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# Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

July 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 26

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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

**Animal Lover, Jacki, is "Crazy for Cows"**



"I LOVE COWS!" exclaims Jacki, who at fifteen, enthusiastically embraces a variety of interests including scrapbooking, figure skating and animal rights. Even though cows are favorites with Jacki, she would like to live in a small city or medium-sized rural area. Jacki adds, "I also love food. All of my previous foster families have said I am a bottomless pit. I have a high metabolism. I weigh 105, but I am not any bit self conscious about my figure. I am not big on shopping, but I am picky about what I wear. I love to figure skate. You can't keep me off the ice."

Related to her admiration for cows, Jacki says, "I am 100% against animal cruelty and testing and will not use any products that are used on animals. Oh, and I would love a pet fish."

Jacki seeks a younger couple or single mom who will be involved with her interests, schooling and after school activities. She will do her best in a home where she is an only or the youngest child, and her new family must be comfortable with ongoing openness with birth family members.

For more information about Jacki, contact Azur Idali Walters, Child-Specific Adoption Recruiter at Children's Home Society & Family Services at 651-255-2249 or [awalters@chsfs.org](mailto:awalters@chsfs.org).

**World / National News**

## **Foster Care Numbers Decline - Good or Bad News?**

July 2010

Despite predictions that the number of children in foster care would explode in today's failed economy, Minnesota... like California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey and Ohio.. is reporting a decline. While some attribute the cause to be a national trend in expediting adoptions and aiding families so foster care is not needed, a number of child welfare experts report that a reduction of children in foster care in economic hard times should be cause for alarm.

Deep budget cuts at the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services in Ohio prompted calls to child protection that were not investigated, and a decline in placements of at-risk children into foster care. After several deaths occurred of children known to the Department, local media and child advocacy organizations are decrying what they believe to be the result of drastic budget cuts that are endangering children.

[Read Related Article](#)

## **Argentine Mother Awaits DNA Results**

June 2010

Ernestina Herrera del Noble, mother of adopted children, Marcela and Felipe, is anxiously awaiting the results of DNA test being done to resolve a nine-year legal battle over their identities. The children say they feel like "hostages" in the fight and that they don't want to see their 84-year-old mother go to jail. Human Rights activists claim the children adopted three decades ago were stolen from prisoners during the dictatorship between 1976-83. During that time hundreds of babies were born in clandestine torture centers, which human rights groups believe killed as many as 30,000 of the regime's political opponents. The organization, Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, has helped recover 101 of these children so far and believe the Noble Herraras children are among the 400 who still don't know their true identities. "If it is found that these children were victims of state terrorism and those who raised them are responsible, they will have to pay what the law stipulates and be punished," says Estel de Carlotta, president of Grandmothers.

[For more information](#)

## **England Pilot Program Reduces Foster Care**

June 2010

After several high profile deaths of children, England is reviewing its system of child protection. In the investigation, a non-traditional pilot program in a London borough has garnered national attention for reducing the number of children in care. The Hackney Pilot Program creates small units of five around each child. One social worker focuses on the child while others attend to adults' needs and a

separate administrator does the paperwork. The group shares decision-making responsibilities as well as the stress surrounding the outcome for the child. Marion Davies, president of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, said, "If we don't invest in early intervention and prevention then we will find ourselves in a spiral where all the time we are having to deal with much less cost-effective sharp-end intervention."

[For more information](#)

### **India Decries Adoption that Exploit Children**

July 2010

A Bombay high court has been hearing petitions filed by NGOs Advait Foundation and Sakhee seeking action against the Preet Mandir Adoption Center, alleging various irregularities and concern for the 450 children housed at the center. The court expressed its anger at adoption process in India by stating, "We should not talk about the rich culture and heritage of our country if we treat children in adoption homes like commodities." Justice Marlapalle said the matter is being looked at in its totality by the state government and it is the state's responsibility to rehabilitate the children in adoption centers, but these are slowly turning into corporate ventures as adoption centers charge more for healthy babies than sick babies. At the last hearing the adoption center has challenged the revocation of their license before a different bench of the court.

[For more information](#)

### **Hillary Clinton Appoints Special Advisor of Children's Issues**

July 2010

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced on July 1, the appointment of Ambassador Susan S. Jacobs as Special Advisor to the Office of Children's Issues. Secretary Clinton has been a long-time advocate for children and created a new foreign policy to address intercountry adoption and international parental child abduction. Special Advisor Jacobs will actively engage with foreign government officials to protect the welfare and interests of children.

[For more information](#)

### ***Time* Explores "When the Adoptee Can't Adapt"**

June 2010

The June 28 edition of *Time Magazine* continued in depth coverage of adoption of Russian children with a close look at several families. The article faults the lack of an official infrastructure to help families cope after an adoption of children diagnosed with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and with backgrounds of extreme neglect and abuse. Families unable to cope are resorting to using agencies such as the Montana

Ranch for Kids that houses mostly Russian children whose adoptions have been dissolved and underground Internet groups that match children with other families willing to take them. One researcher said that he estimates that 4,000 disruptions or dissolutions of of adoption of Russian children have occurred since 1990.

[For more information](#)

### **Preserving Sib Connections**

July 2010

[Child Welfare League of America](#) (CWLA), the oldest and most respected child welfare organization in America, promotes keeping siblings together in adoption and in foster care. CLWA suggests that any decision to separate siblings should be based on a carefully documented and reviewed determination that such separation is necessary. Research suggests long-term damage to siblings kept from one another including difficulty in forming attachments, developing a healthy self-image and healing (McNamara, 1990).

### **Social Media Facilitates Reunions**

July 2010

Despite restrictive laws and practices that seal birth certificates, court records and adoption paperwork, reunions are occurring between birth family and adopted persons. Social media such as Facebook, My Space, along with Internet searching tools are facilitating contact, often initiated by birth parents. So great is the concern that British social workers recently held a conference, "Facing Up to Facebook" to explore the implications of social networking within adoption.

[For more information](#)

### **Kristin Chenoweth Urges Others to Adopt in U.S.**

June 2010

Kristin Chenoweth, star of the television series "Pushing Daisies" and Broadway shows like "Wicked" and "Promises, Promises" is bringing awareness to a cause very near and dear to her heart, adoption. Chenoweth, an adoptee, is dedicated to reminding everyone that there is an overwhelming number of American children that are in desperate need of a loving home. During Father's Day weekend Chenoweth was encouraging everyone to support the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption by treating themselves to a Frosty from Wendy's. Proceeds from each Frosty purchased went to the Foundation that is devoted to finding a home for the 123,000 young Americans awaiting adoption.

[For more information](#)

### **Children's Book Explores Open Adoption**

July 2010

*Sarah's Adoption Story* relates the tale of a little girl, her four parents, and their open adoption. Designed by the American Adoption Congress, this interactive book helps young families talk to their children about adoption and how it has impacted their lives. Before Sarah was born, her four parents decided Sarah would have an open adoption. She lives with Mommy and Daddy and visits her birth mother. Sarah hopes to meet her birth father someday. The book includes activities to help children to express their feelings on adoption with the adults in their lives.

[For more information](#)

## Research

### Child Welfare Improvements

June 2010

Research from the United Kingdom shows that radical changes are needed to improve assessments and support for families where there are concerns about parental abuse. The study was carried out by Professor Jane Barlow, professor of Public Health in the Early Years at the University of Warwick's Medical School. The report sets out a new vision for children's services and social work. The research review points to the need for integrated assessments that focus on better parenting capacity, parent-child interaction and parental readiness and capacity for change. The science is very clear that early environment and the first three years play a major role in shaping children's cognitive, behavioral, social and emotional development. "Our vision needs to include a greater focus on the first three years of life," says Professor Barlow.

[For more information](#)

### Research Compares Sperm Donation to Adoption

July 2010

The Catholic Church Commission on Parenthood's Future's study, "My Daddy's Name is Donor: A New Study of Young Adults Conceived through Sperm Donation," evaluated the well-being of children, now adults, born through sperm donation. Researchers Elizabeth Marquardt, Norval D. Glenn and Karen Clark compared 485 adults between the ages of 18 and 45 who said their mother used a sperm donor with 562 adults who were adopted as infants and 563 adults raised by biological parents. The group conceived through artificial insemination had more medical concerns, negative identity factors and higher rates of substance abuse than other groups. Secrecy about their origins left a higher "legacy of distrust" than for the adopted person that participated in the study.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### **Lynx Host Faith and Family Night, August 1st**

July 2010

Minnesota's professional women's basketball team, The Lynx will hold a Faith and Family night at the Target Center on Sunday, August 1, 2010. Families are invited to an evening of WNBA basketball and live music by Everyday Sunday, the Christian pop rock band. A Jumbrottron message about the need for families for Minnesota Waiting Children will be broadcast throughout the game.

Discounted tickets are available, contact Caitlin Lerfald at 612-673-8420 or [Lerfald@lynxbasketball.com](mailto:Lerfald@lynxbasketball.com)

[View Flyer](#)

### **Movie Theater Adapts Films for Children Having Sensory Needs**

July 2010

Sensory Friendly Films has partnered with the Autism Society and AMC Entertainment to provide movies for children who have special needs. Rather than soothe, the darkened theater and the heightened sound may disorient and scare children diagnosed with autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and sensory challenges. They may respond with behaviors that would prove disruptive to the movie audience.

The next Sensory Friendly Films event is "Despicable Me" at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 17 at the AMC Roseville 14 Theater at 850 Rosedale Center in Roseville, Minnesota or at AMC Eden Prairie 24 Theater at 8251 Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

### **Local Adoption Champion, Paul L. Singer, Dies**

June 2010

Paul L. Singer was known for his business expertise and advocacy for adoption. His death on June 11, 2010 occurred after a stellar career as chief information officer, first for Target Corporation and then for SUPERVALU. In both positions, he utilized his concern for children without families by starting employee groups that focused on adoption. He was a board member of the Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS) and of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) and was cofounder of the Retail Orphan Initiative.

## Archdiocese Honors Birthmothers with Second Annual Event

July 2010

In response to a need to recognize the pain of mothers who relinquished children to adoption, Catholic Charities with the Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family & Life is holding an event for birthmothers. *A Day of Recognition and Honoring Birthmothers* takes place Saturday, July 17, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 9900 Lyndale Avenue South in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The day, exclusively for birthmothers, will include the opportunity for support, the sharing of sacraments, a liturgy and a candle ceremony.

For more information [click here](#) or call 651-291-4488.

[View map](#)

## Inside MARN

### Orphan Train Riders Feted by AHA

June 2010

Six of the eleven surviving Minnesota Orphan Train riders were honored at the AHA - Adoptees Have Answers celebration, Saturday, June 19 at the Minnesota History Center. The riders represent an estimated 200,000 children sent from New York City on trains starting in 1853 and taken in by families. A footnote in history that is omitted from history books, the Orphan Train Movement ushered in the concept of foster care. Ron Peluso, Director of the History Theatre, served as Master of Ceremonies. The program included performances by cast members from the musical *The Orphan Train Musical*, presentations by middle school History Day competitors, and a panel of riders who shared their stories and brought memorabilia from their journey.

In tribute to the Minnesota orphan train riders and their families who participated in the event on June 19, and the train riders now deceased, Governor Tim Pawlenty declared June 19, 2010, 'Orphan Train Rider Recognition Day in Minnesota.' Each rider was presented with a copy of the Proclamation while the original will hang in the central community hall of the Franciscan Sisters Center in Little Falls, Minnesota where the Orphan Train reunions have been held for many years.

[View more photos](#)



(Minnesota Orphan Train Riders)

### **Paul Buckley to Present July Webinar**

Please join MN ADOPT as Paul Buckley presents *Avoiding Power Struggles & Healing Hearts: Responsive Parenting to Engage the Reactive Child* on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT).

#### **Webinar Description**

Paul Buckley understands that children or youth who generate power struggles are often seeking parental connection while at the same time avoiding the frightening burden of vulnerability and/or intimacy. Mr. Buckley reveals the child's motivation for control while providing you with a better understanding for the psychological purpose and cause of power struggles. Mr. Buckley will offer three strategies that work to induce cooperation and strengthen bonds between child and caregiver.

Substantial time for discussion, questions and answers will be included in this 90-minute webinar presentation. Parents, professionals and others are invited to participate in this interactive online training. All you need is a computer with internet access, a telephone and a pioneer spirit.

#### **Fee**

\$15.00 webinar only  
\$15.00 CD only  
\$25.00 webinar & CD

To register, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

[Training Calendar](#)

**Archived Webinars Available on CD**

The following MN ADOPT and AHA webinar presentations are available on CD. All CDs include training content (PowerPoint) and audio commentary by each presenter.

### **MN ADOPT**

*Presentations run approximately one hour*

#1101 *Tough Questions, No Easy Answers: Some Useful Tips for Raising Hurt Kids* with Deena McMahon

#1102 *Back to School with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)* with Kari Fletcher

#1103 *Silent Night: Calming the Holidays for Children with Sensory and Neurological Differences* with Kari Fletcher

#1104 *The Mosaic: When Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) Meets Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)* with Deena McMahon & Wendylee Raun

#1105 *Great Ideas for Increasing Biculturalism in Transracial Families* with Robert O'Connor

#### **Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\$65.00 for 5-Disc Collection

\* *Prices include tax & shipping*

### **Adoptees Have Answers**

*Presentation run approximately ninety minutes*

#2201 *Adoptees Have Answers: Enlisting the Experts* with Adam Pertman

#2202 *Minnesota Orphan Train Riders: Historical Reflections on Adoption Over the Lifespan* with Renee Wendinger

#2203 *How to Start a Support Group for Adult Adoptees* with Penny Needham, Sandy White Hawk and Kate Ingalls-Maloney

#### **Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\* *Price includes tax & shipping*

For more information, contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122 or [ajohnson@mnadopt.org](mailto:ajohnson@mnadopt.org)

**Thank You!**

Thanks to [Great River Energy](#) for their \$1,500 contribution to Zero Kids Waiting.

Thanks to the [Shakopee Rotary Club](#) for their \$1,000 contribution to Zero Kids Waiting.

## \*400 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!)

\* The number of Minnesota children waiting for families has decreased from 650 to around 400. While this shows progress our target is ZERO waiting children.

## Zero Kids Waiting

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**PSA Airs on You Tube**

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## 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](#)

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