

# Zero Kids Waiting

*is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network*

July 2013 - Volume 6, Issue 61

## In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Youth](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Pledge Zero Campaign](#)

[Donate Today](#)

## Quick Links

[MN ADOPT](#)

[Zero Kids Waiting](#)

[State Adoption  
Exchange](#)

## Contact Us

### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

1221 Nicollet Mall  
Suite #501  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Toll free: 866-303-6276  
Local: 612-861-7115  
Fax: 612-861-7112  
[info@mnadopt.org](mailto:info@mnadopt.org)  
[www.mnadopt.org](http://www.mnadopt.org)



[Forward this issue](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## 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

**Big Brother, Little Brother - In Each Other's Shadow**



Junior, 4, and Cesar, 9, are an awesome duo who love animals and are known for their impeccable manners. These brothers appreciate order and routine and are not fans of unexpected events. They enjoy church and praying at meal time.

Junior answers to Daniel, Daniel Junior, or Junior. This typically active four-year-old loves to play outside. He enjoys copying everything his older brother does and is his shadow. Junior talks non-stop and sings. Mickey Mouse is his hero, and he is a big fan of playing Nintendo DS. Swimming and bath time are not his favorites. A goal for Junior is gaining independence from the brother he adores, a task that will require gaining trust and guidance from his adoptive family.

Cesar is affectionate, dispensing lots of hugs and cuddles. He expresses gratitude often. He enjoys video games, wrestling toys, hockey, football, biking, rollerblading, playing on the trampoline, swimming, and sledding. He needs help with homework but enjoys school. He likes going to school and socializing with friends. He will need encouragement in trying new things and in brushing his teeth and taking a bath, neither being his favorites. He is a great listener and follows directions well.

For more information on Junior and Cesar, contact Cheryl Smart at Polk County Social Services, 218-399-8504  
[cheryl.smart@co.polk.mn.us](mailto:cheryl.smart@co.polk.mn.us)

**World / National News**

## **Advocate Creates Changes in Adoption in South Korea**

Author Jane Jeong Trenka transferred her struggles with racism, after being adopted from South Korea and growing up in a small Minnesota town, into writing and ultimately into being a catalyst for change in her country of origin. Eventually she began a campaign with other adoptees to make systemic changes in adoption in a country that has long had the most children leaving to be adopted by other countries. Today, South Korea has measures to reduce overseas adoptions, change the classification of children born outside marriage and promote adoption within the country.

[For more information](#)

## **Boy Hears Adoptive Dad's Voice for First Time**

A video of 3-year-old Grayson Clamp hearing his dad's voice has gone viral. Grayson, deaf since birth, was fostered and then adopted by his parents, the Clamps. He received a cochlear implant, allowing him for the first time to hear sounds.

[For more information](#)

## **College Financial Assistance Aids Adopted and Formerly Fostered Youth**

Financial Aid is available for higher education for formerly fostered and adopted youth, depending on meeting eligibility criterion. To view a list of aid, vouchers and scholarships as well as search engines:

[For more information](#)

## **Group for Adoptees from Arab World Forms**

"Bada'el" which in Arabic means Alternatives is the name of a new group focusing on the right to know origins for children in the Arab world. Founder Daniel Ibn Zayd says that the group's approach differs from other international adoptees with a focus on adoption as a "displacement" that links them to others equally affected--migrant workers, refugees, or bedouin, as opposed to creating a separate class of people outside of themselves.

[For more information](#)

## **U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Indian Child Welfare Act in Case**

On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), but reversed and remanded a custody case involving a Native American birth father back to the South Carolina courts on a technicality. The president of the National Congress of American Indians, Jefferson Keel, responded to the decision, "We are relieved that the Indian Child Welfare Act was upheld today. This opinion confirms that Congress retains the authority to protect Indian children."

Numerous groups came out in support of the retaining of ICWA while saying that the decision was a step backward for children and families. Among the groups critical of the verdict were 17 former and current members of Congress, Casey Family Programs, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union as well as 333 American Indian tribes.

[For more information](#)

## **Senate Immigration Reform Act Amended to Assist Older Adoptees**

On June 18, 2013, the Senate amended the immigration reform bill to apply the amendments made by the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 retroactively to all individuals adopted by a citizen of the United States in an international adoption. The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 gave automatic U.S. citizenship to foreign-born adopted children, but was not retroactive to include adoptees over the age of 18 on its effective date.

## Local News

### **Anu Family Services Provides Treatment Foster Care**

To prevent adoption dissolutions, Anu Family Services (ANU) provides trainings for workers and families that shift the paradigm to addressing trauma in children before placements rather than after. Anu collaborates with the University of Minnesota Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare and with Casey Family Services. They are currently working with Hennepin County to do family search and engagement and are contracted with other counties to provide intensive training for staff and supervisors.

[For more information](#)

### **Guatemalan Children to Meet Relatives**

As reported by Jon Tevlin in the Sunday, June 16, 2013 *Star Tribune*, when Lisa Kremer travelled to Guatemala she returned with a plan. She knew of children in Minnesota who were caught in the immigration system and not able to see their grandparents, uncles, aunts and even siblings. Working with local churches and the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota she organized the Abuelos y Nietos Juntos, Grandparents and Grandchildren Together Project. The project allows American-born children of Guatemalan ancestry the opportunity to visit the country of their origin and meet their extended families. Kremer characterized her trip to Guatemala and her subsequent epiphany as, "We've stopped calling them mission trips and started calling them awareness trips, because it's more about understanding. That's what the people appreciate the most - that we take the time to see what their lives are like."

[For more information](#)

### **Pacer Symposium Features Experts on Children with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities**

Twin Cities television meteorologist Ken Barlow will be a keynote speaker at the Eighth Annual National PACER Symposium about Children and Young Adults with Mental Health & Learning Disabilities. Slated for Tuesday, August 6, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, the symposium brings together 1,100 teachers, administrators, and parents for a day-long event that includes keynote speakers and workshop presenters. Barlow, who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, will share his personal story and speak about reducing the stigma associated with mental illness. Register online at [PACER.org](http://PACER.org) or call (952) 838-9000.

### **Rochester Adoption Day Camp Slated for August**

The second annual Rochester Adoption Day Camp, August 5-8, 2013, 9 am - 3:30 pm features games, crafts, and activities to explore

family, identity (ethnicity and uniqueness) and relationships. Also included is a field trip to Horses and Heroes along with guest speakers. For more information including cost, call 507-328-4000 or email: [mefredin@rochester.k12.mn.us](mailto:mefredin@rochester.k12.mn.us)

## Inside MARN

### MARN adds NEW Clinical Adoption Specialists

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network is happy to announce that Emily Alewine and Heather Van Brant have joined MN ADOPT HELP as Clinical Adoption Specialists. Together the two will manage post-adoption clinical services for adoptive families and provide short term intervention services to families and children needing resources. Emily is replacing Jane Seymour has moved out of state, and Heather is replacing Cindy Lee Thomas, who with Jane Seymour, helped launch and grow the MN ADOPT HELP program. Both bring vast experience in understanding and delivering both pre - and post-adoption supports.

### \*558 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 600. 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**  
1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501 Minneapolis, MN 55403  
866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org)

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to [ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org) by [jritchie@mnadopt.org](mailto:jritchie@mnadopt.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network | 1221 Nicollet Mall | Suite 501 | Minneapolis | MN | 55403