

Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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Contact Us

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

1221 Nicollet Mall
Suite #501
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Toll free: 866-303-6276
Local: 612-861-7115
Fax: 612-861-7112
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org



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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

Monica Is Always Learning



Monica is an active girl who is always on the go. Although shy when first meeting people, she warms up after she establishes a trusting relationship. Shopping and going out to eat are her favorite activities with other "favs" being listening to music, dancing and swimming. She is nurturing towards animals and loves having a pet. Her active curiosity, especially about trying new things, translates into a constant quest to learn new skills.

Monica envisions a career in photography or gourmet cooking. Her favorite recipes include chicken and vegetable sauté. Currently she finds science to be the best part of school since her class is conducting experiments with volume and water.

Monica grows introspective as she shares the importance of having a family, saying, "When you have a family, you always have someone to talk to when you are down and someone to be there for you during the hard times." Other qualities in a family she sees as significant are being fun and respectful. Monica is only interested in a single mom or a two mom family. Five years from now Monica hopes to be a part of a family, successful and "trying my best."

For more information about Monica, please contact Cimena Gordon, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child Focused Adoption Recruiter, Kindred Family Focus

cgordon@kindredfamilyservices.org, 651-224-2172

World / National News

Real Life Philomena meets the Pope

Recently the real life woman portrayed in the movie *Philomena* had a meeting with Pope Francis. Philomena Lee, 80, was invited to the Vatican to meet with the head of the Catholic Church that forced her to give up her baby son for adoption in Ireland because she was not married. In later years both Lee and her son, adopted by an American family and who worked for President Ronald Reagan, were deterred by the church in finding one another when they made separate visits to seek one another.

[For more information](#)

Class Action Lawsuit Filed by Biological Fathers

A class action lawsuit filed by birth fathers in Utah Adoption cases claims that the state laws prevent biological fathers from asserting their rights in adoption cases. The lawsuit is against two former Utah Attorney Generals, one of whom suggested that the fathers should propose new legislation rather than pursue legal recourse.

Justice Department Charges Agency with Fraudulent Adoption

A South Carolina placing agency was recently indicted for allegedly conspiring to defraud the United States with services in Ethiopia. International Adoption Guides was charged in creating fraudulent adoption contracts signed by orphanages that did not house the children. The agency is accused of paying the orphanages to sign papers saying they cared for the children. The investigation is ongoing.

[For more information](#)

Recruiting Through Churches

Successful health-care executive and Atlanta businessman, Rick Jackson was in foster care from the age of 13. Determined to improve the system, Jackson met Bill Hancock whose life in foster care resembled his and who with him formed FaithBridge, a non-profit faith-community-oriented foster and adoption program. Hancock and Jackson approached churches with possibilities for congregants to not just adopt or foster but to offer respite care on the weekends, to babysit or buy a child clothes. In the past five years, FaithBridge has recruited more than 200 families for Georgia's foster care system through churches.

[For more information](#)

Hit Series Covers Life in Foster Care

ABC has a family hit show called *The Fosters* that depicts the life of youth in foster care. Attracting millions of fans, youth and adults can join in discussions to better understand the real foster care experience on

<http://bit.ly/CWLAMediaClub>

National Bill Addresses Birth Certificate Errors from Other Countries

A bipartisan bill has been introduced in Washington D.C. to assist families adopting from other countries who encounter problems with birth certificate errors. Currently, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service requires families to petition the child's country of origin in adoptions in cases where documentation is faulty. The Accuracy for Adoptees Act would authorize USCIS to recognize state court orders

and cut red tape for adoptive families.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Foster Youth Wins Leadership Award

Haley Kuehl was recently named one of FosterClub's Outstanding Young Leaders of 2013 and the only Minnesotan to receive this honor. The 20-year-old is a second-year student at St. Cloud State University with plans to become a pediatric nurse. Kuehl has been in foster care since she was 11 and gives credit to her foster mother for helping her and extending her time in foster care beyond 18.

UM Adoption Research Study Needs You

Are you an adoptive parent of an internationally adopted child between 6-21 year old that been diagnosed with a disability? The purpose of the study is to inform adoption practices and improve adoption supports for families. Participating takes 60-90 minutes and information is protected and confidential. The child must have lived either temporarily or permanently in a group home, residential treatment center, foster care or with another adoptive family.

To participate or learn more, contact JaeRan Kim at blev0001@umn.edu or Jaerankimresearch.wordpress.com

Inside MARN

Coins Benefit Kids

The Pond Fund of MOA™ donated \$1059.54 to Minnesota Adoption Resource Network from coins tossed into the Mall of America fountain during December. Thanks to the generosity of The Pond Fund and all who donated so that we can help find adoptive families for 520 Minnesota children in immediate need of families.

*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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1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501 Minneapolis, MN 55403

866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ www.zerokidswaiting.org

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