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MN ADOPT

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Antonio, 8, has an inquiring mind



Antonio, 8, is an energetic, curious and active young man. His mind is always at work and is very interested in seeing how things work and why things are the way that they are. He loves to be on the go and can get bored easily. Antonio can present initially as shy, but he is anything but and always has a lot to say. In fact, when he's quiet that usually means that something is bothering him or that he is thinking and processing through something difficult. Antonio can be very helpful and loves to work closely with adults to do things like cooking and yard work. He is mischievous and has a great sense of humor, cracking jokes and being a bit of a prankster.

Antonio likes Legos, building blocks and anything that he can manipulate and build. He also enjoys drawing and is quite creative. Sports like basketball and football are favorites. He is a very fast runner and has excellent balance, and he is a fan of the outdoors.

The best family for Antonio would be a home where there are few children and lots of supervision, structure and clear expectations. The placement agency is looking for a Minnesota family for him. Following an adoption, Antonio will need to maintain contact with

several relatives with whom he has positive connections.

For more information on Antonio, contact Sarah Deacy, MSW, LGSW, Child-Specific Recruiter, HOPE Adoption & Family Services International, Inc.

sdeacy@hopeadoptionervices.org sarah.deacy@co.ramsey.mn.us
651-266-4178

Washington State releases birth certificates for adopted adults

Beginning July 1, 2014 a new law allows open access to original, pre-adoption birth certificates for all Washington-born adult adoptees. The state expects a rush from adopted persons. Birth parents may file a contact preference form regarding their preference for contact and are required to file medical information. If a birth parent doesn't file a contact preference form, the adoptee will be able to get a copy of their original birth certificate.

[More information](#)

Picnic in the Park Slated for Waiting Kids and Home-Studied Parents

Hennepin County is inviting families with completed home studies to meet waiting children and teens, ages 11 - 17, at a Picnic in the Park on Tuesday, June 24 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Newell Park, 900 Fairview Avenue North in St. Paul. Come for dinner, games and free time with basketball and art options. You must RSVP to Amy Sullivan at 612-543-0044 or amy.sullivan@hennepin.us.

Connecticut Governor signs Adoptee Birth Certificate Access Bill

Governor Dannel P. Malloy has announced that he will sign legislation opening access to the original birth certificates of Connecticut

Best-selling author reunites with birth family before death

Susan Spencer-Wendel's book, *Until I Say Goodbye*, told of her battle with Lou Gehrig's (ALS) disease. Before her



death on June 3, the writer found her birth family, travelled the world, and helped her teenage daughter shop for wedding dresses as a homage to a future they would not share. In her book that she typed with her nose she said, "I am not gone. I have today. I have more to give. I know the end is coming but do not despair."

[More information](#)

Child returned to birthfather

Nine-year-old Sonya was returned to her birthfather, John McCaul. Tennessee had automatically terminated his rights when he went to prison. Sonya's adoptive parents, Kim and Dave Hodgin, contested the decision but on May 16, A judge blocked an attempt by Middle Tennessee foster parents to get back physical custody of the child they raised for eight years. The family's lawyer said, "Despite repeated efforts by the foster family to terminate this child's father's rights, his parental rights have never been successfully terminated, and his daughter has now been returned to his care."

[More information](#)

residents who were adopted after October 1, 1983. Birth parents in the state were provided acknowledgement that their child might, as an adult, access documents that could identify them.

[More information](#)

Children found in mass grave at maternity home in Ireland

On June 3, 2014, nearly 800 children were found in a mass grave near a former home for unwed mothers and their children in Ireland. The grave was found in a septic tank on the grounds. The children entombed appeared to have died between 1925 and 1961 from infectious diseases or malnutrition. Unsanitary conditions are thought to be a major factor in the deaths. Two boys discovered the grave while playing near St. Mary's Mother and Baby Home. Leaders in the Catholic Church are meeting to discuss plans for a memorial for the 796 children and calling for an inquiry into the mass grave.

[More information](#)

PACC Registration Opens

Permanency and Adoption
Competency Certificate



The Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate (PACC) program that trains mental health and child welfare professionals to achieve adoption competency has opened registration for 2014-2015. Classes will be held in the Twin Cities metro area and in Marshall.

For more information and to register, visit the PACC website at <http://z.umn.edu/PACC>.



Take another look at MN ADOPT

MN ADOPT's name has changed, but our mission is still to promote and support successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families. Since 1980, the Minnesota Adoption Resource Network (MARN) was Minnesota's only organization fully focused on advocating for the right of every child to a permanent, nurturing family. We are now MN ADOPT with a sparkling revamped website www.mnadopt.org, a new logo, and **an event to celebrate the changes on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, from 6 pm - 8 pm at the Summit Brewery Tap Room, 910 Montreal Circle, St. Paul, MN. We invite you to celebrate with us and help us launch the next chapter in our future.**

[More information](#)

Conference draws professionals and families

At a 2-day MN ADOPT conference, professionals heard Debbie Riley speak on "Shaping Best Practices" on June 6, 2014, and families came to hear Rhonda Rhoda speak on "Exploring Adoption Identity" on June 7. The professionals praised the Riley presentations for helping them in child protection, therapeutic, educational, child services and other fields. Families learned from Rhoda about situations their children growing up in transracial adoptions might encounter with viable approaches. A panel of adult adoptees drew high praise for helping the audience understand how children internalize the struggles of growing up in a different race than their families.



Robert Wilson moderated a panel of (L to R) Amy Barton, Elana Schuster, Rhea Weinstein, Rhonda M. Roorda, Robert O'Connor, and Shawyn Lee speak about growing up in transracial adoptions.

Upcoming Webinar: Resolving Deliberate Self-Harm Among Adopted & Foster Youth

July 23, 12:00 - 1:30pm

This MN ADOPT webinar presentation will focus on deliberate self-harm (DSH) in children from adoption and foster care. Dr. Richard Delaney, Ph.D., internationally known speaker and consultant to foster, kinship, and adoptive parents will discuss the range of behaviors and the underlying reasons for DSH. Case examples will be used and questions from participants will be invited and addressed.

To register or for more information go [here](#).

Zero Kids Waiting

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, now MN ADOPT, a 34-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 MN ADOPT including MN ADOPT training emails for parents and professionals, please click SafeUnsubscribe at the bottom of this newsletter.

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To learn more about Minnesota's waiting children and our goal to reach Zero Kids Waiting visit the [State Adoption Exchange](#)

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.

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