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Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

June 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 25

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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

Carshay, Writes Letter to his Future Family



In the following open letter to the family he waits to adopt him, 13-year-old Carshay shows both his humorous and serious side. A potential family would need to nurture his emotional needs and commit to supporting him reach his full potential.

Dear Family:

My name is Carshay.

I like video games, board games and cards. But it's going to take time to get used to living with you. It's important that I keep in touch with my siblings. I want to keep in touch with people who are important to me. I am smart. I like to go out to eat. My favorite restaurant is Old Country Buffet. Math is my best subject in school and I want to be on the basketball team.

I like to collect cars, baseball cards, football cards, basketball cards and Pokéman cards. I like allowances. I like to clean only if I get paid, just kidding... I am funny. I like movies that include action, funny and sometimes "kiddish" movies. I liked *Alvin and the Chipmunks* and can't wait to see *Avatar*. I like dogs. I've never been out of the state in my whole life. You might want to read my records so you know what I am going through and who I really am. The things I am telling you now is what I know.

From Carshay

For more information about Carshay, please contact Cimena Rogers at PATH Minnesota and Wendy's Wonderful Kids at 651-224-2172 or crogers@pathinc.org.

Feature

Orphan Train Riders to be Feted

June 2010

AHA - Adoptees Have Answers along with the Minnesota History Center is hosting "Celebrating the Lives of Minnesota's Orphan Train Riders" on Saturday, June 19 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center. The event spotlights what many believe was the beginning of the foster care concept in America, when from 1853 to the early 1900s, as many as 200,000 destitute children were sent in trains from New York to live on farms around the country. Minnesota has 11 riders, the most surviving of any state, with seven expected to attend the event where they will be feted in a program of music, film and tributes. Emceed by Ron Peluso, artistic director of the History Theater in St. Paul, the program will include performances by original cast members of *The Orphan Train* musical drama. Riders will speak on a panel, two youth will present Orphan Train projects that won national and state History Day prizes, and a video of Orphan train rider, Sister Justina Bieganeck will be shown.

Celebrating the Lives of Minnesota's Orphan Train Riders

Saturday, June 19, 2010

2 PM to 5 PM

Minnesota History Center

Live Program - 3M Auditorium

345 West Kellogg Blvd

St. Paul, MN 55102

Admission \$5.00 (cash or check at door)

Parking \$5.00

Please RSVP before June 15 to Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122 or
ajohnson@mnadopt.org

Visit <http://aha.mn> for more details and directions.

How to Start an Adoptee Support Group for Adults

with Penny Needham, Sandy White Hawk, and Kate Ingalls-Maloney

Please join us on Wednesday, June 30, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. as three AHA Advisory Group members present and discuss their processes for starting an adult peer support group. The overall presentation will focus on the step-by-step process by which each of these support group founders have been able to establish successful adoptee-to-adoptee support groups with unique methodologies. Each presenter will touch on their philosophy of peer support and how they assessed the need for the group. Ample time will be allowed for questions and answers during this ninety-minute online webinar presentation.

Adoptees, 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

\$15.00 CD

\$25.00 webinar & CD

To register, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122. In the future you will be able to register online through the AHA website.

World / National News

Russia Tightens Restrictions Around Adoption

May 2010

A tentative bilateral agreement between Russia and the United States has been reached to ensure safeguards in adoptions of Russian children. Talks between the countries will continue to discuss early areas of accord including requirements that adoptive families and agencies must report on the health and well-being of children. Russia will allow adoptions only through agencies that are accredited with the Hague Adoption Convention.

[For more information](#)

Indiana Highlights Father Engagement

June 2010

The loss and non-involvement of nonresident fathers contributes to children entering the child welfare system. The Indiana Department of Child Services is collaborating with the [Fathers and Families Center](#) to create a pilot program to improve outcomes for children in Marian County, Indiana. Participating fathers attend support groups and learn parenting skills and have access to legal counsel. Project leaders credit the program with instilling in them as well as with their clients the importance of inclusion of fathers in all processes of child welfare.

[For more information](#)

***Adopted* Now Available on Netflix**

June 2010

Adopted takes a look at the complexity and unpredictability of transracial adoption. First-time director Barb Lee reveals the lives of two well-meaning families and shows us the subtle challenges they face. One family is just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China and is filled with hope and possibility. The other family's

adopted Korean daughter is 32-years-old and prompted by her mother's terminal illness to create a bond with her that she had never shared before. The documentary shows two families at the opposite ends of the journey and includes additional educational material. *Adopted* can be viewed through Netflix (Educational DVD not available through Netflix).

[For more information](#)

States Enact Adoptee Access Legislation

May 2010

Illinois governor signed a bill on May 21 that allows adult adoptees, 21 or older, to get their original birth certificates. A birth parent of an adoptee born after 1945 can veto disclosure of the birth parent's identity so long as the birth parent is alive.

New York and New Jersey, after many years of having bills held up by those in opposition, have access bills that are moving forward. An access bill in Rhode Island unanimously passed the House and advances to the Senate for consideration.

[For more information](#)

Foster Children Sue New York City

May 2010

A federal lawsuit was filed last month to bar New York City from allowing foster care children to be kept in psychiatric hospitals after doctors have recommended their release. The Legal Aid Society, a nonprofit group that represents foster care children in New York, is seeking a preliminary injunction ordering the release of three children who are currently hospitalized despite doctors' recommendations they be released. They have also filed a court order prohibiting the city from continuing to place foster-care children in hospitals unless medically necessary. The United States District Court in Brooklyn, claims that the children who no longer require hospitalization have limited access to schooling, family visit and walks outside.

[For more information](#)

Research

Educational Neglect Investigations Wane

June 2010

In harsh economic times, the numbers of children entering foster care typically increases. As states report fewer numbers of children entering into care, one reason may be that less funding is available

for child protection services except for the most egregious of cases. Faced with hard decisions, some states and counties have assigned education neglect to be the least harmful of child protection concerns. Poor school attendance is an indicator of many future problems including criminality, substance abuse, job instability and incarceration. Although the largest category of child endangerment reported by schools, educational neglect is the hardest to prove according to Dr. Andrea Sedlak, researcher with the Westat's Human Services Research Area. Neglect rates (13.1 per 1,000) outpace the rates for abuse (11.1 per 1,000) as a cause for children entering the child welfare system.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Juneteenth Offers Celebration...and Recruitment

May 2010

Around the nation Juneteenth Festivals of Freedom celebrate the freedom of African Americans from slavery in a commemoration that began in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. On Saturday, June 19, the Twin Cities will host their annual Juneteenth Festival in North Mississippi Regional Park. The event includes a parade, food, music and family fun that is centered around African American culture.

MARN will host a booth to inform and recruit families for Minnesota waiting children. According to the most recent national government report, 30 percent of the children in foster care waiting to be adopted are African American.

Supreme Court Rule Impacts Child Protection

May 2010

A recent ruling by the Minnesota Supreme Court requires counties to pay legal fees for indigent parents in child protection cases. The decision arose after Rice County challenged a lower court ruling to have them pay for a private lawyer for a woman whose newborn had been removed. Some counties with budget shortfalls have cut fees to pay lawyers creating a conflict about which branch of government should incur the costs since such parents require legal representation. The Court's decision puts the cost of representation back on counties.

[For more information](#)

Local Authors Publishes Children's Book

June 2010

Local author Pamela Rollins is a dedicated mother of eight children,

four of whom are adopted. Rollins's youngest daughter Camela, was the inspiration for her new book, *Life Sure Feels Different Living in a Separate House from My Brother*. The book is an enduring tale of a little girl who is separated from her brother due to circumstances beyond her control. She is adopted by a foster family, while her brother is sent to live with his birth dad. Camela is sad and frustrated by the separation and thinks about life with her brother.

Now available at [Halo Publishing](#)

Kim Speaks on Ambiguous Loss

May 2010

Jae Ran Kim described the scene in the Harry Potter movie where Harry looks in the mirror and sees but can't touch his deceased parents. "That is like ambiguous loss in adoption," Kim told the audience that filled every seat in the University of Minnesota room. Kim elaborated on the research of Pauline Boss about the phenomena of having no clear, symbolic ritual that addresses the grief that is neither recognized nor approved. Kim's presentation was sponsored by AK Connection that provides a global community for Korean adoptees.

Visit AK Connection at www.akconnection.com

Archdiocese Honors Birthmothers with Second Annual Event

June 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

Borders Books Joins Child Recruitment Effort

May 22, 2010

Recently patrons at a local Borders Books received bookmarks and discounts on merchandise while learning about Minnesota Waiting Children. Located in the Midway area of St. Paul, the Borders store offered customers an opportunity to mingle with others from diverse backgrounds and were able to view profiles of African American children and youth needing permanency. Downey Side partnered with MARN's State Adoption Exchange to host an informational booth and to distribute "Every Child Deserves a Permanent Family" bookmarks.



(Lorenzo Davis, MARN Staff)

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/trainings or call 866-303-6267.

[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 Include:

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

[For more information](#)

[View Order Form](#)

Adoptees Have Answers Presentations Include:

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 an Adoptee Support Group for Adults* with Michele Benson, Penny Needham and Kate Ingalls-Maloney (available after June 30)

Price

\$15.00 for each CD

* Price includes tax & shipping

***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.

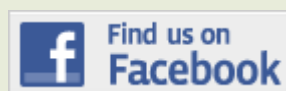
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PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



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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](#)

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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