

Zero Kids Waiting

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

August 2009 - Volume 2, Issue 15

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www.baja-sol.com

Welcome!

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly e-newsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 29 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** click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

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To learn more about Minnesota's waiting children and our goal to reach Zero Kids Waiting visit [State Adoption Exchange](#)

Waiting Children

Sibs Display Many Talents



Kamaria, Kamron, Aaliyah, Moses and Jonah are five brothers and sisters who share a knack for singing and dancing. They need a family willing to nurture their talents and that is committed to adopting them together.

Kamron, age 8, enjoys singing, eating candy, going to the store and riding his bike. "I love school, especially recess," says Kamron who hopes to become a social worker like his twin sister because "they help take care of me." Kamron believes the most important things he needs from a new family is respect and to be treated well.

Twin sister Kamaria, 8, is a proud older sister who can be found playing dolls, coloring and doing puzzles. She often wears her favorite color of pink, and can be heard singing.

Aaliyah, age 7, spends her time singing, jumping rope, playing with friends and getting her hair done. Her favorite foods are pizza, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, hamburgers, hot dogs and cake. Aaliyah loves school with her favorite parts of the school day being learning, gym and technology. She aspires to be a model and will show off her runway walk with little prompting.

Five-year-old Moses is currently taking tap dancing lessons and will wear his tap shoes for any audience. Pizza, playing outside and jumping rope bring him happiness, but he admits, "One of my favorite things to do is talk on the phone." Moses proudly sings his ABC's and hopes to someday be a "police man on a motorcycle."

Jonah, age 4, is also taking tap dancing lessons and loves wearing his fancy black tap shoes whether an occasion is formal or not. When he grows up, Jonah wants to be "a daddy."

To learn more about adopting this sibling group of five, please contact Jacquelin Poole at Hennepin County at 612-348-4246 or jacquelin.poole@co.hennepin.mn.us.



Baja Sol Gala

Baja Sol Benefit for Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, hosted by Mike and Barbara Wigley, Tony and Bridget Sutton and Bill Cooper.

When

Monday, August 31, 2009
5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Where

Baja Sol Cantina
8335 Crystal View Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Program

Emceed by former KSTP sports anchor, [Rod Simmons](#)
Featuring former NFL player [Shawn D. Stuckey](#)
Performance by band [See The World](#)

Appetizers provided
\$100 donation

For more information, please contact Mary Martin Mason, Executive Director at mmason@mnadopt.org

World / National News

Adoption Groups Protest Horror Film

July 24, 2009

A number of groups within the adoption community have unified to protest *Orphan*, a terror genre film that is fueling negative attitudes

toward children in foster care who are adopted. Some adoption advocates are urging a boycott of the movie which opened July 24. A coalition of prominent national adoption and foster care groups have asked for a meeting with Warner Brothers Studios' CEO Barry Meyer to discuss their concerns.

A concern expressed about the movie is that it promotes the stereotype of older adoptive children as "damaged." Protesting groups have succeeded in persuading the studio to remove one line from the movie ads: "It must be hard to love an adopted child as much as your own."

[For more information](#)

Romanian International Adoption Update

July 24, 2009

After a 2001 moratorium on adoptions of children from their country, Romania is facing mounting pressure to reopen their doors to international adoptions. A scandal in late July concerning the illegal adoption of two Romanian minors in Italy has refueled the conflict as has a letter delivered by United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during an official visit. The letter, signed by various Senators, was initiated by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, a private body, that under Senator Mary Landrieu supports resuming adoptions from Romania. Foreign Minister Cristian Diaconescu has stated that Romania intends to maintain its position of suspending international adoptions except to relatives under current law.

[For more information](#)

Disrupted Adoptions Increase in UK

July 10, 2009

According to survey results reported in *The Times*, the number of children in Great Britain returning to foster care after being adopted has doubled in recent years. Of the 3,000 adoptions occurring annually, approximately 1 in 15 fail. The children tend to be older and come from backgrounds of neglect and abuse. Numbers of adoptions are declining despite former Prime Minister Tony Blair's 2002 adoption law which was intended to increase adoption of children from foster care. The law encouraged adoption by single parents and gay couples, but the article suggests that attitudes from church agencies and social workers disapproving of this population as adoptive parents may be a factor. Another factor may be that the criteria for adopting precludes couples considered too old, too unfit, or having undesirable views on matters like race equality.

[For more information](#)

Language Barrier Thwarts South Korean Reunions

July 17, 2009

South Korea may be falling short of provisions of services to adoptees searching for their birth families because the official website is written in Korean. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Family established the website (www.kcare.or.kr) to be in compliance with the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption and to provide post adoption help to adoptees searching for their birth family. Reunion rates are low with only 2.7 reunions occurring among the 78,000 adoptees who went to South Korea to search for their birth families from 1995-2005.

[For more information](#)

Welsh Council Bans Smokers From Adopting Foster Children

July 25, 2009

A council has become the first in Wales to impose a blanket ban that prohibits smokers from adopting or fostering children. Anti-smoking campaigners welcomed the move by Merythyr Tydfil Council, but critics have already pointed out the lack of foster parents in Wales. Some fear the changes might discourage potential care givers from coming forward and could impact the future of children already in the care of smokers.

[For more information](#)

Homeland Trips Increase for Younger Children

July 29, 2009

International travel with a purpose has become a mainstay in the adoption world for parents who, with their adopted children are making return trips to the child's country of origin. For children, as young as 7-year-old Chloe Cohen, who with her parents recently made a trip to Guatemala, the result is an observation that Guatemalans "look different from people here - except me."

Susan Soonkeum Cox, Vice President of Policy and External Affairs for Holt International, encourages such trips for the sake of the child. "They are tourists, but there's a uniqueness about them going back that's deeply profound."

[For more information](#)

Legislation Pends to Waive Immigration Requirements for Adopted Children

July 8, 2009

Senate bill #1376, sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN), Senator Durbin (IL), Senator Feingold (WI), Senator Inhofe (OK), and Senator Landrieu (LA), would restore immunization and sibling age exemptions for children adopted by United States citizens under the

Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to allow their admission to the United States.

This act allows waivers of the immigration immunization requirements for children adopted from Hague partner countries. It also allows children up to the age of 18 to be adopted and admitted into the United States if they are siblings of previously adopted children. This bill addresses oversights in the drafting of the Hague Regulations and brings those regulations into parity with existing international adoption law and policy on immunization waivers and sibling adoptions. Some adoptive families are being delayed in bringing their children home and having to stay in the country additional time. In some instances, children are having multiple shots for immunization just prior to boarding the plane.

[For more information](#)

Missouri Favors Grandparents in Foster Placements

July 8, 2009

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signed legislation (HB154) into law July 8, 2009 that requires the state to make diligent efforts to place a child with a grandparent for emergency and foster placements. The law also requires each school district to establish an educational liaison for children in foster care to facilitate school placement and record requests.

[For more information](#)

[Click here to view bill](#)

Virginia Permits 'Cooperative Adoption'

July 1, 2009

A new Virginia state law (Chapter 260) took effect on July 1 that allows a foster child's birthparents(s) and pre-adoptive parent(s) to enter into a written post-adoption contact and communication agreement. The court may approve an agreement if it find that it is in the child's best interests, both sets of parents have consented, the agency and guardian ad litem recommend approval and, if the child is 14 years of older, he/she has consented. The law provides birthparents the right to seek to enforce these 'cooperative adoption' agreements.

[For more information](#)

[Click here to view bill](#)

Birth Mom and Son Act in Play Together

July 22, 2009

Ryan Kathman, 29, had been considered an "oddball" in his adoptive family for writing and acting. Recently the young actor not only located his birth mother, but both Ryan and his birth mother soon will be performing together as 'mother and son' in a production of *True West* in Lincoln, Nebraska. Using the search engine Google, Kathman learned that his birth mother had earned the master of fine arts degree that he pursues at the same university he attends. His birth mother, Moira Mangiameli, 50, has earned acting accolades at various area theaters since before Ryan was born. The casting was purposefully engineered by the director who stepped down from the role of Ryan's mother in the play and cast Ryan's birth mother to play the role soon after the reunion took place.

[For more information](#)

Inside News

State Extends Foster Care Benefits

Minnesota youth in foster care who are nearing their 18th birthday will have the option of staying in foster care, if they think they are not yet ready to live on their own. A new law, 260C.4561, signed by Governor Tim Pawlenty takes effect on August 1, 2009 that requires social services agencies to develop a plan with the child for their vocational, educational and social needs. Agencies must also ensure that any foster care, housing or counseling benefits are consistent with that plan.

[Click here to view the bill](#)

MARN Launches State-Contracted MN ADOPT

July 1, 2009

MN ADOPT, an initiative to serve the needs of families before and after an adoption, began on July 1, 2009. MN ADOPT is a state-contracted program between MARN and the Minnesota Department of Human Services to manage the State Adoption Exchange and the Adoption Information Referral and Training System.

New and prospective parents can turn to MN ADOPT for advice and support about parenting in general or about adoption in particular. The program seamlessly combines pre- and post- adoption information available at www.mnadopt.org, through email and phone inquiries. For those interested in adopting children under state guardianship, the State Adoption Exchange includes an online database listing children in Minnesota who are available for adoption as well as a slate of pre-adopt orientations and trainings offered by private and county agencies throughout the state. Other features of MN ADOPT include the provision of statewide training (online and in person), a system of referral to professionals and services, and a listing of multiple resources helpful to parents and professionals. Also available is

information about support services offered by private agencies, counties, tribes and individuals.

Information Line

612.861.7115
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org

Child Poverty Increases in Minnesota

August 9, 2009

Even though Minnesota ranks high in a national study of child well-being, there has been a sharp rise in the poverty rate. Warren Wolfe at the Star Tribune reports, "Child poverty in Minnesota rose 33 percent between 2000 and 2007, six times the national average, and several other measures of child well-being declined."

[For more information](#)

Nonprofits Feel Economic Heat

August 2009

According to the results of a recent Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) survey published in Nonprofit News, Minnesota nonprofits continue to face decreased budgets and increased demands for services. MCN Executive Director, Jon Pratt says, "Minnesota's nonprofits continue to be seriously affected by the recession, with 57 percent of organizations reporting reduced revenues. 2009 presents an immense financial challenge for the nonprofit sector, struggling to budget appropriately in the face of government reductions and economic instability."

To read more, visit [Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#)

Research

Likely Candidates for Transracial Adoption Defined

June 2009

The July 2009 issue of *Family Relations* published a study done by Abbie Goldberg and Julianna Smith who investigated factors predicting openness to adopting an African American child among couples seeking to adopt their first child. Demographics favorable to predicting who might adopt African American children included the parents being young, being white (rather than a non-black minority), being lesbian rather than heterosexual, pursuing public versus private domestic adoption, and perceiving their neighborhood as "diverse."

[Access Abstract](#)

Early Deprivation, Abuse Alter Brain Development

A pilot study investigating the impact of early deprivation on brain development through the use of MRIs has discovered the area of the brain called the amygdala greatly altered. The amygdala guides social interactions and governs emotional processing. Researchers Mitul Mehta, Nicole Golembo, Chiara Nosarti, Emma Colvert, Ashley Mota, Steven William, Michael Rutter and Edmund Sonuga-Barke found that children adopted from Romania who had experienced institutionalization had significant differences in their brain structures compared to non-adopted adolescents with more profound alteration paralleling longer stays in institutions. Results are published in the August issue of the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* (Volume 50, Issue 8).

[Access Abstract](#)

Zero Kids Waiting



PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



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has been dedicated to assuring every child has the right to a permanent, nurturing family. Your donation increases our outreach and helps us advocate for children.

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Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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