

mnADOPT

ZERO KIDS WAITING NEWSLETTER

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Quick Links

[MN ADOPT](#)

[State Adoption Exchange](#)

[HELP Program](#)

[Training Calendar](#)

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Willie, 17, Dreams BIG



"I'd like a family that will support my dreams... and I dream BIG," says Willie. Willie's optimism and great personality fuel the high aspirations he has for himself. Faith plays a major role in his life, and he is actively involved in his church. Music and faith are integral in his life and he plays drums during his church services.

Open to a single parent or to a mom and dad combination, he would do well with other children in the home. He is willing to lend a hand and enjoys socializing with others. Sports, especially football and basketball, are his favorite pastimes as is playing video games.

Family is very important to Willie who cares deeply for younger siblings who live out of state. It is imperative that the siblings stay connected. He envisions thriving in a nurturing environment where he is encouraged to explore his interests and talents and allowed the freedom to dream big dreams.

For more information about Willie, contact Children's Home and

Family Services Child-Specific Recruiter - Nicole Stulac at 651-225-2249 or nstulac@chsfs.org

MN ADOPT holds Hello Goodbye celebratory event



Minnesota Adoption Resource Network after 32 years officially became **MN ADOPT** on July 9, 2014, with a new name, logo, and revamped website. A Celebration and Recognition Event held at the Summit Tap Room in St. Paul welcomed families, children and professionals to bid farewell to retiring Executive Director Mary Martin Mason and to embrace the refined mission of promoting and supporting successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families. Mason told the audience she was passing the gauntlet to each of them "to champion the children and youth who are at the highest risk of aging out of foster care without being adopted. Never stop broadcasting the message of need in our own backyard of families for waiting Minnesota children."

Rachel Walstad Joins MN ADOPT as new ED

The MN ADOPT Board of Directors recently announced that Rachel Walstad, MSW, LISW, will be the new Executive Director for MN ADOPT as Mary Martin Mason retires at the end of July. Walstad has vast experience in non-profit leadership and in adoption and child welfare services. She joins MN ADOPT as the organization rebrands itself with a new name of MN ADOPT, a new logo, a revamped website and a refined mission of promoting and supporting successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families.

CWLA speaks out on children flooding US borders

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the oldest child welfare organization, has proposed two immediate steps to address the mass exodus of children from Central America entering North America illegally. First, that a massive informational campaign in Central America broadcast the danger of children in being smuggled into the United States, and second, increase special court proceedings to evaluate the children while they are still in custody. Those meriting asylum would receive it, but judicial protocol would repatriate the vast majority to their home countries.

Donaldson Adoption Institute Seeking Searchers for Research

In collaboration with Montclair State University, Donaldson Adoption Institute is seeking participants to study birth parent - adoptee searches and reunions. Participants sought include anyone who assists with search and reunion including those who work for an adoption agency or child welfare organization, "search angels," and social workers, lawyers or therapists. If interested, contact Dr. Amanda Baden at badena@mail.montclair.edu IRB Approval #001375

Series Explores Child Advocacy

The Guardian, a television series that aired some years ago, features the character of Nick Fallin, a lawyer who is arrested for drug use and sentenced to do 1,500 hours of community services. Despite being swamped with his law practice, he is a reluctant child advocate at Legal Aid Services, thrusting him into an epiphany about children in the child welfare system. The Guardian is available on NetFlix.

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

July 30, 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.

[More information](#)

Senate Holds Hearing on "Re-Homing"

On July 8, 2014, a United State Senate subcommittee heard testimony on ways the federal government can stop private re-homing, a practice where parents use the Internet to transfer custody of their adopted children. While no state or federal law prohibits re-homing, criminal sanctions have not been used in such cases. Four states now have laws to restrict advertising children and/or transferring custody.

[More Information](#)

To see MN ADOPT's Policy on Re-homing - <http://www.mnadopt.org/about/advocacy/>

Washington State Provides Access to Birth Certificates for Adoptees

Beginning July 1, 2014, persons adopted in Washington State, 18 and older, will have access to their original birth certificates unless a birth parent files a contact preference form indicating that he or she does not want the information released.

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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.

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



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