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mnADOPT

Creating Permanency, Empowering Families

Zero Kids Waiting Newsletter, July 2015

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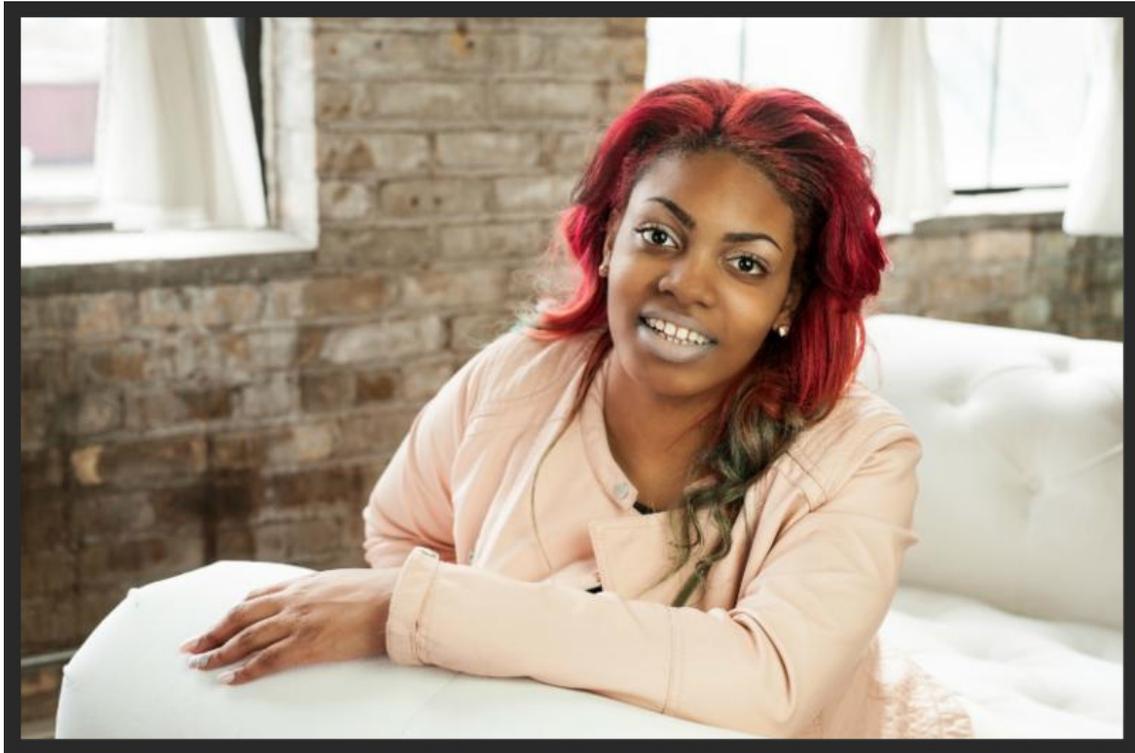
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FEATURED WAITING CHILD

Keyra, 17, Charming and Independent



Who is Keyra?

Keyra(17) is a beautiful young woman with an independent spirit and charm. She has a softness to her personality with a sarcastic sense of humor that breaks through every once in a while. She is a go-getter and eager to succeed. She knows how to navigate her way through resources and opportunities -and the metro transit system! Keyra is always dressed to the nines and is very much into fashion. She also has a knack for acting, basketball, and art. She has been busy finding a job and preparing to graduate this year. She does not slow down for anything!

A Family for Keyra

Keyra is very active in her recruitment and open to many types of families. She states to be open to race and structure, but wants to stay near the Minneapolis area. She would not be okay with a two-mom family, but is open to anything else. She would like to have siblings, but not many. Keyra explains that she wants a family to know that she will need time to warm up and that she's had many years of being independent. Her adoption workers have talked with her at length about what family is and what may be expected in any adoptive family. She seems to understand while in conversation, but has a difficult time engaging and participating in "family life" when she is actually within an adoptive placement because of her past

experiences.

For more information about Keyra, please contact:

Stacy Gehringer, Permanency Specialist
Ampersand Families
Phone: 612.605.1904, Ext 3
stacy@ampersandfamilies.org

Jodie Young-Haaf, Adoption Worker
Hennepin County
Phone: 612.348.6463
Jodie-young-haaf@hennepin.us

MN ADOPT NEWS

Open House July 20th

It's been a big month for the staff at MN ADOPT! We have been busy packing and unpacking for our big move across the river to St. Paul. We are now getting settled in our new space at 777 Raymond Avenue and loving our new community! To celebrate this exciting change, MN ADOPT will be holding an open house on Monday, July 20 from 4-6pm. Food and beverages will be served. Come check out our new space and learn about all the great things happening at MN ADOPT! Please RSVP to Janet Hammer at jhammer@mnadopt.org.



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



MN ADOPT Open House

Come see our new location at:

777 Raymond Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55114

DATE	Monday, July 20, 2015	TIME	4 pm to 6 pm
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You are cordially invited to MN ADOPT's open house as we celebrate our new office location in St. Paul. Join us for beverages, food from Rusty Taco and chance to connect with our staff and hear about our programs.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 17 and email jhammer@mnadopt.org

Adoptee Night with the Twins



MN ADOPT is excited to be partnering with the Mixed Roots Foundation for the 3rd Annual Adoptee Night at the Twins. The goal is to have 1,000 adoptees, youth in foster care, and their families and caregivers at the game. This is a great opportunity to celebrate adoption and raise awareness about both the need for families for kids in foster care and



importance of ongoing support for all adoptive families. Stay tuned for information about receiving free tickets. In the meantime, if you're interested in sponsoring tickets to send a child to the Twins game, you can contribute through the link below.

[MN ADOPT Twins Crowdrise Campaign](#)

NEWS AND INFORMATION

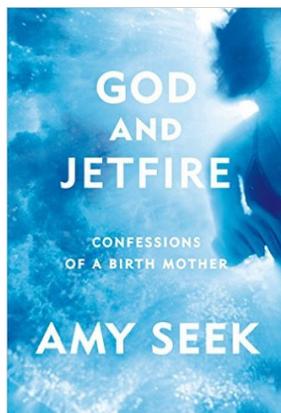
Casey Report on Hennepin County

An assessment and report completed by Anne Casey Family Programs paints a less than favorable picture regarding Hennepin County Child Protection program and their ability to adequately address child protection concerns reported to the county. While there are several factors reported, funding and staffing levels are identified as major factors. The positive news is that Hennepin County is now adding approximately 100 child protection workers, which will hopefully have a positive long-term impact for children. The following video and article on Kare11 go into more detail, including a link to the full report.

[Learn More](#)

Book - God and Jetfire: Confessions of a Birthmother

This soon to be released book by Amy Seek promises to be a thoughtful, honest and realistic view of open adoption from the perspective of a birth mother. The article linked below is an excerpt from the book that shows the powerful and often conflicting emotions and experiences that are part of open adoption at various stages.



[Read Article](#)

Responding to Rehoming: Protecting Children & Strengthening Adoptive Families

A Collaborative Report/Press Release by nationally recognized adoption support organizations looks at the phenomenon of rehoming, which they term "unregulated child custody transfers". In their report, this group highlights the need for more uniform pre-adoption preparation and better access to post adoption resources for all adoptive families. The report looks at some of the crucial issues needed to better support adoptive families and create stable permanency for children.

[Read More](#)

STORIES AND EXPERIENCES

Why Inside Out Is A Must-See Movie For Adoptive Families

This review by Carrie Goldman at Portrait of Adoption discusses her family's experience with watching Pixar's latest movie, and how the themes are relevant for adoptive families. This well reviewed movie is a powerful emotional educational tool for both children and parents.

[Read More](#)



Reunion Story with a Twist



There have been some heartwarming reunion stories shared since Ohio unsealed their adoption records several months ago. The link below shares the story of Sonya and Francine, who benefited from the new records law in Ohio and who were much closer than either would have imagined. It's wonderful to see doors opening for birth parents and their children to connect!

[Read More and Watch Video](#)

GET INVOLVED

18th Annual Circus of the Heart

We've begun planning the 18th Annual Circus of the Heart, which will take place on Sunday, November 1 at Prom Center in Oakdale. Last year's event had over 600 people in attendance, and we anticipate another great turnout this year!! It's not too early to express interest in volunteering or to donate a prize for the family and youth giveaways. Contact Rachel Walstad at rwalstad@mnadopt.org or 612.746.5127 if you're interested in helping out in any way. Thank you!

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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](#).

WORKSHOP SERIES: Beyond Consequences Training & Support *Presented by Brenda Benning, MSW, LICSW*

4 Session Series - MN ADOPT Office, St. Paul:

Friday July 16, 6:30pm-9:30pm; Saturday July 17, 8:30am-4:30pm; Friday July 24, 6:30pm-9:30pm; Saturday July 25, 8:30am-4:30pm

Please join adoptive mother and skilled trainer, Brenda Benning, as she offers new perspectives into your child's behaviors, while offering real life techniques that can help regulate these same behaviors. This is a specialized training for families who are or may be parenting children with traumatic histories and/or attachment issues. This 20 hour series follows the model and book by Heather T. Forbes, "Beyond Consequences, Logic and Control." Parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to safely share their own experiences and build a support system with other families who are living with the same unique experiences often found in adoptive, foster, and kinship families.

WEBINAR: 90-minute Online Consultation on Self-Injurious Behaviors Among Adopted Adolescents *Presented by Brenda Benning, MSW, LICSW*

Tuesday July 21, 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 self-injurious behaviors among adopted and foster adolescents.

WEBINAR: Handling Touch with Touchy Adopted Teens *Presented by Tina Feigal, M.S., Ed.*

Wednesday August 19, 2015 (12:00pm - 1:30pm) - Online

Some teens are not open to touch, even if you do everything right. With adopted teens, how do you know when to touch and how do you respond when the touch is re-buffed? Join Tina Feigal, Director of Family Engagement and Parent Coach at Anu Family Services, Inc. as she offers suggestions that help teens accept appropriate touch and discover ways to build positive physical relationships. The topics to be covered include:

- How to help your child accept touch as a normal healthy expression of development
- Skills that allow your child to grow toward you and not against you
- How to use right tone of voice and letting go of preconceived notions about touch

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

[here](#)

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Visit us at www.mnadopt.org



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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