

# Zero Kids Waiting

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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## In This Issue

[Welcome](#)

[Waiting Teen](#)

[Celebrate National  
Adoption Month](#)

[Headline News](#)

[World / National News](#)

[Inside News](#)

[Pledge Zero Campaign](#)

[Special Thanks](#)

[Zero Kids Waiting](#)

[Donate Today](#)

## Quick Links

[MN ADOPT  
Web site](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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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.

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 Teen

### Trysten, age 13, Huge Heart & Love for Animals



Her photos reveal two sides of Trysten, reflecting her bold spirit, as well as her ability to fill a room with her laughter and smile. Possessing a ton of energy and excitement for life, Trysten loves being with people, especially when they can join in the fun and be goofy with her. Her humor promises to keep parents on their toes. Her laughter is punctuated by a snort. Trysten loves to be active, whether it's swimming, playing soccer, or playing yard games. She likes school and is proud of all her hard work. Hip-hop music is really special to Trysten, and singing together in the car is one of her favorite things to do. Trysten has a huge heart for animals and wants

to be a groomer one day to make dogs feel loved. She also is very thoughtful and caring towards other people. She always asks, 'How are you doing?' if she senses you are upset.



Trysten is eager to have a family who will care about her enough to stick around. However, she is somewhat apprehensive about adoption because she has been hurt so many times. She wants a mom and a dad but would be okay with just a mom too. If Trysten had siblings, she would like them to be older, but she would be alright if she was the only child. She expresses an interest in living in a bigger city but would also like to have horses. She wants an active family who likes to do things together. The most important thing that Trysten wants a family to know about her is that she cares about things.

For more information about Trysten, please contact Meghan Berg, Permanency Specialist for Ampersand Families, at 952-693-1764 or [meghan@ampersandfamilies](mailto:meghan@ampersandfamilies).

## November is National Adoption Month

### Celebrate!

The 2009 theme for November as National Adoption Month, is "You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent." Local and national organizations are scheduling activities to promote awareness of adoption, particularly the need for families for older youth and for children of color who are over-represented and awaiting permanency.

### 12th Annual Circus of the Heart Kicks off National Adoption Awareness Month

November 2009



Gathering under the Earle Browne Heritage Center's "Big Top" on Sunday, November 1 were children recently adopted, as well as children and youth still needing families. For twelve years, Circus of the Heart has signaled the start of National Adoption Awareness Month for Minnesota to honor families and celebrate adoption.

The Jodi Kueng family put a story and face around adoption as KARE-11's John Henk introduced them from the podium (family pictured above). Mom, Jodi, along with her son J. Alexander welcomed Matthew in 2001 and daughter, Radiance in 2005. On October 1, 2009, Taylor and her brother Jordan had their adoption finalized.

Aside from the petting zoo, pony rides, clowns and appearances by the Minnesota Twins' T.C. Bear, highlights included Chris Zappa from the Children's Theatre engaging audiences in story-telling. Among the prizes awarded in a drawing was a Minnie Mouse that outweighs its new owner Mya who, according to her mother is sleeping with it every night. Another prize winner accepted his signed Minnesota Viking's jersey by sporting a Green Bay Packer's shirt as a way to show his colors in the "big" Vikings vs. Packers game that took place later that afternoon.

To view more photos [click here](#)

### **Hennepin County Slates Adoption Day**

November 21, 2009

Hennepin County's annual Adoption Day in Court is scheduled to finalize a number of adoptions of children under state guardianship takes place Saturday, November 21, 2009. Typically, a number of Juvenile Court judges preside over the adoptions which are collaborative efforts supported by Hennepin County Board, Hennepin County social workers, and volunteers from the community sponsored by the Target Corporation. The celebration will include crafts for the children, a photographer taking family portraits, refreshments and other activities.

Last year presiding Juvenile Court Judge Kathryn Quaintance said of the event, "Adoption Day is a very special celebration, a happy ending for families and children who have probably experienced tremendous stress. Adoption is the promise of a permanent, safe home with loving parents."

[To learn more about National Adoption Day](#)

### **Children's Theatre Celebrates Adoption Month**

November 2009

The Children's Theatre Company invites Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Families, social workers and support staff who work with children to enjoy a discounted performance of *Cinderella*. Families will receive a 25% discount on tickets to attend any performance during the entire month of November.

This performance of *Cinderella* is jam-packed with a wacky, wondrous mix of dance, physical comedy, spectacular sets and outrageous costumes. *Cinderella* is the tale of a girl who rises from the ashes to take her rightful place alongside the prince and is deliciously performed in panto style, an enduringly popular form of English theatre. The Children's Theatre Company's holiday show promises to delight all ages with an exciting rendition of one of the great classic fairy tales.

To receive a 25% discount, call Jeanette at 612-872-5319 and mention "adoption month" or visit [www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org) -- use coupon # 20109.

### **Upcoming Film Festival Features Transracial Adoptees**

November 2009

The Minnesota Transracial Film Festival is the first festival in the Twin Cities to showcase transracial and transcultural voices from the adoption community. The festival is sponsored by AdopSource, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting the integration of culture, identity, and life experience for adopted individuals, their families and the community. In addition to six featured films, including *Adopted The Movie*, readings from local artists, Sun Yung Shin and Brian Thao Worra and musical performance by singer/songwriter Mayda Miller will be part of the celebration on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Oak Street Cinema in Minneapolis.

For more information or to purchase tickets, click here [MN Transracial Film Festival](#)

### **Author & Actor Larkin Celebrates Adoption Month**

November 2009

In her early twenties, Alison Larkin learned her birth mother that she had been searching for, was alive and well living in Bald Mountain, Tennessee. Larkin, who was raised with her English parents, describes the encounter with her birth mother as "life changing." As a classically trained actor and stand-up comedian, Larkin draws from her own experience as an adopted English woman who finds her birth parents in the United States in her novel, *The English American*. To celebrate National Adoption Month, the novel will be available in paperback on the 17th of November. Larkin is currently writing a screenplay for the movie version of the novel. To learn more about Alison Larkin, [click here](#)

To view upcoming appearances, [click here](#)

## **Headline News**

## Groundbreaking Study on Adoptees

November 9, 2009

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute recently released a major study on identity formation for adopted persons, a groundbreaking work that provides significant new information and insights that can be used to improve laws, policies and practices -- as well as public understanding -- on a range of issues relating to adoption, particularly across racial lines.

The study was funded from the Kellogg Foundation and is the centerpiece of a 112-page report entitled, "Beyond Culture Camp: Promoting Positive Identity Formation in Adoption." The study, to date, is the broadest, most extensive examination of adult adoptive identity and is based on input from the primary experts on the subjects, adults who were adopted as children.

To read an article featured in *The New York Times*, [click here](#)

To read or download a full copy of the report, go to [www.adoptioninstitute.org](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org)

For more information about "Beyond Culture Camp" contact Executive Director Adam Perman at [apertman@adoptioninstitute.org](mailto:apertman@adoptioninstitute.org) or call 617-763-0134.

## World / National News

### Adoption Legislation in Session

There are currently two bills being discussed that impact adoptive families. The Foreign Adopted Children Equity Act (FACE) proposes to provide U.S. Citizenship for children adopted from outside the United States by eliminating the visa process for these children. Senate Bill 1376, sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) and Senator Feingold (WI) would restore immunization and siblings age exemptions for children adopted by United States citizens. The Families for Orphans Act hopes to encourage the development and implementation of a comprehensive and global strategy for the preservation and reunification of families.

To research the state, text and summary of any bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>

### ARC to Support Single Moms

November 5, 2009

According to the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ARC) the government is moving to offer more support to single mothers as part of an effort to encourage single mothers to keep their own babies. So far, single mothers have received no state benefits outside of short-term private or government-subsidized facilities. A spokesperson for ARC said, "Once their recommendations are accepted, more single mothers can keep their children through subsidies."

The plan is also set in place to establish a governmental organization to manage adoption and documentation, making it easier for adoptees to find their biological parents. To encourage domestic adoptions, especially of disabled children, the commission also suggests increasing allowances for adopting families.

[For more information](#)

### **California Introduces "Customary Adoption" for Native American Children**

October 2009

After two years, Assemblyman Paul Cook was proud to announce on October 14 that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a California bill that allows the adoption of Native American children to occur without ignoring Native traditional rituals and practices. The bill allows Native children to find permanent, loving homes without the legal termination of parental rights through the alternative process called "customary adoption." This model is the first of its kind. To view the bill, [click here](#)

[For more information](#)

### **ABC Television Series Explores Family Separation and Reunion**

November 2009

ABC will air a documentary series titled, *Find My Family* about those who are searching for their families. Highlighted will be birth mother seeking their children, adult-adoptees seeking to find their biological parents, siblings searching for siblings after childhood separations. The show hopes to help those who are prepared and positioned for positive reunions with lost relatives. Based on the Dutch format of "Lost Without a Trace" the show has gone on to be a big hit in Australia and the show will be airing six episodes hosted by former NFL linebacker and "A Current Affair" anchor Tim Green and entertainment reporter Lisa Joyner. The series, which is from the creators of "Extreme Makeover Home Edition" is seeking people who are up against time in their quest to reunite.

[ABC Network](#)

[For more information](#)

### **Blind Father & Son Find Their Way**

November 2009

One year ago, Jason and Lalena Fayre adopted a five-year-old boy named Pandu from India. Pandu was born blind and adopted through a program offered by the World Association for Children and Parents that provides grants to help with the costs of adopting a blind child. Knowing Pandu did not speak English and was not potty trained, the Fayre's expected some of challenges, but were less prepared when Pandu often hit and pushed them away. However, Jason, who was also born blind and abandoned by his father grew, more confident and was determined to raise Pandu. Today, Pandu who recently turned six is adjusting to his "new life -- a new country, a new home and a new family."

[For more information](#)

### **Mothers & Children Exposed to Water Contamination**

October 18, 2009

Roberta MacDonald, the chairwoman for the North Carolina Coalition for Adoption Reform believes there could be thousands of adoptees who were conceived, carried or born on base before the 1990s and then relinquished for adoption who might never know they were exposed to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune, the largest Marine Corps Base on the east coast located in North Carolina.

Therefore, Diane McCarty is worried about the health of the son she placed for adoption. McCarty a former Marine, was stationed on the base for parts of 1967 and 1968 and spent the first trimester of her

pregnancy at Camp Lejeune. Her baby, a boy, was born March 3, 1969, at Onslow Memorial Hospital. McCarty was the first to give her information about the suspected link between bad water on base and a number of diseases and is currently searching to find her biological son to pass along family medical information.

[For more information](#)

### **Adoptee Discovers Grandmother War Spy**

September 2009

Wendy Johnson of Albany learned her biological grandmother spied for the Allies in the Philippines during World War II. Over the last two years, Johnson, 51, has spent much of her time researching the history of her grandmother, Claire Phillips. Phillips went to Manila in the 1930s. After the death of her second husband she opened Club Tsubaki using an alias and gathered secret military information from her patrons, which she and her staff passed on to Filipino guerrillas. After the war, she returned to Oregon, where she wrote about her life in the book "Manila Espionage." Johnson is writing a book to be released in December. The book is titled "An American Spy: The Shocking Discovery of an Adoptee's Heritage." Proceeds from the book will be used to lobby state and federal legislators to expand adoptee's access to their personal and medical histories.

[For more information](#)

### **Transracial Adoptee Gets Second Chance**

November 2009

At the age of twelve, Deborah Jiang Stein discovered a hidden letter in her mother's dresser drawer that she had written to the family attorney requesting that her place of birth be removed from Stein's birth certificate. The letter went on to say she was born, heroin-addicted, in the Federal Prison for Women in Alderson, West Virginia. Stein's racially ambiguous looks and discrimination troubled her from an early age. By the age of fourteen she was experimenting with street drugs and moved out of her parent's home three years later. At nineteen, she started shooting heroin and found herself in several near-death encounters with drugs and violence. Stein's story is about beating the odds and is working on her memoir, "Lucky Devil: A Memoir - The Fight Up from the Prison Cradle." She is currently an award-winning writer and mother of two girls from China.

[To read full article](#)

### **Woman's Quest to Save Son**

November 2009

Carol Barbieri and her twin sister, Kathi, were adopted around the third grade by their parents. However they did not ever express any interest in finding their birth parents. Until 1991, when Barbieri's then 14-year-old son, Jonathan, now 31, was diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome -- a cardiac condition that disrupts the heart's normal rhythm. Whether or not Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome was hereditary would determine Jonathan's course of treatment and, ultimately, a life or death scenario for the young boy due to non-inherited cases showing a higher risk for sudden death at the time. However, Barbieri had no way of knowing her medical history which prompted her 20 year journey to becoming an advocate for access to original birth certificates in the state of New Jersey.

[For more information](#)

## Inside News

### Job Cuts at Wilder Affect Families & Children

October 2009

Due to a decline in fundraising and a 17 percent loss in its endowment fund, The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation cut approximately 260 jobs. The organization will no longer support children's placement services. Such as foster care and residential services for troubled children. Notices went out to nearly 5,000 individuals and families in the East metro area and government officials about the changes and their effects. The nonprofit foundation that has served the St. Paul area since 1906, hopes to find other nonprofits willing to pick up some of the programs so clients can continue to receive the support they need to thrive.

[For more information](#)

### Korean Adoptee Needs Bone Marrow Transplant

November 2009

Since 2008, Korean adoptee Will Dickes of Rochester has undergone chemotherapy and radiation for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Bone marrow transplant donors must be a precise match, which often makes it difficult for adoptees. It is likely that the donor would be another ethnic Korean. However, of the seven million people registered nationwide through "Be A Match," only 65,000 have been identified as Korean.

The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) strongly encourages donors from all backgrounds, especially those from minority racial and ethnic backgrounds to join the registry at [www.bethematch.org](http://www.bethematch.org)

[For more information](#)

## MARN Encourages Faith Communities "Pledge ZERO"

Children awaiting adoption may be invisible to congregants who sit by them in pews each Sunday. Worshipers may give offerings to orphans overseas without knowing there is a need for Minnesota children to find families. To address the need in "our own backyard," MARN is launching a Pledge to Zero campaign with communities of faith. Churches, synagogues and mosques are asked to reduce the number of Minnesota children waiting for families. Pledge ZERO cards will be distributed, asking congregants to partner with MARN to learn about adoption through frequent postings of profiles and photos of waiting children, sermons, information for bulletins, and other means of recruitment.

For more information, contact MARN Board member, Paula Graff at [paulagraff@aol.com](mailto:paulagraff@aol.com)

## Special MARN Thanks

Thank you to Target for a generous \$5,000 donation to Circus of the Heart.

MARN appreciates and values all donations.



## Zero Kids Waiting



PSA Airs on You Tube

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## 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.

To make a secure online donation, click [Donate](#)

**Minnesota Adoption Resource Network**

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