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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

Sophia Loves Playing Dress-up with Her Dolls



Sophia, age 10, is an active little girl who has a bright, beautiful smile. This girly-girl likes having her nails and hair done, Sophia loves dressing up her dolls and doing their hair. She also enjoys drawing, coloring, playing with her toys and listening to music. Sophia loves to dance and be playful but is happiest when she is being sung to. Sophia just finished the second grade, and her strongest skill is writing the letters of the alphabet.

Sophia would do best in a home with parents that can give her a lot of one-on-one attention. Sophia has family members with whom she has contact and would like to maintain these relationships.

For more information about Sophia, please contact Jill Hartman, Hennepin County at 612-348-9665 or Cimena Gordan, Wendy's Wonderful Kids at 651-224-2172 or cgordon@pathinc.com

World / National News

Canadian Judge Rules Anonymous Sperm and Egg Donors Unconstitutional

Olivia Pratten's case for revealing the identity of egg and sperm donors is based on British Columbia's newly instituted adoption law that provides genetic information to adopted adults. A Supreme Court Judge sides with Pratten, saying that adoptive children and donor offspring are similar in their need to know and have a connection to

their biological roots.

[For more information](#)

Nebraska Supreme Court Separates Siblings

On May 6, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that a 3-year-old cannot be adopted by her sister and brother's family in Minnesota, citing a technicality and the lack of "legal standing" for the two siblings. The case has become a litmus test of the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. While states adhering to the Act make efforts to keep siblings together in foster and adoptive placements, Nebraska did not view the siblings' genetic connection as a constitutional right to a relationship.

[For more information](#)

NPR Explores a Lost Childhood

New Hampshire adoptive parents Rebecca and Doug have noticed how Lexi, the oldest of three children they have adopted, acts more like a mother than the almost 7-year-old she will soon be. Since she was four, Lexi has made sure her younger brothers Jorge and Keegan were fed. Today in her new family, Lexi still frets about portions of food and if there is enough for the three of them. A recent National Public Radio broadcast gave an account of the challenges for her parents in helping Lexi adjust to losing the role of parent to her brothers. In the broadcast Rebecca said, "It's taken a while for us to realize that she needed to have things that she could do that still would make her feel valued and able to contribute."

[For more information](#)

New Jersey Passes Adoptee Access Legislation

Adopted adults in New Jersey will soon be able to get their original birth certificates if Governor Chris Christie signs a bill that was recently passed in the state. For thirty-one years access advocates have returned each legislative session to face heavy opposition to the bill. The Adoptees' Birthright Bill will allow adopted adults 18 years of age and older to receive a copy of their original birth certificate upon request. Birth parents who in past years relinquished a child for adoption would have one year after the bill's enactment to send a notarized letter requesting the state registrar to redact their name and address from the copy of the original birth certificate.

[For more information](#)

Senate Considers Banning States from Keeping Children's Benefits

Senator John Kerry recently introduced a Senate Bill (S. 961) that

would prohibit states from keeping children's Social Security benefits. Typically states are appointed to act as representative payees for foster children and place their Social Security funds in a general account used to pay for foster care maintenance. The proposed bill would require states to establish new procedures for eligibility and screening and closely assist children with obtaining benefits and managing their funds. The bill would also eliminate for foster children the \$2,000 income limitation for Social Security recipients, allowing youth to accumulate funds that could be used to meet needs while in foster care, or upon leaving the foster care system.

[For more information](#)

Pennsylvania Enforces Open Adoption Contact Agreements

A bill signed by Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell in 2010 is now in effect to honor open adoption agreements between birth and adopting parents. These include voluntary agreements for continuing contact or communication with birth family. Twenty-three other states including Minnesota have open adoption contracts that are not legally enforceable. The Pennsylvania law differs in that birth relatives in the state can petition the court to enforce such agreements made between adoptive and birth family members. The Act also requires all parties, including a child who is old enough to understand, to be notified about the right to have an open adoption.

[For more information](#)

Research

Researchers Find High Rates of Medicating Foster Children

A Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute study found a 4 percent rise in psychotropic medications prescribed to all children, but for those in foster care, prescription rates ranged from 13 to 52 percent. Psychotropic drugs are primarily used to treat behavioral and mental health issues. The Institute gathered data from staff in 48 state child welfare agencies, finding only half had guidelines or written policies regarding psychotropic medication use. The Institute identified concerns about medications prescribed to very young children, multiple prescriptions and dosage levels that exceeded recommended amounts.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Juneteenth Offers Celebration...and Recruitment

Around the nation Juneteenth Festivals of Freedom celebrate the freedom of African Americans from slavery in a commemoration that began in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. On Saturday, June 18, the Twin Cities will host their annual Juneteenth Festival at North Mississippi Regional Park at 5114 North Mississippi Drive in Minneapolis. The event begins at 10 AM and includes a parade, food, music and fun that is centered around African American cultures. MN ADOPT will provide recruitment information at this event.

[For more information](#)

Summer Picnic Offers a Chance to Meet Waiting Youth

Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Ramsey County and Hennepin County are hosting a Summer Adoption Picnic for families with home studies who are interested in adopting older children on Tuesday, July 19 from 5 PM to 7 PM at Highland Park Pavilion in St. Paul. The annual picnic offers a chance to meet Minnesota Waiting Kids, ages 10 to 18, who need families. To RSVP, please contact Cimena Gordon at 651-224-2171 or cgordon@pathinc.org.

A Day of Recognition for Birth Mothers

In response to a need to recognize the pain of mothers who relinquished children to adoption, The Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family & Life and Catholic Charities is holding an event for birth mothers. *A Day of Recognition & Honoring for Birth Mothers* takes place on Saturday, July 23 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at Our Lady of Grace at 5071 Eden Avenue in Edina, 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, please contact 651-291-4488 or mfl@archspm.org.

Local Agency Offers Summer Trainings

African American Adoption Agency is offering a variety of programs this summer available to families and professionals. Beginning on Thursday, June 16 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Dr. Priscilla Gibson, Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota will be conducting a workshop, *School Suspension: Hurt, Harm & Danger*. Dr. Gibson will share her research on the behavior of children who have been abruptly dismissed from school due to suspension and whether school suspensions give the school administrators the desired outcome to changed behavior.

Join families on Saturday, June 18 or June 25 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, as they participate in *Black Hair and Skin Care* workshop.

Parents are invited to come and learn grooming and styling techniques conducive to the hair and skin care for African American children and youth. Parents are encouraged to bring one child to the workshop to practice techniques, otherwise hair models are provided.

On Thursday, June 23 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Sargent Chris House of the Minneapolis Police Department Gang Enforcement Team and Claude Maddox, LSW and Adolescent Community Educator presents *Gangland*. This workshop includes an in depth discussion of gangs, use of violence, turf control, gang memberships and the role of females in gangs. The two hour session offers ideas for developing recreational activities, family life, and employment opportunities to help redirect youth who are potentially at-risk for gang involvement.

For more information about any of these workshops, visit our website at www.mnadopt.org/training/calendar or please contact Tara Marshall at 651-659-0460 or tmarshall@afadopt.org.

Inside MARN

MN ADOPT Offers New Therapeutic Services to Adoptive Families

Starting in July, MN ADOPT will manage crisis post adoption clinical services for adoptive families who have adopted Minnesota children under state guardianship and in limited cases who have adopted children internationally or as infants.

Two Clinical Specialists will assess intake calls and oversee clinical services on a short-term basis for families in crisis that will include services provided by a statewide pool of adoption-competent mental health professionals. The therapists will make available short-term intervention services that may include IEP assistance. MN ADOPT will continue to manage the State Adoption Exchange and provide statewide training as well as information, support and referral services. Beginning in July, please call 855-670-HELP or 612-746-5137 for more information.



MINNESOTA HELP LINE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Parent Support Specialist to Discuss Nutritional Interventions for FASD

On Wednesday, June 29 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, Kari Fletcher,

mother and Parent Support Specialist, is slated to present a ninety-minute webinar on *Nutritional Interventions for Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)*. Kari will talk about the gluten and casein free diet often referred to as "The Autism Diet" which is currently being followed by many families in the FASD community. The presentation explores the connection between gluten and casein intolerance, dysfunctional immune systems and the common behaviors displayed by children. Substantial time for discussion, questions and answers will be included. For more information or to register, please go to <https://www.mnadopt.org/Events>

CEUs are now available for all online webinar presentations!
Questions? Contact Janet Hammer at 612-746-5125 or jhammer@mnadopt.org.

Adoptees Have Answers AAABCD Support Group Resumes

AHA's Adult Adoptees Affected by Chemical Dependency (AAABCD) Support Group is restarting after a brief hiatus. Dr. Darla Brom, an adoptee and member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin will facilitate this monthly support group based on the 12-step model. The support group is open to all adult adoptees (18 and over) whose lives are touched by chemical dependency. The group meets the second of every month at 6:30 PM at The Recovery Church, 235 State Street, St. Paul, MN 55107 (free parking available). For more information, please contact Dr. Darla Brom at firewomanfirst@yahoo.com. Information about AHA's other support groups can be found at <http://www.aha.mn/resources/adoptee-support-groups/>

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 60-90 minutes. CEUs are not offered for CDs.

Price

\$15.00 per item

Select any 10 CDs for \$130.00

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 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 either!)

* 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.

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Please visit our updated Zero Kids Waiting website at 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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