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Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

August 2011 - Volume 4, Issue 39

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Welcome!

Zero Kids Waiting is the monthly eNewsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 31-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

"In Her Own Words" by Samantha, age 8



Dear Family,

"I am a very special girl who needs a very special family that will commit to me no matter what. My family will need to understand that I've been through so much in my short life and will need a lot of support and guidance to continue moving forward. My family will be patient and nurturing and non-reactive. They will be able to provide me with structure, consistency and predictability.

I am looking for two-parents who have no other kids (or much, much older kids). Most importantly, I'm looking for a family that will keep being my family no matter what. I will be a lot of work, but I will be worth it!"

Samantha, age 8

For more information about Samantha, please contact Bambi Holloway, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child-Focused Recruiter at 320-529-0862 or Julia Weisz, Morrison County at 320-632-0265

Headline News

MN ADOPT Launches HELP Line for Adoptive Parents

Adoptive parents facing crisis times can call MN ADOPT's new HELP

Line at 612-746-5137 or toll free at 855-670-HELP. One of two clinical specialists, Jane Seymour or Cindy Lee Thomas will assess intake calls and make recommendations for short term clinical services with therapists from around the state that will be provided through HELP. The HELP Line addresses the need of families to find adoption-competent service providers quickly. Families who adopted internationally, domestically or from waiting children may call HELP.

The *Minnesota Help Line for Adoptive Parents* (HELP) provides services that may include:

- Referral to therapeutic services
- Available full time clinical specialists
- IEP Assistance
- Professional guidance and support
- Tools and resources to reduce crisis
- Assistance for mental health professionals to achieve adoption competency

For more information, contact Jane Seymour at 612-746-5128 or Cindy Lee Thomas at 612-746-5121, Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.



World / National News

Australia's Catholic Church Offers Apology for Forced Adoptions

A national apology has been given by the Roman Catholic Church in Australia for forcing adoption on unmarried mothers during three decades, beginning in the 1950s. Describing the practice as a national disgrace, church officials were responding to allegations that at least 150,000 Australian mothers had been coerced into adoptions against their will. A television investigation prompted findings in which birth mothers said they were not informed of their rights to revoke adoption consents nor told about benefits for single parents. The Australian Senate is currently conducting an inquiry into former adoption practices.

[For more information](#)

French Adoptees Seek Their Identity

France's practice of allowing children to be born without paperwork

providing the names of their parents has created a generation of Les Enfants X. Defying international law providing that children have the right to know their parents, since the French Revolution the country has withheld the identities of birthmothers in adoptions. As many as 600 children are born annually with no record kept of their parents. Many of the 400,000 born under the law are thwarted by officials in their efforts to locate birth family, despite a 2002 law enacted allowing mothers to come forward and provide information that could be passed onto the child in adulthood.

[For more information](#)

U.S. Ordered to Return "Stolen Child" to Guatemala

In 2008, a Missouri couple adopted a 2-year-old girl from Guatemala not knowing she had been kidnapped from her mother, Loyda Rodriguez Morales. After five years of searching, Rodriguez's case has led to an unprecedented court order declaring the stolen child be given back to her. The court ruling signed by Judge Angelica Noemi Tellez Hernandez is asking the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala to locate and return the child within two months. According to David Smolin, adoptive parent and law professor at the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama said, "This is the first case I know of where a foreign judge is ordering an American family to return an adopted child to her native country."

[For more information](#)

Ireland Investigates Role in Magdalene Laundries

Slowly, the Irish government is beginning to investigate a decades-long systemic incarceration of young women in Catholic institutions called the Magdalene Laundries where they were forced into labor for no pay. Those sent away by their families because they were pregnant lost their babies to adoptions across Ireland, Britain and America. Ireland's new government has set up an investigative committee to explore what might lead to reparations.

[For more information](#)

Spain Investigates History of Child-Trade

Spanish judges are investigating a 40-year-old era in which infants were sold for adoption during the early years of the Fascist era under General Franco. Mothers such as 78-year-old Concepción Rodrigo Romero have joined 849 other parents to uncover the fate of babies whose doctors reported had died, despite having been born healthy. Spain is believed to have operated an international trade of newborns who were sold for adoption overseas. "Deep inside, I've always known that my son was stolen from me," Romero said.

María Luisa Puro Rodríguez is seeking her newborn who was abducted in 1976 from a Malaga hospital. She says, "We now live in a society where it is normal to question what we hear. I've learned this bitter lesson and am now ready to fight all the way to find out what actually happened."

[For more information](#)

Lottery Offers Chance to "Win A Baby"

A British fertility organization is selling £25 lottery tickets to win items that range from In Vitro Fertilization treatments to donor eggs, reproductive surgery or surrogacy. The Gambling Commission approved the lottery to sell tickets online, sparking controversy from the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and ethicists such as Josephine Quintavalle who says, "This demeans the whole nature of human reproduction. Creation of human life should not be reduced to a public lottery. Instead of this, shouldn't more be spent on research into fertility problems?"

[For more information](#)

Chinese Baby Trafficking Under Investigation

In rural China, parents reports the abduction of their babies by family planning officials who are part of a lucrative black market for children. Police rescued 89 babies from child traffickers recently. Many believe the abductions stem from the country's one child policy and a preference for boys. China's media is suppressing the news that officials are stealing children, some to be adopted by Americans. Stories from families who lost children are increasing throughout the country.

[For more information](#)

Donaldson Institute Recommends Changes for Older Youth In Foster Care

A new report issued by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute mirrors Minnesota stats showing that while adoptions of younger children from foster care are increasing, older youth stay longer and may not be adopted. Among the Donaldson recommendations are subsidized guardianship and reconnecting youth with family. Also recommended are increased recruitment and the utilization of relatives as permanent resources for youth through adoption and through subsidized guardianship. The Institute suggests that independent living should be a last resort and not a goal.

[For more information](#)

Tennessee Seeks Foster Parents

In what many believe to be a result of economic downfall, Tennessee is lacking foster parents for many of the 750 children who enter into care in East Tennessee each year. Currently around 1,500 children are under state guardianship in the state. The state is offering free training and opportunities to be a respite home for a weekend for another foster family to see if they would like to commit to be foster parents.

[For more information](#)

Relative Caregivers to Hold National Rally

More than six million children are living in households headed by grandparents and other relatives, typically without either of the children's parents present in the home. To make their voices heard, the 4th National Grand Rally will take place on September 15, 2011 at 1:00 PM on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol Building. The rally is organized to gain lawmaker's attention about the lack of support and services available to kinship families.

[For more information](#)

For local support information, contact Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association at <http://www.mkca.org> or call 651-917-4640 or 877-917-4640.

Local News

Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Warmline Launched

For almost two decades the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (MKCA) has helped relatives caring for children and the unique challenges associated with parenting. A new MKCA Warmline is now available to assist family members who are raising a relative's child with legal and social services. Professionals are also invited to call. For more information, call 651-917-4640 or toll free at 877-917-4640.

Healthcare Access Resource Now Available

[Accessing Healthcare for Children in the Child Welfare System](#) explains healthcare coverage and requirements for Minnesota children in foster care and the child welfare system. Compiled by the law firm, Baker & McKenzie in partnership with Medtronic, the document clarifies federal and Minnesota procedures for procuring healthcare benefits for children under state guardianship.

Minnesota Releases Adoption Records on Centennial Anniversary

According to Minnesota Statute, on the 100th anniversary of granting an adoption decree the adoption record becomes a public record. Heirs of adopted persons may be unaware that, by law, data pertaining to the birth of a child that is not accessible to the public becomes public data if 100 years have lapsed since the adoption of the child who is the subject of that data.

[For more information](#)

Advanced Training for Adoption Mental Health and Child Welfare Professionals

Children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect and abandonment are at high risk of developing behavioral and emotional responses that challenge their adjustment with adoptive and foster families. Access to adoption competent mental health services is a critical component in promoting stable and healthy outcomes for these children and their adoptive families.

Minnesota has a long, rich history of promoting best practices in adoption. In recognition of the need for competent, post-adoption services, mental health and child welfare professionals in the state will soon have the opportunity to earn a **specialized certificate** in clinical practice competencies for permanency and adoption.

The Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate was developed in response to community demand to meet the need for increasing the availability and competency of a professional workforce able to serve the unique and complex clinical practice needs for adopted individuals and their families. This advanced-level-certificate curriculum was developed by the Center for Adoption Education (C.A.S.E.) in Baltimore, Maryland. The certificate program will be piloted in two locations in Minnesota, the Twin Cities and Duluth. Participants in each pilot site will receive 13 in-person sessions and two online trainings. In addition, for this year only, participants will also receive six months (18 hours) of post-training clinical case consultation and supervision conducted by nationally recognized leaders in clinical work with adopted individuals and their families, included in the tuition.

Registration for the 2011-12 programs in Duluth and the Twin Cities is now open. For more information, visit <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/ssw/cascw/PracResources/PACC/>

Birthmothers Day of Recognition

On July 23, fifty birthmothers gathered at Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina for a Day of Recognition and Honoring for Birthmothers. Many like Jackie Maher expressed appreciation for the mutual support found at the event saying, "Within five minutes of my arrival, I found myself sitting next to a perfect stranger and chatting away like we had been friends for years, exchanging our stories and

encouragement. I look forward to next year's retreat."

Inside MARN

Foster Youth Attends Sanneh Soccer Camp

When U.S. World Cup Soccer star, Tony Sanneh donated a full week of soccer camp at a MARN gala silent auction, MARN board member Sara Reisdorf held the winning bid, stipulating it go to a Minnesota youth awaiting adoption.

This past June, 15-year-old Yosef was selected to attend soccer camp held at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota where Sanneh has been organizing soccer camps for boys and girls, ages 10 to 19 since 2009. Before camp, Yosef was excited to begin playing soccer both day and night and looked forward to improving his skills.

After his return from the camp, foster mother, Dena Nix said Yosef has been inspired to work harder on his academics, after hearing the coaches tell him that the combination of academics and athleticism is what colleges are looking for when granting scholarships. Nix remarks, "He had a summer reading project for school, it was a 1500 page classic, *Les Miserables* and shortly after coming home from camp he diligently read the book and wrote in his journal. I really feel the camp helped motivate him to work hard on the assignment." Yosef was impressed with the level of play that he saw and was inspired by the coaches to join a club and recently tried out for the Minneapolis United Soccer Club. "At my tryouts, Tony (Sanneh) showed up and picked me out of the crowd of players. I really felt honored. And being at camp also got me thinking a lot more about college," said Yosef.



Adoptive Mother Speaks on Transitioning Adopted Teens to Adult Living

Teenagers need time to gradually learn and practice life skills such as finding a job, managing finances, applying to college and forming close relationships with others and the community. Some adopted and fostered teens need extra time, attention and encouragement from a support system.

Terssa Markwoth, adoptive mother of 17 and bio-mother to four, offers suggestions to help your teen become confident with their own situation and abilities. Markwoth shares how she and her husband continue to guide their adopted children into adulthood, while understanding the unique challenges adopted and foster children have faced from multiple placements, transitions and attachment delays. The MN ADOPT online webinar, *Helping Adopted and Foster Youth Transition to Adult Living: A Parent's Perspective* is slated for Wednesday, August 31, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT).

Fee: \$15 webinar only; \$25 webinar + CD; CEUs are available

To register, [click here](#).

Avoiding the Juvenile Justice System for Foster, Adopted Youth

For some children, placements may only be a brief stop on the way to family reunification or placement with an adoptive family. Other youth have multiple placements in foster care, mental health facilities

and juvenile justice programs. Not surprisingly, children who have multiple foster placements or who are adopted are overrepresented in the mental health and justice systems. The challenges in their lives are complex and both parents and youth need support and strategies to assist them.

On Tuesday, August 23, 2011 beginning at 6:30 p.m., MN ADOPT and the PACER Center presents, Lili Garfinkel, Coordinator for the Juvenile Justice Project as she talks about, *Juvenile Justice Preventions for Adopted & Foster Youth*. Garfinkel will increase your knowledge about the causes of teen delinquency and crime and educate you on the rights of children and parents. This two-hour training will offer strategies, tools and resources on how to navigate multiple systems and advocate more effectively for your child.

Fee: \$20 per person; \$35 per couple; CEUs are available for \$30

Location: PACER Center; 8161 Normandale Blvd. Bloomington, MN

To register, [click here](#).

MN ADOPT and Adoptees Have Answers (AHA) Webinars Available on CD



All **MN ADOPT** and **Adoptees Have Answers (AHA)** webinar presentations are available on CD. All CDs include training content (PowerPoint) and audio commentary by each presenter. CDs run approximately 60-90 minutes. CEUs are not offered for CDs.

Price

\$15.00 per item

Select any 10 CDs for \$130.00

CD Collections are now available online!

(Prices include tax & shipping)

For presentations hosted by **MN ADOPT**, please visit

<http://www.mnadopt.org/webinars.php>

For presentations hosted by **Adoptees Have Answers**, please visit

<http://www.mnadopt.org/ahashop.php>

***400 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 either!

* The number of Minnesota children waiting for families has decreased from 650 to less than 400. While this shows progress our target is ZERO waiting children.

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Please visit our updated Zero Kids Waiting website at www.zerokidswaiting.org. The new site features highlights and photos from recent MARN events, adoption news, past eNewsletters and profiles of Minnesota Waiting youth.



[Watch Here](#)



Donate Today



The Zero Kids Waiting eNewsletter reaches parents willing to adopt children that are not reached by general recruitment measures. Please consider donation 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](#).

Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

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