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Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

October 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 29

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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 training announcements 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

Mike and John wish for a mom and dad



(John, 11 and Mike, 12)

Brothers John, age 11 and Mike, age 12, have a "wish list" about the family they hope will adopt him. A mom and dad top that list followed by lots of pets. The two young brothers have cared for dogs, cats, fish and more exotic animals like bearded dragons. A family with other children of any ages is fine "as long as the kids are nice to us." John and Mike rely on each other and need to stay together. John and Mike have distinct personalities which is obvious when both brothers are asked about housework. John responds, "I like to help out around the house," while Mike adds, "I will help if I earn an allowance." Mike is busy and on the move, while John likes to take his time, sit and watch birds and make up songs. However both brothers enjoy video games, eating out, biking and playing outside. They also enjoy camping since they love to fish. Both boys would like to be part of a Christian family since praying is important to them.

For more information about Mike and John, contact Azur Walters, Child-Specific Adoption Recruiter, MN Waiting Children Program at Children's Home Society & Family Services at 651-255-2249.

World / National News

Ireland Pushes for Release of Birth Record

October 2010

Adopted people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have had the right to their birth certificates and adoption files since the 1970s. Ireland does not allow adopted adults to get their original birth certificates or information contained in their adoption files. A coalition of adoption and children's rights organizations was established earlier this year to urge Minister for Children, Barry Andrews, to amend Ireland's 2009 Adoption Bill in order to include adoptee access to their original birth certificates. While the Adoption Bill addressed concerns with international adoption, it did not reference a 1952 Adoption Act that prevents release of information unless the birth mother's permission was received.

[For more information](#)

Pennsylvania Reduces Foster Care Numbers

September 2010

Following a national trend, Pennsylvania is touting a 12 percent drop in foster care numbers this year, calling it "significant progress." The state reports that the decrease does not mean that children's safety has been endangered. Repeat cases of child abuse did not measurably increase and re-entry into foster care was reduced. Pennsylvania also reported that African American children are six times more likely than white children to enter foster care and more likely to not find a family.

[For more information](#)

Adoptive Parents Must Return Son to Birth Father

September 2010

After a three year court battle, an Indiana couple will be required to return their adopted child to the child's biological father in Ohio. The case is based upon the birth father complying with the state's Putative Father Registry in Ohio, stating his intent to establish parental rights. Paternity was never established since the birth mother was not married to the child's birth father and she did not provide information on the birth father to the adoption agency. The Ohio court ruled that the adoption petition had been filed prematurely since paternity had not yet been determined.

[For more information](#)

Maryland Reports Increase in Adoption

August 2010

According to the Maryland Department of Human Resources approximately 8,760 children have been placed with guardians, adoptive families or reunited with their parents which has helped the state achieve a 20 percent increase in the number of adoptions over the past three years. Governor Martin O'Malley says his "Place Matters" initiative aims to find more stable and secure homes for children in foster care. Much of the progress is taking place in Baltimore where the number of group home placements has dropped 71 percent. "Three years ago, the state had difficulty even establishing the number of children in foster care," says Governor O'Malley.

[For more information](#)

Florida's Governor Overturns Ban on Adoption by Same Sex Couples

September 2010

Governor Charlie Crist has stopped enforcing a 33-year-old state law banning adoption by same sex couples in Florida. This follows an appeals court decision making the ban unconstitutional and now awaits a final decision by the Florida Supreme Court. The state allows same sex couples to become foster parents or legal guardians, but prevents them from adopting.

[For more information](#)

\$39 Million Awarded in Adoption Incentives

September 2010

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is awarding \$39 million to 38 States and Puerto Rico for increasing the number of children adopted from foster care in Fiscal Year 2009. Originally created as part of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the Adoption Incentives program awards \$4,000 for every child adopted beyond the State's best year total. States may receive additional awards for increasing adoptions of older children and children with special needs. This fiscal year, Minnesota will receive \$446,408.

[Adoption Incentive Awards by State](#)

IRS Expands Adoption Credit

October 2010

An expanded adoption credit for tax year 2010 raises the maximum adoption credit to \$13,170 per child, up from \$12,150 in 2009. It also makes the credit refundable, meaning that eligible taxpayers can qualify even if they owe no tax for that year. The credit is based on the reasonable and necessary expenses related to a legal adoption including adoption fees, court costs, attorney's fees and travel expenses. Income limits and other special rules apply. Documentation requirements preclude e-filing and necessitate filing a paper return.

[IRS.gov](#)

New Book Examines 'At Risk' Children

October 2010

In his newly-released ninth book, *The Mystery of Risk*, author Dr. Ira Chasnoff explores a label commonly attached to vulnerable children, that being "at risk." Using clinical cases from his practice at the Children's Research Triangle in Chicago, Chasnoff provides ways to parent and to teach children who have experienced trauma, neglect an in-utero exposure to alcohol. His book suggest that preventive, integrated systems of care are needed to avoid multiple stays in foster care and adoption disruptions. Chasnoff is a professor of clinical pediatrics and the University of Illinois College of Medicine and is a researcher in the filed of prenatal exposure to alcohol and illicit drugs.

[For more information](#)

Wendy's Offers coupon Book to Benefit Foundation

October 2010

Wendy's is offering *Trick or Treat* books with Junior Frost coupons for \$1 during the month of October. Proceeds will help fund The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

[The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption](#)

Research

Research Shows Limits of Child Protective Services

October 2010

Research from Dr. Kristine A. Campbell of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City finds child protections investigations do not improve future outcomes for families. Such investigations were neither a "wake up call" nor did they abate risk factors for children in families under investigation. Exceptions that prevented first-time or repeat abuse were interventions such as parent-child interaction therapy, increased support and cognitive behavioral therapy.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Documentary Plays to Full House

September 2010

The Twin Cities hosted the first screening of the film *ADOPTED: For the Life of Me* to a standing room only crowd on September 23, 2010. Jean Strauss told the audience that Minnesota was the first to seal birth records for adopted persons, so the venue was significant as the premiere of her film that addressed the impact of secrecy on aging adoptees. The four-years-in-the-making documentary is scheduled to be shown on PBS stations in November.

www.adoptedforthelifeofme.com

Children's Theatre Offers Specials for Adoptive Families

October 2010

Foster and adoptive families can get discounted tickets to two plays at the nationally acclaimed Minnesota Children's Theatre during the holidays. A high-powered, action-packed *Robin Hood* (November performances) and the classic "You'll Shoot Your Eye Out" *A Christmas Story* (November and December) are available now. Families may order online using the following directions:

How to Use Your Discount Coupon Code:

1. Go to <http://www.childrenstheatre.org/ticketoffice/singles/html>
2. Select your desired performance and your seats
3. Proceed to checkout
4. **Before** you enter credit card information, click on Discount Coupon Code. This will pop up a field to enter the code, then hit enter. A new price will be added. **DO NOT ENTER**

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION UNTIL A LOWER DISCOUNT PRICE IS LISTED.

- For *Robin Hood*, enter code 21108
 - For *A Christmas Story*, enter code 21109
5. If you should have any difficulties, please contact Children's Theatre ticket box office at 612-874-0400

[View Robin Hood flyer](#)

[View Christmas Story flyer](#)

Inside MARN

Circus of the Heart Celebration Adds Fun for Older Youth

October 2010

The 13th Annual Circus of the Heart is slated for Sunday, November 7, 2010 offers a new venue and alternative programming and prizes for older youth. A Teen Room for youth, ages 13 and older, will be set aside for hip-hop dance lessons, air brush tattooing and canvas art. Participants will be able to record their own vocal CD. Tweens and teens will have a chance to win a laptop and an iPod Nano. Younger children will enjoy pony rides, games, clowns, a petting zoo, reptiles, facepainting and more.

Circus of the Heart kicks off National Adoption Awareness Month by focusing on recruitment of families and honoring families who have adopted Minnesota Waiting Children. The event will provide an opportunity for prospective families to better understand the population of children and youth served and the need for families for all ages.

For more information, please [click here](#) to view the flyer.

13th Annual Circus of the Heart

Where: Prom Center Even Facility - 484 Inwood Avenue, Oakdale

When: Sunday, November 7, 2010 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Baja Sol Gala To Benefit Zero Kids Waiting

October 2010

The second annual Baja Sol Gala to support adoption of Minnesota children is slated for Tuesday, November 16, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Baja Sol Cantina in Inver Grove Heights. U.S. World Cup player, Tony Sanneh headlines the evening, and 8-time Emmy-winning broadcaster Rod Simons will once again emcee. Entertainment and appetizers will be followed by a silent auction for Swan Lake Ballet tickets, Vikings tickets, rounds of golf at Madden's and a Twin Cities course, and a \$500 voucher for soccer camp donate by Sanneh.

For more information about the event, call 612-861-7115.



(U.S. World Cup Player Tony Sanneh)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010

from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

- Program at 7:00 pm -

ALONG WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

U.S. World Cup Player Tony Sanneh

&

Emmy-winning broadcaster Rod Simons

Baja Sol Cantina, 5681 Blaine Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota
Silent Auction - Appetizers - Cash Bar

Hosted By

Tony & Bridget Sutton, Dorene & Jeff Kainz
Chris & Sara Tiedeman, Catherine & Bill Bernard, Chris & Kelly Ceynowa,
Steven Rudolph, Rachel Flanders, Paula & David Graff, Peter Hager,
Sara Reisdorff, Brad & Marcia Ballinger, Mary Martin Mason

Delaney Speaks on "Pathways to Permanency and Stability"

November 10, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (CST)

In a November 10 webinar, Dr. Richard J. Delaney explores four vital factors related to the success of permanency after placement in foster care. This online workshop will help identify children/youth who are at the highest risk of disruption, locate foster parents with the greatest resiliency and skill set, design stabilization plans for each high risk child and help train foster parents on how to

deal with multiply impacted children with complex histories.

Fee

\$15.00 webinar only - [Register Now](#)

\$25.00 webinar & CD - [Register Now](#)

\$15.00 CD only

To order a CD, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122.

Archived MN ADOPT Webinars Available on CD



The following MN ADOPT webinar presentations are available on CD. All CDs include training content (PowerPoint) and audio commentary by each presenter. CDs run approximately 60 to 90-minutes.

#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

#1106 ***Avoiding Power Struggles & Healing Hearts: Responsive Parenting to Engage the Reactive Child*** with Paul Buckley

#1107 ***Practical Strategies for Helping Troubled Adopted Children with Complex Histories: Focus On Anger Issues*** with Dr. Richard J. Delaney

#1108 ***Adolescence, RAD and Attachment: Guiding the Adopted Teen Towards Adulthood*** with Krista Nelson

#1109 ***Pathways to Permanency and Stability*** with Dr. Richard J. Delaney

[View Order Form](#)

Price

\$15.00 for each CD

\$115.00 for 9-Disc Collection

(Prices include tax & shipping)

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

Webinar Addresses "Truth, Healing and Reconciliation in the Native American Adoption & Foster Care Community"

October 27, 2010 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT)

On October 27, Sandra White Hawk will present a historical overview of the removal of a large numbers of Native American children from their tribal families during two periods in U.S. history. She will share personal story as one of the children removed from her Indian family and describe how it impacted her life. White Hawk has used her experience to pioneer opportunities for Native adoptees and formerly fostered individuals by reconnecting with their tribal communities by developing Truth, Healing and Reconciliation forums.

Fee

\$15.00 webinar only

\$20.00 webinar & CD

\$15.00 CD only

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

Archived AHA Webinars Available on CD



The following AHA webinar presentations are available on CD. All CDs include training content (PowerPoint) and audio commentary by each presenter. CDs run approximately 90- 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 Penny Needham, Sandy White Hawk and Kate Ingalls-Maloney

#2204 ***How to Start an Adoptee Support Group for Youth*** with Penny Needham

#2205 ***Beyond Boarding Schools: Truth, Healing and Reconciliation in the Native American Adoption & Foster Care Community*** with Sandy White Hawk

Price

\$15.00 for each CD

\$65.00 for 5-disc Collection

(Prices include tax & shipping)

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

MARN Thanks...

MARN gratefully acknowledges the family of Carol Trout Raun for designating memorials be made to MARN. A tree will be planted on Arbor Day in a national forest to commemorate the life of Carol Raun.

GiveMN.org

Give To the Max Day, November 16

In what is called the Great Minnesota Give Together, November 16 is set aside as "Give to the Max Day." For 24 hours, contributors have an opportunity to rally around MARN/Zero Kids Waiting's mission and work.

Visit www.givemn.org

*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

is a program funded solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network



PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



Look for daily inspiration and tips to support adoption during November, National Adoption Awareness Month

twitter

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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