

Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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Contact Us

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

1221 Nicollet Mall
Suite #501
Minneapolis, MN
55403
Toll free:
866-303-6276

Welcome!

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 33-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** and other announcements from Minnesota Adoption Resource Network including MN ADOPT training emails for parents and professionals, please click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

Your email is solely used for the distribution of MARN newsletters, trainings and other news 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

Meet Damien, Vincent, and JJ

Local: 612-861-7115
Fax: 612-861-7112
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org



Join Our Mailing List!



The dynamic trio of **Damien (9)** , **Vincent (8)** and **J. J. (4)** are experts at catching moths and frogs, riding scooters, finding the perfect rocks for their rock collections, playing card games... Garbage being a favorite... throwing the ball around, planting pumpkins or eating fresh strawberries and cream.

Damien is a very smart little guy and loves to learn. Extremely sensitive and caring, he is open and talkative and can chat about pretty much any topic. He finds a lot of peace in gardening and wants a family that gardens. (It would be a bonus if they have their own greenhouse). He would like to play soccer someday and dreams of flying planes when he grows up and owning his own greenhouse. He is also a big fan of huskies and wants to have his own someday.

Vincent is quiet and takes a while to warm-up to new people. He has a sensitive side that he doesn't readily show. Since he is athletic he wants the chance to be on some sports teams. He is quite independent and likes to fend for himself. He has a huge rock collection so finding shiny "crystals" is a favorite pastime. Vincent recently discovered that picking strawberries is probably his favorite thing to do in the "whole wide world."

Jason who is known as J.J. is bubbly, talkative and very happy. He is always busy and tends to like to do whatever his big brothers are doing. He could spend hours catching moths (and the occasional frog) with a net and plays a mean card game of Garbage. He also likes to show off his scooter skills.

Damien, Vincent and J.J. are looking for a high-energy, patient family who are outside of the box thinkers and can make everyday activities a blast. The boys would prefer to live in the country or a small town where there is plenty of room to roam. Since the brothers have significant ties to extended family in the Central Minnesota area, those connections will need to be supported. Only Minnesota families are being considered at this time.

To learn more about Damien, Vincent and J.J., contact Bambi Holloway, Child Focused Recruiter with Kindred Family Services and Wendy's Wonderful Kids at bholloway@kindredfamilyservices.org, 320-529-0862

World / National News

14th Annual National Adoption Month/Day Events Planned

The month of November is traditionally set aside for adoption awareness and celebrations. Minnesota counties and placing agencies will hold events including finalizations of adoptions with local judges.

Rachel Crow, from X Factor, Nickelodeon star and Columbia Records fame will serve as spokesperson for National Adoption Day on November 23, 2013. Last year, more than 4,500 were adopted on this day across 400 cities in the United States. Nearly 44,500 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day since its inception in 2000.

New Film Explores Realities of foster care

Actress Brie Larson stars in Short Term 12, a new film about foster care. The film that recently aired at the Minneapolis Lagoon portrays Grace, a supervisor at a foster-care facility for at-risk teenagers. Several characters on her case load challenge Grace to deal with her own troubled past.



[For more information](#)

Book Supports Youth after Foster Care

Most books that guide youth who are transitioning out of the foster system are written by professionals and not the youth themselves. *Flux: Life after Foster Care* is the exception, written by young adults who are emancipating from foster care. Over 100 youthful writers address issues such as claiming your identity, creating meaningful relationships, and engaging biological families.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Archdiocese Will Hold Masses to Honor Adoption

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis has set aside November 23, 2013 as a day for a number of area churches to hold masses to honor adoption. The event will celebrate adoptive families and will be inclusive of birth parents.

Divine Mercy Catholic Church, Fairbault - 4 pm
 St. John Neumann, Eagan - 5 pm
 St. Peter Claver, St. Paul - 4 pm

Contact Sharon Wilson 651-291-4506 for more details

[For more information](#)

Day of Honor and Recognition for Birthmothers Slated

A daylong retreat for birthmothers is scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 2013, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Edina. This annual event will include a special Healing Mass, small groups, a presentation by a licensed Catholic therapist, time for mediation, Sacrament of Reconciliation and time to connect with other birthmothers. This day retreat is a powerful opportunity for healing and understanding in the relinquishment/adoption experience and is open to women of all faiths.

Saturday, November 9, 2013

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Edina

Cost: \$15 - includes box lunch (scholarships available)

For more information, please contact Erin at 612-824-3470 or

Gretchen at 763-424-1430

[For more information](#)

Donaldson Study Shows Need for Adoption Competency among Mental Health Professionals

A new paper just released from the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute finds that adoptive and birth families are unable to find mental health professionals well versed in adoption. Author David Brodzinsky says that health professionals should receive more and better training on adoption-related issues. Minnesota is addressing this need through the University of Minnesota's Permanency and Adoption Competency Certification (PACC) that prepares professionals through training and case consultation.

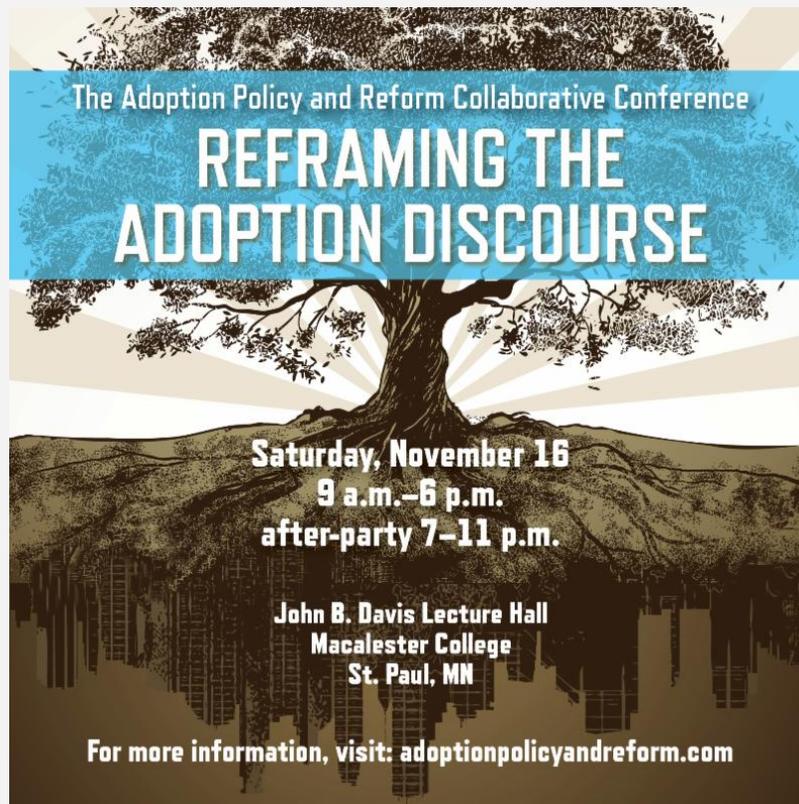
[For more information](#)

Kari Fletcher Keynotes MOFAS Conference

"FASD Matters: Exploring the Spectrum," the 2013 MOFAS conference, takes place on November 14-15, 2013 at the Minneapolis Marriott NW in Brooklyn Park. The Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the statewide organization that represents the FASD community. The conference features Kari Fletcher of the Adoption Support Network of Minnesota and Dr. Sterling Clarren, an expert in the field from the University of British Columbia. A lunch keynote will offer a birth mother panel and numerous workshops are scheduled throughout the conference.

[For more Information](#)

Reframing the Adoption Discourse-November 16



[For more information](#)

November Offers Adoptee Conference

On Saturday, November 16 from 7-11:00 pm, The Adoption Policy and Reform Collaborative Conference: Reframing the Adoption Discourse will be held. The conference will showcase a diverse group of adoptee professionals, clinicians, researchers, educators, artists and activists from across the United States.

[For more information](#)

After the Diagnosis: Tools and Tips for Caregivers, Parents and Educators of Children with FASD including a Young Adult Panel

Monday, October 21

6:30pm - 9:00pm
2400 Park Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Sponsored by LSS Raising Relative's Children

Contact Kris LaFleur with any questions, Kristine.LaFleur@lssmn.org or 612-879-5307

Inside MARN

Families to Gather for Circus of the Heart, November 3, 2013

The 16th Annual Circus of the Heart welcomes adoptive, adopting, foster and kinship families for a free day filled with games, mascots, a petting zoo, pony rides, and refreshments. A teen only room offers Rock Band and other older youth activities as well as the opportunity to win one of 4 Apple iPod touches. A separate family raffle features exciting hotel weekend packages as well as other prizes. The event that launches National Adoption Awareness Month focuses on celebration as well as recruitment of families for Minnesota waiting children. Circus of the Heart will take place on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013, 1 pm - 4 pm at Prom Center, 484 Inwood Avenue in Oakdale.



Celebrate and explore adoption!
Please join us at
Circus of the Heart
Sunday, November 3, 2013, 1-4 p.m.

Doors open at 1 p.m.
Short program starts immediately. Free grand prize drawing at 2:30 p.m.

Prom Center Event Facility
484 Inwood Avenue, Oakdale, MN 55128

Join us for the kick-off of Minnesota Adoption Month as we honor families who have grown through adoption and provide information to those interested in adopting children and youth under state guardianship.

Free celebration and recruitment event! Fun for all ages!

Games♥Prizes♥Mascots♥Pony rides♥Petting zoo♥Clowns♥
Face painting♥Family photo corner♥Refreshments♥Reptiles

Special activities for older youth, including
Dance Dance Revolution, T-shirts and canvas art, and a grand prize drawing. Information tables staffed by adoption experts.

Call MN ADOPT with questions at 612-861-7115.
Individuals with disabilities who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please call by October 11, 2013, at 651-431-4671 (voice) or through Minnesota Relay at 800-627-3529. For Speech-to-Speech, call 877-627-3848.

We have invited members of the media to this celebration to promote adoption awareness in Minnesota.

Sponsored by the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network/MN ADOPT and a collaboration of state, county and private agencies devoted to matching Minnesota children under state guardianship with families through adoption; these agencies include Ampersand Families, Anoka County Human Services, Bethany Christian Services, Children's Home Society & Family Services, Family Focus, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department, HOPE Adoption & Family Services International, Inc., Kindred Family Services/Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, North Homes Adoptions Program and Ramsey County Community and Human Services.

FUNDED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Understanding & Addressing Grief and Loss in Youth Who Have Experienced Trauma

MN ADOPT is slated to host "Understanding and Addressing Grief and Loss in Youth Who Have Experienced Trauma" on Saturday, November 9, 2013 featuring Amelia Franck Meyer from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton in Bloomington. This day training will explore the behaviors associated with unresolved grief and loss that result from significant childhood trauma by asking "what happened to them" rather than "what's wrong with them." Franck Meyer shares how "traditional" parenting may be ineffective and offers caregivers the framework to create safe spaces for children in order to help them heal. Franck Meyer has 25 years of experience in child welfare and has presented nationally and internationally on topics including grief and loss, trauma for children living in out-of-home care, and child permanence and placement stability. View the flyer [here](#)

Fee:

\$25 per person; \$35 per couple (Space is limited)

CEUs are available for an additional \$30 per person

Certificates of Attendance will be given at end of training

[Register here](#)

CORRECTIONS to Relative Adoption - Who must complete a Home Study

The September issue of Zero Kids Waiting had erroneous information about the home study requirements for relatives who adopt children.

The correct information is as follows:

As of August 1, 2012, an approved adoption home study must be completed before placing **any** child under guardianship of the commissioner in a home for the purpose of adoption. This is required even for children under guardianship of the commissioner being adopted by relatives.

Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.611

For other types of adoption (children **not** under guardianship of the commissioner), certain relatives may adopt without an adoption home study. Relatives who may be excepted from the home study requirement are those individuals who are related according to Minnesota Statutes, section 245A.02, subdivision 13, and include: spouse, parent, natural or adopted child or stepchild, stepparent, stepbrother, stepsister, niece, nephew, adoptive parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian. Even if an adoption home study is not required for a relative adoption (of a child **not** under guardianship of the commissioner), background studies for all required household members must be completed prior to adoptive placement.

Minnesota Statutes, section 259.41, subdivision 1

As part of the adoption home study process, a background study according to Minnesota Statutes, section 245C.33, is required on each person over the age of 13 living in the home.

Minnesota Statutes, section 259.41, subdivision 3.

*520 Will Move to ZERO in MN if...

- Each Metro house of worship 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.
- Barriers to adopting were reduced. Call us at 612-861-7115 if you are encountering any obstacles.

* The number of Minnesota children waiting for families has decreased from 650 to less than 600. While this shows progress, our target is ZERO waiting children.

Donate Today



The Zero Kids Waiting eNewsletter reaches people willing to adopt children who are not reached by general recruitment measures. Please consider donating as much as you are able so that we may reach ZERO - Zero Kids Waiting.

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

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network
1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501 Minneapolis, MN
55403

866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦
www.zerokidswaiting.org

