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# Zero Kids Waiting

is a program solely by Minnesota Adoption Resource Network

May 2010 - Volume 3, Issue 24

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## Welcome!

**Zero Kids Waiting** is the monthly e-newsletter of Minnesota Adoption Resource Network, a 30-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** click [SafeUnsubscribe](#) at the bottom of this newsletter.

Your email will be used solely for the distribution of the newsletter 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

### Bobby, Love for Cooking & Big Breakfasts



Bobby, 17, is a young man with a smile that is likely to light up the entire room. Bobby has many talents, including cooking. He loves to whip up big breakfasts to share with his entire family. He considers himself creative and enjoys looking for new recipes to try. Bobby thinks that maybe one day he would like to be a famous chef.

When Bobby is not creating masterpieces in the kitchen, he enjoys watching and playing sports. He has played on the basketball team and hopes to go out for the track team this spring. Bobby thinks he would love living in a small rural town or possibly on a farm. When asked if he could choose any pet in the world, he immediately said, "I would want a wolf." Bobby needs a family willing to support and encourage his relationship with an older brother and younger sister.

#### **A Poem by Bobby**

*I Am*

*I am a goofball that likes to have fun*

*I wonder what school would be like if I tried when I was younger*

*I hear people calling my name in the middle of the night*

*I see flying pigs and dragons in the sky*

*I want a motorcycle that flies*

*I am a goofball that likes to have fun*

*I pretend that I can shoot fireballs from my hands*

*I feel alone a lot*

*I touch fire without being burned*

*I worry that I am the reason my mom died*

*I cry for the deaths in my family*

*I am a goofball that likes to have fun*

*I understand that my family likes me the way I am*

*I say that dragons did exist*

*I dream that one day I will see my mom again*

*I try to do good*

*I hope for peace and a new family that loves me*

*I am a goofball that likes to have fun*

For more information about Bobby, please contact Lynn Alvar, Morrison County at 320-632-0271 or Bambi Holloway, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Child-Focused Recruiter at 320-529-0862 or [bholloway@pathinc.org](mailto:bholloway@pathinc.org).

## **Feature**

### **Celebrate National Foster Care Month**

May 2010

May is National Foster Care month which offers a reminder to all adults to consider the future of the 513,000 children and youth residing in foster care throughout the country. Traditionally this month

is set aside to honor those who serve youth and children such as foster parents, workers, volunteers, relative caregivers and mentors. May offers a reminder of the urgent need for families and stability in each child's formative years.

**Upcoming Adoptees Have Answers Webinar:  
*Minnesota Orphan Train Riders: Historical Reflections on Adoption Over a Lifespan*  
with Renée Wendinger**

On Wednesday, May 10, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. (CDT), Renée Wendinger, author and President of the Minnesota Orphan Train Riders of New York organization and daughter of orphan train rider, Sophia Kaminsky Hillesheim, will present images from her personal historical archives never before seen by the public. In this webinar Wendinger will describe a surprisingly little known period in the history of child welfare in the United States from the perspective of those who lived it.

Adoptees, parents, professionals and others are invited to participate in this interactive online training. All you need is a computer with internet access, a telephone and a pioneer spirit.

**Fee**

\$15.00 webinar

\$15.00 CD

\$25.00 webinar & CD

[View Flyer](#)

To register, please contact Anne Johnson at 612-746-5122. In the future you will be able to register online through the AHA website.

## World / National News

### **Russia U.S. Reach Agreement on Adoptions**

May 2010

In the wake of a case in which 8-year-old Artyom Savaljev was returned to Russia by his adoptive mother, Russian officials and the United States have reached an accord that, if approved, is expected to take effect within two months. A part of the agreement is that American accredited adoption agencies will be responsible for reporting on the welfare of children adopted from Russia.

Minnesota is the leading recipient of children adopted from Russia. Senator Amy Klobuchar is lobbying the State Department to intercede on behalf of families in process and is advocating for post adoption services for adoptive families. A State Department advisory can be tracked online at <http://adoption.state.gov/news/russia.html>

[For more information](#)

### **American Missionary Remains Behind Bars in Haiti**

April 2010

American missionary Laura Silsby is set to stand trial in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti on a charge that she and nine other missionaries attempted to take 33 Haitian children out of the country after the devastating earthquake in January. The Americans claim the children were orphaned and abandoned, but the Haitian government say these children have a least one living relative or parent. Although Silsby's nine fellow missionaries were released from detention and sent back to the United States, Silsby remains behind bars and could face six months to three years in prison for a lesser charge of arranging irregular travel if convicted.

[For more information](#)

### **A Darker Side of Chinese Adoptions**

May 2010

In 2005, China's international adoption was booming, nearly 8,000 hopeful families adopting from the U.S. The same year it was revealed that six orphanages in China were buying babies for up to \$500 each. China correspondent, Marketplace's Scott Tong recently interviewed one of the convicted middlemen Chen Zhijing who says, "We sold babies to orphanages. Others did, too. They bought them because foreigners wanted them, and then made big profits when the babies were adopted."

[For more information](#)

### **Does Race Matter?**

May 2010

After the news broke that Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock had adopted a black infant son born in New Orleans, CNN aired a story about whether race matters when adopting with CNN reporter Jessica Ravitz asking, "When it comes to transracial adoption in this country, where are we?"

Rita Simon, professor of justice and public policy at American University in Washington says, "In the situation where a white parent adopts a black child, that might mean living in an integrated neighborhood, having pictures in the home of black heroes, seeking out other families in similar situations...The same need to integrate a child's culture applies across the board, whether parents are adopting from Asia, Central America or elsewhere."

[For more information](#)

To own your own copy of our recent webinar, *Great Ideas for*

*Increasing Biculturalism in Transracial Families*, with Robert O'Connor, professor and transracial adoptee [click here](#).

### **Rhode Island Hose Approves Access Bill for Adopted Adults**

May 2010

Rhode Island unanimously approved a bill to allow adults adoptees to get copies of their original birth certificates on May 12, 2010. Rhode Island like many states previously sealed all birth records of adopted children, starting in 1944. Last year, a bill to allow adult adoptees unrestricted access to their birth records was approved by the House, but failed to get voted out of a Senate committee. New England states considering similar legislation include New Jersey, New York, Connecticut after access legislation passed in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

[Read Bill H-7877 Sub A](#)  
[For more information](#)

### **Adoption Expert, Ken W. Watson Dies**

May 2010

Respected adoption therapist and author, Kenneth W. Watson died on March 25, 2010. He was co-author with Miriam Reitz of *Adoption and the Family System* and was formerly Assistant Director of Chicago Child Care. His work in the field of child welfare spanned 50 years in which he served with The Child Welfare League of America and the American Adoption Congress. He held faculty appointments at various school of social workers and was nationally known as a trainer and author of numerous articles on child welfare issues.

### ***Mother and Child*, Adoption Movie, Opens**

May 2010

An all star cast of Naomi Watts, Annette Bening, Kerry Washington, and Samuel L. Jackson share credits in *Mother and Child*, a movie with an adoption theme that will soon be in local theaters. The plot concerns three women, all affected by adoption. Karen (Bening) grieves her child she relinquished at the age of 14. Elizabeth (Watts), her daughter, is adopted and now a successful lawyer who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant. Lucy (Washington) longs to be a mother and soon meets a pregnant student who considers allowing Lucy and her husband to adopt her baby.

[For more information](#)

[Watch Movie Trailer](#)

### **TCM Movie Chanel Hosts Native American Films**

May 2010

For Native American families and children with Native heritage, a special multicultural opportunity is offered through TCM (Turner Classic Movies) to view Native American Images on film during the month of May. Regular TCM host Robert Osborne is joined by Professor Hanay Geiogamah, Director of the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA throughout the month of May.

[For more information](#)

## Research

### Study Finds Most Child Abuse Goes Unreported

April 2010

The British medical journal, *The Lancet*, reports that economically developed countries have many child maltreatment cases that go unreported. Of those that get reported, only one in ten are addressed by social services. Professionals fail to take action, according to the report, because they fear long term harm to the child from the child welfare system. Abuse and neglect cases are expected to rise due to decreased funding for social services to families with economic hardships.

[For more information](#)

## Local News

### New Law Extends Benefits for Older Foster Youth

April 2010

Some Minnesota youth, ages 18-21, will continue to receive foster care benefits past the age of forced emancipation under recently passed legislation. Those enrolled in employment programs, pursuing higher education or that have medical conditions that prevent them from such pursuits are eligible. The bill clarifies the right of a child to attend his or her court hearings and allows a foster parent or director of a transitional living program to approve a foster youth's application for a driver's license, instructional permit or provisional license. Continuing supports for foster youth past the age of 18 align with research findings that better outcomes result.

[For more information](#)

## Cuts in Front End Services Increase Teen Homelessness

Homelessness among teens has doubled in the Twin Cities in the past three years. Area homeless shelters are reporting an increase in children as young as 10 who are running away from crisis situations. Budget cuts in human services staff in child protection is due to declining federal support, which may be contributing to this trend.

Prevention programs designed to keep families out of the child protection system have had to cut staff including the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center that provides family assessments. Also impacted are Washburn Guidance Center and Fraser that serves children with severe emotional and behavioral problems. Last October, the Wilder Foundation announced it would be forced to phase out children's foster care home health and housing management services, impacting an estimated 5,000 clients.

[For more information](#)

## Race, Poverty Increase Risk to Children

According to a Minnesota Child Welfare Disparities Report released by the Department of Human Services, poverty and race are risk factors for involvement in the child protection system. Children of color are four to six times more likely to be the subjects of child protection investigations than White children. American Indian and African American children are placed in out-of-home care more often and more likely than White children to spend time in placements. The longer they remain, the more they experience multiple moves. With multiple placements comes higher risks for aging out of the system. The report suggests early interventions, improved service integration and culture competency to reduce the disparities.

[Read full report](#)

## Recognizing Birth Mothers

On Saturday, July 17, 2010, [The Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family & Life](#) and [Catholic Charities](#) invites all mothers who have relinquished a child for adoption to attend *A Day of Recognition & Honoring for Birth Mothers* at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 9900 Lyndale Avenue South in Bloomington, Minnesota from 9:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

This special event is in response to a need expressed by members of faith communities to recognize the pain that is carried by birth mothers, while honoring their sacrifice and providing opportunities for healing. Resources for continued exploration and healing will be provided to all participants. Retreat cost is \$10.00 to cover the cost of food. Scholarships are available for those with hardships.

For more information [click here](#) or call 651.291.4488.

[View map](#)

## Inside MARN

### **MARN Receives WCCO Radio Good Neighbor Award**

April 2010

WCCO Radio is known as The Good Neighbor station marking 80 years serving the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Amid the daily news and talk show format, WCCO designates a local organization or person as the Good Neighbor. On April 29, WCCO recognized MARN for its 30 years of finding families for children and youth.

### **ZKW Continues Pledge ZERO Campaign**

ZKW recently participated in Christian Alliance for Orphans, a national conference, at Grace Church on April 29 and 30 in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. If each congregation pledged to adopt one child or sibling group, we would reduce the number of Minnesota children awaiting families to ZERO. If you would like ZKW to speak to your congregation or to feature a waiting youth profile in your bulletin, please contact 866.303.6276.

### **MN ADOPT Trainings Offered by MARN**

MN ADOPT provides adoption-competent trainings for professionals, educators and families. For more information or to see a full list of programs visit [www.mnadopt.org/trainings](http://www.mnadopt.org/trainings) or call 866-303-6267.

[Training Calendar](#)

### **Archived Webinars Available on CD**

The following MN ADOPT webinar presentations are available on CD. All CDs include training content (PowerPoint) and audio commentary by each presenter. All presentations run approximately one hour.

#### **Presentations Include:**

#1101 *Tough Questions, No Easy Answers: Some Useful Tips for Raising Hurt Kids* with Deena McMahon

#1102 *Back to School with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)* with Kari Fletcher

#1103 *Silent Night: Calming the Holidays for Children with Sensory and Neurological Differences* with Kari Fletcher

#1104 *The Mosaic: When Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) Meets Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)* with Deena McMahon & Wendylee Raun

#1105 *Great Ideas for Increasing Biculturalism in Transracial Families* with Robert O'Connor

**Price**

\$15.00 for each CD

\$65.00 for 5-Disc Collection

\* Prices include tax & shipping

[For more information](#)

[View Order Form](#)

## Free Adoptee Support Group

Adoptees MN is a support group for adult adoptees (18 years of age or older), led by adoptees and are available in two locations.

**Metro Area**

Loring Park Office Building at 430 Oak Grove Street

Community Room, Suite #207

Minneapolis, MN 55403

\* Group meets the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

For more information, please email [adopteesmn@gmail.com](mailto:adopteesmn@gmail.com) or call Carrie at 651-457-2252 or Penny at 612-616-3139.

**Duluth Area**

2310 East 4th Street

Duluth, MN

\* Group meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Michele Benson at 218-525-3678.

For a list of statewide support groups visit [www.mnadopt.org/resources.html](http://www.mnadopt.org/resources.html) for adoption support network groups.

## \*400 Will Move to ZERO in Minnesota if...

- Each Metro church 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.
- Bureaucracy and 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 around 400. While this shows progress our target is ZERO waiting children.

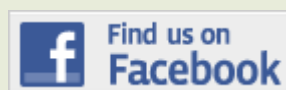
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### PSA Airs on You Tube

[Watch Here](#)



twitter

## Donate Today



The Zero Kids Waiting e-newsletter reaches parents willing to adopt children that are not reached by general recruitment measures.

Please consider donating as much as you are able to that we can reach ZERO -- Zero Kids

Waiting.

	To make a secure, tax deductible online donation, click <a href="#">Donate</a>
	<b>Minnesota Adoption Resource Network</b>

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