

Zero Kids Waiting

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

December 2009 - Volume 2, Issue 19

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Welcome!

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly e-newsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 30-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.

Your email will be used solely for the distribution of the newsletter 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

Siblings Seek Christian Family



Coming from a Christian biological family, Daleah, 11 and Jadon, 10 would like to be adopted by a family that shares their faith.

Like all siblings, Daleah and Jadon have varying interests and personalities. While Daleah is very talkative, outgoing and funny, Jadon is often very shy and quiet. Still, Jadon has a great sense of humor. He enjoys joking around with and teasing his foster parents.

Daleah is a fan of reading, Hannah Montana, Bratz dolls, tacos, snow, riding bike, handwriting and loves wearing jeans and fun earrings. She also believes she has a good memory. Jadon, on the other hand, likes to play Nintendo DS and other video games. Jadon likes all types of food and enjoys school and spending time with close

friends.

Their individual uniqueness will be important for an adoptive family to honor. They respond best to structured, consistent routines and actions. Daleah values long term commitments to her, no matter what, while it takes Jadon a longer to adjust to change. Both would like to have pets Daleah hopes she and her brother will join an African American family.

For more information about Daleah and Jadon, please contact Sarah Johnson, Blue Earth Child Protection Specialist at 507-304-4194 or sarah.johnson@co.blue-earth.mn.us

Local News

Kids Find Families in November

November, 2009

The past November, during National Adoption Awareness month, twenty-four families grew on November 21, 2009 as Ramsey County Juvenile Court judges finalized 35 adoptions. Fifteen families adopted 23 children in Hennepin County, and nine families adopted thirteen children in Anoka County.

During National Adoption Awareness month, one Saturday is set aside to raise awareness about Minnesota children in foster care who are legally free for adoption and do not have families. Metro counties traditionally schedule judges to perform the finalizations. The court proceedings typically highlight a National Adoption Day program that includes activities for the children and their new families.

The purpose of National Adoption Day is to raise awareness about children in foster care who do not have families emphasizing the message that all children deserve to grow up in loving, permanent homes. Ramsey County District Judge Gail Bohr reminded her court of the ongoing need for permanency for children who wait, saying, "Every day is National Adoption Day."

Parents Shane and Marika Hendricks have adopted two children, Elizabeth and most recently Reanna, who is excited to have a permanent home. "I was just getting tired of moving from house to house," said the 12 year old. The Hendricks say they would adopt more children if they had a bigger house. They encourage others to give adoption a chance.

[To read more](#)

Youth Share Stories About Searching for Birth Parents

November 2009

Sean McConville of Minneapolis, Minnesota grew up knowing he was adopted. In fact, pictures of his birth mother were found in his family photo albums and annual letters arrived from his birth mother around Christmas, right before his birthday. McConville's adoption was an open adoption but it wasn't until the summer before his senior year of high school that he stood in a parking lot, gearing up for a 10-mile race that he turned around only to be greeted by his birthmother for the first time in 17 years.

[For more information](#)

World / National News

11th Annual *Home for the Holidays* To Air

December 2009

The annual *Home for the Holidays* special will broadcast on CBS on Wednesday, December 23, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. to raise awareness for the need to adopt children from foster care. Host and adoptee Faith Hill will be joined by the queen of hip-hop soul Mary J. Blige, songwriter Michael Franti and Shakira. Guest performances will include Reba McEntire and Carrie Underwood as well as families who have adopted waiting children.

[For more information](#)

Canada Crosses Border to Adopt

December 2009

Canada has released its 2008 statistics on international adoptions, listing America as second only to China in sending children to the country to be adopted. In 2008, 1,908 children from abroad found adoptive homes in Canada. This is an increase from 2007 and marks a return to numbers last seen in 2004. Ethiopia trails the United States as third in the number of children adopted by Canadians.

[To view statistics](#)

Korean Adoptees Take on Adoption Law

November 5, 2009

Six Korean adoptees filed an appeal with the Korean Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission last year to request a probe into irregularities in their adoption documents and possible illegal procedures at local adoption agencies. If their efforts succeed, the groups will drastically change the landscape of domestic and international adoption in Korea, a country that according to Representative Choi Young-hee, "still has a stigma attached to it as one of the major exporters of children." If successful, the adoptees would be the first to return to their original country and change adoption practice through legislation.

[For more information](#)

Yukon Unseals Adoption Records

October 2009

In April 2010, Yukon will join Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, and British Columbia as Canadian provinces allowing adopted adults and birth parents access to sealed adoption files. Parents or adopted children who want their adoption files kept confidential have until the end of April 2010 to make that request. The Canadian government is announcing and informing people of this change.

[For more information](#)

Guatemala Resumes Adoptions

December 2009

After a two-year suspension of adoptions from Guatemala, officials from the country are resuming international adoptions. Allegations of adoption irregularities including baby selling prompted Guatemalan officials to conduct a wide-range investigation that resulted in the hiatus of services. The country was the world's largest source of

babies sent to the United States with China leading in that number.

For updates on Guatemala, check with the [Joint Council on International Children's Services](#)

[For more information](#)

Ontario Removed Birth Fathers from Birth Certificate

December 2009

Legislation enacted in Ontario on June 1 to open records to adult adoptees has uncovered a secret that is rocking the Canadian province. Out of all 250,000 Ontario adoption registrations, less than 10 percent have fathers' names on them, according to the Ministry of Government Services. Until the mid- 1980s any unmarried mother could not put the father's name on the birth certificate unless she with the father made a statutory declaration that he be named. But even when the mother completed the father's section, the information was routinely whited-out, blacked-out or covered up. Adoptees now seeking information can find their mothers, but not their fathers.

[For more information](#)

Korean Birth Mother Find Son

November 2009

After five decades, Willie's birth mother had finally found her only son. Willie says he has lived a typical American life, however it was a letter from Holt International saying they were looking for William Ray Whitescarver. What followed was another letter from his birth mother, who was now 81 that read, "Dear my son, it's been a really, really long time," and "I've prayed these days and have tried to find you." After DNA confirmation, Willie and his three children and their spouses took a trip to meet his birth mother in Korea.

[For more information](#)

Native American Adoptees Straddle Cultures

November 2009

Susan Devan Harness, author and researcher, finds that many Native American adoptees like herself must negotiate between American Indian and white societies. Adopted in Montana by white parents, Harness was among a large group of First Nations children forcibly adopted into white families as part of a national social experiment conducted from 1958 through 1967. Adoptees in her research reveal that they were considered inferior to their white siblings, but also ran into resentment from tribal members when returning to the reservation of their birth. Tribal members called them "apples" -- red on the outside but white on the inside. Today Harness says, "I know that the expectations -- or lack of expectations perhaps -- that were placed on me as I was growing up and trying to find my place in the world really caused me to limit my abilities, for a long time, but I think I've got my footing in this world at last."

[For more information](#)

Ground Breaking Study Reveals Adoptee Discrimination

November 2009

Local author, Kate St. Vincent Vogl is one of an estimated 6 to 8 million Americans who are adopted and experienced adoption-related discrimination from the moment adoption became part of her life. Vogl says knowing she was adopted didn't change the love she felt for her

family, but she also learned that it was the "elephant in the corner" and shouldn't be talked about.

Many adoptees now tell the Evan B. Donaldson Institute that they were stigmatized as children and struggled with their identity and self-esteem well into adulthood. The study, "Beyond Culture Camp: Promoting Identity Formation in Adoption," examined two adult groups -- Korean-born adoptees and white adoptees. Executive Director, Adam Pertman tells ABCNews.com, "This is the biggest and deepest study of its kind." The study has garnered much publicity in the past month and to date is the most extensive examination of adult adoptive identity. To read or download a full copy of the report, visit www.adoptioninstitute.org

[For more information](#)

Montana to Create 'Close Relative' Registry

December 2009

Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) started a new Close Relative Registry, which passed into law in 2009 and will identify close relatives of children who could potentially be placed in foster care. The registry will expedite the process of finding potential placements for children who are removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse. Most situations are often made easier when the child is placed in foster care if the child can be placed in familiar surroundings with a close relative. DPHHS Director Anna Whiting Sorrell said, "This registry will provide staff with a list of close relatives who could be immediately contacted should the need arise."

* Minnesota does not have 'Close Relative' Registry.

[For more information](#)

Siblings Reunite on Thanksgiving

December 2009

Mark Robinson and Helen Ford were reunited with their birth mother, Delores Burlew, 72, for the first time this past Thanksgiving. Ford and Robinson were adopted by the same couple in Longview, Washington. They always knew they were biracial and recalls having issues growing up in their predominantly black neighborhood. Both Robinson and Ford discovered Burlew had met a young black man in high school and became pregnant at the age of 17 but came from a strict Mormon background so she was forced to give up her first child and was kicked out of the house when she became pregnant for the second time. Burlew said it was great to find out both of her children were together and had been adopted by the same couple. Burlew says she never changed her maiden name in hopes that someday her children could find her.

[For more information](#)

Research

Outcomes of Children Adopted from Eastern Europe

December 2009

Fifty children adopted from Eastern European orphanages were assessed over a five year period and found to have IQs and achievement scores within a normal range for their ages. Also assessed were parent stress factors with the surprising finding that parents of children adopted at younger ages reported the greatest

amount of parenting strain. Behavioral and school problems such as ADHD and learning disabilities were fairly common with 46 percent having ADHD and 40 percent some sort of learning disability, with 38 percent exhibiting multiple problems.

[For more information](#)

Save the Children Finds Most 'Orphans' Have Living Parent

November 2009

According to research by the charity *Save the Children*, most children living in orphanages throughout the developing world are not orphans. Ninety-eight percent of children in residential care in central and Eastern Europe, 94 percent of those in Indonesia and 90 percent of children in Ghana have at least one living parent. In Liberia and Sri Lanka, the figure is 88 percent and 80 percent respectively. Poverty is the main reason children end up in institutions, rather than the death of a mother or father, the report concludes.

[For more information](#)

Neglected Children Less Likely to Return to Birth Families

December 2009

Researchers Kimberly Bundy-Fazioli, Marc Winokur and Tobi DeLong-Hamilton studied outcomes for children removed from their families of origin due to abuse compared to those removed for parental neglect. Neglected children stayed on average 92 days longer in foster care and were less likely to be reunified with their birth families. The study suggests that research and guidelines regarding neglecting families is lacking for practitioners.

[For more information](#)

Study Finds Adopted Children Fare Well

November 30, 2009

The majority of adopted children are healthy emotionally, socially and medically according to nonpartisan Washington research group finding. Based on a federal survey of 2,000 parents from a variety of types of adoptions, researchers found more similarities than differences in adoptions from foster care, private domestic adoption or international adoption. Infertility as a motivating factor in adopting accounted for 72 percent of internationally adopting parents, 52 percent in private domestic adoptions and as much as 39 percent of those adopting from foster care. Most private domestic adoptions are occurring by family members or by someone who knew the child prior to the adoption. Four out of ten adopted children are in transracial adoptions. No matter what type of adoption by the time they are five years of age, 97 percent of the children know they are adopted.

[For more information](#)

Innovative Program Bridges Birth and Foster Parents

December 2009

Children in foster care have a more positive experience if their birth parents and foster parents work together to ensure that the children feel loved and comfortable in their out-of-home placement. Since 2005, Fairfax County in Northern Virginia through its *Bridging the Gap* program has trained and fostered openness between birth and foster parents through meetings, education and caseworker involvement. The program is currently being evaluated on its impact on permanency planning.

[For more information](#)

Inside MARN

MN ADOPT Trainings Offered by MARN

MN ADOPT provides adoption-competent trainings for professionals, educators and families. For more information or to see a full list of programs visit www.mnadopt.org/training or call 866-303-6276.

To view private and county adoption orientation meetings, please [click here](#) to view the calendar.

ADULT SERIES: "The Attachment-Stressed Child: How to Survive & Thrive with the Challenge"

January 4, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
St. Cloud, MN

[For more information](#)

YOUTH SERIES: "The Attachment-Stressed Child: How to Survive & Thrive with the Challenge"

January 4, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
St. Cloud, MN

[For more information](#)

Four-Session LABS Series (Learning Alternative Behavioral Strategies) beginning 11/30/2009, 1/04/2010, 2/08/2010, 3/08/2010.

[To register - adult](#)

[To register - youth](#)

Transforming the Challenging Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach

January 26, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Minneapolis, MN

Learn new and different techniques and interactions that will help to bring out the best in your challenging child. Ms. Feigal is the author of "The Pocket Parent Coach" and has been featured in the *Star Tribune*, and as KARE 11's "Super Nanny."

[For more information](#)

[To register](#)

Additional MN ADOPT Trainings

Hair Care of African American Children Children's Home Society & Family Services Webinar

January 13, 2010

Transitions with Deena McMahon

January 20, 2010

Regional Training Event: Beating the Odds: An Adoption Story for Youth and Stand By Me: Setting Up & Maintaining a Support Group with Claudia Fletcher

January 23, 2010
St. Cloud, MN

Go to www.mnadopt.org/training for updates.

Upcoming Events

"Tips from the Trenches" on Monday, February 22, 2009

Sister Helen Prejean, the author of *Dead Men Walking*, says, "Deborah Jiang Stein is evidence of the magnificent resilience of the human spirit." Stein will speak on, "An Adoption Story: Tips from the Trenches," on Monday, February 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Lutheran Social Services in Minneapolis. Jiang Stein was born heroin-addicted in a federal prison. Today as an adoptive parent she offers an inspirational story of struggle against the odds, resiliency and hope for children with troubled early experiences. Past audiences call her presentations a "not to be missed event for parents and professionals in foster care and adoption."

[For more information](#)

[Register Now](#)

Free Adoptee Support Group

Adoption is a life-long journey. Adoptees are in a unique position to support and understand this journey. While our individual stories may be unique, we share common issues as adoptees. If you are an adult adoptee, you are eligible and welcome to attend this group.

Adoptees MN is a support group for adult adoptees (18 years of age or older), led by adoptees that will meet each 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Loring Park Office Building at 430 Oak Grove Street Minneapolis, MN 55403 in the Community Room, Suite #207. Street parking is free on Saturdays or parking is available in the lot on Oak Grove Street across from the Women's Club building. Entrance is located on 15th Street. A receptionist will be on duty.

For more information, please email adopteesmn@gmail.com or call Carrie at 651-457-2252 or Penny at 612-616-3139.

650 Will Move to ZERO in Minnesota if...

- Each Metro church 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.
- Bureaucracy and barriers to adopting were reduced (Call us at 612-861-7115 if you are encountering either!)

Zero Kids Waiting



PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



Donate Today



The Zero Kids Waiting e-newsletter reaches parents willing to adopt children that are not reached by general recruitment measures.

Please consider donating as much as you are able to that we can reach ZERO -- Zero Kids

Waiting.

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Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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