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# Zero Kids Waiting

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December 2011 - Volume 4, Issue 43

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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](#)

## Waiting Youth

**Kyle, 12, Wants a Family that Will Help Him Stay Busy**



Kyle, age 12 describes himself as "very polite with a good sense of humor" who likes to play outside, eat ice cream and watch movies. A bright boy with a big smile and fun personality, he likes to stay busy with activities like fishing, swimming, baseball and kickball. Kyle also enjoys playing video games and listening to music.

Describing his future adoptive family he says, "I'd like a family that will help me stay busy and give me lots of praise when I earn it." Kyle also wants a family who will take the time to build a relationship with him because it may take time to develop trust. He likes receiving praise from others and does well when he gets a lot of encouragement and positivity from adults. Kyle needs an active family who is committed to accessing ongoing support services.

For more information about Kyle, contact Misty Koob, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at 651-266-4085.

## World / National News

### Lenient Sentence Rankles Russia

The Russian government called an American court verdict of 19 months for the death of a child adopted from Russia, "amazingly and flagrantly irresponsible." A judge credited the Pennsylvania couple accused in the case with time already served, releasing them. The boy was said to be diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, the adoptive parents saying that he repeatedly hurt himself due to

serious emotional and mental problems. Russian officials may be conducting their own investigation and might seek an arrest warrant for the couple.

[For more information](#)

### **Couples Relocating to China to Adopt**

Since 1992 families have been adopting children from China where families were required to travel to the mainland to finalize adoptions. These parents have been coming from all over the world with more than 70,000 Chinese infants being adopted from the U.S. For most families, returning to the states is common but for some families, a quick trip and tour are not enough. These families are relocating to China. Alex and Elizabeth Reid have three adopted children from China and needed no convincing of making the move to China permanently when Alex's Ohio-based company needed someone to help expand in Asia. The Reids are hoping a connection to the children's home culture will give them a stronger sense of identity and self-worth. "The whole issue of identity for adopted kids is really important," says Elizabeth Reid.

[For more information](#)

### **International Adoption Falls Sharply**

According to data released by the State Department in its annual report on Intercountry Adoption, adoptions to the United States from other countries have declined steadily since 2004 with a decrease of 1,338 since 2010. China, Russia and Ethiopia were the largest countries of origin for children adopted by Americans.

[For more information](#)

### **Native Summit Addresses Past Abuse in Adoption**

The First Nations Repatriation Institute's second annual adult adoptee summit held at the University of Minnesota featured a panel of child-welfare professionals, judges, lawyers, community activists and scholars from various tribes. The panelists addressed past wrongs inflicted under a federal Indian Adoption Project from 1958 to 1967 that removed eighty-five percent of the Native children from their families from 1941 to 1967 and placed them in non-Indian homes or institutions. The panelists suggested think tanks, scientific research, and future conferences to address the history and to provide healing. Since Native children are over-represented in out-of-home placements, the experts said the judges need educating. They also suggested that adoption records be made available at a tribal level to help Native persons find and return to their families.

[For more information](#)

## Annual Home for the Holidays Airs December 21

The 13th annual *A Home for the Holidays* with Martina McBride will air December 21 at 7pm CST on WCCO TV. The show will focus on the need for permanent families for half a million American children who are in foster care. The special will spotlight real-life families from California to Alabama who have taken in foster children or who have adopted children. The special is presented in association with the Dave Thomas Foundation and the Children's Action Network.

Stars appearing in the special include Justin Bieber, Mary J. Blige, Gavin DeGraw, One Republic and Christina Perri. Actresses Denise Richards and Katherine Heigl, who have adopted daughters, will present on the show.

[For more information](#)

## Secret Daughter of Clark Gable & Loretta Young Dies

Judy Lewis, whose famous parents were a Hollywood secret kept from everyone including her, died on November 25, 2011. She was adopted by her birth mother, Loretta Young, who had become pregnant with Clark Gable while making the movie *Call of the Wild*. Young was a devout Catholic with a wholesome image that she was afraid would be tarnished if the public knew about her daughter's origins. Born with the famous Gable ears that jutted out, Lewis underwent plastic surgery at age 7 to make them less like her birth father's. A fiance revealed the identity of her parents to Lewis, telling her everyone knew but her.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### PATH Changes Name and Direction

PATH MN, Inc. has separated from PATH Alliance in July to become Kindred Family Services, an independent agency. The name more appropriately states the mission of the agency, representing the work that sets this agency apart from others. PATH MN has provided foster care since 1972 and will continue to do so as Kindred Family Services. Under the new name, Kindred Family Services will expand program development in response to county needs and foster care trends that includes offering foster parent education and training.

Visit <http://kindredfamilyservices.org>

### Metro Rates of Homeless Teens Rise

A recent KARE 11 extra found that more than 2,500 of Minnesota youth, ages 16-21, are homeless on any given night. Many of the

youth had aged out of foster care into an automatic forced emancipation. Youth interviewed by Rena Sariagianopoulos of KARE 11 resorted to sleeping on buses and staying with friends, when possible. Few emergency shelters are available for this age group.

[For more information](#)

## Inside MARN

### MARN Honors Youth at Annual Gala

Yves Spies joined his adoptive family last year, just days before his 18th birthday. Now 19, Yves is preparing for college and would not have been able to embark on the college application process without the help of his family. At the recent Minnesota Adoption Resource Network (MARN) annual Gala, Yves told the audience, "I now have a dad for football tossing, a mom who will stay up late at night and listen to me talk about girls, and younger siblings who look up to me. I would not have been adopted without the recruitment efforts of MARN."

The annual MARN Gala took place on December 1, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency hotel and featured youth sharing their need for families in a program emceed by Rena Sarigianopoulos of KARE 11. The evening also included a wine tasting event, silent auction and Giving Tree where guests helped purchase items such as a bike, electronics or clothing for Minnesota foster children and youth. To view photos of the Gala, visit [MARN's Facebook](#).



(L-R, Daryn, Michon and Yves Spies)

MARN is especially grateful to the Gala sponsors that included Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. for a generous contribution. MARN would also like to thank the Hyatt Regency-Minneapolis, PSAV Presentation Services, Cities 97, WCCO News Radio and Michele Tafoya, Comcast, It's Just Lunch Dating Service, Salina J. Photogprahy, Stillwater Balloon, Water Park of America, Erik's Bike Shop, Minnesota Vikings, Open Table Restaurants, Guthrie Theater, Ordway Theater, ReVamp SalonSpa, Urban Eatery and Skylark Dry

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## \*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

is a program funded solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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

1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501 Minneapolis, MN 55403  
866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org)

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Minnesota Adoption Resource Network | 430 Oak Grove Street | Suite 404 | Minneapolis | MN | 55403