

# Zero Kids Waiting

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**Zero Kids Waiting** is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 34-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

## Ellena's smile wins hearts



Barbie dolls and My Little Pony are favorites for Ellena who is 14. In addition to playing with puzzles and sensory balls, she enjoys coloring, playing board games, and listening to music. She can often be found watching some favorite TV shows such as *Blues Clues*, *SpongeBob*, *Full House*, and *Dora the Explorer*.

Currently, Ellena is learning to read and enjoys matching words and pictures. It sometimes takes her a little while to warm up to new people, but once she does, she loves to show off her big smile. She often prefers to play alone and does best in quieter environments with fewer people around because loud places can be overwhelming at times.

For Ellena, a family is needed that is willing to learn strategies to help her learn to trust. She does not like dogs, so a family with no pets that can provide a calm, predictable environment would be the best fit for her. She would also need a family who would be open to working with service providers to learn the optimum ways to care for her.

For more information about Ellena, contact Nicole Stulac, Child Specific Recruiter Children's Home Society of Minnesota [nstulac@chsfs.org](mailto:nstulac@chsfs.org)  
651.255.2249

## World / National News

### Burger King baby finds birth mother

The March *Zero Kids Waiting* featured Katheryn Deprill's story of using Facebook to place this post: "Looking for my birth mother. ... She abandoned me in the Burger King bathroom, only hours old, Allentown

PA. Please help me find her by sharing my post." Deprill quickly found her birth mother, a rape victim who at 17, felt she had no recourse except to leave her baby in a location where she felt she would be quickly found. Their reunion was joyous.

[For more information](#)

### Research on child abuse/neglect revealed

A 20-year longitudinal study of child abuse and neglect finds that children at risk can be identified by examining a combination of risk factors. The implication of this finding is that parents of at-risk children could receive mental health treatment as a preventative measure. Other findings of the study are that children who witness violence have risks equal to children who experience physical abuse, and that early neglect can be a predictor of youth violence. The research revealed that permanent placements are frequently not permanent resulting in two needs:

- \* Expand our concept of stability
- \* Adopt a longer perspective and follow children who enter foster care beyond exit.

The research was conducted by the Injury Prevention Research Center and funded through the Children's Bureau.

[For more information](#)

### Wendy's launches new adoption campaign

The Hamburger chain, Wendy's has a long history of supporting adoption based on Dave Thomas, the founder being adopted as an infant.

The Dave  
Thomas



DAVE THOMAS  
FOUNDATION  
FOR ADOPTION®

Finding Forever Families for Children in Foster Care

© 2009 Oldemark LLC

Foundation for Adoption puts donation boxes at cash registers, hosts fund-raising events and finances national targeted recruitment of families for children in foster care. A new commercial shows Dave Thomas's daughter, Wendy, for whom the chain is named, say, "Every child deserves a hug before bedtime, a place to call home. Wendy's dream is to help every child waiting in foster care find the loving family they deserve."

[For more information](#)

### Search and reunion relies on social media

In looking for her birth family, Nicholle Renee Oliver used Facebook. Within 24 hours she found a photograph of her birth mom that led to a reunion with two half-sisters. Searching via Facebook and other social media bypasses restrictive state laws that hinder and prevent birth parents and adopted persons from finding one another. Some like Claudia Corrigan D'Arcy, who found her birth son through MySpace in 2005, calls the social media reunion phenomena "a wake-up call to open up sealed adoption records."

[For more information](#)

### Ohio Adoptee Access Bill Takes Effect



The beginning phase of Ohio's legislation allowing adult adopted persons to get their birth records took place on March 20, 2013. The date ushers in a one-year waiting period to provide birth parents with the opportunity to redact their names from birth

certificates with the provision that those doing so must provide medical histories that will be made available to adoptees. Former opponents to the bill including the Ohio Right to Life moved from 40 years of opposition to supporting the bill and were in agreement with a pro-choice group that the bill was "the right thing to do." The two groups both testified at legislative hearings in favor of the bill.

[For more information](#)

### **Girl "re-homed" exposes underground market**

Nita Dittenber, 18, was passed among four families over two years through "private re-homing" through an Internet Yahoo forum. Fearful of being sent to yet another family, she remained silent about the abuse she and other children in her fourth home were experiencing. The family is now being prosecuted by the police in Ohio. Dittenber was adopted from Haiti when she was 13 into a family of 9, the 5 adopted children all from Haiti. Following wide media exposure of the "re-homing" trend, Yahoo has disbanded any group connected with

[For more information](#)

## **Local News**

### **Creating Home Project links Adoptees with Artists**

Art helps unlock the identity and potential for adopted youth. Teen and college-age adoptees can join a three month pilot program to help youth find their artistic voice to tell their stories. Creating Home will feature world-class artist mentors such as Kyle Tran Myhre, a hip hop artist and two-time National Poetry Slam champion. The multidisciplinary program that aspires to go national will rely on mentors in interactive workshops, performance arts, spoken word, visual art, photography, dance, hip-hop and other arts. Creating Home is sponsored by COMPAS and the Land of Gazillion Adoptees (LGA)



**Please consider helping launch and sustain Creating Home with a donation to the KickStarter.**

[For more information](#)

## Inside MARN



Jae Ran Kim presents the Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate from the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare - University of Minnesota and the Training on Adoption Competency Certificate - The Center for Adoption Support and Education in Maryland to Emily Alewine and Heather Van Brunt, MN ADOPT HELP clinical specialists.

### Promoting a Culture of Adoption

MN ADOPT will be hosting 2 day conference to be held in June, featuring Debbie Riley of C.A.S.E and Rhonda M. Roorda, acclaimed author and adoptee.

Held at the Marriott Minneapolis West, St. Louis Park.

**June 6-*Shaping Best Practices: One Child, One Family at a Time*** with Debbie Riley, 9:00am - 3:00pm (lunch included)

**June 7-*Cultivating Adoption Identity; One Child, One Family at a Time*** with Rhonda M. Roorda 9:00am - 12:00pm (Lunch included)

Afternoon session: *Exploring Adoption Identity: One Chapter at a Time* featuring a panel of adult adoptees. 1:00pm - 3:00pm

#### Fee:

\$25 per person/per day (Space is limited)

CEUs are available for an additional \$30 per person/per day

Certificates of Attendance will be given at end of training

[Register on our training page](#)



## \*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](#).

### Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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