

# Zero Kids Waiting

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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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

### Juan Seeks to Explore Korean Heritage



Sung Juan, age 10, prefers to be called Juan. Creative and versatile, Juan can often be found climbing trees, enjoying the outdoors, drawing or painting. He has many interests that are constantly changing. Although his photos shows him proudly displaying an award from Karate tournaments, he has already moved on to the Boy Scouts that is filling the time he spent at Karate lessons.

Juan takes great pride in his school work and enjoys learning. His teachers say he is good student at school and actively participates in classroom discussion.

White equally proud of his African American and Korean bi-racial heritage, Juan would like opportunities to explore his Korean culture. Juan would benefit from a family where he can have experience one on one attention in a nurturing, structured family.

For more information about adopting Juan, please contact Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Molly Cirillo at 651.266.4085 or [molly.cirillo@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:molly.cirillo@co.ramsey.mn.us)

## Local News

### Ramsey County Ramps Up Permanent Connections

November, 2009

The Adoption/Guardianship Unit of Ramsey County has changed its name to the Permanent Connections Unit to reflect an emphasis on child recruitment and advocacy. December of 2008 the county began a five-year Permanent Families Recruitment Project with the goal of finding adoptive parents for every Ramsey child awaiting adoption. Diligent recruitment measures are being implemented including a youth advisory group of foster and adoptive youth to increase public awareness of youth in the Child Welfare System.

On Saturday, November 21, 2009, Ramsey County's Permanent Connections Unit set a record of 36 children adopted into 25 families. Another 12 children were adopted the day before National Adoption Day, bringing the total to 48 kids adopted at the Ramsey County Juvenile and Family Justice center. Among the families adopting were Wayne and his wife Angela (see picture) who adopted Wayne's sister, Reality, age 15, following the death of their mother. Karen Franklin, a social worker with Permanent Families Recruitment Project, said, "The family bond remained unbroken when Wayne and Angela adopted Reality and made a dream come true for her."



(Anglea, Reality, Taylor)

### Reanna's Story

January 2009

On a recent Fox-9 broadcast, Reanna, age 12, reflected on the days before her adoption, saying, "I was getting tired of moving from house to house. This is the house where I can stay."

Marika and Shane Hendricks had adopted 6-week-old Elizabeth in Florida, but the Hendricks wanted to adopt again and were concerned about the cost. Marika said, "Coming back from some event in Minneapolis we saw this billboard that said, 'Adoption does not have to cost you anything.' I hurried and wrote down the number, called the next day and started the process of another adoption. We were looking for boys 5-9 years old, but somehow Reanna's story just jumped out at us. It turned out she was EXACTLY what we needed. Reanna came to our house as a foster child in November 2008, and we legally adopted her in July of 2009.



(Back: Marika, Reanna, Shane Front: Elizabeth)

### **2010 Outlook for Non-Profits is "Mixed"**

January 2010

A Minnesota Council of Non-Profits' survey of 639 non-profit organizations confirmed the dire impact of 2009's economic downturn as well as guarded expectations for 2010. Among the findings was an increased need for services despite reduction in revenues. Human service organizations were better able to maintain or grow donations compared to environmental, educational or employment-related non-profits. Smaller organizations with budgets under \$400,000 were the most challenged to survive. Survival depended on hiring and salary freezes, freezing employee benefits and/or reducing staff. Some non-profits relied on the Recovery Act of 2009 to apply for federal grants.

[For more information](#)

## **World / National News**

### **Foster Kids-Turned-Mom**

January 2010

According to a University of Chicago study of youth in foster care, nearly half of girls had been pregnant at least once by the time they were 19. Other research finds the birth rate for girls in foster care doubles that of their peers. Young woman like Daisy Rodriguez describes how she became a 23-year-old single mother of two. "It's this need of wanting a family, a longing to have somebody as family. There's just this numbness of being alone in the world."

[For more information](#)

### **Australia Suspends Adoptions from Ethiopia**

December 2009

Ethiopian children make up 13 percent of the average 300 international adoptions a year by Australian families. Recently, the Australian Government suspended all child adoptions from Ethiopia over fears that it could be breaking human rights laws against child

trafficking. The Attorney General's office will conduct a review of the adoption process out of Africa, therefore putting adoptions on hold until the following year.

[For more information](#)

### **Sisters Reunite, 72 Years After Adoption Scam**

December 2009

Devy Bruch, 72, is meeting her sister for the first time in Memphis, Tennessee. Bruch was one of the thousands of children stolen by Georgia Tann, the Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Children's Home Society in the 1930s. Bruch's mother, a teenager was reportedly under heavy sedation at the time she signed papers surrendering her unborn baby to Tann. Her mother was later told she had given birth to a baby boy who died. Bruch's other daughter, Robin decided to dig deep into her mother's unknown past and discovered she had given birth to Devy. The two sisters plan to spend time getting to know each other.

[Watch news clip](#)

To view excerpts from the book, *The Baby Thief: The Untold Story of Georgia Tann, The Baby Seller Who Corrupted Adoption*, [click here](#)

### **Sibs Say Keep Us Connected**

November 2009

SaySo, an organization located in North Carolina, provides a platform for youth to educate the community about needed changes in the foster care system. Strong, able youth believe that by expressing themselves verbally, they are informing others of real-life situations. Recently Shanita, age 15, shared her personal perspective on the importance of maintaining sibling connections. Shanita chose adoption while her sister, age 16, by choice lives in a group home. SaySo helps the sisters remain connected. Shanita says she and her siblings have been "torn and ripped apart, sewn and glued together."

[For more information](#)

### **No Spike in Adoptions, As Predicted**

December 2009

East coast adoption agencies, [Spence-Chapin](#) and [Friends in Adoption](#) had predicted just over a year ago that due to the declining economy they would see a rise in adoptions. This past December both agencies found the number of placements has decreased. Spence-Chapin was fully aware that finances were not the only reason women place their child with adoptive families, but they knew that it was a factor and so it seemed likely that widespread job losses might see an influx of pregnant women seeking their services.

[For more information](#)

### **Colorado Opens Adoption Files**

December 2009

This past April, the Colorado Court of Appeals made a landmark decision to unlock the vault for thousands of adults determined to learn their biological heritage. Since July, more than 500 people adopted in Colorado got to see their original birth certificates. Richard Uhrlaub, co-director of Adoptees in Search says, "It's a complex mix of emotions, politics and money. And rights." The ruling also opens up adoption files that are in the custody of the state Department of Human Services. Records are available to adoptees born between

1951 and 1967, the years impacted by the court ruling.

[For more information](#)

### **New Correspondent Close to Adoption Story**

December 2009

Maureen Maher, CBS News Correspondent for *48 Hours*, says it was impossible not to get wrapped up in the subject matter of her recent special because the topic, adoption, is so close to her heart. The hour special called "The Lost Children" examined children taken from struggling Samoan parents and given to American families as part of a massive adoption scam. Maher, who was adopted at birth, felt through her own experience she was able to give adoptive parents a "little piece of my story that helps them." Maher took time and talked to them personally about her life as an adopted child and what they may face in the future.

[For more information](#)

### **Son Finds Birth Mother Through Facebook**

January 2010

The Tuesday before Christmas, Ted Brewer, age 24, found his birth mother through a private investigator and Facebook. Brewer says he has always wanted to find his birth mother and did not know that for years she was also looking for him. They met on Christmas along with a handful of other relatives his mother brought to meet him. After the long embrace and tears of joy, Brewer shared scrapbooks that his adoptive parents had made for him and smiled as he introduced his mom and dad to his birth mother.

[For more information](#)

## **Research**

### **International Adoption Rate Takes Drastic Dip**

December 2009

The United States State Department reports a 13-year low in the number of adoption of children from other countries from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009. Figures for fiscal year 2009 showed 12,753 adoptions from abroad, down from 17,438 in 2008 and nearly 45 percent lower than the all-time peak of 22,884 in 2004. Adoptions from China, the major source of children, peaked in 2005 and have steadily since then. Adoption rates have dropped due to the new Hague regulations instituted to safeguard children from child trafficking and other violations of human rights as well as movement on the part of sending countries to promote intra-country adoption.

[For more information](#)

### **Mexico City Legalizes Adoption for Same-Sex Couples**

December 2009

In opposition to the Catholic Church and the rest of the country, Mexico City has legalized marriage and adoption by same-sex couples. The vote by the city's legislative assembly on the marriage issue was 39 to 20. In a separate vote, adoption was approved 31 to 24, with some lawmakers abstaining in each case. Mexico City's initiative goes further than any other Latin America by rewriting the

law to redefine marriage as a "free union between two people," not only between a man and a woman. It gives homosexual couples the same rights as heterosexual pairs, including the right to adopt.

[For more information](#)

## Inside MARN

### Adopt A Teen: Get Help with Electronics

Alastair, now 18, first entered foster care at the age of 8 and was adopted at 16 in 2008. Alastair was recently interviewed by Lorenzo Davis, MARN/MN ADOPT Outreach Coordinator, and Carly Cantu, Targeted Adoption Recruiter for Hennepin County, on KFAI "Fresh Air" Radio (90.3 FM and 106.7 FM).

Alastair describes moving from ten to about fifteen foster homes as "stressful. I didn't get to see my biological family but I wanted my own family. I was with a family who weren't really my own. The most stressful was waiting for a family." Now that he's adopted, he says, "I wake up every day in bed that I know will be mine."

Of great concern to him before he got adopted was the prospect of having to be on his own at 18. "The closer you get to 18 the more anxious you are to get adopted because of aging out. You have to provide for yourself and don't get health benefits. You're let out into the world on your own." Alastair says, "After being adopted, I always have a family I can fall back on. There's help if I need it."

As to why adults should considering adopting a teen, Alastair says, "There's no diapers. We're already in high school so you can see us grow in every way and turn into an adult." He also adds that parents of teens can get "electronics help."

To listen to the interview, click on the website: [www.kfai.org/node/25281](http://www.kfai.org/node/25281) You will be directed to the *Wave Project* homepage, click on the red "Listen Now" icon and "Accept Terms," then choose either "MP3 Stream" or "Real Audio" to listen.

For more information about MN Waiting Youth, contact Lorenzo Davis at [ldavis@mnadopt.org](mailto:ldavis@mnadopt.org) or call 612.746.5129.

### Camp Adventure Winter Blast

*Friendship Ventures* announces their annual "Camp Adventure Winter Blast" from February 13-15, 2010. Camp Adventure is a specially designed camp experience for kids ages 9-12 with ADHD (Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder) and their siblings to come and play in an environment specifically designed with them in mind. Camp Adventure hires only the best staff and designs a variety of fun activities that appeal to kids and families. Team work, positive interaction, kindness and respect are some of the themes that will be highlighted over the three day adventure.

Download an application at [www.friendshipventures.org](http://www.friendshipventures.org) under the "forms" tab or call toll free 800.450.7376. A deposit of \$199 is due at registration. Please declare session # 516 on your application.

Registration is open now and closes on January 29, 2010. Space is limited so sign up today!

[Visit Friendship Ventures](#)

[View brochure](#)

[View application](#)

## 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

#### **Saturday, January 23, 2010**

**"Stand By Me: Starting & Sustaining Parent Support Groups"** (*Adult Track*) with Claudia Fletcher

**"Beating the Odds: A Survival Story for Adopted Youth"** (*Youth Track*) with Deborah Jiang Stein

[View brochure](#)

[Register Now - Adult Track](#)

[Register Now - Youth Track](#)

#### **Tuesday, January 26, 2010**

**"Transforming the Challenging Child: The Nurtured Heart Approach"** with Tina Feigel

[View brochure](#)

[Register Now](#)

#### **Thursday, January 28, 2010**

**"Adoption Essentials: Culture of Care"** with Ted Thompson

[View brochure](#)

[Register Now](#)

#### **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

\*Discount if you register before January 29, 2010.

[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!)

### MARN Thanks

Thank you to the Otto Winzen Memorial Advised Fun of the Catholic Community Foundation for the generous contribution of \$5,000.

### Zero Kids Waiting



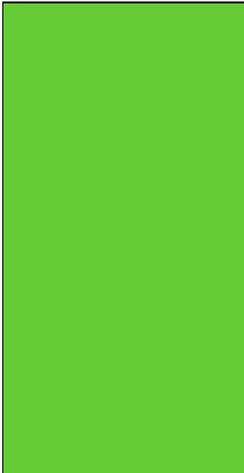
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