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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

**Sib Group are a Fantastic Four!**



*(EJ-12, Justyce-toddler, Devin-8 and Jadyn-6)  
- left to right -*

This very close and bonded sibling group of four have always been together and are looking for a family who would adopt the "fantastic four." EJ, the oldest, is an amazing 12-year-old who loves dinosaurs and fantasy creatures like dragons and Big Foot. He enjoys reading and trips to the library. EJ's younger brother, Devin, age 8, prefers playing sports and interacting with people through basketball or games. Devin takes pride in earning his own money. Jadyn is a 6-year-old girlie girl who does well keeping up with her brothers. She keeps busy playing dress up and playing with hair and accessories. She loves glitter and pretty colors. She is very affectionate and caring. Justyce, the youngest, is a curious little tyke who is actively exploring the world. He is learning words and likes to laugh and be cuddled.

This sibling group would do best in a structured, consistent and active home. They are looking for a two person household where one parent would be able to stay at home. A family who is willing to work with service providers is a priority for these four.

For more information about EJ, Devin, Jadyn and Justyce, please contact Sherburne County Social Services, Naomi Haskins at 763-241-2688 or Belva Britton-William at 763-241-2602 or fax a homestudy to 763-241-2698.

## Headline

### Government Shutdown Impacts Adoption

On July 1, 2011, when budget talks deadlocked, Minnesota's state government closed all services except those deemed essential. While

adoption assistance and foster care payments continue, many placing agencies are unable to process or receive home studies for waiting families, opting to provide limited post placement services when possible. Also discontinued during the shutdown was the Putative Father's Registry, post adoption searches conducted by the Minnesota Health Department, and Passports are unable to be issued for families seeking to adopt from other countries. The Department of Human Services is also closed.

Despite the July 1, 2011 government shutdown MARN's **MN ADOPT** and **Adoptees Have Answers** (AHA) programs will continue to operate including the MN ADOPT information line, scheduled trainings and webinars as well as AHA support groups and webinars. For more information about those services, call MN ADOPT at 612-861-7115 or Adoptees Have Answers (AHA) at 612-746-5130.

## World / National News

### **Korea Restricts Adoption by Foreigners**

Starting July, 2011, foreigners will not be able to adopt a Korean child if a foster in-country family is found for the child. The government is enacting measures to reduce the number of Korean children adopted outside the country. The new legislation mandates that parents get court approval before adopting abandoned children and adoption agencies declassify information about their birth parents. Children adopted from Korean will be given birth family information to facilitate future searching, although personal information will be withheld if birth parents refuse to be identified.

[For more information](#)

### **Adoptions Slow in Ethiopia**

Ethiopia's adoption authority reports they have reduced the number of foreign adoptions by nearly 90 percent. According to the State Department, cases are being processed in a "more deliberate" manner because of concerns about unethical behaviors. Previously, the authority processed as many as 50 international adoptions each day. Though the government of Ethiopia has not made any official announcement, the U.S. Embassy estimates that the number will now be capped at five adoptions per day.

[For more information](#)

### **Ukraine Temporarily Suspends Adoptions**

According to the U.S. Embassy, beginning July 11 the Ukrainian State Department on Adoptions (SDA) will no longer have the authority to process adoption cases resulting in a temporary suspension of adoptions from the Ukraine. The Ministry of Social Policy will be taking over as the new adoption authority; however they are awaiting

approval and have not been told when they can resume the process. Families are encouraged to contact their local adoption service provider for further updates and details or contact the U.S. Embassy Ukraine's Adoption Unit at [kyivadoptions@state.gov](mailto:kyivadoptions@state.gov) for more information.

[For more information](#)

### **Rhode Island Access Law Passes**

The Rhode Island Governor has signed legislation to allow adult adoptees, age 25 and older, to obtain non-certified copies of their original birth certificate. "This is the most significant change in adoption law in Rhode Island in decades," says Senator Perry, a long-time supporter of open access legislation. Rhode Island joins the ten states to allow adoptees access to their original birth records including Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon and Tennessee.

[For more information](#)

### **New Jersey Bill Crushed by Governor**

Governor Christie of New Jersey conditionally vetoed a bill that would allow the state's adults to get their original birth certificates. He sent the legislation back to the Legislature, ending a 30-year effort by advocates to provide adoptees with their birth parents' identities. Governor Christie recommended an intermediary system.

[For more information](#)

### **Summit Helps Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care**

A Summit for Youth Permanency held in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 23, addressed the future of children who emancipate from foster care. They have less education, higher arrest and incarceration rates, higher poverty and more homelessness than their peers who were not in foster care. The Summit examined ways to curtail other outcomes including the lower average earnings and the loss of their children in a cycle that seems to repeat itself. Foster care seems to accelerate adulthood for youth not ready for having children and struggling with economic downturns. The summit concluded that all former foster youth need supportive, caring adults.

[For more information](#)

## **Research**

### **Horseplay by Dad's Beneficial to Children**

A June 16 broadcast of the *NBC Today Show* explored how horseplay typically displayed between fathers and their children is positive in terms of child development. Long known to instill boundaries and regulatory skills needed by children, rough-housing can also teach children independence and how to react quickly. While fathers play with children more than mother who tend towards nurturing over play, studies showing that children need both approaches.

[Watch episode](#)

## Local News

### **Klobuchar Proposes Bill to Improve International Adoption Support**

Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar proposed a new bill that would improve the support available to families who have adopted internationally. The Supporting Adoptive Families Act would offer "adoption support services" to families who have adopted internationally that would go directly to caring for children with mental health problems. The Act also proposes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services improve its data collection on adoptions that fail and develop efforts to improve support services. "This issue is of special importance for Minnesota because we lead the country with the highest rate of international adoptions. Parenting is always a challenge, but there can be additional challenges for parents who adopt a child from another country. We need to help adoptive families get access to the support they need so their children can thrive," says Klobuchar.

[For more information](#)

### **St. David's Recruits Foster Providers**

St. David's Center for Child & Family Development has over 50 years of expertise in child development with 20 years providing respite and therapeutic foster care. The organization was recently selected to provide Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC) for children ages six to 11. St. David's Center is currently recruiting providers for all three foster care programs - offering 24/7 on-call support and free training. Recruiter, trainer and licensor Jackie Kovacs identifies families who can provide temporary care for children until they can find permanency. Those interested should contact Jackie at 952-562-5713 or [jkovacs@stdavidscenters.org](mailto:jkovacs@stdavidscenters.org) and ask about attending one of our upcoming informational meetings.

Visit us online at <http://www.stdavidscenter.org/>

### **Kinship Event Slated**

The Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association offers a series to relatives raising children and professionals on Tuesday, July 19, from 9AM to 10:30 AM. The free event will include a light breakfast and an opportunity to hear a panel of relative caregivers share personal strategies for dealing with custody questions and family dynamics. For more information or to RSVP, email [mkca@mkca.org](mailto:mkca@mkca.org) or call 877-917-4640.

### **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](mailto:mfl@archspm.org).

## **Inside MARN**

### **MN ADOPT Launches HELP Line for Adoptive Parents**

Adoptive parents facing crisis times can call MN ADOPT's new HELP Line at 612-746-5137 or Toll Free at 855-670-HELP. One of two clinical specialists, Cindy Lee Thomas or Jane Seymour will assess intake calls and make recommendations for short term clinical services with therapists from around the state that will be provided through HELP. The HELP Line addresses the need of families to find adoption-competent service providers quickly.

Cindy Lee Thomas has worked in the adoption field as a director of a PPAI agency and as Tribal Adoption Consultant, guiding customary adoptions with three tribes. Jane Seymour has provided clinical assessments and post adoption crisis intervention services in Hawaii before relocating to Minnesota. For more information, visit us online at [www.mnadopt.org](http://www.mnadopt.org)

**MN ADOPT**  
**HELP**  
MINNESOTA HELP LINE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

## 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.

## Zero Kids Waiting

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Please visit our updated Zero Kids Waiting website at [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://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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