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mnADOPT

Creating Permanency, Empowering Families

Zero Kids Waiting Newsletter, May 2015

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FEATURED WAITING CHILD

Zharria and Leo - Looking for two families that will maintain their sibling relationship



This month we are featuring siblings, Zharria and Lenard (Leo) who each need their own family. Even though they won't be adopted together, their relationship as brother and sister is very important, so both families need to be committed to helping these kids maintain their sibling relationship.

ZHARRIA

Zharria is quite the actress, loves to do hair and has an engaging and inquisitive personality. Zharria looks much older than her fourteen years, yet she is still very much a little girl at heart.

She is looking for a family that will visit her on weekends, call her on the phone, take her on outings, have her home for holidays and be there for per permanently life long. Zharria needs a family that presents a united front, has strength and stability, is nurturing and loving, and maintains her important connections.

LENARD

Leo has hopes and dreams of a family that will help him become a firefighter, or a policeman or an FBI agent that arrests the bad guys! He loves being active, anything outdoors, and enjoys community activities.

Leo is a charming, engaging and very determined young man who knows exactly what he wants-a solid, dependable family that is absolutely in it for the long haul! City living calls his name and he's okay with a single parent or a mom and dad who will support his relationships with important folks in his life. Leo is looking for a family to call his own while he lives in his current setting, with the goal of him one day moving to their home permanently.

For more information about Zharria or Lenard, please contact:

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MN ADOPT NEWS

MN ADOPT Summer Social Event - June 11, 2015



Creating permanency, empowering families.

WHERE

MN ADOPT promotes and supports successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families.

Summit Brewery Tap Room
910 Montreal Circle, St. Paul, MN 55102



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Summer Social Event

We are now taking registrations for our summer social, to be held June 11 at Summit Brewery. This fun event is a great chance to meet staff, hear about all the exciting things going on at MN ADOPT, and support our mission of finding families for children and supporting all Minnesota families created through adoption. The evening will include food, beverages, a brief program and a live prize drawing.

Sign Up Today!

KidCONNECTION

Kid Connection, the rebranded version of Thursday's Child, launched on KSTP's

KidCONNECTION

mnADOPT

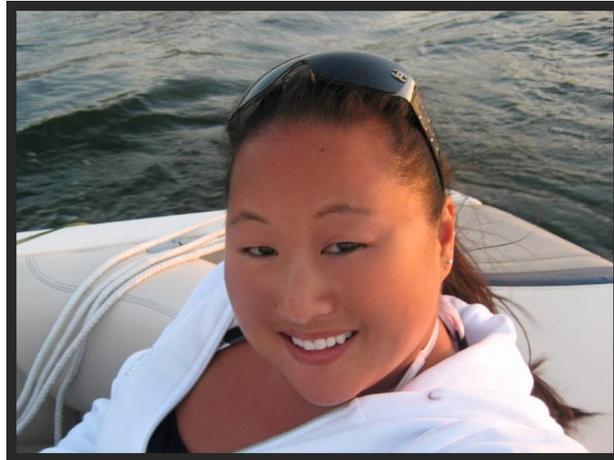
Twin Cities Live on April 9. We're thrilled with the positive response we're getting, and most importantly, the opportunities this feature is creating for kids. Twin Cities Live has created a section of their web site dedicated to Kid Connection, which

allows people to easily access and view past Kid Connection features. This page can be found [here](#). Tune into Twin Cities Live on Thursdays at 3:00pm to watch these segments as they air!

MEET OUR TEAM

Anne Johnson - Training Coordinator

I started at MN ADOPT as a volunteer with the Our Voices Matter mentoring program in 2007 and a year later I was hired as an Adoption Information Specialist. For the past four years I have served as Training Coordinator for MN ADOPT. I also enjoy helping to plan work events and fundraisers that help raise awareness about adoption and foster care. As an transracial adoptee, all of my motivation comes from the heart and it has been that passion that prompted me to enroll in graduate school at the University of Minnesota and in one year I will complete my masters in clinical social work so I can continue to serve adoptive children and their families.



If you could travel anywhere where would it be?

A: Croatia. I hear it is beautiful. In addition, I would love to take the Game of Thrones tour and be asked to be an extra on the TV series.

What's your favorite Summer activity?

A: Laying by the beach or pool with a good book.

If you had to describe yourself using just one word what would it be?

A: Compassionate

What is some new you've tried recently?

A: Running for long periods of time! I enjoy exercising, but distance running has never been part of my repertoire until recently.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

May is National Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month and the Children's Bureau has developed an information rich site that explores many facets of foster care, including resources for youth, foster families, and professionals, and well as story features and information about the foster care process and how to get started. Click on the picture to the right to learn more and share with anyone you know who may be interested in becoming a foster care resource for a child.



Bill Introduced to Prevent Anti-LGBT Bias

Senator Kristen Gillibrand has introduced the "Every Child Deserves a Family" bill, which would prohibit discrimination against prospective adoptive parents on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identify or marital status. This could have a positive impact on the number of families available as homes for youth in foster care.

[Read More](#)

12 Former Foster Youth Recognized

The following links shares the stories of 12 amazing individuals who are being recognized by the White House as "Champions of Change" in conjunction with National Foster Care Month. All have used their challenging life circumstances to motivate them to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Truly inspiring!!

[Read More](#)

STORIES AND EXPERIENCES

Ohio's Open Records Leads to Emotional Reunion

Ohio recently opened their adoption records, and this change led to a life changing moment for Teresa Stinson and her birth mother Chris.

The following feature on ABC's Nightline explores their story and highlights the powerful emotions and lifelong impact that adoption can have on everyone involved.

There are two videos which will take about 16 minutes to watch.



[See Their Story](#)

GET INVOLVED

MN ADOPT Seeking Board Members

Are you interested in being actively involved MN ADOPT's mission of promoting and supporting successful adoptions for Minnesota children and families? We are looking for people interested in being a part of our Board of Directors. Our board meets once per month with opportunities to be involved in committees and additional projects. Please contact Rachel Walstad at 612.746.5127 or rwalstad@mnadopt.org if you're interested in exploring an opportunity with our Board.

Support MN ADOPT Through Amazon Smile

Are you an Amazon shopper? If so, you can support MN ADOPT through amazon smile. If you identify MN ADOPT as your organization of support, we will receive .05% of your total purchase. You will not pay more for your purchase and can still use any Amazon subscriptions through Amazon Smile. Go to smile.amazon.com and select MN ADOPT as your organization of support or use the following link:

[MN ADOPT Amazon Smile](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Below are current educational opportunities being offered by MN ADOPT. To learn more about MN ADOPT trainings or to register for a training, please visit the [training page of our web site](#).

WEBINAR: Preparing for Guardianship and Accessing Social Security, Disability, and Supplemental Security Income *Brad Hansen, The Arc Greater Twin Cities*

Monday, May 18, 2015 (6:30pm-8:00pm) - Online

Preparing for Guardianship-Guardianship is a form of substitute decision making alternative for individuals who are unable to make and communicate critical life decisions. When an individual reaches the age of 18, they are a legal adult with full rights and responsibilities regardless of disability.

Accessing Social Security, Disability Income, and Supplemental Security Income-Social Security and Disability Income (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are federal income programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that serve many different individuals with a variety of disabilities. SSI and SSDI provide monthly in-come to adults and children who qualify.

Adoption & Attachment: A Day for Professionals, St. Paul **Parents and Caregivers Welcome** *Presented by Dr. Richard J. Delaney*

Friday May 29, 2015* - Participants can sign up for one or both sessions below

**Note that this training is almost at capacity and there is limited space left*

Morning Session: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Join Dr. Richard Delaney, internationally known speaker and consultant to foster, kinship, and adoptive parents as he provides an overview of attachment from early childhood development to adolescence. This training is designed for those who are looking to increase their general understanding of attachment disorders.

Afternoon Session: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Richard Delaney provides in-depth, concrete tools and strategies for the advanced practitioner. This training will build from the morning session and will explore attachment disorders from a therapeutic trauma-informed lens. Evidence based techniques used to heal and repair attachment relationship will be discussed.

**WEBINAR: 90-minute Online Consultation on Defiance Disrespect:
Struggles Around Dinner and Bedtime**

Presented by Brenda Benning, MSW, LICSW

Monday, June 8, 2015 (7:30pm-9:00pm) - Online

This 90-minute webinar is available to families who are parenting children with trauma or attachment histories. Brenda Benning, licensed therapist and adoptive parent, will be providing ninety-minutes of live online consultation. Participants are encouraged to bring questions that target the following behaviors, "defiance and disrespect" as they relate to ongoing around struggles around dinner and bedtime.

**WEBINAR: What You Need to Know About Fetal Alcohol Spectrum
Disorder**

Presented by Barb Clark, FASD Consultant

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 (12:00pm-1:30pm) - Online

There are so many things that we do not understand about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD's) and how pre-natal exposure can impact our children. This workshop will help to explain the mystery behind FASD. Parents who are adopting or thinking about adopting, need to understand the implications of prenatal exposure in order to better support their children.

For more information on any of these trainings or to register, go

[here](#)

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MN ADOPT (formerly know as Minnesota Adoption Resource Network or MARN) was founded in 1980 by a group of adoptive and foster parents. Their mission was focused on advocating for the rights of every child to ensure they find permanent and nurturing families. Today, MN ADOPT continues to fulfil this mission, while also providing ongoing support and education to all Minnesota adoptive families.

MN ADOPT welcomes inquiries about how to begin and prepare for the adoption process, adoption assistance, expenses and how agencies and counties facilitate adoption of Minnesota Waiting Children.

Contact us at 1.866.303.6276 or [email us](#).

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