

Zero Kids Waiting

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

July 2009 - Volume 3, Issue 14

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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.

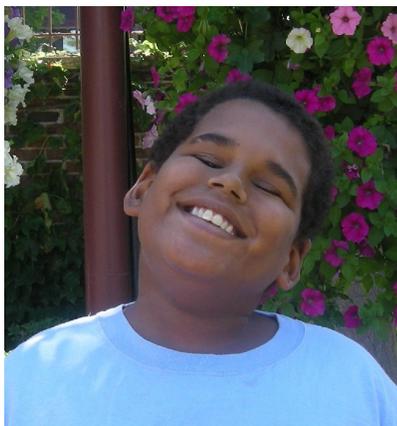
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To learn more about Minnesota's waiting children and our goal to reach Zero Kids Waiting visit [State Adoption Exchange](#)

Waiting Child

At 16, Marcus still believes...



Despite waiting a long time for a family he can call his own, Marcus has hope for being adopted. He says, "I don't care where the family lives or how many kids they have as long as I have a family."

Marcus enjoys many kinds of sports, including meeting players. He says, "It was pretty cool when I got to meet Jamal from the Minnesota Gophers. I've also met some of the Timberwolves and I attended a Minnesota Wild game last year." His dream is to see the

Twins play some day, saying, "I enjoy all kinds of sports. Baseball, hockey, basketball, football, I don't really have a favorite."

Besides loving sports, Marcus shows his compassionate side when it

comes to animals. "I really love working with animals. I like it when I get to go to the humane society and walk the dogs or brush the cats. It's nice and the animals really like it. I feel bad that they don't have families and wish I could adopt a dog, but they won't let me where I live."

To learn more about Marcus, please contact Rachel FitzSimmons, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at *Hope Adoption/Ramsey County Adoption* rachel.fitzsimmons@co.ramsey.mn.us or **651.266.4085**.

World / National News

Congress Considers Easing International Adoption Process

July 27, 2009

Sen. Jim Inhofe, a senator from Oklahoma, introduced legislation on June 27, 2009, to alleviate the red tape for Americans adopting children internationally. The bill, co-authored with Sen. Mary Landrieu from Louisiana, would automatically grant the child American citizenship and remove the need to obtain an immigrant visa for the child. The legislation proposes to require adoptive parents to follow the procedures similar to those that biological parents follow when a child is born internationally. In addition, Sen. Inhofe is co-sponsoring another bill that would permit U.S. parents to bring the child into the country upon certification that the child would receive required immunizations within thirty days. That legislation would also allow Americans to adopt multiple children who are siblings.

[For more information](#)

Donaldson Institute and CWLA Form Partnership

July 8, 2009

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute are forming a strategic partnership to increase the overall impact of two of the nation's leading organizations dedicated to helping children and families.

As independent entities, the two organizations will formally collaborate on specific research, work products, trainings, advocacy, and other programs designed to improve laws, policies, and practices in the fields of adoption, foster care, and child welfare. Upcoming projects include an initiative to increase the number of children, especially those of color, adopted from foster care and upcoming White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

[Adoption Institute](#)

[Child Welfare League of America](#)

Adoption Scammer Pleads Guilty

July 3, 2009

Orson Mozes, accused of swindling \$800,000 from 59 hopeful parents through his adoption business, pled guilty in California Superior Court yesterday to 17 felonies and a white-collar crime enhancement. Mozes' Adoption International Program placed Eastern European children with American families, allegedly taking deposits from families who, once abroad, learned the children had been placed with other families. Fifty-nine felony counts represent people who were duped out of money and never received the child they were promised. Mozes faces imprisonment and a separate civil lawsuit in Pennsylvania filed by 17 families who claim to be victims.

[For more information](#)

WWII French Children of German Father Trace Roots

Now in their 60s, a group known as *enfants de boches* or "children of the Huns," who were born to French women and German soldiers during World War II, are hunting for their German fathers. An estimated 200,000 born of wartime love affairs are seeking the help of the German and French governments to try to identify their fathers or blood relatives living in Germany after the war.

[For more information](#)

Ethiopian Court Halts Adoptions

May 4, 2009

A temporary halt of adoptions of abandoned children referred by orphanages in Addis Ababa has been instated by an Ethiopian court. Despite a sizeable increase in children being brought to orphanages for adoption lately, the Ethiopian government has been alerted to possible unethical practices. Pending the investigation, adoptions from orphanages in the capitol city are temporarily halted.

Recession Hits Nonprofits

In a trickle down effect from a recession hitting 'for profit' businesses, Minnesota's nonprofits continue to be seriously affected. The Minnesota Council for Nonprofits predicts extended impacts from the reduction in revenue nonprofits have already seen and expect to continue to see in the coming months and years.

- Organizations relying on state, local or federal government funding are seeing varying levels of unreliability in payments to them from government, making it increasingly difficult for organizations to plan accordingly.
- A majority of organizations report an increase in demand for services, yet must cut back on staff.
- All major nonprofit revenue sources (contributions, government funding, foundation grants, and earned income) are decreasing.
- Small organizations are most impacted, with far more reporting

declines in revenue and cash shortfalls. Small organizations are also the least likely to have available reserves or a line of credit upon which to rely.

[For more information](#)

U.S. Supreme Court Hears Special-ed Case

The United States Supreme Court is hearing a case with potential financial repercussions for school districts. The case concerns whether public schools must reimburse parents for private school tuition in cases when the schools have denied or are unable to provide special education services. The case stems from an Oregon case in which a teen was found ineligible for special-education services at his high school, where he was not evaluated for Attention-Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder despite case notes that indicated the potential diagnosis. Legally, parents may seek public financing for private school if the public schools cannot adequately serve their children.

Day to Honor Birthmothers Slated

The Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, in conjunction with Catholic Charities, is offering a Day of Honor and Recognition for Birthmothers on Saturday, July 18, 2009 from 9:30 AM to 2:45 PM. This second annual event is set aside to recognize the sacrifices made by those who have relinquished a child to adoption, and to offer an opportunity for healing and learning about resources available to birthmothers.

Dates/Times

July 18, 2009 - 9:30 AM to 2:45 PM

Cost

\$10.00 to cover lunch and expenses; Scholarships available

To Register

651.291.4488 or visit www.archspm.org

Location

St. Charles Borromeo Church
2739 Stinson Blvd. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Inside News

MN ADOPT Debuts -- July 1, 2009

On July 1, 2009, the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network launched MN ADOPT, a state-contracted initiative that combines the State Adoption Exchange with adoption training, referral, and information. MN ADOPT includes an online database listing children in Minnesota who are available for adoption on www.mnadopt.org as

well as a slate of pre-adopt orientations and trainings offered by private and county agencies throughout the state. Also available through MN ADOPT will be information about support services offered by private agencies, counties, tribes and individuals for families who have adopted Minnesota waiting children, referrals to statewide services and resources to support parenting children with special needs. Statewide MN ADOPT trainings, online and in person, are available for adoptive parents and professionals.

Information Line

612.861.7115 (local)
866.303.6276 (toll free)
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org

Great River Energy

MN ADOPT would like to thank Great River Energy for their recent contribution of \$2,500. We appreciate their continued support and generosity.

Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763.455.5000
www.GreatRiverEnergy.com

Research

Five Impediments to Teen Adoption

Jen Braun, Co-Executive Officer of Ampersand Families, a private adoption agency that recruits and supports permanent families for older youth, finds five obstacles to adoption for teenagers.

1. The community lacks awareness about the need for families for youth in their 'double digits' (ages 10+). Teens wait the longest and are over-represented among children needing permanency.
2. Prospective families worry that they are not good enough. Braun says that some prospective families feel that they must "pass inspection" in the home study process, a concern that can override learning about the needs of older waiting youth.
3. People don't believe that teens want to be or should be adopted. Braun recently met with someone who asked, "Why on earth would anyone ever want to adopt a 17-year-old?"
www.americanradioworks.org
4. Finding families for teens and tweens is time-intensive for workers as is the preparation by families, but persistence pays off!
5. Teens themselves have a fear of being adopted or don't understand what adoption really means. If you dig beneath the "I don't want to be adopted" or the "I'm not sure I want to be

adopted," that exploration often finds the teen really saying, "I'm scared," "I don't want to have to give up my last name," "I will be betraying my birth family if I allow myself to be adopted," "No one will want me," or "I don't want to lose contact with people important to me."

Jen Braun

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Minneapolis, MN 55413
612.605.1903 direct
612.605.1916 fax
www.ampersandandfamilies.org

Gearity Writes Developmental Repair Training Manual

Dr. Anne Gearity, a leading therapist, educator and trainer in children's mental health treatment, recalls the lament of a child receiving services from the Washburn Center for Children, as "I don't want it to be all my fault." The response, while typical of children who have experienced complex trauma inspired her to write a training manual as a framework for interventions to help children access new learning to heal and grow. The guidebook describes a model for developmental repair to approximate the interactive learning processes that at-risk children have missed. Included are steps on implementation.

The Washburn Center is a 125-year-old agency recognized as a leader in helping children with social, emotional and behavioral problems and assisting their families.

www.washburn.org

Teen Risky Behavior Linked to Belief in Premature Death

One in seven adolescents believe it is highly likely that they will die before age 35, a belief that researchers find is a predictor of future risky behaviors. University of Minnesota Medical School researcher Iris Borowsky, M.D., Ph.D., and colleagues conducted a nationally representative sample of more than 20,000 youth in grades 7 through 12 during three separate study years. Illicit drug use, suicide attempts, promiscuity and violent behaviors were correlated to adolescent predictions that they expected to die young.

"While conventional wisdom says that teens engage in risky behaviors because they feel invulnerable to harm, this study suggests that in some cases, teens take risks because they overestimate their vulnerability, specifically their risk of dying," Borowsky said. "These youth may take risks because they feel hopeless and figure that not much is at stake."

A disproportionate number of youth identified at being at-risk were youth of color and of poverty. Researchers concluded that family and

school connections foster hope and optimism as deterrents to high-risk futures.

[For more information](#)

Zero Kids Waiting



PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



Donate Today



Minnesota Adoption Resource Network is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization that since 1980 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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