & Levi



Lee Anne (13) and Levi (10) are in need of an adoptive family who shares their Native American heritage and who can keep them together. Like lots of brother and sisters, they say, "We get along 50% of the time and argue over dumb stuff, but we also love each other very much." That bond makes it important for them to join the same family.

Bubbly and sweet, Lee Anne enjoys reading and language art school and aspires to become a veterinarian. She is fond of dogs, cats and fish. When not attending school, she has sleepovers and plays on the

computer. Her dream family would offer lots of love and caring for her and her brother.

Outgoing Levi describes himself as intelligent and creative. He hopes to be a police officer when he grows up. His spare time is filled with board games and assembling intricate dinosaur 3D puzzles. Like his sister, animals are special to him "with the exception of rats and raccoons." Not surprisingly, Levi hopes his new family will have pets.

ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) guidelines do apply for Lee Anne and Levi. Native American families can get more information by contacting Lisl VonSteinbergs at 612-348-4215 or Lisl.VonSteinbergs@co.hennepin.mn.us

World / National News

State Department to Investigate Ethiopian Adoptions

Over the past two years Ethiopia has become a mecca for overseas adoptions with nearly one out of five children adopted by Americans. While there is no proof of fraud, the U.S. State Department has begun an investigation of adoptions that took place between 2009 to 2010 and has found inaccurate paperwork and evidence of orphanages using financial incentives to recruit children from Ethiopian families. Ethiopia is not party to The Hague Convention, a treaty to guarantee intercountry adoption is in the child's best interest.

[For more information](#)

Chinese Adoptee Reunites 50 years After Adoption

Taylor Kidd was adopted by an American family nearly 50 years ago at the age of 10 months. Her recent reunion in Taiwan with her birth family was nearly thwarted by the Taiwanese adoption organization forbidding the family from seeking her in the United States. Her parents could not provide for the already eight children in the home and her birth mother's illness that required hospitalization led to the adoption. At the reunion a birth brother who is an actor said upon meeting her, "She is an exact look-alike of our late father."

[For more information](#)

Custodial Grandparent Rates Soar to Over 2.5 Million

AARP reports that over 2.5 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren, the highest rate recorded in the past 40 years. Among the reasons are that the non-custodial parents have experienced teen pregnancy, abandonment, drug use, mental health issues, military deployment or incarcerations. The economy has also played a factor. Many are doing kinship care to keep their grandchildren from entering into foster care. The 2008 federal Fostering Connections Act requires states to consider relatives first in making placement decisions when a child is removed from a home due to abuse or neglect.

[For more information](#)

Teen Birthrates Drop

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, fewer babies were born to teenagers in 2010 than in any year since 1946 when teen pregnancy was first tracked. In 2010, the teen birthrates were 34 births per 1,000 teens which reflects a 44 percent drop from 1991. Minnesota statistics show that teenagers had 22.5 births per 1,000 in 2010.

[For more information](#)

Miracle Baby Graduates from College

Left to die as a newborn in an orange grove, Nick Young envisions his upcoming graduation as he collects money in a tip jar at the tropical fruit shop where he now works in Palm Beach. Young will soon graduate from Florida A & M. When a local TV spotlighted his story when he was abandoned, Dorothy Young told her husband at the time, "That's my baby." Dorothy and Carl had recently signed up to be foster parents through the One Church One Child program and took in the six-week-old child and adopted him when he was two.

[For more information](#)

Missouri Considers Law to Remove Birthfather Consents in Adoptions

Following a six year battle in which a Missouri birthfather regained custody of his child who had been adopted, legislation is being considered that would allow adoptions without birthfather consent. Currently Missouri requires that putative fathers declare their paternity within 15 days of a child's birth, a date that had passed in the earlier case as the father awaited DNA test results.

[For more information](#)

Arizona Considers Cuts to Foster Care Assistance

State lawmakers in Arizona are considering cutting funding to Child Protective Services that would include foster care assistance by 50 to 60 percent. Feedback from foster parents is that they would no longer be able to provide the basics of clothing and food to children. The state has 11,500 children in foster care, but fewer than 10,000 foster homes.

[For more information](#)

Search Expert Pens Stories of Reunions

Pam Slaton is an investigative genealogist who has reunited both the famous and not so famous with their birth families. She appears on the Oprah Winfrey Network show, "Searching for..." where guests seek out family members. Among her successes was helping DMC of hip-hop fame, Darryl McDaniels, find his birth mother. In her newly released book, *Reunited*, Slaton shares accounts of reuniting identical twins separated at birth and a man who meets his birth mother in the nick of time.

[For more information](#)

Local News

One Woman Show Slated by Korean Adopted Artists

Sun Mee Chomet and Katie Hae Leo will pair up for two one-woman shows that explore the adoptee perspective. "How to Be a Korean Woman" is Chomet's artistic account of her reunion with her birthmother and aunts, while "N/A" is Leo's explorations through storytelling of her reconciliation with her unknown past.

Performances will take place at the Dreamland Arts at 677 Hamline Avenue North in St. Paul, 55104 from May 31 to June 2 and June 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. For reservations, call 651-645-5506 or visit

www.dreamlandsarts.com

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

DNA Cells Shut Down in Children Experiencing Violence

A new Duke University study finds that children who have experienced violence have DNA similar to that found in aging persons. The long-term study of 118 pairs of identical twins found the children who had witnessed or experienced violence have a greater risk of mental and physical disorders as adults. Also found was a greater susceptibility to disease, a factor of biological aging. The Duke study continues with the twins to investigate evidence of health problems such as diabetes or higher blood pressure.

[For more information](#)

Two Proposed Bills Affect Funding

On April 17, Representative Braley from Iowa introduced the Making Adoption Affordable Act that would increase the federal adoption tax credit to \$13,170 from \$12,650. The proposed bill would make the tax credit permanent and refundable beginning in 2012 tax year. [View Bill \(HR4373\)](#)

To read related article, [click here](#)

The House Ways and Means Committee voted on April 18 to eliminate Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) which funds state child and family services. It was reported in 2009 that 22 states accessed \$45 million in the SSBG fund that assisted in the adoption of children from foster care. The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute is one of many child welfare organizations that are urging Congress to reject the proposed elimination. To read fact sheet on the issue, [click here](#).

Inside MARN

Foster Youth Star at Lynx Game

Two Minnesota foster youth had the opportunity to appear in a Public Service Announcement (PSA) with Minnesota Lynx player, Taj McWilliams-Franklin on May 7. Both youth are avid Lynx fans and were in awe of their favorite players. The PSA was filmed to bring awareness to the hundreds of Minnesota waiting kids still in foster care and needing families. The PSA will air during half-time as the returning WNBA champions face the San Antonio Silver Stars on June 3 at 6:00 p.m.



Keyra, Lynx Taj McWilliams-Franklin and Bree

Acclaimed Adoption Author to Present Webinar

Nancy Verrier, author of *The Primal Wound*, the most widely-read adoption book in America, is slated to present "Who Am I? Dealing with Genetic Confusion in the Adoptive Family and Beyond" on Tuesday, July 12, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm (CDT) during a live webinar presentation. Verrier is an adoptive mother and psychotherapist who will address the many ways a child struggles to fit into a family and the challenges adoptees face in growing up in non-biological families. Nancy Verrier will give participants insight to dealing with genetic confusion in the adoptive family and beyond. This webinar is especially important for adoptees, adoptive and foster parents and anyone who is connected to adoption.

Fee

\$15 webinar only
 \$25 webinar + CD
 \$15 CD only

For more information, visit <http://www.mnadopt.org/calendar.php>

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](#)

*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](#).

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