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# Zero Kids Waiting

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## 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

### Scott Dreams of a Green Lamborghini



Scott, age 11, describes himself as a "great kid, a real sweetheart with an amazing smile." His interests include fishing and video games and he hopes to one day have a pet. Scott also dreams to someday be able to own a green Lamborghini because green is his favorite color. He is looking forward to having a family that will commit to him lifelong and has asked for parents who will give him "cool down" time and never yell at him. Scott needs a patient family that will provide him with a calm, consistent and quiet environment. He would also like to maintain contact with his older sister.

For more information about Scott, contact Bambi Holloway at Kindred Family Services at 320-529-0862 or Lynn Alvar at Morrison County at 320-632-0271.

## World / National News

### Writer's Ethiopian Adoptions Disrupt

*The New York Times* has revealed that Joyce Maynard, famed for her writing and relationship with J.D. Salinger, adopted two girls from Ethiopia three years ago when she was 56. The girls' mother had died from AIDS and the father was unable to care for them. Eight months later, Maynard revealed that the adoption "had failed."

[For more information](#)

## U.S. Refuses to Return Adopted Girl

In an ongoing conflict between countries, the United States has informed Guatemala that it will not return a girl adopted in 2008 who was allegedly abducted from her Guatemalan mother to be adopted by a Missouri family. The United States ratified the Hague Convention in 2008 indicating that the Hague Treaty was not in force during 2006 when the reported adoption occurred.

[For more information](#)

## Babies of Color Lead in Births

New national census figures reveal that the majority of the babies born in America are members of racial minority groups. Last year 50.4 percent of children less than a year old were children of color. The statistics moves the country to a prediction that by 2042 whites will be outnumbered. The census also revealed that 30 percent of Minnesota's preschool-age children are minorities, a figure that experts attribute to an increase in immigration to the state during the past 20 years.

[For more information](#)

## Foster Care Alumni Needed for Research Study

The University of Missouri is seeking formerly fostered persons to participate in a research study. Candidates must be between 18-25 years old and have spent at least 18 months in the foster care system between the ages of 12-18. The data collected for this study will be used to help service providers and researchers better understand the needs of foster care alumni. Responses will be confidential and will not be identifiable.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey, and feel free to forward the information to qualifying participants.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D5SSLZY>

The link provides access to a full informed consent document outlining the project in detail. The project has been approved by the University of Missouri, Kansas City Social Sciences Institutional Review Board and its study approval number is SS11-168.

## Local News

### CHSFS and LSS Merge

Two Minnesota child-placing agencies have combined adoption services, Children's Home Society & Family Services (CHSFS) and

Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota . To be housed in the CHSFS St. Paul location, the merger will address financial setbacks due to the economy and in international adoption placements. Both agencies began in the 1800s and bring a strong history and tradition of adoption services. Prospective parents in the process of adopting will not be affected by the merger.

[For more information](#)

### **Soccer Unites Russian Orphans**

The adoptions of three boys, now 17, who grew up in a Central Russian orphanage signaled a permanent separation for them... or so they thought. Adopted by different Twin Cities families, the boys grew up in close proximity in Minneapolis suburbs. Soccer, the game that helped them escape the bullying and abuse at the orphanage, has brought them together again. Jake Punch and Roma Divine play soccer for the St. Croix Valley Soccer Club while Alex Diperna plays for the Apple Valley Soccer Club.

[Fore more information](#)

### **DHS Provides Transitional Education for Youth Exiting Foster Care**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has joined with Minnesota JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy and the Financial Planning Association of Minnesota (FPAMN) to educate and mentor youth emancipating from foster care. Personal finance classes will begin in June that assist youth with money management, housing, credit and financing post-secondary education. Participants will be paired with mentors to receive financial guidance.

Visit [Minnesota Department of Commerce website](#) or [JumpStart Coalition website](#)

### **Kristin Chenoweth, Adoptee, Slated for Concert**

The actress and singer known for her role in the television hits, *Glee* and *GCB*, and for her part in the Broadway musical, *Wicked*, will appear at the State Theater in Minneapolis on Sunday, June 17 at 8:00 p.m. Adopted as a baby, Chenoweth has advocated for families to adopt from the system, saying, "The average age of a child waiting for adoption is nine, and this is America. While I appreciate so many people going abroad and adopting, there are so many children here that just need the unconditional love and support of a parent."

### **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](#)

## Inside MARN

### Minnesota Family Recognized at Lynx Game

On June 3, 2012 the Minnesota Lynx faced off against the San Antonio Silver Stars during "Family Night" at the Target Center. The game provided an opportunity for MARN/MN ADOPT to raise awareness of the hundreds of Minnesota youth awaiting families. Over thirty adoptive and foster families were invited to attend the game. Families had the opportunity to participate in the "High-Five Fan Tunnel" which helped kick-off the 3rd quarter of the game. The evening also included an information booth, a half-time PSA with Lynx player, Taj McWilliams-Franklin and a special on-court presentation by Lynx/Timberwolves President Chris Wright which recognized the Spies family for their time and dedication advocating on behalf of MARN's mission and sharing their personal story of adoption.

To view more photos of the event, visit MARN's Facebook at [Minnesota Adoption Resource Network](#)

To view PSA with Taj McWilliams-Franklin and Minnesota foster youth, visit [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org)



MARN's Anne Johnson and Janet Hammer at information table



Lynx Taj McWilliams-Franklin and Candice Wiggins get ready to start the 3rd quarter as they run through the "High-five Fan Tunnel"



President Chris Wright with Spies family from Waseca, Minnesota and MARN's Anne Johnson and Mary Martin Mason

### **Acclaimed Adoption Author to Present Webinar -- NEW DATE: Tuesday, July 26, 2012**

*Due to illness of presenter, the June 12 webinar is rescheduled for Tuesday, June 26 from 12 pm to 1:30 pm -- If you have previously registered, please contact Janet Hammer at 612-746-5125 to notify MN ADOPT if you are able/unable to attend the "live" webinar presentation.*

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" **Tuesday, July 26, 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](#).

## Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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