

# Zero Kids Waiting

*is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network*

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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

**The dynamic threesome of Joanie, Marvin and Mathew need a family**



Joanie, 11, is very creative and loves to do arts and crafts. She is a fisherwoman at heart and has quite the green thumb. Her incredible imagination drives her to create games and other play activities. Joanie is very intellectual and insightful. Her nurturing side shows in her tender interactions with her siblings. She is always on the go and greeting everyone.

Marvin, 9, is described as a big helper and master of noises. He is a captivating story teller and enjoys playing video games or reading books with an adult. His smile is tender, and he has a sweet spirit about him. His favorite activities include riding his bike, swimming, coloring, playing with Legos and doing anything outside. Marvin can also get lost in the mix because he is so quiet.

Sweet with endearing eyes, Mathew, 8, really checks people out and keeps his distance. He's a constant helper and smiles when praised for his kindness. He loves to "trick" people and get others to laugh. He is constantly busy and always keeps his workers and staff on their toes.

For more information about Joanie, Marvin and Mathew, contact Meghan Heffner, Permanency Specialist at Ampersand Families at [meghan@ampersandfamilies.org](mailto:meghan@ampersandfamilies.org), 612.605.1904 x4

**World / National News**

### **'Burger King baby' seeks birth mom on Facebook**

Facebook postings of adoptees looking for birth parents and vice versa are common enough. Recently, Katheryn Deprill's posting numbered in the tens of thousands of shares, as she pled, "Looking for my birth mother. ... She abandoned me in the Burger King bathroom only hours old, Allentown PA. Please help me find her by sharing my post." At 12, Deprill learned of the abandonment from her adoptive parents who showed her newspaper clippings. So far, no one was responded even though the statute of limitations on child abandonment has expired.

[For more information](#)

### **NPR spotlights brain development for orphans**

A February 24, 2014 broadcast on National Public Radio reported research findings regarding the impact of being institutionalized on children. EEGs that measured electrical activity in the brains of children who had been raised in institutions discovered disturbingly low levels of brain activity. Even when adopted, institutionalized children, when older were found to have smaller brains and abnormal circuitry in the part of the brain that drives the ability to bond or attach to other humans. Even so, the scientists said that the brain has the ability to rewire and to overcome some of the problems stemming from early neglect.

[For more information](#)

### **Wednesday's Child blindsides news anchor who helped him find a family**

Gloria Campos, a television news anchor, has featured many North Texas children in the recruitment feature called \*Wednesday's Child. On March 6, she was surprised on air when 14-year-old Ke'onte surprised her with a hug and his thanks for doing a second filming after he had experienced an adoption disruption. Gloria's second report on Ke'onte, two years after the adoption that "didn't go so well" reached a family, Carol and Scott Cook, who said, "He just spoke to us through the video." Ke'onte, adopted by the Cooks, thanked Campos for her persistence in helping him find a family.

[For more information](#)

\*KSTP donates Thursday's Child features on Minnesota Waiting Children. This local and national recruitment effort is often named after the day on which child profiles air.

## **Local News**

### **Local bill would allow adult adoptees access to birth records**

A bill, HF 2440, has been introduced to the Legislature that would provide Minnesota adopted adults (19 and older) to receive their original birth record. Supported by Minnesota Coalition for Adoption Reform (MCAR) the bill would release birth certificates unless birth parents had signed an Affidavit of Non-Disclosure. Although the Affidavit system has been in effect for many years, only 1,200 adoptees would be prohibited from receiving their birth records, estimated to be around 1% of all adoptees in the state.

### Prison baby memoir explores early trauma for adoptee

Local author, adoptee Deborah Jiang Stein, in her book, *Prison Baby*, tells her story of at 12, finding a hidden letter revealing she had been born in prison to an addicted mother. That late discovery set her on a course of self-destruction and exploration of the back story. In a March 10 *StarTribune* article, book reviewer Rosemary Herbert describes the book as captivating and astonishing, saying, "What lifts this trauma-to-redemption tale well above the genre is the author's extraordinary power to harness words to convey what it feels like to be utterly - and ultimately understandably - out of control."

[For more information](#)

## Inside MARN

### In Our Own Backyard series

Below is another in our ongoing series, In Our Own Backyard, promoting adoption of older youth. Funded by The Lynx Foundation.



In Our Own Backyard Series, Episode 2 - Meet YVES

### HELP links families to Therapists

Would you go to an ear doctor for a foot problem? Probably not. Therapy is much the same way, especially when it comes to families seeking therapists who know and practice in the field of adoption.

The HELP Program has a large pool of adoption-competent therapists across Minnesota. HELP knows their therapeutic training background, practice focus, and treatment methods. The two HELP Clinical Specialists, Emily Alewine and Heather Van Brunt, provide adoptive families with individualized referrals for the 'right therapeutic fit' for the

specific needs of the children, teens and parents.

To learn more about the HELP Program, <http://www.mnadopt.org/HELP.html>

To speak to a Clinical Specialist, Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Toll-Free: 1.855.670.HELP or 612.746.5137

## \*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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