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# Zero Kids Waiting

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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

**Alex, 17, Longs for His Dream of Being in a Family**



Alex loves attention and has a sharp mind for design and math. He enjoys tinkering with electronics and would be thrilled if he had a designated room with his own workbench so he could create his latest invention. Alex eagerly helps around the house with chores or fixing meals. He is looking for a smaller single or two parent family and longs to fulfill his dream of being part of a family.

Alex has been waiting for a family for a long time, but he has not lost hope that one day he will be adopted. He is getting older but this young man desires to stay with a family once they find him. Alex has no interest in striking out on his own once he comes of age. A family will need to be prepared to parent Alex for years to come and to help him understand what commitment looks like in a family unit.

For more information about Alex, please contact Joe Wild Crea, Permanency Specialist at Ampersand Families at 612-670-6485.

## World / National News

### **Australian Single Mothers Fear Pressure to Relinquish Babies for Adoption**

The Council of Single Mothers and their Children (CSMC) worries that Australia's rising number of mothers on poverty will lead to an increase in adoptions. The new rules denying welfare payments to teenage mothers who fail to return to the workforce within six months of giving birth would result in women being pressured to give up their babies. Jane Stanley, executive officer of CSMC said, "We are

extremely concerned that the ongoing erosion of the level of payments to single mothers may lead women to a point where they are unable to financially support their children."

[For more information](#)

### **Adoption Slows in Britain**

In Britain, the number of children being adopted has fallen due to delays, fear and prejudices surrounding adoption. Last year, Tact Fostering and Adoption of the UK reported 3,360 babies under the age of one were under the care of the system, yet only 60 were placed with adoptive parents. Although there is no shortage of people coming forward waiting to adopt, there are plenty of other road blocks that have forced adoption rates to decline. Currently it takes an average of two years and seven months to finalize an adoption. Often birth parents are extremely reluctant to allow their newborns to be taken into care and challenge workers' decisions. Meanwhile, older children do not want to become part of a 'new' family out of loyalty to their birth family. Other considerations for the shortage are the high costs to adopt and recent cuts to children's services.

[For more information](#)

### **Death of Steven Jobs Evokes Discussion of Nature vs. Nurture**

In the many tributes to Steven Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Computers and genius behind Pixar and iPod, is the mention of adoption. He was born in 1955 to an unmarried graduate student, Joanne Simpson and a Syrian student, Abdulfattah Jandali. Joanne's parents wouldn't allow them to marry. Later the couple would marry and have a second child. Today Jandali is the vice president of a Reno casino. In 1955, Jobs was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs, a working class family in California's Silicone Valley who could not afford to send him to college. Paul Jobs was a high school dropout who sold used cars. Still, they nurtured his interest in electronics. Blogs and media are buzzing with an analysis of Jobs' background and what part of adoption and genetics played in his meteoric rise to become the century's technology innovator.

### **California Offers Improved Mental Health Services to Foster Kids**

After nine years, a landmark class-action settlement was preliminarily approved in September that will require California to provide more effective mental health care services for the children currently or about to enter foster care. The state estimates 10,000 children out of the 61,000 foster children in the system would qualify for improved services. The new settlement will create standards, training and monitoring for the provision of intensive and "medically necessary" mental health services as dictated by federal law. It also mandates

the use of mental health approaches that are widely accepted and used by national experts and agencies. The attorney for one of the plaintiffs argue "a failure to systematically diagnose conditions or provide mental health care to this population early on creates a vicious cycle."

[For more information](#)

### **Some Illinois Adoptees Get Access to Birth Certificate**

Adults who were surrendered or adopted in Illinois will soon be able to request their original birth certificate. Starting November 15, those born after January 1, 1946 can see their original, non-certified birth certificate. Those versions will typically include birth parents' names, ages and places of birth. The changes comes under the amended Illinois Adoption Act. The Illinois Department of Public Health is providing a Birth Parent Preference Form for those who wish their identifying information remain confidential. Birth parents who do not want their information released must fill out a form before November 15.

[For more information](#)

## **Inside MARN**

### **MARN Moves to Nicollet Mall**

After nine years at the Loring Park Office Building, Minnesota Adoption Resource Network has relocated to 1221 Nicollet Mall, Suite #501, Minneapolis, MN 55403. The move was precipitated by the Loring Park building being converted into apartments. This historic move is the third for MARN which was housed in a founder's basement before relocating to Richfield and then moving the Loring Park. The new site is adjacent to Westminster Presbyterian Church. Telephone, email addresses and fax numbers will remain the same for MARN.

### **Save the Date for 'Circus of the Heart'**

The free 14th Annual Circus of the Heart is slated for Sunday, November 6, 2011 at the Prom Center Event Facility in Oakdale, Minnesota from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The day will offer a short program and prizes for families and older youth. A Teen Room for youth, ages 13 and older, will be set aside for making t-shirts, canvas art, air brush tattooing and Dance Dance Revolution. Tweens and teens will have a chance to win iPods and a Kindle. Meanwhile younger children will enjoy pony rides, games, clowns, a petting zoo, reptiles, face painting and more.

Circus of the Heart kicks off National Adoption Awareness Month in November by focusing on the recruitment of families and honoring families who have adopted Minnesota Waiting Children. The event will provide an opportunity for prospective families to better understand the population of children and youth served and the need for families for all ages. Older youth will be available to answer questions of prospective families about adoption.

To view the flyer, [click here](#).

### **Local Therapist Discusses Adoption Identity Formation**

Adoption is a unique experience which often crosses familial, genetic and cultural lines. Whether the child is adopted within family or beyond family, there are milestones of awareness that adolescents face as they navigate their role within the new family structure. Ted Thompson, licensed psychologist with a family practice in Minnesota is slated to present "Addressing Adoption Identity Formation" in Plymouth on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thompson will explore some of the challenges both adolescents and adult adoptees face as they journey through the stages of their "new identity" formation. Thompson is a former member of the Minnesota Board of Psychology and currently serves as the treating clinician for the NFL and NBA.

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

To register, [click here](#).

### **Experts to Speak About the Medical & Mental Health Needs of Internationally Adopted Children**

Children who are internationally adopted are at risk for experiencing fear, grief, loss, stress and trauma. These experiences can affect the brain architecture over time and increase the risk of mental health issues or disorders, and may also affect the outcomes in adulthood. Dr. Julie Keck and Dr. Heike Minnich from the Riley International Adoption Clinic at Indiana University School of Medicine help parents understand these issues and guide them through therapeutic interventions. The MN ADOPT webinar "Understanding the Medical and Mental Health Needs of Children Finding a Forever Family through International Adoption" is slated for Wednesday, November 16, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CST). For more information about the Riley International Adoption Clinic, please visit <http://iuhealth.org/riley/>

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

To register, [click here](#).

### **MN ADOPT **HELP** Line Helps Families**

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 the two clinical specialists, Jane Seymour or Cindy Lee Thomas, will assess intake calls and make recommendations for short term clinical services with therapists. The HELP line addresses the need of families to find adoption-competent service providers quickly. Families who have adopted internationally, domestically or from Minnesota Waiting Children may call HELP, Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

For more information, visit us online at <http://www.mnadopt.org/HELP.html>

### **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 any obstacles.

\* 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.

## Zero Kids Waiting

is a program funded solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

Please visit our updated Zero Kids Waiting website at [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://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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866.303.6276 ♦ 612.861.7112 ♦ [www.zerokidswaiting.org](http://www.zerokidswaiting.org)

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