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Zero Kids Waiting

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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

Busy Lebron Seeks Active Family



Lebron enjoys activities that all 7-year-old boys enjoy including swimming, watching movies and riding his bike. He needs an energetic family with a skilled support system as well as an understanding of significant trauma. He will do well with siblings if he continues to get reassurances and attention. He's allergic to cats so no kitties please. Lebron is very playful and active and desires opportunities to positively engage with others. He is almost always smiling.

For more information about Lebron, contact Lydia Kittelson, Child-Specific Adoption Recruiter at Children's Home Society & Family Services at 651-255-2425 or lkittelson@chsfs.org.

World / National News

Documentary Explores Chinese Adoptee Identity

Somewhere Between is a newly released documentary that explores the lives of four teenage girls adopted from China. Producer Linda Goldstein Knowlton, an adoptive mother, filmed her four subjects over a period of three years. One of the girls makes several trips to China to locate her birth parents, with the reunion is included in the film. Throughout the film, four distinct voices address China's one child policy, the girl's racial identity and conflicting allegiances. *Somewhere Between* is currently being shown in theaters around the country.

[For more information](#)

Adoption Immigration Case Proceeds

Blanca Starr, a 21-year-old woman who was born in Mexico and adopted by a U.S. couple has received the go-ahead to sue the state of Oregon for mistakenly telling her parents that she would

automatically become a U.S. citizen when she was adopted at age 8. Her mother did not pursue citizenship for Starr after being told by caseworkers in Oregon that she would automatically become a citizen.

[For more information](#)

Latino Families Increasingly Adopt from Foster Care

The number of Latino children entering foster care is larger than the number of qualified families who share their language and cultural identity. In 2010, 84,000 Latino children were in foster care in America of which 11,000 were adopted. A crucial need for Latino families to do foster care and to adopt is beginning to be heeded by this population. Recruitment of Latino families requires that organizations and agencies reflect the culture with "bicultural" social workers. Recruitment materials, training and the entire approval process needs to address Latino family concerns.

[For more information](#)

Child Returned to Birthfather in ICWA Case

On July 26, 2012, the South Carolina Supreme Court issued a decision affirming the return of Veronica, an adopted 2-year-old Cherokee child, to her biological father, Dusten Brown. Veronica had been raised since birth by adoptive parents, Melanie and Matt Capobianco. The case hinged on the 1978 federal statute. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) that supersedes state law regarding adoptions. Brown is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation making Veronica eligible for membership. The ICWA process of informing the tribe was ignored, leading the Court to rule that the adoption was a clear violation of ICWA. Mark Fiddler, local Minneapolis attorney, now represents the Capobianco family in an effort to have the case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

[For more information](#)

Open Adoption "The Norm" in Domestic Adoption

According to a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, popular culture and evolving practices have led to fewer closed or confidential adoptions of infants. Research shows that the majority of domestic adoptions are fully disclosed with participants reporting satisfaction with the arrangement for the most part. About half of the states including Minnesota have enforceable contract agreements regarding openness. The three-decade-long Minnesota/Texas Adoption Research Project reports that parties involved in an open adoption usually find it more satisfying than families involved in closed adoptions. The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute finds that 95 percent of adoptions have some degree of contact.

[For more information](#)

New Tools Helps Guide Permanency Planning

Casey Family Services has developed a way for workers to gauge the strength and duration of commitments between youth and their foster family or other caregivers. The assessment tool called BEST (Belonging and Emotional Security Tool) uses questions asked of both families and the youth to rate responses that can be either written or given verbally. The scored responses help explore the possibilities of a deeper family commitment that might include adoption. Responses can also be used to elicit conversations about ambivalence and other barriers to emotional security that Casey Family Services defines as a shared sense of family belonging, entitlement and commitment.

[For more information](#)

Children's Bureau Reveal Child Welfare Statistics

In fiscal year 2011 (October 2010 to September 2011) according to the Children's Bureau 50,516 children were adopted in the United States from foster care. The average age was 8 and the typical waiting time after the termination of parental rights to adoption was two years. An increasing number of children, 54 percent, were adopted by their foster parents, 31 percent by relatives and 15 percent by others. More than 26,000 youth had aged out of foster care by the end of the year.

[For more information](#)

Fostered Sisters Reunited after Six Decades Apart

After 62 years, five sisters have found each other, reuniting in Granger, Indiana. Ranging in age from 65 to 71, the sisters as young children were removed from their parents and put into separate foster homes. The eldest returned to her family, one sister was adopted, while the rest experienced multiple placements. The reunion has revealed that all five siblings like to read, are Christian and have a similar sense of humor. The sisters encourage others with complicated family backgrounds to track down lost siblings and other relatives.

[For more information](#)

Postcards Illuminate Foster Care Experience

Just released by the Foster Care Association of America, "Postcards From the Soul" uses colored postcards to reveal the extraordinary

experience of growing up without a family. Each postcard reveals a life portrayed in a format fitting for a nomadic existence shared by many who grew up in the system. Ordering information can be found on www.fostercarealumni.org

Local

CASCW Receives Angels in Adoption Award

The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) received a 2012 Angels in Adoption Award, presented to Jae Ran Kim in a September 11 awards ceremony in Washington D.C. Nominated by Senator Amy Klobuchar, CASCW was honored for its Permanency and Adoption Certificate (PACC) that prepares adoption-competent clinical mental health and child welfare professionals to work with adopted children and their families.

For more information about the PACC and course information, please visit <http://www.cehd.umn.edu>

Century College Offers Adoption Competency Certificate

On Saturday, September 22, 2012 Century College offers three course modules from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm with Deena McMahon, MSW, LICSW, family and attachment therapist. The full day includes discussions about how adopted children deal with grief and loss while trying to cope with loyalties to birth family, why it is important adoptive and foster parents seek professionals services for their kids and how to navigate through the everyday realities of adoption. The fee to attend is \$105 and includes a box lunch and beverage. CEUs are also available.

For more information, contact Anne E. Turnbull, MSW at 651-773-1785. To register, visit www.century.augustoft.net or by phone at 651-779-3341.

Inside MARN

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 an 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](#)

Beyond Consequences Training Includes In-Home Therapy

For the first time, a MN ADOPT training offers families an opportunity to get in-home support from the presenter, Brenda Benning. For those parenting children with traumatic histories and/or attachment issues, needs often extend beyond valuable class content. The ten session ***Beyond Consequences Training and Support*** series in Edina, Minnesota is based on Heather Forbes book, "Beyond Consequences Logic & Control." The series will begin Thursday, October 4 and go through December 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Benning is parenting eight children, seven through adoption, and has used these techniques to restore the regulation in her own home. To apply for in-home therapy, you must complete an intake with the MN ADOPT HELP program. For more information about HELP, please contact Jane Seymour, Clinical Specialist at 612-746-5128. Register before October 4 and pay \$200 per person; \$350 per couple for ten session series. Register after October 4 pay for each session individually for \$30 per person; \$55 per couple. Registration includes book. [Register Now](#)

MN ADOPT is offering partial scholarships to those who have

adopted or are in the process of adopting Minnesota waiting child(ren). To inquire, please contact Janet Hammer at 612-746-5125.

RAD LABS Returns to St. Paul

On Monday, September 24, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Deena McMahon, MSW, LICSW and Krista Nelson, LICSW, LMFT begin a five-session ***Reactive Attachment Disorder: How to Thrive and Survive Beyond the Diagnosis*** series (RAD LABS) at the Wilder Foundation in St. Paul, Minnesota. This five part series is designed to address and support the education needs of those parenting children with significant attachment impairments and or trauma issues with an emphasis on good self-care and humor. McMahon and Nelson are family and child therapists who have a combined 40 years of experience in childhood trauma and attachment disorders. Register before September 24 and pay \$125 per person; \$200 per parenting couple for five session series. Register after September 24 and pay for each session individually at \$30 per person; \$55 per couple. [Register Now](#)

MN ADOPT is offering partial scholarships for the RAD LABS to those who have adopted or are in the process of adopting Minnesota waiting child(ren). To inquire, please contact Janet Hammer at 612-746-5125.

***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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866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ www.zerokidswaiting.org

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