



mnADOPT

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ZERO KIDS WAITING NEWSLETTER

September 2014, Vol 7, Issue 75



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Donovan - A Dedicated Athlete

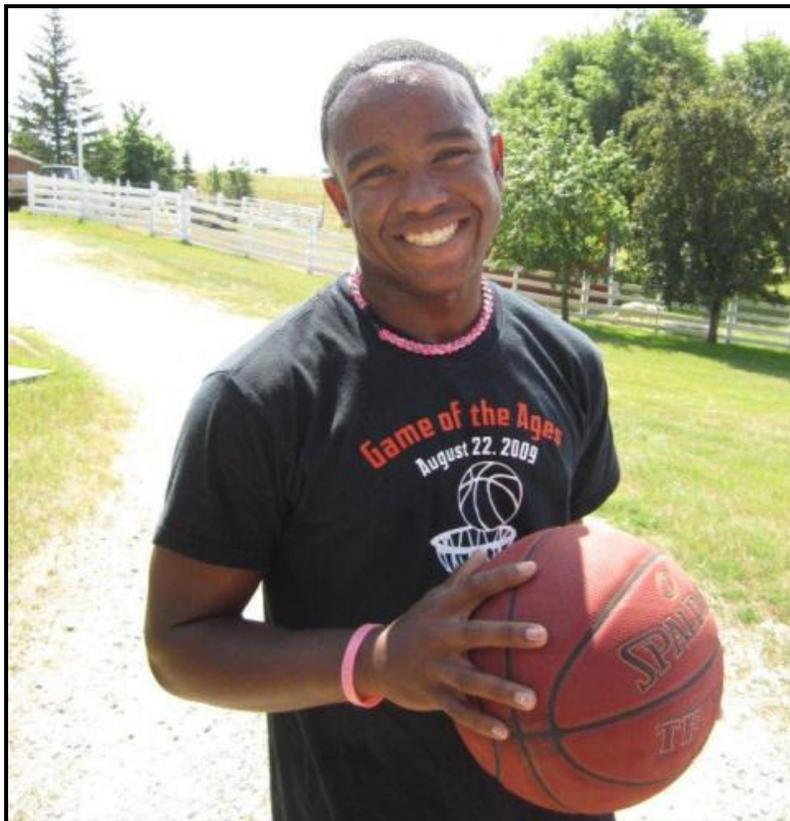
Contact Us

MN ADOPT

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

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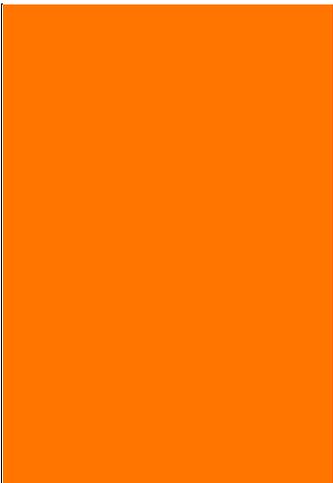


Who is Donovan?

Donovan (15) is a smart, talented, athletic young man. He can be very talkative, though is sometimes shy or cautious with new people. He likes to read and play video games. He sings in honors choirs, and has written some articles for his local newspaper. His favorite subject in school is gym, though he also likes social studies, and he generally does well keeping his grades up (so he can stay on his extracurricular sports teams). He's interested in college, and hopes to get a sports scholarship. Donovan is GREAT at football and basketball, and is highly motivated and dedicated to his athleticism. He can be a bit competitive, but he gets along well with his coach, and is good at taking advice or constructive criticism and immediately applying it to better his performance. Donovan's foster family report he has been a pleasant addition to their household, and describe him as an "ordinary teen."

A Family for Donovan

Donovan grew up in northwest MN, and would prefer to stay in the area, but is open to searching further. Donovan has no preference for family race. Donovan would like a family with some kind of faith, though isn't comfortable with Islam. Donovan doesn't mind if he has a single parent or two parents, but isn't sure he's ready for same sex parents. He thinks an older brother would be cool, and does not want a younger sibling. When asked if Donovan would like to be adopted, his response is usually a shrug. Donovan has experienced a lot of loss and not much acceptance, and has responded by



becoming a polite, compliant, and distant young man who does not share his inner thoughts or feelings or reach out for connections. Instead, he focuses on the things he can control and manage, which has been his exceptional athleticism. His forever family will need to understand that Donovan will be a friendly, pleasant young man in the home, but it will take a long time before he recognizes he can be more than a polite and quiet guest in a family's home, and can become a loved and loving son.

For more information about Donovan, please contact Ampersand Families Permanency Specialist, Aubrey Haddican, at aubrey@ampersandfamilies.org or 612.605.1916. ext. 9

Help us get to ZERO!!



MN ADOPT serves a unique and important role in promoting and supporting successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families. During this giving season, you can make a difference by making a donation to MN ADOPT. See the link below for more information about our work and our mission and do make a donation.

[MN ADOPT GiveMN Page](#)

ReMoved-A Foster Care Movie

Removed is a short (13 minute) film that looks at foster care from the child's perspective. It follows a child who is removed from an abusive home and explores her emotions and experiences as she navigates the foster care system. It provides a powerful way to gain a better understanding of the experiences of children in foster care.



A Snapshot of our Work:

Our dedicated team of 10 staff work diligently throughout the year to promote and support successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families. Below are some statistics to give you a better understanding of the important work we do.

July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014 Information

General Information

Number of total contacts with people seeking resources and information: **52,775**

Training

Number of people educated through webinars, trainings and CD's: **1667**

HELP Program

1. Number of Individualized Intake Assessments: **243**
2. Number of families receiving funding assistance for therapeutic services: **107**

State Adoption Exchange

1. Number of information packets provided to families: **2,324**
2. Number of children added to SAE: **172**
3. Number of families added to SAE: **112**

17th Annual Circus of the Heart

The 17th Annual Circus of the Heart will take

This movie was released in March of 2014 and a second part is already being planned.

Grab some tissues and a quiet moment to watch this film. It will be time well spent.

[Watch Now](#)

Task Force on the Protection of Children:

Governor Dayton launched a task force to address the child protection system in response to the death of a 4-year old Pope county child. The goal of the task force is to review the child protection system to better ensure the safety of children while also supporting families. Among the members of the 26 person panel are the Governor, Commission of Human Services, legislators, County leadership, A judge, and medical personnel.

[Read or Listen to Story](#)

Child Psychological Abuse as Harmful as Physical or Sexual Abuse:

A study by the American Psychological Association shows that children who suffer from psychological abuse have the same or higher risk of suffering from depression, anxiety, attachment issues, substance abuse, and other mental health concerns. This is an important and concerning finding because emotional abuse is not as easily evaluated by social service professionals, yet can have a lifelong impact on children.

[Read More](#)

Community Events

The following are upcoming community events and trainings that may be of interests to families and those interested in adopting.

Rally for Foster Care and Adoption

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.

We're still in need of gift basket donations! See the link below for ideas of how you can contribute.

[Circus of the Heart Donations](#)



Adoption Masses

As part of national adoption month, there will be adoption masses at various Catholic churches. The regular weekend Mass will be followed by light refreshments and information about adoption as well as an opportunity to talk with adoptive families.

The Adoption masses will take place at the following locations and times:

November 1 -2

Annunciation in Minneapolis - All weekend Masses

November 16

Nativity of Mary in Bloomington 4:00pm

November 22:

Divine Mercy - Faribault -4:00pm
 Maternity of Mary - St. Paul 4:30pm
 St. Timothy - Maple Lake 4:30pm
 St. John Neumann - Eagan 5:00pm
 Our Lady of Grace - Edina - 5:15pm

[More Information](#)

Birth Mother's Retreat

A community outreach effort to increase the number of kinship, foster and adoptive families for African American children who are currently in need of loving families and homes. The first rally will be held on November 9th at Shiloh Temple in Minneapolis:

[More Information](#)

FASD Matters Conference, sponsored by MOFAS

When: November 13 & 14

Where: Minneapolis Marriott NW

[More Information & Registration](#)

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, in conjunction with Catholic Charities and the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life, is offering its annual Day of Honor and Recognition for Birthmothers on Saturday, November 8. This day is set aside to recognize the sacrifices made by those who have relinquished a child to adoption. This day also offers an opportunity for healing, sharing and for learning about resources available for birth mothers.

[More Information](#)

Upcoming Educational Opportunities through MN ADOPT:

Workshop Series: RAD LABS (Reactive Attachment Disorder Learning Alternative Behavioral Strategies)

Presented by Deena McMahon, LICSW and Krista Nelson, LICSW, LMFT

Mankato Series - October 24 (6:30pm-8:30pm) & October 25 (9:00am-3:00pm)

This two-day training series is specifically designed to address the support and education needs of those parenting children with significant impairments and/or trauma issues with an emphasis on good self-care and humor! This training explores the unique experiences going on in your home and implements role play scenarios and class participation. [More about RAD LABS](#)

Webinar: Developmental Repair

Presented by Lauren Nietz, LICSW

October 22, 12:00pm - 1:30pm

This 90-minute webinar presentation will explore the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of children coming from foster care into adoption from a developmental lens. Lauren offers examples that help parents and professionals find effective and healing approaches with their children by implementing the Developmental Repair model.

Workshop: The Mental Health Needs of Children in Foster Care & Adoption

Presented by Michele Fallon, LICSW, IMH-E, (IV)

October 28, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Michele Fallon is an Infant and Early Childhood Health Consultant who provides an overview of infant and early childhood mental health and the special considerations for promoting healthy development for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in out-of-home placements and adoption. This two hour training will provide:

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](#)

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MN ADOPT | 1221 Nicollet Mall | Suite 501 | Minneapolis | MN | 55403