

Zero Kids Waiting

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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

Meet Matthew, the Charmer



Despite being only 11, Matthew is a bit of an old-fashioned gentleman. When you meet this mannerly fellow, he will ask if you'd like to take a seat, and then he will escort you to a chair. Don't expect to stay there long since there is just too much to see and do and talk about! Matthew has lots of interests, an uncanny eye for details, and a sharp memory to match - and he will happily share what he knows. He's a natural conversationalist, and once he has you up and out of your seat, you'll be looking out a window talking cars, or he'll be giving you a tour of the old building you are in, telling you the year it was built, or showing you the artwork on the ceiling.

Matthew likes to draw, especially pictures of the architecture that has captured his imagination. His other interests include his Matchbox Car collection, learning to skateboard, outdoorsy things like fishing and hiking, and learning "guy things" with his foster dad like working on mechanics and mowing the lawn. Matthew is also proud that he does really well in school.

Matthew is still sad about the idea of being adopted, but he has a team that he trusts and he hopes that they will help him along the way. He will need a family with the following qualities: they will need to be patient with his transition to his new home, while helping him navigate his on-going relationship with his biological family. They will need to be flexible, committed learners in finding approaches that work with Matthew, and they will need to be able to provide a home routine that is structured, predictable, and consistent.

For more information about Matthew, contact Gail Swenson, Permanency Specialist at Ampersand Families at 612.605.1904 or gail@ampersandfamilies.org

World / National News

Korea Joins Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption

South Korea recently became the latest of 91 countries to join the Hague Convention on inter-country adoption. The Convention regulations are designed to protect children, birth parents and adoptive parents in international adoptions. South Korea is in the planning stages of reorganizing their domestic adoptions to meet the standards required by the convention.

[For more information](#)

New Research reveals Practices to Improve Adoption from Foster Care

The Donaldson Adoption Institute has identified through research 22 practices that facilitate the adoption of children from foster care. Among the recommendations are:

- Enacting laws and policies that mandate efforts to achieve permanency for every child who cannot return home.
- Tracking outcomes to understand barriers to permanency and enforce accountability to achieve it.
- Facilitating aggressive family-finding and engagement to maximize the use of kin as permanency resources.
- Reducing barriers and disincentives to adoption/guardianship with adequate, reliable subsidies.

[For more information](#)

Long Lost Sisters Reunited At Track Meet

Two sisters racing as rivals at a Washington, D.C.-area track meet earlier this year met and chatted about their resemblance. Later Jordan, 17, and Robin found out that they were sisters, separated by one's adoption while the other had many foster placements. The two girls, Robin and Jordan, introduced themselves and chatted briefly, alerted to their resemblance to one another by other teammates. Only later did they find out that they're sisters. Both have attended school ten minutes apart, share a shoe size and jointed thumbs. Now friends, they hope to search and discover the unknowns about their lives together.

[For more information](#)

Retirees Choose to Adopt

NBC Nightly News on May 30 reported a growing demographic in adoption. Retired persons are adopting teens and older youth at a phase of life when they have resources and time to devote. Many have raised their children already and are ready to provide support to one of the 104,236 children in the United States who need a permanent home.

[For more information](#)

South Dakota does "No Show" at Native Summit

In May, federal officials met with nine South Dakota Sioux tribes for a summit to address concerns over the large number of Native American children placed in white foster homes. Although invited, state officials from the Department of Social Services did not attend the gathering. The state is facing federal lawsuit as well congressional scrutiny over this issue.

[For more information](#)

Local News

\$5000 Available for Foster Youth for Post-Secondary Education

The Minnesota Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV) helps current and former foster care and adoptive youth attend colleges, universities, vocational or technical programs. Eligible students can receive up to \$5,000 per school year to pay for tuition, fees, books, housing, transportation and other school-related costs and living expenses. ETV funds are to complement the student's own efforts to secure financial assistance to attend post-secondary school. The program is administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).

[For more information](#)

Northstar Care Act Passes

On May 21, 2013, Governor Mark Dayton signed a Health and Human Services Finance bill that included the Northstar Care for Children Act that will create a uniform set of benefits and processes for foster care, relative guardian assistance, and adoption assistance. Northstar will retain the current programs for children getting assistance, but on December 31, 2014 the new uniform rates will take effect for children entering into foster care, guardianship with relatives or that are adopted.

Once Homeless, Graduate finds Diploma and Home

Sunday, June 2nd, 2013 *Star Tribune* featured the story of Trinity Fletcher, 20, homeless, and a former dropout who had been in foster care. Fletcher received her high school diploma from the Anoka-Hennepin School District and is now renting a room from a friend. Faculty members along with a liaison to the district for homeless youth banded together to support Fletcher's efforts through guidance and tracking her. Last year, according to the Department of Education, 486 high school homeless seniors graduated from public schools.

[For more information](#)

Inside MARN

Lynx Supports Adoption through PSA

"Adoption Night" game vs. New York Liberty. In the PSA, Monica Wright speaks about the risk of children aging out of foster care, saying, "Fans, let's rally behind Cameo, DeQuay and other teens who are waiting for parent."



DeQuay & Cameo with Monica Wright

MN ADOPT Conferences Wow Audiences

Over 500 foster, adoptive and kinship parents along with professionals praised two recent MN ADOPT conferences for providing "real life" parenting and therapeutic tactics. A June 1, "Beyond Consequences: Helping Families Heal" featured Heather Forbes, instilling parenting techniques to change and heal children with severe behaviors. A May 17 and May 8 "Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma," offered Dr. Gregory Keck and Dr. Anne Gearity addressing promoting survival and giving parenting guidance.

Researcher Seeks Participants

Doctoral student Jae Ran Kim is seeking parents of internationally adopted children diagnosed with disabilities to participate in a study. The purpose of the study is to inform adoption practices and improve adoption supports for families. Participants need to be parents of a child adopted internationally who is under the age of 21 who has a physical or mental health diagnosis. The children need to have been in a hospitalization program, residential or group home, or were re-adopted by another family. Participation requires a 60 to 90 minute interview, and all information is protected and confidential. The study has been approved by the University of Minnesota Institutional Review Board. To participate, contact JaeRan Kim at blev001@umn.edu or visit

jaerankimresearch.wordpress.com

***537 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](#).

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