

Zero Kids Waiting

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December 2013 Volume 6, Issue 66

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Happy Holidays!

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

Greg, 14, and William, 11, seek a Christian Family



"Every day in foster care is one less day that I can be with my forever family," says Greg, 14. Like his brother William, faith is very important. They want to be adopted by a Christian family.

Greg is very active and likes to stay busy, building objects and taking pride in planning and making projects. He also enjoys playing sports and is very competitive, but has not participated in team sports. One of Greg's favorite activities is reading. His favorite subjects in school are math and English. He enjoys playing video games, but doesn't watch a lot of TV except for Minnesota sports. Greg is very open to adoption and says that he would prefer a two parent household. He would also enjoy having pets in the house.

William is generally happy and tries to please the adults and kids around him by saying or doing what they want him to. Having a sunny disposition, he is polite and listens well in school and at home. He enjoys watching Minnesota sports on TV and going fishing.

For more information about Greg and William, please contact Betsy Trondson, Child Specific Recruiter, btrondson@hopeadoptionsservices.org or 651-266-4217.

World / National News

CBS to Broadcast 15th Annual "A Home for the Holidays," December 18, 2013

Celine Dion heads a stellar lineup of other celebs that will perform in "A Home for the Holidays" CBS special that celebrates and recruits families

for children in foster care. Appearing with her on Wednesday, December 18 will be Ne-Yo and Chris Young. The annual event includes inspirational stories from children who await or have found families. The special is presented in association with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and the Children's Action Network. Locally, the show airs at 7 pm CST on WCCO - Channel 4.



Bill Would Help Fostered Children Attend College

Higher education evades many formerly fostered and homeless children, a situation addressed by a new bill proposed to the United States Senate. The bill, S 1754, would entail significant changes for colleges and federally-funded education programs, requiring state schools to offer in-state tuition fees to any homeless or fostered youth and improving assistance and recruitment by colleges of this population. It would also ease the calculating of financial aid by not factoring in two major sources of aid required of the general population.

[For more information](#)

New Research Explores Impact of Social Media/Technology On Adoption

Adoption policies and practices have been irreversibly altered by modern technology according to a multiyear research project conducted by the Donaldson Adoption Institute. The Internet, blogs, chat rooms, webinars and photo-listings challenge current laws and policies as well as ethics. The study concludes that professionals and practitioners should revise practices to help clients prepare for full disclosure and that children will know their birth family at some point; that adoption-related websites should be reviewed to prevent exploitation of children; and that laws should be enacted that provide access of adopted persons to their original birth information.

[For more information](#)

Essays Illuminates the Adoption Experience

The Declassified Adoptee: Essays of an Adoption Activist is receiving attention as a "must read" book that provides understanding from an adopted person's perspective. Author Amanda Transue-Woolston is known as a blogger in the adoption activist community where she expertly explores the personal and political backdrop of being adopted. The essays moved from social media into print after numerous adopted persons shared Transue-Woolston's thoughts with parents, adoption agencies and legislators in an attempt to better explain the adoption experience from the inside out.



Mandela Was Adopted

Nelson Mandela, the South African anti-Apartheid leader, who was born into the Thembu sub-tribe nobility of the Xhosa people in Mvezo, South Africa, was adopted. After the death of his father when he was 9, he was taken to the larger village of Mqhekezweni, the Thembu provincial capital, where he was informally adopted by the Thembu chief Jongintaba.

[For more information](#)

Film Explores Adoption Forced on Women in Past

Judi Dench and Steve Coogan star in a new Stephen Frears film, *Philomena*, based on the true story of Philomena Lee. Like many women of the Magdalene Girls Era of Ireland, a young, pregnant Philomena was imprisoned in 1952 in an Irish convent where her child as a toddler was taken from her. The movie recounts how fifty years later she hires a journalist to accompany her to America to find her son [For more information](#)

Ohio Opens Adoption Records

This month Ohio lawmakers passed legislation to help adults adopted in the state get their original birth certificates. If the governor signs the bill, an approximate 400,000 adopted persons who were adopted between January 1964 and September 1996, or their adult direct descendants, will be able to request their adoption files from the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics. Those adopted before and after the dates already have access. [For more information](#)

Re-Homing Prompts Media and Congressional Response

Reporters continue to explore the unlawful practice of "private re-homing" following a five-part investigative *Reuters* report on families using the Internet to find new homes and illegal placements for adopted children. A November 21, 2103 *New York Times* Op Ed piece attacked the phenomena for not screening those taking in the children who are looking to adopt without a formal process and the associated costs. A congressional bill, HR3423, was introduced on November 21, 2103 that would fund pre- and post-adoption support services, expanding those services to including adoptions from other countries, provide post-adoption mental health services for all adopted children and better track disruption and dissolution rates in states. [For more information](#)

Research Counters "Myth" of Promise of Confidentiality to Relinquishing Mothers

Legal scholar Elizabeth J. Samuels concludes that surrendering mothers in adoption cases were not offered nor guaranteed lifelong anonymity. The report is based on Samuels's analysis of relinquishment documents of placing mothers in adoptions of newborns that occurred from 1936 to 1985. The argument that first mothers were promised anonymity has often been used to oppose the right of adopted persons to their original birth certificates in the access movement. [For more information](#)

Russia Grants Italy Sole Adoption Rights

Because Italy does not recognize gay marriage, Russia has announced that it will be the only country whose citizens are able to adopt Russian children. While a Russian official clarified that the policy does not prohibit adoption to other countries, the United States is the only country still banned from adopting Russian children. [For more information](#)

Local News

Multiple Placements Common for Children in Foster Care

While the national number of children in foster care is declining (In 2011, 401,000 children were in foster care, a 29 percent decline from the 1999 peak of 567,000), a high percent of foster youth experience three or more placements in their first year in foster care. A new report in *The Chronicle of Social Change* finds that in 38 percent of states, 10 to 20 percent of foster youth had multiple placements after a removal to foster care. Minnesota fared better than most other states, reporting 85.6 percent of children in 2011 experiencing 2 or fewer placements, with 13.4 percent having 3 or more placements in the first year of care.

[For more information](#)

Inside MARN

Shopping Event for Kids

On Sunday, December 8, the Minnesota Timberwolves treated 22 children awaiting adoption to a holiday shopping trip at Target. One of the children who participated called it "the greatest day ever." The annual holiday shopping event lets Minnesotans know that 520 children in the state are in need of a permanent family. On his Twitter page Ricky Rubio called the shopping trip one of his favorite events of the year.

[For more information](#)

Wanted -Guardians Ad Litem to Support Kids

Guardians Ad Litem are court-appointed advocates who represent the interests of children in legal actions. In Minnesota there is a great need to recruit males to be guardians ad litem. A CASA recruiting event on Monday, December 16, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm at the Mall of America Field/Metrodome will feature Viking players, food and a drawing for tickets to the December 29 Vikings game.

To RSVP call 612-596-7403.

*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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