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# Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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## In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Youth](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Local News](#)

[Research](#)

[Inside MARN](#)

[Pledge Zero Campaign](#)

[Follow Zero Kids  
Waiting](#)

[Donate Today](#)

## Quick Links

[Zero Kids Waiting](#)

[MN ADOPT](#)

[Adoptees Have  
Answers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Donate](#)

## 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.

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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

Heaven, 12, Desires a "Sense of Belonging"



Heaven, age 12, has a sweet personality and loves "girly" things like getting her hair done, shopping and makeup. The four words used to describe herself are, "fun, active, sensitive and honest." Heaven's favorite classes include computer, history and English and she hopes to one day be a singer and teacher. For fun Heaven enjoys riding bike, jogging, painting and crafts. Heaven looks forward to having a family and enthusiastically says, "I can't wait to have a home where I can decorate my room (of course in pink) with a big closet!"

Heaven would prefer to have siblings, live with a single parent or couple, and reside in the "city" area. It is important for Heaven to maintain contact with her grandparents who live in the metro area. Heaven wants families to know that she sometimes desires to be alone and listen to music when she feels the need to focus or take a break. "Being included in family activities, having parents that care and provide a sense of belonging are all that I desire when I think about adoption," says Heaven.

For more information about Heaven, please contact Cimena Gordon, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 651-224-2172 or Theresa Brinkhaus, Hennepin County at 612-543-0011.

## World / National News

### Couple Adopt from Guatemala after Years Delay

In 2007 Guatemala charges of corruption surfaced surrounding the adoptions to other countries. Rob and Tammy York of Greencastle, Indiana were among 44 couples whose adoptions were put on hold.

On August 22 the Guatemalan government ruled to approve the adoption cases that were already in process before the shutdown. Hoping for no further delays, Rob and Tammy York can now finalize the adoption of daughter Meilani who is now three. Families need proof that they have established a relationship with the child and no fraud has occurred. Tammy York says, "My optimism needed to be guarded because every time that we thought we are going forward, something happens to where it halts us."

[For more information](#)

### **Sisters Reunite After Fifty Years**

Peggy Crookes was the oldest of eight siblings separated by adoption in the 1960s in Canada. A stint in foster care was followed by adoption of some of the children into various families. Separated from each other, three of the sisters began searches two decades ago, an effort thwarted by Ontario confidentiality laws. The government relented when one of the sisters developed breast cancer, leading to a reunion spanning fifty years of separation that was to include their birth father who died shortly before they could reunite.

[For more information](#)

### **New York Adoptees Explore Grey Market Backgrounds**

New York lawyer Seymour Fenichel, now deceased, was convicted of more than 100 counts of grey market adoption in the 1980s. Today, children such as Beni Cunningham who Fenichel illegally placed for adoption are having difficulty finding birth families with their information, often invented. Cunningham is using Facebook with a page titled, "Seymour Fenichel Adoptees and First Moms" to connect families. She says, "We are all in this together and our goal is not to give up until everyone is reunited."

[For more information](#)

### **Rhode Island Adult Adoptees May Request Copies of Original Birth Certificates**

Amendments to state law passed in July 2011 will allow Rhode Island-born adoptees age 25 and older to receive non-certified copies of their original, unaltered birth certificates from the State Office of Vital Records. The State Office maintains sealed files of pre-adoption birth certificates for all children who were born in Rhode Island. Adoptees may request copies of their certificates beginning March 1, 2012. By law, the State Office cannot release requested certificates until July 2012. To learn more about requesting pre-adoption birth certificates, visit [www.health.ri.gov/records/for/adultadoptees](http://www.health.ri.gov/records/for/adultadoptees).

## Advocacy Groups Rally Congress to Oppose Plan to "Consolidate" ADHD and Other Disability Programs

Advocacy groups representing concerns of disabled children are opposing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plan to combine programs serving populations with a diverse set of diagnoses. Disability programs for those diagnosed with spina bifida, autism, ADHD, spinal cord injuries and muscular dystrophy would be united into one line item in the federal budget. A considerable cut in funding is projected. Groups such as CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders) believe that the proposal did not include input from those served and lacks analysis of the impact on children and families.

[For more information](#)

## Birthfather Wants Reunion with Steve Jobs

Abdulfattah John Jandali, a Syrian immigrant who now works as a vice-president at a casino in Reno, Nevada has reportedly been trying to reach his birth son, former Apple CEO, Steve Jobs. Jandali told the *New York Post* that he did not know until a few years ago that the son he and his ex-wife had given up for adoption grew up to be one of the founders of Apple Computer. Jandahi told *The Post* he would have kept the baby but his wife's father did not approve of her marriage to a Syrian, so Job's birthmother moved to San Francisco to have the baby alone and give it up for adoption. Janddali said he hoped Jobs would call him someday and would be happy if the two of them got a cup of coffee together once "before it is too late."

[For more information](#)

## Research

### Brodzinsky Explores a Child's Understanding of Adoption

Researcher and psychologist David M. Brodzinsky has released his implications for psychological adjustments related to a child's understanding of their adoption. The study provides a child developmental perspective with particular attention to the multidimensional nature of adoption-related loss. Brodzinsky concludes that few understand the depth of loss and how varied it manifests among adopted persons. Guidelines are given for discussing adoption with children including introducing difficult background information, listening to the child's response and considering the child's developmental level and readiness to process information.

[For more information](#)

## Foster Care Numbers Drop

The latest Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Report for FY 2010 reflects a continuing drop in the number of children in foster care in America.

As of September 30, 2010

- There were 408,425 children in foster care
- The average age of children in foster care was 9.4 years
- Forty eight percent in foster care were in foster family homes, followed by 26 percent in relative family placements
- The largest percentage of children (51 percent) had reunification with parents or primary caregivers as their placement goal
- There were 107,011 children waiting to be adopted
- Of the children in foster care, 41 percent were Caucasian, 29 percent were African American, and 21 percent were Hispanic
- Of the children adopted from foster care that year, 53 percent were adopted by a foster parent and 32 percent were adopted by another relative

[For more information](#)

## Children Fare Better in Families Than Foster Care

Data collected by researchers Christopher Lloyd and Richard Barth was featured in a recent issue of *Children and Youth Service Review*. The study compared developmental outcomes of 353 children, ages 5 1/2, who had entered care as toddlers and later reunified with original family or were adopted. The research showed positive outcomes as compared to the children who remained in foster care that scored the lowest on seven of eight outcomes.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### U of M Adoption Competency Certificate Available for Professionals

Starting on October 7, 2011 in the Twin Cities and October 14, 2011 in Duluth, adoption professionals will be able to attain a Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate through the University of Minnesota. Due to funding from the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the certificate will be available at a considerable savings. Funding will come via Title IV-E for the pilot year. County child welfare participants may pay directly or have their county pay for tuition through a purchase order. Participants may include child welfare workers and mental health clinical professionals.

For more information about the Permanency and Adoption Certificate, including qualification criteria and how to register, please visit <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/cascw/PracResources/PACC/>

### **PACER Prevents Bullying**

This October is PACER's sixth annual National Bullying Prevention Month, and throughout the month, students, parents, and schools across the country can find ways to show their support for bullying prevention. On October 12, students and schools can raise awareness of bullying prevention by wearing orange and celebrating Unity Day. Then, on October 26, anyone can dance, sing, and make a statement against bullying by joining PACER's Unity Dance Day. Support includes becoming a national partner or champion against bullying. For more information on PACER's National Bullying Prevention Month, please visit [www.PACER.org/bullying](http://www.PACER.org/bullying)

### **Safe Families Harbors Children**

Bethany Christian Services is enlisting volunteers to provide temporary care when parents are unable to take care of their children. Safe Families is the local chapter of the Chicago association that has helped more than 4,000 children in the last nine years. The program operates outside of foster care while adhering to the premise of family reunification. Caregivers maintain regular contact with the birth parents.

[For more information](#)

### **Mary McGowan - New ED for ATTACH**

Mary McGowan, long time adoption advocate and conference coordinator for NACAC (North American Council for Adoptable Children) recently took the position of Executive Director with the ATTACH organization. ATTACH is an international coalition of professionals and families dedicated to helping those with attachment difficulties by sharing knowledge, talents and resources.

## **Inside MARN**

### **Plans for Annual Circus of the Heart Celebration Are Underway**

The Free 14th Annual Circus of the Heart is slated for Sunday, November 6, 2011 at the Prom Center Event Facility in Oakdale, Minnesota from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The day will offer a short program and prizes for families and older youth. A Teen Room for youth, ages 13 and older, will be set aside for making t-shirts, canvas

art, air brush tattooing and Dance Dance Revolution. Teens will also be able to record their own vocal CD. Tweens and teens will have a chance to win great prizes, while younger children will enjoy pony rides, games, clowns, a petting zoo, reptiles, face painting and more.

Circus of the Heart kicks off National Adoption Awareness Month in November by focusing on the recruitment of families and honoring families who have adopted Minnesota Waiting Children. The event will provide an opportunity for prospective families to better understand the population of children and youth served and the need for families for all ages.

To view the flyer, [click here](#).

### **Founder of Attachment & Bonding Center of Ohio Slated to Present Webinar**

Some adopted adolescent proclaims, "I can't wait until I turn eighteen so I can leave!" and parents may celebrate their future liberation. This scenario is often too familiar and not an uncommon feeling among parents. Join MN ADOPT and Dr. Gregory Keck as he offers this webinar about resources on parenting strategies, tips and new suggestions and insights to manage tough situations. Dr. Keck is an adoptive parent, psychologist, and adoption expert who will help parents understand and appreciate the complicated journey that adopted adolescents face. Once parents begin to understand their role in their child's journey, only then can they become more effective as parents. Dr. Keck is scheduled to present "Parenting Adopted Adolescents: Understanding & Appreciating Their Journeys" on Thursday, September 22, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT). For more information about the Attachment Bonding Center of Ohio, please visit <http://www.abcofohio.net>

**Fee:** \$15 webinar only; \$25 webinar + CD; CEUs are available

To register, [click here](#).

### **MN ADOPT HELP Line Helps Families**

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 the two clinical specialists, Jane Seymour or Cindy Lee Thomas will assess intake calls and make recommendations for short term clinical services with therapists. The HELP line addresses the need of families to find adoption-competent service providers quickly. Families who have adopted internationally, domestically or from Minnesota Waiting Children may call HELP, Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

For more information, visit us online at <http://www.mnadopt.org/HELP.html>

### **MN ADOPT and Adoptees Have Answers (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 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.

## 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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