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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

### Where's Dylan? He's Gone Fishing



Chances are that anyone looking for 13-year-old Dylan will find him at the nearest fishing spot. Because of his love for the outdoors you will likely find him fishing, hiking trails, camping, or practicing orienting...which means locating a position relative to the points of his compass. Dylan's memory of direction and location, in addition to a fondness of maps, make him a welcome passenger for anyone needing directions. Even if he has been somewhere once, he will remember the way as if he were a GPS. Dylan also enjoys video games, television, and playing with toy cars that he keeps close with him in his pockets.

Dylan loves animals and would someday like a pet. Rural or small town living is his preference over city life, and he would love to attend a small school. He would prefer a two parent home, but that is not an absolute. He needs a family that has patience and and is thorough enough to provide clear, detailed instructions that may need to be repeated. He would enjoy siblings, but is fine being an only child too.

To learn more about Dylan, please contact Jesslyn C. Bolk, Child Specific Recruiter, Children's Home Society & Family Services at 651-255-2249 or [jbolt@chsfs.org](mailto:jbolt@chsfs.org)

## World / National News

### Parties Match Children and Families

A new British pilot study reveals that matching between prospective adoptive families and children is more effective than many other recruitment measures. Researchers report that meeting children in a social setting changes the view of many prospective adoptive parents about the type of child they might adopt, including adoption of older teens or children who come from traumatic backgrounds. The researchers stressed that while the events were often organized around children's parties, intensive preparation of the children and adults in attendance ensured success regarding expectations of all participants before and after the event.

[For more information](#)

### **Chinese One-Child Policy Reconsidered**

Chinese leaders are being urged by a government think tank to allow two children for each family. Proposed is a gradual plan that would implement two children in some provinces immediately and nationally by 2015 with all birth limits dropped by 2020. Aside from gender imbalances, the one-child policy has resulted in large numbers of elderly that must be supported by a shrinking youthful population.

[For more information](#)

### **Minnesota Russian Charter School Offers Culture, Language**

A four-year effort on the part of Slavic community to address the educational needs of their children has resulted in Nasha Shkola, literally translated as "Our School." Rather than being an immersion school, Nasha Shkola provides Kindergarten through 5th grade students with all classes taught in English and a daily class in Russian. Students participate in extended day programs with hands-on cultural learning. For families with children who have been adopted from Eastern Europe, the school offers opportunities to study the culture and language of the children's country of origin.

For more information, call 612-801-6682 or visit

[www.nashashkolamn.org](http://www.nashashkolamn.org)

### **2013 Foster Youth Internship (FYI) Program**

Applications are now being taken for a paid internship program for formerly fostered youth to work with legislators in Washington D.C. for the summer of 2013. The Congressional Coalition of Adoption Institute organized the Foster Youth Internship Program to help policymaker make legislative decisions based on the experiences of those in care. Legislative improvements include making family recruitment the ultimate goal of the program. Mason, one of many youth who participated in a summer paid internship program in the nation's capital says, "Spending all summer in Washington D.C. advocating change for foster youth all over the nation will forever be one of the greatest memories in my life." For more information,

including the application, go to <http://www.ccaainstitute.org/fyiapply.html> or contact Allison Cappa at 202-544-8500 or email at [allison@ccaainstitute.org](mailto:allison@ccaainstitute.org)

### **Would You Adopt A Teen?**

A recent online survey conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption asked nearly 2,500 individuals if they would adopt a teen from foster care. The results showed that 18 percent would, 58 percent would not, and 24 percent were unsure. The survey further found that deterrents to adopting include age of the prospective parent(s), economic or housing issues, and the presence of other children in the family. The population most amendable to adopting teens are women ages 18 to 34 and unmarried persons.

[For more information](#)

## **Local**

### **Circus of the Heart Launches Adoption Awareness Month**

Bobby Noreen, now 18, and adopted when he was 14, told the audience at Circus of the Heart, that he gave up on finding a family when he was 12. Even when he met and learned a family was interested in adopting him, he didn't dare to hope. Today he attends technical college and says, "It's nice to know you have someone, a family, to always fall back on when you have troubles."

The 15th Annual Circus of the Heart focused on celebration and recruitment of families for the 355 children who still wait. Aside from games, pony rides, face painting, a teen room, petting zoo, and prizes for families and teens, the event kicked off November as National Adoption Awareness Month. For some families in attendance, posing for a professionals portrait marked their first picture together as a family. For media coverage, visit <http://www.startribune.com/local/177193771.html>.

To view photos from the event, visit [www.mnadopt.org](http://www.mnadopt.org)



Twin girls enjoy face painting by *Frankenstein Creations* of St. Louis Park



Teen boys celebrate winning a signed Vikings jersey and iPod

## Counties Celebrate National Adoption Day

November 17, designated as National Adoption Day in many Minnesota counties, offers courts opening 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.

Anoka County had six families finalizing adoptions, including one family adopting a sibling group of six to complete their family of ten (see picture below). An 18-year-old former state ward from Anoka

County was adopted in an adult adoption.

Approximately 100 persons attended the Ramsey County 6th Annual National Adoption Day event with the Honorable Judge Diane Alshouse finalizing adoptions of ten children during the celebration. One family adopted a sibling group of six older youth, ranging in ages from 10 to 17. Two of the teen girls from the sibling group shared their inspiring story of challenge and triumph, crediting the divine intervention of God for finding them a family who would commit to keeping the large sibling group together, to love and parent them in addition to their own three birth children.

Dakota County acknowledged National Adoption Month in conjunction with monthly Adoption Support Groups for parents and children. In addition to adoption staff and adoptive families, county assistance attorneys, and guardians ad litem attended in recognition of new adoptive families.

To view the proclamation from President Barack Obama declaring November as National Adoption Month, [click here](#).



Anoka family adopt a sibling group with Judge Bethany Fountain-Lindberg

## Film on Transracial Adoption Opens in Twin Cities

*Somewhere Between*, a new documentary by *Whale Rider's* producer Linda Goldstein Knowlton, opens in Minneapolis, November 16 and runs through November 22, at the St. Anthony Main Theater. The film portrays transracial adoption through the actual voices of teen adoptees and is attracting sold out audiences from New York to California. Kenneth Turan of the *Los Angeles Times* describes the teenagers as "poised, articulate, and candid. Their position between cultures--some of them are the only Chinese person in the cities they live in--has made them more than usual very thoughtful and self-aware. You would have to be a stone to not be moved." For more information, [click here](#).

[St. Anthony Main Theater](#)

115 Main Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN  
612-331-4724

## Inside MARN

### MARN Meets 2012 Charities Review Accountability Standards

Twice a year the Charities Review Council publishes *The Smart Giver* newsletter which includes a Giving Guide recognizing the "Most Trustworthy Nonprofits." MARN has now achieved the recognition after meeting the Charities Review Council's Accountability Standards of sound principles and practices. Constituents and donors can be assured that MARN is committed to accountability and transparency.

[For more information](#)

### Give to Max Day -- November 15

Thursday, November 15 was "Give to the Max Day" which brought awareness to the growing need for families for the 355+ children and youth awaiting families in Minnesota. Join MARN in our efforts to recruit permanent, nurturing, and loving homes for waiting children.

There is still time to donate, please visit [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org). To learn how *you* can make a difference, listen to Bobby Noreen's story below:



Bobby-Circus of the Heart 2012

## Helping Relative Caregivers Choose the Right Path

Kinship care is steadily increasing in Minnesota, at least 21,000 grandparents are raising their grandchildren--this does not account for the children being raised by other relatives or friends. Often the journey to providing permanency and stability for these children can be complicated. Join Kris LaFleur and Janet Salo, family support specialists with the Families in Safe Hands: Raising Relative's Children (RRC) program at Lutheran Social Service on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm (CST) for an online webinar presentation. LaFleur and Salo present "Kinship Care: Your Journey...Choosing the Right Path" and offer tips to help caregivers navigate through available resources, legal options and financial benefits specific to individual family situations. Raising Relative's Children (RRC) provides phone and in-person consultations, support groups, training, and mediation solutions for relatives caring for relatives. To learn more about the upcoming webinar visit [www.mnadopt.org/calendar.php](http://www.mnadopt.org/calendar.php)

### Fee

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

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

\$15 CD only. To purchase any webinar CD, please visit

[www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php](http://www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php)

## \*355 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](#).

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