

# Zero Kids Waiting

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

May 2013 - Volume 6, Issue 59

## In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Youth](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Inside MARN](#)

[Pledge Zero Campaign](#)

[Donate Today](#)

## Quick Links

[MN ADOPT](#)

[Zero Kids Waiting](#)

[State Adoption  
Exchange](#)

## Contact Us

### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

1221 Nicollet Mall

Suite #501

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Toll free: 866-303-6276

Local: 612-861-7115

Fax: 612-861-7112

[info@mnadopt.org](mailto:info@mnadopt.org)

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



[Forward this issue](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## 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

### No Cats For Mariah, 16



**Mariah** has many interests, including: photography, technology, social work and the law. When she's not pursuing her favorite subjects of English, math or biology she's engrossed in a book. Her current favorite, *Mercy*, is a novel about a girl with super powers.

While attending college is in her future plans, she also foresees a job that allows her to travel to places she'd like to see, such as: San Francisco, Los Angeles and Florida.

Maintaining a sense of humor appeals to Mariah who has a gift for joking and playfulness. Her preference when disagreements arise is to maintain a calm, civil manner and be a good listener.

"I'd like my adoptive parents to be huge dog lovers," says Mariah. "Labs, shepherds and any pooch with medium to short hair, and the more the merrier. Cats, though," she says with a chuckle, "are strictly prohibited."

For more information on Mariah, contact Lorenzo Davis, Hope Adoption and Family Services, at 651-439-2446 x 105.

## World / National News

### Facebook Used to Find Birth Parents

This January, a 21-year-old Utah woman named Jenessa Simons located her birth mother via Facebook by posting a picture of herself holding her adoption information ("Born November 17, 1991...They

named me Whitney") The photo went viral with more than 160,000 shares, and Simons received an email from her birth mother just two days later. In the three months since, Simons' success has inspired countless imitators, both birth parents and adoptees, clogging Facebook feeds with similar messages.

[Read full article](#)

## **May Is National Foster Care Month**

The theme for May, National Foster Care Month, is Supporting Youth in Transition. This month marks a time to recognize the many families and professionals who enhance the lives of children and youth in foster care.

To support this initiative, the Child Welfare Information Gateway is releasing three publications focused on supporting youth in transition:

- "Helping Youth Transition to Adulthood: Guidance for Foster Parents" provides foster parents with tips on how to help youth build a foundation for a successful transition outside of foster care.
- "Working With Youth to Develop a Transition Plan" is intended to help child welfare professionals and others who work with transitioning youth to understand the federal legislative requirements for transition plans and partner with youth to develop a plan that builds on their strengths and supports their needs.
- "Enhancing Permanency for Youth in Out-of-Home Care" addresses the specific challenges of permanency planning with youth and highlights successful models and activities.

[For more information](#)

## **Track Team Sisters Reunite**

Jordan Jeter joined the track team on a whim to stay in shape. When she heard from team mates that another girl on an opposing team looked just like her, she wondered if she could have a sister. Jordan was adopted and was unsure if she had any biological siblings. The girl who looked like her, named Robin, was in fact her sister! Robin spent her youth moving between their birth mother and foster care. After meeting, the two are trying to recapture 17 years apart. The two share a shoe size, double jointed thumbs and they sound identical.

[For more information](#)

## **Adoptee Reunites with her Wartime Rescuer**

Forty years ago during the Viet Nam conflict, Kimberly Mitchell was rescued from her dead mother's arms and taken to an orphanage. Recently Mitchell was reunited with her rescuer, former Vietnamese Marine 2nd Lt. Bao Tran in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mitchell grew up in a military family after being adopted by a U.S. soldier. She served 17 years in the Navy and now continues to serve by helping veterans and military families as president of The Dixon Center at Easter Seals.

[For more information](#)

### **US Scores Low on UNICEF Report Card**

America is failing when it comes to the treatment of children according to UNICEF's assessment of "Child Well-Being in Rich Countries." The U.S. ranked second from the bottom in child poverty rates and fared poorly in child care. The United States was criticized for an outlay of resources for military and imprisonments, reporting, "Governments need to guide policies in a way that will safeguard the long-term futures of their children and economies."

[For more information](#)

### **Adult Latino Adoptees Meet Online**

A new online opportunity is available for adoptees born in Latin America to share experiences. The Latino Adoptee Community hopes to enhance the lives of adult adoptees living across the globe by providing an online network to be used as a place to connect with others who share the same rich history.

[For more information](#)

### **Book Guides Reluctant Youth to Adoption Permanence**

*Getting Solid: A Youth's Guide to Permanence* is a small, valuable resource to help young people understand and prepare for adoption. The guide, developed by the National Resource Center for Youth Services (NRCYS), offers perspectives along with ideas and questions to inspire discussion. It can be used in a group setting with a worker or another supportive adult, and includes stories and lessons to provoke thought for those embarking on establishing a permanent connection.

[For more information](#)

### **Ellen Roseman, Adoption Pioneer, Dies April 20**

Ellen Roseman, an open adoption facilitator and pioneer in the adoption world, died on April 20, 2013. Since 1980, she had facilitated adoptions in California through Cooperative Adoption Consulting. Her ethical reputation, particularly in ensuring that birth parent rights were upheld, put her at the forefront in practice as she would only complete fully disclosed adoptions. With open adoption now the norm in domestic adoption, Ellen avidly advocated that ongoing contact was the ethical obligation of adoptive parents to uphold. She was also a champion for access of adopted adults to their original birth certificates.

[Ellen Roseman Memorial Scholarship Fund](#)

## **Local News**

### **Foster Care Month events planned to celebrate**

## families

To celebrate foster families, DHS and five counties - Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Scott - are working with professional sports teams to host two special events. On Saturday, May 18, foster families will attend the Fourth Annual Celebrate Foster Families at the Minnesota United vs. Tampa Bay Rowdies soccer match at the Minneapolis Metrodome. Families will participate in a soccer clinic for all youth with Tony Sanneh, former World Cup and professional player.

## Cinco de Mayo Celebrates ... and Recruits Families

Cinco de Mayo, the annual celebration of Mexican heritage and pride, offered the reminder that 8.3 percent of Minnesota children awaiting adoption have Latino/Hispanic origins with a national average of 22 percent. Minnesota Adoption Resource Network participated in the 2013 Cinco de Mayo Westside St. Paul Festival. The week of the holiday, children of Latino/Hispanic heritage were prominently featured on the [www.mnadopt.org](http://www.mnadopt.org) website.

## Adoption Day Camp 2013 - Rochester

Registrations are being taken for the August 5 - 8 Adoption Day Camp (Ages 6 - Grade 9) in Rochester, hosted by Rochester Community Education. Call 507-328-4000 for more information.

[Day Camp information](#)

## Inside MARN

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

MN ADOPT will hold 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. "Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma" features 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 -
- **Saturday, May 18** (A Day for Adoptive, Foster, & Kinship Parents) Promotion Survival in Traumatized Children and Families: Helping Children Still Believe -

### WALK-INS WELCOME!

Complete information about the event, speakers and registration can be found on the MN Adopt website, by calling 612-861-7115 or 866-303-6276, or by email at [info@mnadopt.org](mailto:info@mnadopt.org).

## \*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

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 [jritchie@mnadopt.org](mailto:jritchie@mnadopt.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network | 1221 Nicollet Mall | Suite 501 | Minneapolis | MN | 55403