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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 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

Denyia, Di'Aja and Dennis Exude Energy



(Denyia, Di'Aja and Dennis)

For this energetic trio, going to the YMCA is their favorite activity. When down time is needed, they enjoy video games, drawing and computer time. Five-year-old Di'Aja likes playing dress up and having lots of purses. Denyia, 10 enjoys swimming, praise dancing and singing in the church choir. Dennis, 13, loves sports especially playing football, basketball and swimming. On their "wish list" for a family is a two parent home with older siblings and a dog. Having a family who values respect, privacy and honesty is a top priority.

To learn more about this sibling group, contact Jill Hartman at Hennepin County at 612-348-9665 or jill.hartman@co.hennepin.mn.us

World / National News

Kenya Pushes to Give Adopted Children Birth Certificates

Citing discrimination against adopted children, Kenya is considering a suit filed in their constitutional and human rights court that would allow adopted children to have their original birth certificates. The Kenyan lawyer representing the case has called the separate registration for adopted children to be "discriminatory on grounds of social origin."

[For more information](#)

Tasmania Apologizes for "Forced Adoptions"

Tasmania follows Western Australia and South Australia with an

apology to those negatively impacted by past forced adoptions. Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings is apologizing to birth parents forced to give up children between the 1950s and 1970. The formal apology will be issued during the next Parliamentary session.

[For more information](#)

Film Depicts Foster Care in Eastern Europe

A new documentary about older orphans in Eastern Europe has won the Best Canadian Feature Film award and will soon be reaching local theaters. The *Family Portrait in Black and White* depicts Olga, a Ukrainian foster mother of 16 biracial children who rejects international adoption for the children in her care, a view that comes into conflict as the various youth spend summers with host families in Western Europe. The film reveals the realities of growing up with a Eastern European stigma against children born from interracial relationships and the conflict for Olga who refuses to sign adoption papers for families wishing to adopt her children.

[For more information](#)

Russia Tightens Adoptions in U.S.

Following a number of high-profile adoption cases in which Russian-born children died or were abandoned, Russia has toughened rules for international adoption. Adopting families from the United States will be vetted and monitored more thoroughly, and in-country adoptions will be promoted.

[For more information](#)

Olympian Adoptee Takes Bronze

Reese Hoffa won a bronze medal in the Olympics' Men's Shot Put final on August 3, 2012. His adoptive mother watched from her seat in Olympic Stadium while his birthmother viewed his win from her home near Jacksonville, Florida.

Hoffa assumed that his birth mother had relinquished him because, at age four, he had found a cigarette lighter and burned down the home. In college after a reunion he learned that his mother, then a teenager, was overwhelmed and put her children in an orphanage. From Jacksonville, his birth mother said, "There were so many things that went through my heart. Mostly joy, because I know what he has been through, how long his journey has been both in sports and in his life."

[For more information](#)

Utah Summit Teaches Living Skills to Foster Youth

A recent 10th Annual Utah Youth Summit focused on teaching 200 foster youth how to live independently, to set and reach goals, resolve conflicts responsibly and find and keep housing. Held at the University of Utah, the event's goal was to help youth attain the best indicator for future success and find and maintain permanent relationships that are often missing from their lives. Invited were administrators from Utah's Division of Children and Family Services who heard the young people critique the foster care system with comments from those such as Courtney Bowen, age 18, who is about to age out of foster care saying, "I'm really nervous. I'm not ready for the world."

[For more information](#)

National Foster Care Numbers Decrease

The July 2012 *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)* annually calculates national statistics on children for the previous fiscal year. As of September 30, 2011:

- There were 400,540 children in foster care.
- There were 104,236 children waiting to be adopted.
- The average age of children in foster care was 9.3 years.
- Forty-seven percent of children (in foster care were placed in non-relative foster family homes and 27 percent were in relative foster family homes).
- The largest percentage of children (52 percent) had reunification with parents or primary caregivers as their placement goal.
- Of the children in foster care, 41 percent were white, 27 percent were African American, and 21 percent were Hispanic.

The report reflects a substantial decline in the number of children in foster care as well as a decline in the number of children served. The number of children served declined from 800,000 in FY 2002 to 646,000 in FY 2011. Additionally, 2011 saw the lowest number of foster care (252,000) since AFCARS data has been reported.

[Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System \(Report #19\)](#)

[Trends in Foster Care and Adoption FY 2002-FY 2011](#)

Local News

Sister Justina, Orphan Train Rider and Activist Dies

Sister Justina Bieganeck, survivor of the [Orphan Train](#), has died at the age of 100. She was one of the 250,000 children who arrived in the Midwest on orphan trains sent from the East that operated from 1854

to 1929. Sister Bieganeck had three families, her adoptive family, the Franciscan nuns who were her peers at the St. Francis Convent in Little Falls, and the other orphans who shared her early childhood history. She organized yearly reunions for those who had ridden the trains and made it her life's mission to preserve their stories. She often sought biological family information that she was unable to find during her lifetime.

[For more information](#)

Washburn Center ED Gets Leadership Award

Steve Lepinski, Executive Director for the Washburn Center for Children, will receive a 2012 Nonprofit Leadership Award from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Lepinski has led Washburn Center for 25 years. Under his guidance, Washburn has become a leading Minnesota resource for children with social, emotional or behavioral problems with expertise in treating and diagnosing child trauma.

LBA Offers Back-to-School Workshops

The Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) has a full roster of fall workshops for parents and children to coincide with the start of school. LDA Minnesota provides education and support to families and children dealing with learning disability such as ADHD, autism or dyslexia. Services include tutoring, assessment, memory training, counseling, support groups and customized training for school, community organizations or businesses.

For more information, visit www.ldaminnesota.org or call 952-582-5000

Retreat for Adoptive Moms Slated for September

Adoption Support Network (ASN) will hold their annual retreat for adoptive mothers, featuring training, relaxation and renewal from September 21-23, 2012. The retreat will be held at Camp Courage at 8046 83rd Street NW in Maple Lake and costs \$70 per person which includes training, lodging and meals. To register, please contact Ginny Blade at 651-646-5082 or ginnyblade@nacac.org.

New Raising Relative's Children Support Group in St. Paul

In addition to the four existing Raising Relative's Children Support Groups throughout Minnesota, beginning in September the second Thursday of every month from 10:00 am to 12 pm noon, Lutheran Social Service will offer a new support group in St. Paul at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on 435 Roy Street. For more information, please contact Kristine LaFleur at 612-879-5307 or

Kristine.lafleur@lssmn.org.

For information on ongoing Raising Relative's Children support groups, please [click here](#) to view flyer.

Adoption and Foster Care Conference Slated for October

On Saturday, October 27, 2012 adoptive and foster parents will gather at Brunswick United Methodist Church for an opportunity to connect and share with local adoption and foster care experts. This one day conference will offer insights and tools to help children grow and navigate through the life-long process of adoption and foster care. Topics to be presented include attachment disorders, sensory integration and fetal alcohol disorders as well as an adoptive parent panel and personal story from a local transracial adoptee. Cost to attend full day conference is \$45 per person/\$65 per couple. Lunch, snacks and prizes are included. Register early because space is limited. For more information, please contact Shannon at 320-217-9304.

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2012

Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Location: Brunswick United Methodist Church, 6122 42nd Avenue North, Crystal, MN 55422

To view conference flyer, please [click here](#)

Inside MARN

An Adoptive Mother Shares Her Experience with Birth Parents and Families

Open communication between adopted and foster kids and birth parents/families can be delicate. Caregivers want to ensure the best outcome while being sensitive to everyone involved. Terssa Markworth, adoptive mother of 17, shares her experiences on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm in a MN ADOPT webinar. She has maintained long-term communication with former foster parents and a Facebook friendship with a birth parent. Terssa also understands that special care must be taken when an older children of sibling groups decide to search for birth parents. Strategies on how to effectively communicate with birth families while advocating and supporting the needs of adopted children will be discussed. Registration will **not** be available the day of the webinar.

Fee

\$15 webinar only -- [Register Now](#)

\$25 webinar + CD -- [Register Now](#)

CDs of the webinar will be available following the presentation on

09/12/2012 for \$15. 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.

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 with experiences in 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. On Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, in Bloomington, Minnesota, Elizabeth Jackson will provide a deeper look into food issues from infancy to adolescence. This "must-see" training will examine 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 a optimal feeding relationship between adult caregivers and children of all ages.

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](#)

***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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