



mnADOPT

ZERO KIDS WAITING NEWSLETTER

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Christopher, 12, Creative and Funny



Christopher is an active 12 year old boy who is creative and is often engaged in some sort of make-believe-play. He also has a significant adoration for the King of Pop, Michael Jackson and is a huge chocolate enthusiast. Christopher is a funny kid whose hilarious comments can come from a unique and creative place.

Adoption makes Chris nervous, but he's coming around to the idea. He is currently residing in a group home and doing well there, so he needs a family that can support that placement for the time being and understand the importance of relationship and trust building prior to him moving into a new home. Because Chris is very focused on his environment and keeping himself safe, having control over his environment and knowing what is coming next are important to him.

Chris needs a flexible family who is willing to give him some control over things while still holding him accountable, as well as advocating for him in the school setting and being available to help with school work when needed. Additionally, Christopher maintains regular Skype contact with his sister as well as in-person visits throughout the year, so he will need a family that will continue to encourage this relationship.

For more information about Christopher, contact Children's Home and Family Services Child-Specific Recruiter - Nicole Stulac at 651-225-2249 or nstulac@chsfs.org

Back to School HELP



It's back to school time! The children, youth and families we serve often need extra support and assistance at the beginning of a new school year.

In some cases, adoptive families may need an adoption-competent mental health professional to consult directly with schools to ensure that a child is receiving the support he or she needs. Following an intake with one of our program's Clinical Specialists, the MN ADOPT HELP Program may be able to provide funding for a HELP therapist to coordinate with parents, teachers and other school professionals to help everyone better meet the mental health needs

A Fond Farewell



On July 31, 2014 Mary Martin Mason ended her lifelong career of serving children. We are thankful that she spent the last thirteen of those years at MN ADOPT helping promote and support permanency for Minnesota children. Mary has been an a teacher, friend and inspiration to so many, and her presence will be dearly missed. At the same time, we wish her the best as she embarks on her exciting new life and adventure in Costa Rica. Thank you Mary!!! ~ MN ADOPT Staff

of the child while in school.

Please contact one of our HELP Clinical Specialists to learn more:

Emily Alewine MSW, LISW
ealewine@mnadopt.org
 612-746-5128

Heather Van Brunt M. Ed, LSW
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Child Welfare Advocates Call for Changes to address "re-homing"

The United States Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families met on July 18 to discuss how adopted children who are being passed from family to family in a practice called "re-homing." Experts testified that solutions included requiring court supervision for a transfer of child custody to a nonrelative and restricting online solicitation of new parents for children. Testimony included addressing the need of improved post adoption family resources for parents who are struggling with raising an adopted child.

[Read More](#)

Minnesota Ranks 5th in National in Overall Child Well-being

The Casey Foundation has released its 2014 *KIDS COUNT data book*, a report which ranks child well-being in the areas of economic well-being, education, health and family & community. Although well ranked, Minnesota has also worsened in some key areas since the last report, showing a need for continued efforts to support families and children. This extensive report also examines trends and highlights child welfare policies and practices that are creating a positive impact for children.

[See full report and Minnesota profile](#)

One-Woman Play Explores Adoption and Attachment

Local playwright, Sun Mee Chomet's play, *How to be a Korean Woman*, will be performed as a one woman show at the Sabes JCC Theatre in St. Louis Park one night only on August 17, 2014 at 7 pm. The award-winning play explores Chomet's reunion with birth family while helping the audience understand the longing to explore the past.

[Learn more and purchase tickets](#)
[Watch Preview](#)

Help us Get to Zero

We need your help achieving our goal of ZERO children in Minnesota foster care waiting for families. One simple way you can contribute to this goal is to harness the power social media. Please take a moment to follow us on Twitter and Facebook and share, like and retweet our posts so we can spread the word and find families for children. **Together we can make a difference for Minnesota's waiting children!**



Save the Date! 17th Annual Circus of the Heart

The 17th Annual Circus of the Heart will take place on Sunday, November 2 from 1pm - 4pm at the Prom Center in Oakdale. There will be a short program with emcee Sanni Brown from KMOJ, followed by a celebration of adoption through games, entertainment and fun. This event is open to families who have adopted as well as those who are interested in adopting a Minnesota Waiting Child. Private agencies, the Department of Human Services and counties will be there to provide information and answer questions.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities:

Webinar: Understanding the Oppositional Child

August 20, 2014

Presented by Susan Dannen, MSW, LICSW, RPT-S

This webinar will focus on understanding and addressing oppositional behavior with children and adolescents in foster and adoptive care. Trainer and adoptive parent Susan Dannen will explain the criteria for oppositional defiant disorder and address the differences between "mental health behaviors" versus "chosen" misbehaviors and "discipline" versus "punishment."

Workshop: Understanding Problem Behaviors in Adopted & Foster Kids

August 25, 2014

Presented by Richard Delaney, PhD

Many foster, kinship, and adopted children have complex histories which often lead to the development of externalized behavior problems. These "acting out" problems include such things as: lying, stealing, defiance, physical aggression, running away, destruction of property, food maintenance syndrome, and fire setting.

Beyond Consequences Training & Support (10 Session Series)

Series begins September 11, 2014

Presented by Brenda Benning, MSW, LGSW

Please join adoptive mother and skilled trainer, Brenda Benning, as she offers new perspectives into your child's behavior, while offering real life techniques that can help regulate these same behaviors

To register or for more information on any of these trainings 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.

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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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