

# Zero Kids Waiting

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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## In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Youth](#)

[Local News](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Research](#)

[Inside MARN](#)

[Follow Zero Kids  
Waiting](#)

[Donate Today](#)

## Quick Links

[Zero Kids Waiting  
Website](#)

[MN ADOPT  
Website](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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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

### Dante's Hoop Dreams



Dante, 14 years of age, is looking for a permanent place to call

home. Dante enjoys being active and playing sports, especially baseball, football and most of all basketball. Dante says Ohio is his favorite college basketball team and it is his dream to play for them someday. Dante is very social and likes interacting with others. "I love talking, even though it gets me in trouble sometimes," says Dante.

When he is not playing basketball, Dante enjoys hanging with friends, listening to music and playing video games. Dante also loves board games and lists mystery and suspense as his favorite books to read. Dante is looking for a family that is fun, active and spends lots of quality time together. He is open to a two parent or single parent household, preferably a mom. The most important thing Dante wants in a family is understanding and patience as he learns to express his feelings. "I am a good guy looking for a good family, who is going to support me in my journey to adulthood and beyond," says Dante.

For more information about adopting Dante, please contact Amirthini Keefe, Child Specific Recruiter for Children's Home Society & Family Services at 651.255.2441 or [Akeefe@chsfs.org](mailto:Akeefe@chsfs.org).

## Local News

### Recruitment Steps Up for Black History Month

February 2010

MN ADOPT, in conjunction with Wendy's Wonderful Recruiters from PATH and Hope Adoption, is doing outreach to African American barbershops and beauty salons during Black History Month in an effort to encourage more African American parents to adopt waiting children. Posters featuring African American waiting youth are being distributed to local barber and beauty salon managers to display for customers. A feature story about an African American youth is expected to be published in *The Minneapolis Spokesman and Recorder*, Minnesota's oldest African American newspaper. Efforts are to address the disproportional number of African American children in child welfare cases and who as guardians of the state, wait longer for adoption.

To download or view the Practice Guide from Minnesota Department of Human Services: The Role of the Caseworker in Identifying, Developing and Supporting Strengths in African American Families Involved in Child Protection Services, [click here](#).

### Minnesota Children's Theatre Presents "Mr. McGee & The Biting Flee"

January 2010

Foster, adoptive and kinship families can enjoy a discounted performance at the [Children's Theatre](#) of "Mr. McGee & The Biting Flee." Six whimsical stories will emerge from dozens of suitcases as Australia's celebrated Patch Theatre transforms a storeroom into an enchanting scene of music and play.

Come see what happens when a wayward duckling doesn't listen to his mother. Meet a king made out of dough. Dine with Mary Elizabeth and the monster that lives in her house. These are delightful takes by award-winning children's writer Pamela Allen, told in gorgeous, witty

harmonies that celebrate the possibilities of storytelling and the power of children's imaginations.

Foster, adoptive and kinship families are welcome and will receive a special price of \$10. Performances run through February 21, 2010.

To order tickets, [click here](#). Please list "foster/adoptive/kinship" as organization.

For more information, visit [www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org)

## World / National News

### Haiti Imposes Restrictions on Removal of Children

January 2010

On January 25, 2010 the Haitian government announced that exit documents were required to approve removal of any child from the country. Following the Haitian earthquake the State Department imposed restrictions on removing children whose adoptions were not in the final stages of adoption from the country. An official United States humanitarian parole is allowing pre-approved adoptions to proceed from Haiti. Discussions between Haitian and American government officials are continuing regarding the exit document process.

A surge in activity by groups in violation of the State Department policy has been reported, including an Idaho-based charity group that police apprehended as they took 33 children into the Dominican Republic. Nine out of 109 children sent to the Netherlands were not approved for adoption and will now enter foster care.

The [Joint Council on International Children's Services](#) (JCICS) reports a spike in inquiries from families wishing to adopt Haitian orphans. Children's advocacy groups such as [UNICEF](#) and [Save the Children Foundation](#) warn that airlifting children following natural disasters precludes finding surviving birth family members and may further increase psychological trauma for already traumatized children. Before the earthquake, Haiti had a problem with child trafficking with thousands of children disappearing yearly.

To read more, visit these links:

[Child Rescue Bid Raises Tough Questions in Haiti](#)  
[Haiti Q & A: The Ethics of Disaster Adoption](#)  
[Dutch Adoption Airlift](#)  
[Haiti Earthquake Evacuation Flights to U.S. Resume](#)

### New Adoption Law in Queensland

January 2010

Earlier this month, Queensland announced a new law that will allow more than 3,000 individuals affected by adoption before 1991 the right to access information about their own identity or that of a child who was placed for adoption. Acting Child Safety Minister Karen Struthers said the Adoption Act would mark will mark the most

significant reform of Queensland's adoption law in more than 45 years. According to adoption campaigners, the changes are only a small solution to larger issues. Adoptees who decide to view the documents must first sign a waiver saying they will not contact their birth parents or hold the government responsible for any past decisions.

[For more information](#)

### **Chinese Man Shares Story of Baby Trafficking**

January 2010

Yuelin Duan was recently released from prison last month after serving four years of a six-year sentence for child trafficking. Duan's story began in 1993 when the Communist Party's campaign to limit population size was running strong. Because abandoning babies was illegal, mothers would discard their unwanted daughters in the streets. By 1997, orphanages were sending thousands of baby girls abroad for adoption receiving a donation of \$3,000 for each adopted baby. By 2000, the supply of babies was less and less, putting pressure of the Duan family to seek new opportunities by buying babies to sell to the orphanages. The orphanages then disguised the origins of the babies and would fabricate information.

Duan's story is backed up by hundreds of pages of documents gathered in his 2006 court case. This case shed light on the secretive process that saw tens of thousands of unwanted girls born to poor parents in the Chinese countryside now growing up in the United States.

[For more information](#)

### **High School Sweethearts Reunite and Search for Daughter**

January 2010

The *40 Year Secret* is a compelling Canadian documentary that tells the story of two teens, Linda Dawe and Raymond Cave who were high school sweethearts in the 1960s in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada. However their lives were forever changed when Dawe discovered she was pregnant. Dawe's parents insisted she leave their hometown for the duration of her pregnancy and there was no arguing her baby would be put up for adoption. As father, Cave was pushed completely out of the picture. Forced to go their separate ways, neither one was able to communicate their undying love for one another.

Fourty years later, at their high school reunion, seeing one another for the first time since high school both Dawe and Cave renewed their love. The were later married and have now set out to find their daughter they gave up for adoption back in 1967. This documentary is narrated by acclaimed Canadian actor, director and Academy Award-nominated screenwriter, Sarah Polley.

[For more information](#)

### **Adoption Agency Faces Lawsuit**

January 2010

Antonio and Antoinette Carchedi from Arlington is suing a Marblehead, Massachusetts adoption agency, alleging the agency lied about its accreditation and asked for thousands of dollars to assist in adopting a child from eastern Europe. The Carchedi's first contacted the agency in 2002 and were told by the operators, Kimberly Menard and Dragos Vranceanu they had an "established network" set up in Romania. After payments made to the Marblehead agency totaling \$24,100 and another \$3,900 for airfare to Paerm, Russia the couple discovered the agency had no contacts in Russia. They were unable to adopt a 2-year-old boy they had met during their trip because the agency "was not accredited or legally allowed to operate in Russia."

[For more information](#)

### **Adoptee Seeks Stem Cells from Birth Mother**

January 2010

At age 3, doctors at John Hopkins diagnosed Shahonna Grove with [Evans Syndrome](#), a disease that attacks the red blood cells. Grove received treatment and her disease went into remission when she was twelve. This time, blood work has revealed she had [aplastic anemia](#) and her bone marrow is not able to produce red blood cells. The disease can be treated but she needs a bone marrow transplant but the most likely donor is a parent or other close blood relative. However Grove is adopted and although she had a brief reunion with her birth mother a few years back she recently found out her birth mother's family does not know of her pregnancy and made it clear she doesn't want to her family to know. "I don't want to disrupt anybody's life, but at the same time I don't want to die either," says Grove.

[For more information](#)

### **TV Show Depicts Foster Girl**

January 2010

*Life Unexpected*, a new television series about a 16-year-old in foster care who finds her birth parents is attracting a huge audience of teens. Airing on the CW network, the hit show is based on the creator Liz Tigellar's experience of being adopted and fantasizing that her birth mother was Nancy Reagan. Visit [Life Unexpected](#) homepage.

[For more information](#)

### **Detective Searches Family For Foster Youth**

January 2010

Carlos Lopez, a former police detective, and his partner track down long-lost relatives of teenagers languishing in foster care who are in desperate need of family ties. Lopez knows the challenge when it comes to finding adoptive parent(s) for older children with years in foster care. Typically, these children were abused or neglected and had parental rights terminated. Lopez often discovers that relatives may not know where the children are, or that the children even exist. Lost relatives are a largely untapped resource for adoption, which is why the [Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition](#) in St. Louis employs

Lopez. Melanie Scheetz, director of the nonprofit says, the system has overlooked amazing, strong people who are out there and willing to help.

[For more information](#)

### **Foster Kid Turned CEO**

January 2010

Nathaniel Williams was only five when he and his 11 siblings found themselves orphaned. Shortly after their mother died, Williams along with his siblings were paired up and put in taxi cabs that brought them to their new foster homes. This moment marked the beginning of 13 years of upheaval and dislocation. The family drifted apart, gathering only at the funerals for four of the siblings. Despite Williams' setbacks he has found success as president and CEO of [HumanWorks Affiliates](#), a human services organization devoted to providing quality and individually based services to person with mental disabilities, children and youth, the disadvantaged and other under-served populations,. The mission is to help them reach their potential and succeed.

[For more information](#)

## **Research**

### **Orphanages Benefit Some Children**

December 2009

A Duke University study was published and to date is one of the most comprehensive studies of orphans ever conducted. The study of more than 3,000 orphaned and abandoned children in five Asian and African countries suggests that overall health of children in orphanages is no worse than that of children who grew up in nearby communities. The research team compared the physical health, cognitive functioning, emotion, behavior and growth of children ages 6-12, half of them living in institutions and the other half living in the community. Study leader and director of the Center for Health Policy at the Duke Global Health Institute, Kathryn Whetten, said, "Our research is not saying that institutions are better. What we found is that institutions may be viable options for some kids." The research team plans to continue tracking the thousands of children involved in the study into their late teens and early 20s to determine how their childhood affects their life course.

[For more information](#)

### **The Texas Adoption Project**

January 2010

Authors Joseph Horn and John Loehlin presents the results of a thirty-five year research project in a book titled "Heredity and Environment in 300 Adoptive Families: The Texas Adoption Project." The families they followed each adopted at least one child at birth from a Texas home for unwed mothers during the period of

1962-1970. The book weaves together information about the birth parents, adopted children and adoptive parents. The study was designed to investigate the influence of genetic and environmental factors. The book explores if adopted children grow up to resemble their birth parents they have never seen. The clear conclusion is that heredity factors have an influence over the child's environment.

[For more information](#)

## Inside MARN

### ZKW Campaign Expands to Republic of Georgia

January 2010

The Republic of Georgia is launching a campaign to end the forced institutionalization of children in orphanages. The former Soviet Union republic discovered the Zero Kids Waiting project online and has been granted permission to use the concept to meet the needs of both children and adults in Central and Eastern Europe. The population served also includes those with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges who have been relinquished by parents due to lack of resources, disabilities or other life challenges. Jennifer Heettner, program coordinator of the *Open Society Institute Budapest*, said, "We believe the Zero Kids Waiting campaign model is quite powerful and would work well in our local context, given how much we value the idea of all children living in homes with families."

### 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](http://www.mnadopt.org/training) or call 866-303-6276.

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

### Upcoming Events

#### **Beginning Monday, February 1, 2010**

**"Reactive Attachment Disorder: How to Survive & Thrive Beyond the Diagnosis" Six-Session LABS Series** (*Learning Alternative Behavioral Strategies*) with Deena McMahon and Krista Nelson

\*To register, contact Janet Hammer at 612.746.5125.

[View brochure](#)

#### **Friday, February 19, 2010**

**Webinar: "The Mosaic" When Reactive Attachment**

### **Disorder (RAD) Meets Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)"**

\*CD of presentation will be available for purchase, to inquire please email [ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org).

[View brochure](#)

[Register Now](#)

### **Monday, February 22, 2010**

**"An Adoption Story: Tips from the Trenches"** with Deborah Jiang Stein

[View brochure](#)

[Register Now](#)

### **Free Adoptee Support 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.

For more information, please email [adopteesmn@gmail.com](mailto: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.

To make a secure, tax deductible online donation, click [Donate](#)

## Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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