

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

Roy, 15, enjoys nature



With hunting, fishing, boating, camping and ATVs high on his list of favs, Roy dreams of a family who year round enjoys the outdoors like he does. Having a father to act as a strong role model is really important to him. "I want to get adopted," says Roy. "I want to be part of a family."

This polite, sensitive young man is sociable and likes to spend time with other people, especially adults. He has a fantastic sense of humor that he demonstrates through storytelling, inevitably making his audience laugh. He also enjoys mellow activities such as listening to music, taking walks and scavenging around a forest. Roy prefers to talk about his feelings rather than to journal or write them down.

Roy's family would need to set clear boundaries, expectations and maintain a routine while staying flexible. A sense of humor is essential to match Roy's talented wit. He would benefit from a family that will advocate for him in school and help him stay connected to existing services. The family would need to be open to helping Roy maintain contact with his biological grandparents and siblings.

To learn more about Roy, please contact his child-specific recruiter, Nicole Stulac, Children's Home Society and Family Services, nstulac@chsfs.org, 651-255-2249

World / National News

Wisconsin prohibits advertising children for adoption online

On April 16, 2014, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker signed a bill prohibiting advertising children for adoption online in the state. Wisconsin law already prohibits using media, but failed to address Internet advertising of children. To address the practice of "re-homing," the bill requires parents who want to transfer their custodial powers to someone else for more than a year to go through a court review and prohibits custody transfers that don't comply with the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

[For more information](#)

Aging out of care is societal failure

Rita Soronen, president of Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, told CNN in a special April 17 report that in 2012, 23,439 children "aged out" of foster care with no resources. The future for these children often means homelessness, unemployment, and unplanned pregnancies. Soronen characterized legally emancipating the 23,439 as a societal failure, saying, "This world is not an easy place for children to grow and thrive on their own. Too often it is not even safe place." Soronen reminded the public that children thrive and need families.

[For more information](#)

Shooting survivor adopted by her rescuer

In 1984, a police officer helped a 13-month-old baby survive a mass shooting in Brooklyn. The child was returned to the care of family members and was often visited by her rescuer, Police Chief Joanne Jaffe. Christina gradually grew close to "the funny police lady who would come by." Eventually, Christina's aging relatives caring for her asked Jaffe to raise her, resulting in her adoption. Chief Jaffe now says, "There is this huge hole - that's what I call it - in her soul. She had lost her mother. We could only fill the hole, but it could never be removed."

[For more information](#)

Homeless Teen Joins Sibs in new family

People Magazine recently captured the story of Robert and Ara Hunt who at first didn't want to meet the homeless 18-year-old biological brother to their adoptive daughter, Shyann. Their worry was that the brother, Seth, who was now living in a car would disrupt their family life. His story of aging out of foster care aired on local television in Rockwall, Texas, convincing the Hunts that he was "a boy with a good heart." That led to Seth joining the family, and his adoption finalization is imminent. Seth says, "It's like having your first birthday. It's a heart opening experience."

[For more information](#)

Connecticut House passes access legislation

On May 1, 2014, the Connecticut House of Representatives approved legislation to give adult adoptees access to previously sealed birth certificates containing the names of their biological parents. An adoptee, Rep. David Alexander and proponent of the bill, said, "The primary motivation behind the bill and for opening up these records is

for the medical history and also for the individual adoptees' identity." The bill must still pass the Senate and reach the governor's desk by May 7.

[For more information](#)

Advice offered on Internet Searching

Search expert and adoption professional Marilyn Mendenhall Waugh offers advice for adoptees on using the Internet to find birth family, following up on the Facebook trend of adoptees holding small posters itemizing their known adoption information. In an article published in ExpertBeacon, she offers advice on avoiding fraud in using reunion registries and social media, including:

- realize several Internet sites will be required for a successful search
- use websites that are current and regularly updated
- join an adoption support group
- acknowledge that search and reunion are two different processes
- Utilize the public library
- Inform the birth parent network that exists nationally and in every state.
- Never pay an individual or company a large update search fee.

[For more information](#)

Local News

Gov. Christie signs Adoptee Access Bill



Governor Chris Christie has signed a bill that will give New Jersey adopted adults their birth certificates. For 34 years, adoptee Pam Hasegawa and birth mother Judy Foster among others have returned every year to ask state lawmakers to allow access. The bill takes effect in 2017 in order to allow birth parents to redact their names from birth

certificates. The state joins Kansas, Alaska, Alabama, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island and Tennessee in providing unrestricted access to an adopted person's birth certificate. Minnesota's access advocates, MCAR, have for 30 years pursued legislative access.

[For more information](#)

Some foster youth now eligible for Medical Assistance up to age 26.

The former foster care category of Medical Assistance (MA) includes individuals who turned 18, or aged out of foster care, prior to Jan 1, 2014. For example, an applicant who is age 23 in January 2014, and who was receiving MA at the time they turned 18 (in 2009), may qualify for MA under the former foster care category.

Former foster care youth interested in applying for MA should go to the MNSure website at www.mnsure.org/. Individuals do not need to apply specifically for MA eligibility. They apply for help paying health care costs, and the system determines whether they qualify for MA under the former foster care category, or another category of MA, MinnesotaCare, or enrollment in a qualified health plan with or without advanced premium tax credit. Individuals must create an account to apply online. The online application asks a series of questions designed to identify applicants who qualify for MA as former foster care youth, including:

1. Were you ever in foster care in Minnesota? (If yes, question b appears)
2. Did foster care stop when you were 18 or older? (if yes, question c appears)
3. Were you on Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare at the time foster care ended?

For more information on the Affordable Care Act Extension of Medical Assistance Benefits for Former Foster Care Youth, review bulletin #14-68-05.

Inside MARN

Promoting a Culture of Adoption conference slated

Two experts in adoption lead a 2-day MN ADOPT conference for parents and professionals.

Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens is the June 6 Professional Day topic to be given by Debbie Riley of C.A.S.E. (Center for Adoption Support and Education). Author of acclaimed books about transracial adoption, Rhonda M. Rooda, keynotes the June 7 day for parents. The afternoon offers a panel of adults adopted in transracial adoptions speaking on exploring ***Adoption Identity: One Chapter at a Time.***

Promoting a Culture of Adoption Conference

Friday, June 6 - for Professionals ***Shaping Best Practices: One Child,***

One Family at a Time

with Debbie Riley

Saturday, June 7 - for
adoptive, foster and
kinship parents -**Cultivating Adoption
Identity: One Child,****One Family at a Time**
with Rhonda M. Rooda**Rhonda M. Rooda****Debbie Riley**Marriott Minneapolis
West, 9960 Wayzata
Blvd, St Louis Park MN
55426

Fee - \$25/person

CEUs - \$30/day

612-861-7115 or 866-303-6276 or email info@mnadopt.org[Register on our training calendar](#)**May is Foster Care Month****Thinking of being a Foster Parent?**

Potential foster and adoptive parents undergo a similar process to be licensed and approved. Minnesota requires foster parents to meet licensing prior to placement. County agencies can place a child with a relative who is not licensed at the time of placement as long as the relative promptly completes the licensing process and meets the required standards.

For those considering being a foster parent:

1. Get experience with children of all ages.
2. Get educated on all things child related. Great webinars and trainings are available through MN ADOPT.
3. Make enough money to support yourself. You will need to be able to prove that you can support yourself without the help of any outside funds
4. Learn about Minnesota state regulations regarding fostering. [Link for more info at DHS website.](#)
5. Learn about regulations regarding single or married foster parents.
6. Realize that everyone in your home over the age of 13 will have to have a background study.
7. Have enough space. Find an apartment or home that you can afford that is large enough for one or more foster children. Yes, you can rent.

[For more information](#)**MARN Develops Policy on Re-Homing**

"Re-homing" is passing an adopted child to another family without therapeutic and legal oversight includes using the Internet and social media to abandon and traffic the children to families without any professional oversight.

MARN believes that adoption, like giving birth to a child, is for life. Our programs proscribe the vetting of families before they adopt. Our services include pre and post adoption support to families. This support is essential to the health of the family, especially to families that may be in a crisis. As adoption professionals and role-models for the next generation, our greatest responsibility is to the children we serve. To assure their safety and well-being, we insist that only child-placing licensed entities have the authority to move Minnesota children from one home to another. Our professional responsibility is to call Child Protection as appropriate.

Until Minnesota enacts laws that restrict the advertising and custody transfers of children, MARN will continue to educate families and placing agencies of the dangers of this practice to children.

In Our Own Backyard - Episode 3



Sanni, DJ, Social Media and Web Director for KMOJ Radio, tells her story of entering foster care at 15. The film promotes the need for foster and adoptive parents to practice patience and is a part of the ongoing In My Own Backyard Lynx series.

*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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