

Zero Kids Waiting

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Contact Us

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

1221 Nicollet Mall
Suite #501
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Toll free: 866-303-6276
Local: 612-861-7115
Fax: 612-861-7112
info@mnadopt.org
www.mnadopt.org



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Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, 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 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

Ambrosia, 10, Lights Up the Room



At 10, Ambrosia's dazzling smile, infectious laughter and energy enliven every setting. Artistic Ambrosia loves to dance and sing and is often busy doing coloring, drawing, and craft projects. Her favs in music include Michael Jackson, the Jackson Five, Beyonce, and Justin Bieber with *High School Musical* being her top musical. Ambrosia LOVES school and is proud of making A's and B's (mostly A's, she stresses). She enjoys playing at the park, swimming, basketball, and jumping rope. This city girl, if she could travel to anyplace in the world, would choose New York City. Not surprisingly, she would feel most comfortable living in the city or a suburb.

She is a demonstrative girl who craves emotional and physical affection from her caregivers. When Ambrosia loses her temper and acts out, she is genuinely remorseful afterwards. Her self-description is, "I am beautiful, awesome, sweet, and kind."

Ambrosia has had many moves and losses in her short life and needs someone who will support her through good and bad times. A caring girl, she longs for a mom with whom she can be close. She is open to a married couple, a single mom or two moms. She is also open about the race of her adoptive parents as long as she has someone who can style her hair. She would be happy as either the only child or having other children in the home, although she admits she enjoys getting a lot of attention. It doesn't matter if her adoptive family have pets or not, although snakes and some dogs scare her. Most of all, she needs an adoptive parent or parents who can appreciate the wonderful girl that she is and practice the patience needed to help her heal from past losses.

For more information about Ambrosia, please contact Amy Sullivan at

Hennepin County, Amy.Sullivan@hennepin.us 612-543-0044

World / National News

CWLA launches Magazine

The Child Welfare League of America is now published *Rise*, a magazine to encourage parents to share their experiences with the child welfare system. *Rise* is designed to support parents and parent advocacy and to guide child welfare practitioners and policymakers in becoming more responsive to the families and communities they serve.

[For more information](#)

Philomena get Oscar Nominations

Today's release of nominees for the Oscar includes Judi Dench for Actress in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Philomena Lee who was forced to give up her son in 1952 in an Irish convent. The movie recounts how fifty years later she hires a journalist to accompany her to America to find her son. The film is also nominated in the Best Picture category.

[For more information](#)



Georgia Life Coaching Program Helps Foster Kids

An orange duffel bag has become the symbol for a Georgia life-coaching initiative for foster youth about to emancipate from the system. Founder Sam Bracken recognized his own at-risk youth in other foster teens. He was spared many of the problems that face those youth who age out of the system through mentoring and an athletic scholarship. His story recounted in his memoir, *My Orange Duffel Bag* became the basis of assisting 300 Georgia teens to hopefully have better futures.

[For more information](#)

Brit Adoptee Wins Legal Battle to see if he is child of Royalty

Accountant Robert Brown, 58, believes he was the child of Princess Margaret, Queen Elizabeth's late sister. He was granted permission for a judicial review of a government refusal to allow him to see the royal wills that were "sealed" from public view. Brown believes that the princess hid her pregnancy and his birth in 1955. Brown was born in Kenya and was adopted by a family there in the year that the princess cancelled her wedding to Peter Townsend. The Royal Family has called Brown a fantasist with an obsession, but Brown says, "Hopefully I am not a nutcase. I am either right or I am wrong."

[For more information](#)

Sisters Reunite after a Century

Newly united sisters Merle Coleman (89) and Iris Lonergan (100)

recently reunited in New Zealand. After her 100th birthday Iris revealed the secret she has suspected for a century, that she was adopted. Her family set out immediately to find any surviving siblings, a possibility since New Zealand has open adoption records. Merle said of their mother who raised her, "Mum died with her secret. She passed away aged 96 and not a soul ever breathed a word about it."

[For more information](#)

Florida Orphan Spends Holidays with Adoptive Family

Davion, the Florida Youth who asked that someone from his church adopt him, has moved from his group foster home, spending time and getting to know a prospective adoptive family, according to a British Daily Mail newspaper. The 15-year-old garnered international attention with his self-advocacy efforts. Families worldwide asked to adopt Davion who has since spoken to the Florida governor and his cabinet about adoption, saying, "Even though I am going through an adoption process right now, I still hope that other kids in foster care get the benefit that I am going to have to be adopted and to have somewhere to call home and to have a bed to call theirs."

[For more information](#)

Reunion Happens 71 Years Later

In 1941, 19-year-old Brooke Mayo became pregnant after being raped. After relinquishing her child for adoption, she inquired about the child and was told by a hospital worker that her daughter had died. For 66 years, Mayo lit candles for her dead baby on the anniversary of her death. Her daughter, Patricia Hamlin, was never told she was adopted. By chance, Hamlin's brother lost his driver's license and a subsequent search for his birth certificate revealed that both he and Hamlin were adopted. Through the help of a "search organization" and the order of a judge, Patricia, 71, and her mother, now 90, were recently reunited.



Click on the image to read
the full story

Local News

Film Recounts "Babylift" from Viet Nam

On Thursday, January 30 at 7 pm a public screening of *Operation Babylift: The Lost Children of Vietnam* film will be held at the Trylon MicroCinema at 3258 Minnehaha Avenue in Minneapolis. Sponsored by AdopSource and Gazillion Voices, the film will be followed by a post-screening discussion led by Adam Chau, a Vietnamese adoptee. The film recounts a \$2 million U.S. initiative that airlifted over 2,500 Vietnamese orphans out of a war-torn country to protect them from the impending threat of the Communist Regime. The film and post discussion will give audience members a chance to hear about the historical events from those who participated.

[For more information on tickets](#)

Matching Event Slated for Home-Studied Families, March 5, 2014

A speed matching event will allow approved adoptive families who have a home study completed to meet with youth adoption workers representing children in immediate need of families. Workers will present child profiles and show videos to help families learn about the youth. Families are asked to bring a one page document describing themselves as a family, including pictures. The home study worker for families will follow up after the event. Families wishing to attend must RSVP by February 26 by contacting Kristi Hall, Child Specific Recruiter/Adoption Counselor at The Adoption Programs of Lutheran Social Service & Children's Home Society of Minnesota. Kristi.hall@lssmn.org or 320-251-7700 for more information

When: Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Time: 1 pm - 4 pm

Where: Children Home's Society/Lutheran Social Service, 1605 Eustis Street, St Paul MN 55108

MPR Broadcasts Impact of Boarding School Legacy on Current Education of Native Children

On December 16, Minnesota Public Radio termed the state of American Indian education as a disaster, attributing much of the problems to the historical practice of removing children from their families and sending them to boarding schools. Those children, who are now parents and grandparents, never learned to parent or to encourage the education they were often denied. Minnesota has the lowest high school graduation rate in the nation, 45.5 percent, among Native children. Remedies discussed in the program included designing curriculum that includes Native American perspectives, respecting personal learning styles and develop collaborations between schools and the Native community.

[For more information & MPR News](#)

Resource Fair Slated for Kinship Caregivers

Raising Relatives Children of Lutheran Social Service will hold a Kinship Caregivers Resource Fair on Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 4512 France Ave N, Robbinsdale. To register call 763-220-0873 or go to www.atpeace.org.

Pacer Offers Resources for Parents of Children with Disabilities

A number of books and guidance manuals are available through Pacer Center, the organization of support for parents of children with disabilities. Among the resources for purchase are Special Education Records Keeping Folders, guidebooks on bullying and cyberbullying, and a transition toolkit to prepare a child for life beyond high school.

[For more information](#)

Inside MARN

Coins Benefit Kids

All coins tossed during December into the Mall of American fountain were donated to Minnesota Adoption Resource Network. The Pond Fund of MOA™ gives back to the community of non-profit organizations in many ways including donating change collected from the ponds and fountains throughout the Mall to a non-profit. Thanks to all who donated so that we can help find adoptive families for 520 Minnesota children in immediate need of families.



*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.

* As of September 1, 2013 there were 889 children under state guardianship with 520 children in immediate need of adoptive families, 333 in pre-adoptive families and 36 in long term foster care by a court order. 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](#).

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1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501 Minneapolis, MN 55403
866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ www.zerokidswaiting.org

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