

Zero Kids Waiting

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Welcome!

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 33-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

Jevonte, A Kid with a Big Heart



At 12, Jevonte takes the role of leader and protector seriously, both for himself and those around him for whom he cares. Articulate and possessing strong social skills, he serves as a role model for younger children as well as with his own peers. He is currently on the student council at school where his opinions are respected. Likeable and having an easy going personality, Jevonte is eager to have a family he can call his own. He likes both indoor and outdoor activities including football, riding bikes, fishing, drawing or playing video games. There are a lot of "firsts" waiting for any family who will adopt Jevonte, playing on an organized sports team or attending family community events. Although Jevonte is nervous about joining a new family, he is excited to work hard and prove that he can be a good partner in a family.

To learn more about Jevonte, please contact Jill Sieve, Hennepin County Adoption Resources Social Worker at 612-348-9665 or Jill.Sieve@hennepin.us.

World / National News

Florida Orphan Who Pled for a Family will be Adopted

Fifteen-year-old Davion who received national attention for asking his church to find him a family received worldwide media attention in October. Over 10,000 inquiries have since been received by his adoption agency and those with home studies are being considered. His Florida case worker said on "The View" television show that he will be adopted. Davion resisted adoption until learning of the death of his biological mother, motivating him to do better in school and to want a

family. Davion's request has sparked interest in the 150 children available in Florida and the 100,000 waiting throughout the country.

[For more information](#)

Abuse Case Garners Need for Screening, Training and Supporting Parents

The May 11, 2011 death of Hana Williams, adopted from Ethiopia, has resulted in the incarceration of the parents and a call for better screening, preparatory training and post adoption supports for parents. Carri and Larry Williams had adopted eight siblings and parented, guided by a child-rearing book, *To Train Up a Child*, that recommends spanking babies and strong discipline. The case has resulted in legislation proposed in Washington State that would make reforms to screening and would track failed adoptions.

[For more information](#)

Judge Finalizes Adoption as Fairy Godmother

Six children adopted by their grandmother who had waited three years for the finalization were met in a Las Vegas family court by Judge Cynthia Giuliani, decked out as a fairy godmother. Wearing a sequined white dress, cape and tiara, Nevada Judge Guiliana dressed up in an outfit appropriate for making wishes come true.

[For more information](#)

New Book Critiques Foster Care

A book just released by author Cris Beam examines the lives of foster children at critical junctures in their quest for a stable family. *To the End of June: the Intimate Life of American Foster Care* is a five-year examination of dozens of foster children and their families, questioning the role of money, politics, poverty and race within the foster care system. Poverty leads as the main reason for families losing their children. Beam explores whether children are better off with birth family with the state being responsible for keeping them safe within that family or whether a new stranger family is best for the child.

Latest Data Released on Foster Care and Adoption

The US Department of Health and Human Services has released its annual report on trends in foster care and adoption. The number of children in foster care declined according to data submitted by states on July 19, 2013. A substantial decline has been seen each fiscal year since 2002. The number of children waiting to be adopted has also declined, representing around 25% of the population in care. Some data indicates that states are improving efforts to get children whose parents' rights were terminated into adoptions.

[For more information](#)

State Sues Adoption Agency

Illinois is issuing litigation against a for-profit adoption agency for violating the state's requirements. The lawsuit alleges that the California web-based Adoption Network Law Center that matches prospective adoptive parents with pregnant women was not approved by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to place children.

[For more information](#)

PA House Backs Adoptee Access to Birth Certificate Bill - October 23, 2013

Pennsylvania unanimously passed a bill allowing adult adopted persons to get their original birth certificates, removing birth parent consent. The bill will now be considered by the Pennsylvania Senate.

Adoptee Access Advocate Gets Plaque

For over 30 years, Pam Hasegawa has championed the right of adopted adults to their original birth certificate in her state of New Jersey. To honor her efforts that so far have not resulted in legislation in her state, a plaque was placed in Morristown's Victor Woodhull Park by legislators and other advocates. At 71, Hasegawa has no birth or medical history, an experience she says "is like walking into a movie 15 minutes after the film started and wondering how it started."

[For more information](#)

Local News

Conference Offers Adoptee Voices

Saturday , November 16, The Adoption Policy and Reform Collaborative Conference will offer a rare opportunity to hear adopted persons of all ages and backgrounds. Reframing the Adoption Discourse will take place at Macalester College at the John B. Davis Lecture Hall in St. Paul, 9 am - 6 pm. The speakers are gathering from around the world and are all adopted. Sandy White Hawk will launch the conference with a Wiping of the Tear ceremony, followed by panels throughout the day of activists, performance artists, researchers, policy makers and mental health professionals.

[For more information](#)

Inside MARN

Importance of Family Highlighted at 16th Annual Circus of the Heart

"I love being part of a family!" That was the message that Cora, 17, delivered to a standing-room-only crowd at the 16th annual Celebrate Adoption: A Circus of the Heart event held on Nov. 3 at the Prom Center Event Facility in Oakdale. As the event's keynote speaker, Cora conveyed her message that family, above all, is what is most important in life. At the event families celebrated the adoptions of 524 children from the foster care system last year. Still waiting and immediately needing families are 520 children and youth.



Keynote Speaker, Cora, left, and her father, Chris, talked about the joys and challenges of beginning a new family through adoption



Anthony and sons, John and Isaac, paused for a photo. Both were adopted, along with their sister.



Thirteen-year old Trevor was all smiles after winning one of the free prize drawings, donated by numerous organizations and businesses.

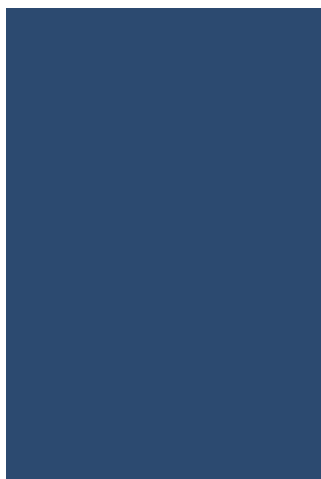
*520 Will Move to ZERO in MN if...

- 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.

* As of September 1, 2013 there were 889 children under state guardianship with 520 children in immediate need of adoptive families, 333 in pre-adoptive families and 36 in long term foster care by a court order. Our target is ZERO waiting children.

Donate Today

The Zero Kids Waiting eNewsletter reaches people willing to adopt children who are not reached by general recruitment measures. Please consider donating 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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