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Zero Kids Waiting

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

July 2012 - Volume 5, Issue 50

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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.

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To learn more about Minnesota's waiting children and our goal to reach Zero Kids Waiting visit [State Adoption Exchange](#)

Waiting Youth

Katie Longs for Endless Love and Kindness



Katie, age 17 is a very sensitive and caring human being who wants a family that will provide her with an endless amount of love and kindness. Katie is often soft spoken but has a heart of gold. When asked where she would like to visit, she replies, "I would go to Florida and swim with the dolphins." Katie also adores horses and dreams of one day owning a horse so she can go on long rides whenever she wants. Her favorite colors are lime green and purple and

she is extremely artistic and loves expressing herself through drawing and coloring. Her favorite food is spaghetti with meatballs and she is also fond of country music, jewelry, makeup and cats.

Katie is looking for a family who will stay connected with her as she moves into adulthood and says maintaining contact with her younger brother is important.

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

World / National News

Shelter Raided for Baby Selling in India

A New Delhi women's shelter was the subject of a government raid resulting in the arrests of seven people accused of selling newborn babies and exploiting the women. The police found paperwork that the owner had sold newborns to childless couples. A veteran member of the police said, "I have been doing work related to child welfare for seven to eight years now. But I haven't seen this kind of

torture or sexual exploitation anywhere in my life."

[For more information](#)

Uncompleted Citizenship Plagues International Adoptions

Termed as global orphans, an increasing number of adults whose adoptions were never formalized are being returned to their countries of origin. Kairi Abha Shepard, age 30, is being deported to India after being convicted of felony check forgery. Her mother, who has adopted 11 children from around the world, never completed the adoption paperwork. The United States deports foreign adoptees aged 29 and older who haven't been naturalized when they commit certain crimes. They are not protected by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 that allowed all internationally adopted children under 18 and all those adopted in the future, to become U.S. citizens automatically.

[For more information](#)

Historical Adoption Timeline Unveiled

An historical dateline has been created by the American History Project at the University of Oregon that begins with Massachusetts passing the first adoption law in 1851. The timeline of adoption history in the United States follows child welfare events and research that helped formulate current adoption policies and practices. Trends can be tracked from 1970 when adoption reached a century-long statistical peak, to 1978 when the Indian Child Welfare Act was passed by Congress, to the passage of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect to Intercountry Adoption in 1993.

[For more information](#)

Rhode Island Adoptees Have Access to Birth Certificates

A ceremony at the Rhode Island Health Department marked the groundbreaking event where dozens of adult adoptees gathered to receive their birth certificates. The access bill was passed last June 2011 and took effect on July 2, 2012. The bill allows adults who were adopted as children access to their birth records. Rhode Island Governor Cafee said the adoptees will now be able "to find out the truth about the start of their lives."

[For more information](#)

Olympic Gymnast Finds Secret Sister

Gold medalist gymnast Dominique Moceanu was the idol of Jennifer Bricker, who was born with no legs but is now a gymnast. Their connection as full sisters was not known until Bricker's adoptive parents informed her at age 16 that they discovered the girl's link while watching the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta when they recognized the last name from the adoption paperwork. Now reunited, Moceanu, who is estranged from her Romanian parents, accuses her father of forcing her mother to give up the disabled sister. Now a professional aerial gymnast living in Studio City, California, Jennifer Bricker 24, has enjoyed a close relationship with her sister since the two met for the first time more than four years ago.

[For more information](#)

Author Addresses Challenges of Transracial Adoption

Kevin Hofmann, the author of *Growing Up Black in White*, was three months old when he was adopted by a white couple in Detroit. Adopted by a minister and his wife, he describes his parents as progressive on matters of race. Even so there were lessons learned that Hofmann applies today as a national speaker on transracial adoption, a topic he is scheduled to address on an upcoming *ABC Nightline: Late Evening News* program. Hofmann says that being color blind as a white parent in a bi-racial adoption ultimately hurts the child. "When your kids walk out the door, they will be impacted about what people see. You have to prepare your children before they go out."

[For more information](#)

Local News

U of M Expands Adoption Competency Certification

2012-2013 registration has begun for adoption mental health and child welfare professionals to receive a Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate. The program is offered through the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) at the University of Minnesota with funding from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The fifteen-week module certificate program will take place in Rochester and the Twin Cities. Full scholarships with travel stipends are available for tribal mental health and child welfare workers. For questions or more information, please contact Jae Ran Kim at 612-626-3831 or blev001@umn.edu

[View PACC Flyer](#) or [View PACC Tribal Flyer](#)

To register, [click here](#)

First Annual MOFAS Conference in November

Save the date for the first annual Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS) statewide Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) conference which is slated for November 1-2, 2012 at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton in Bloomington, Minnesota. The conference provides an opportunity to professionals, families and caregivers throughout Minnesota to learn more about the prevention and treatment of FASD. The two-day event will feature stellar workshops along with keynote speaker, internationally renowned FASD expert, Sterling Clarren, MD who has over 35 years of experience in the field.

For more information about the upcoming conference, contact Angie Dyer at angie@mofas.org

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

Training for July 17 Has Been Rescheduled to September 20! Promoting Recovery for Eating Issues in Traumatized Children

Adoptive and foster parents who attend this training are eligible to win four Water Park of America tickets during a live drawing at the training. You must be present to win. One raffle ticket per couple.

Children who have come from foster care or orphanages often have very serious issues around food. This might take on the form of stealing or hoarding food, refusing to eat certain foods or developing a clinical eating disorder. Please join Elizabeth Jackson on Tuesday, July 17 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Bloomington, Minnesota as she provides participants a deeper look into food issues from infancy to adolescence. This "must-see" training will look at feeding during infancy and the impact of developing attachment patterns. Jackson will also provide treatment options for children and youth who have habitual habits of hoarding and stealing food and offer an overview of

the what the optimal feeding relationship between adult caregivers and children of all ages looks like.

Elizabeth Jackson, M.S, R.D, L.D is an outpatient dietitian at Melrose Institute in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Before relocating to Minnesota in 2008, Jackson spent 19 years in private practice in Michigan specializing in eating disorders and treatment of child feeding and eating issues. Jackson also has developed curriculum and taught for eight years on eating disorders at Central Michigan University.

Date

Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location

Lutheran Social Service
2400 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Fee

\$15 per person; \$20 per parenting couple
CEUs are available for an additional \$30

To register, [click here](#)

**MN ADOPT's Jane Seymour Slated to Present
July Webinar**

Jane Seymour, MN ADOPT HELP's Clinical Specialist, presents "Helping Children with Sexualized Behaviors: What Parents and Professionals Need to Know" on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm (CDT). This online presentation will review the common myths and facts about children who are exhibiting sexualized behaviors. Participants will learn about the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy sexual behavior in children, while exploring the influence of early traumas, such as domestic violence, sexual and physical abuse. Parents and professionals are invited to attend as they learn specific strategies and interventions for working with and helping these children. Prior to her work with MN ADOPT, Jane provided individual and group therapy to children who had experienced intra-familial sexual abuse and provided in-home therapy, education and skill building to adoptive and kinship families.

Fee

\$15 webinar only. [Register Now](#)
\$25 webinar + CD. [Register Now](#)

\$15 CD only. To purchase any webinar CD, please visit
<http://www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php>

To purchase CEUs for an additional \$30, please register as a "professional"

Questions? Contact Anne Johnson at ajohnson@mnadopt.org

*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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