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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 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.

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](#)

## Today is Give to the Max Day!

Today is the biggest online giving event in Minnesota, Give the the Max Day. please consider making a one-time tax deductible donation to Minnesota Adoption Resource Network through [GiveMN.org](#).



## Waiting Youth

### Jack, 15, Dreams of Roasting Marshmallows Over a Bonfire with a Family



Nice, engaging, and polite accurately describe Jack. Aside from dressing nice, Jack enjoys spending time with friends, going to the movies, exercising and listening to music. After graduating from high school, Jack hopes to join the military and then attend college. His career goal is in law enforcement, either on a SWAT team or the highway patrol. He has no favorite food or restaurant because he says, "I like to eat everything and go to any restaurant."

The future is foremost on Jack's mind as he anticipates joining a family through adoption and really relishes the idea of possibly having an older sibling. There are many activities he envisions doing with his new family including going to the movies, bowling, participating in family game night, and watching TV. Jack dreams of roasting marshmallows while sitting outside enjoying a bonfire with a family. Jack is ready for a family to make a permanent and lifelong commitment to him.

For more information about Jack, contact Carly Cantu, Targeted Adoption Recruiter with Hennepin County at [carly.cantu@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:carly.cantu@co.hennepin.mn.us).

## National Adoption Month

Annual Circus of the Heart Kicks-off National

## Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to celebrate adoption and to raise public awareness about the need for families for children in all 50 states. Circus of the Heart kicked off National Awareness Month on November 6 by focusing on recruitment of families and honoring families who have adopted Minnesota Waiting Children. The event provided an opportunity for prospective families amid the games, clowns, pony rides, and petting zoo to better understand the population of children and youth served and the need for families for all ages.



## Counties Finalize Adoptions on National Adoption Day

November 19 is designated as National Adoption Day as courts open their doors to finalize adoptions of children from foster care. Since 2000, more than 35,000 children in the United States have had their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day.

This year Ramsey County will host their 5th Annual Adoption Day event with four finalizations presided by Judge William H. Leary III at the Ramsey County Family and Juvenile Justice Center. A program that includes an address by Police Chief Thomas Smith begins at 9:30 a.m. and will last until 12:00 p.m. Eight families adopting 12 children will participate in Hennepin County's National Adoption Day at the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice Center with hearings held between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The Anoka County Government Center will be the site of 11 finalization from seven families presided

by Judge Sean C. Gibbs. The families will wear t-shirts that say, "One Day a Home for Every Child."

### **MARN's Gala is Slated for December 1**

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network will host its annual fundraiser at the Hyatt Regency at 1300 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis on **Thursday, December 1 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**. This year's gala features a *Giving Tree* to benefit Minnesota foster youth. Wine tasting will be from 6 to 7pm, followed by a short program emceed by Rena Sarigianopoulous from KARE 11. The event includes a cash bar, appetizers, entertainment and a silent auction offering a hot air balloon ride, Vikings and Wild tickets and in-studio experience with NFL sideline reporter, Michelle Tafoya and more. MARN has been dedicated to the recruitment of adoptive families for 31 years and believes every child and teen deserve a permanent family. For more information about the event, please call 866-303-6276 or email [info@mnadopt.org](mailto:info@mnadopt.org).

**Cost:** \$50 suggested donation to attend

**Dress:** business/semi-formal

**Parking:** \$7.00 flat rate at the Hyatt Regency hotel

For **driving directions**, [click here](#)

To attend and purchase your ticket to the Gala, [click here](#)

To "like" the MARN Gala on Facebook, [click here](#)

If you are unable to attend, but would like to make a one-time tax deductible donation through Network for Good, [click here](#)

## **World / National News**

### **Guatemalan Adoption Overturned After Three Years**

Timothy and Jennifer Monahan are sending their 4-year-old back to Guatemala. The Guatemalan courts overturned the adoption after Loyda Rodriguez, a Guatemalan woman, claimed that human traffickers had kidnapped her daughter in 2007 who subsequently was adopted illegally. DNA tests matched Rodriguez with another child. The Monahams say, "We believe in ethical adoption so it's very important to us that we continue to pursue the truth in our daughter's past." The case is still being decided, dependent on further DNA testing.

[For more information](#)

### **NPR Investigates Native Over-Representation in South Dakota Foster Care**

A recent National Public Radio Broadcast series explored foster care among Native American children. Despite the Indian Child Welfare Act

that requires adoptive and foster placement of Native American children with relatives, their tribes or other Native American children, NPR finds that 32 states fail to be in compliance. Native children are more likely to enter and remain in long term foster care than other races, depriving them of their traditions and customs. In South Dakota, despite comprising 15 percent of the child population, more than half of the children in foster care are Native American. Approximately 700 native children are removed yearly with almost 90 percent residing in non-native homes or group care.

[For more information](#)

### **Film Explores Adoption Scandal**

Newly released film *Oranges and Sunshine* begins with a British birth mother played by Emily Watson learning that her child had not been adopted but grew up in a children's home in Australia. The story unfolds of a 1980s social scandal that entailed the forcible migration of about 7,000 British children to Australia from 1947 to 1970. Many of the children were told they were orphans. The movie prompted the prime ministers of Australia and Britain to issue formal apologies for the actions of their governments.

[For more information](#)

## **Local News**

### **MN ADOPT's HELP Program Helps Avert Crisis**

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network's newest service, MN ADOPT HELP, is helping adoptive families in crisis. Two Clinical Specialists are fielding crisis calls from adoptive families throughout Minnesota and are successfully connecting families with contracted therapists. For eligible families, funding is available to families who have adopted children under Minnesota State or Tribal guardianship, as well as families who have adopted internationally or domestically.

For more information, call the HELP line at 855-670-HELP or 612-746-5137, Monday-Friday from 9am to 5pm.

### **U.S. Wheelchair Soccer Player Astounds**

A recent *Star Tribune* article spotlighted Pete Winslow, who recently played at the World cup of Power (wheelchair) Soccer Team for the United States. Winslow was born with no legs, a partial right arm and only three fingers on his left hand. He was adopted after his parents saw him featured on Thursday's Child, a KSTP television feature that is arranged by MN ADOPT to recruit families for Minnesota waiting children. In the article Winslow said that he enjoys "astounding people." To learn more about FIPA (The Federation International de Powerchair Football Association, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch>

## Adoption Professionals Take U of M Certification

The University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare and the Department of Human Services held a November 1 press conference to announce new certification for social workers and mental health experts in adoption. Currently 42 professionals are participating in the Twin Cities and Duluth program that is largely funded by the State to meet the need of adoption competency among those who serve adoptive families.

[For more information](#)

## Century College Offers Adoption Competency Certificate

A new Adoption Competency Certificate, designed to serve the people who adopt are adopted by training those who work and support them, is now offered through Century College. Participants can opt to take classes without pursuing certification through many offerings such as Child Development, Developmental Repair, Childhood Sexual Abuse, Adolescents and Attachment and Cultural Competence. For more information, please call 651-779-3341 or to view the brochure, [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.

## 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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