

Families Across Michigan

Health Care Reform Law Expands Adoption Tax Credit

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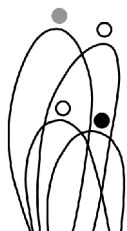
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Section 10909 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Care reform), signed into law on March 23, 2010, includes tax incentives for adoptive families through the 2011 tax year. The law extends the Federal Adoption Tax Credit (FATC), that has been available since 1997, and increases the maximum credit available to \$13,170.

Extension of the FATC helps alleviate the financial burden that sometimes comes with adoption, allowing tax payers to divert their tax liability to the adoption process so that families can focus their attention on welcoming the newest members of their family.

The FATC applies to all types of adoptions, including domestic, international, and special needs (i.e. adoption of children from the child welfare system) adoptions. The credit is per child, meaning that the amount available for the FATC increases for families adopting multiple children.

For domestic and international adoptions, adoptive families are eligible for the FATC equal to actual expenses incurred for an adoption. Eligible expenses include those directly related to the adoption including legal fees, court costs, and travel expenses.

Tax payers who adopt a special needs child are eligible for the maximum FATC amount, *regardless of expenses incurred*. For families adopting a child currently in foster care, they will be eligible for a tax credit of \$13,170 per child for the 2010 or 2011 tax year, depending upon which year the adoption is finalized.

Additional information is available on the IRS website (www.irs.gov) and from the February issue of the Adoption Advocate published by the National Council for Adoption. To learn more about the FATC and how it affects your individual tax situation, consult a tax professional.

****This information is provided for educational purposes only and should not be construed as tax advice.***

Upcoming MARE Recruitment Events

- Friday, April 23rd—6:00pm: [Heart Gallery Grand Opening in Detroit, MI](#)
- Tuesday, April 27th—5:45pm: [Circle of Light Event, Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium](#)
- Saturday, July 10th—11:00am: [Match Party in Flint, MI](#)
- Wednesday, July 21st—5:30pm: [Match Party in Macomb County](#)
- Tuesday, July 27th—5:30pm: [Match Party in Grand Rapids, MI](#)
- Saturday, August 14th—11:00am: [Match Party in Hersey, MI](#)
- Wednesday, September 8th—5:00pm: [Match Party in Allegan County](#)

Contact MARE Recruitment Specialist, Sheila Mech, 734.528.1692 ext 23257, if you would like to attend or learn more about future MARE events.



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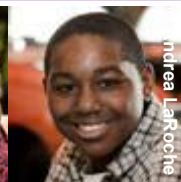
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Note: This is not the full list of events for Spring 2010. To view the entire calendar, please visit www.mare.org.

HOLLAND

Foster Care Orientation & Older Child Adoption Option – (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM) May 3, June 7, July 12, September 13, October 4, November 1
For more information please contact Jame Maatman at 616.796.9163 or jmaatman@bethany.org. **Location:** Bethany Christian Services - Holland

PRIDE Dates – (9:00 AM – 3:30 PM) May 15 & 22; July 24 & 31. The first Saturdays of the months are sessions 1,2, 3. The second Saturday of the months are sessions 4 and 6. For more information please contact Jamie Maatman at 616.796.9163 or jmaatman@bethany.org.

Location: Bethany Christian Services - Holland

INGHAM

Michigan Association for Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Parents – Spring Training Conference – April 29 – May 2, 2010. 2010 Annual State Training Conference “Every Child, Every Family, One Michigan” www.mafak.org. Contact: Conference coordinator, Alma Schmidt, at 248.425.1655 or almaprill@aol.com.

Location: Causeway Bay Hotel & Convention Center, Lansing, MI

Adoption Orientation for all Types of Adoption – (6:00 PM – 7:30 PM): Every 3rd Tuesday of the Month

Open to the public. Contact Kathy Yates at yatesk@stvcc.org or 517.323.4734 x1619. **Location:** St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing, MI

KENT

Foster Care Orientation - (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM) May 4; June 22. All Bethany foster parents need to attend **one** orientation meeting and required trainings. Please contact the Jennifer Reister at 616.224.7481 or email jreister@bethany.org. Dinner is provided! Registration Required. **Location:** All trainings held at the conference center at Bethany Christian Services at 901 Eastern Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

PRIDE Training – (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM) May 11; May 13; May 18; May 20; May 25; May 27; June 3

All Bethany foster parents need to attend **one** orientation meeting and required trainings. Please contact the Jennifer Reister at 616.224.7481 or email jreister@bethany.org. Dinner is provided! Registration Required.

Location: All trainings held at the conference center at Bethany Christian Services at 901 Eastern Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

PRIDE Training (Focus on Foster Care) – (6:30PM – 9:30PM): April 15, April 22, April 29, May 6 FREE. Registration Required: Contact Mary Lou Bomgaars at 616.451.2021 or mbomgarrs@dablodgett.org. **Location:** D.A. Blodgett for Children

MUSKEGON

ADOPTTEENS – (3:30PM – 5:00PM): April 20. Call for deadline sign-up dates and further information, Nancy Wittkopp, 231.726.4735 or nwittkopp@ccwestmi.org. **Location:** 1095 Third Street, Muskegon, MI 49441

PRIDE- Session 1 & 2 – (5:00 – 9:00 PM): April 15th; PRIDE- Session 3 & 4 – (5:00 – 9:00 PM): April 22nd; PRIDE- Session 4 (cont.) & 6 – (5:00 – 9:00 PM): April 29th. At Catholic Charities West Michigan. Contact Amy Simpson at 231.726.4735 to reserve a space. **Location:** 1095 Third St., Muskegon, MI 49441

OAKLAND

Foster Care Orientation: (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM): May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4 & (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM): April 21, June 16, July 21. Open to the public. Registration Required. Contact person for questions/registration is Karen Lawson, 248.593.2171 or klawson@orchards.org. **Location:** Orchards Children's Services Location: Southfield Office, 30215 Southfield Rd., Suite 100, Southfield, MI, 48076

Adoption Orientation: (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM) & (6:30 PM – 8:00PM): May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14. Open to the public. Registration Required. Contact person for questions/registration is Karen Lawson, 248.593.2171 or klawson@orchards.org. **Location:** Orchards Children's Services Location: Southfield Office, 30215 Southfield Rd., Suite 100, Southfield, MI, 48076

Adoption Orientation: (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM): April 21, May 18

Open to the public. Please call to reserve a space. Angela Barney or Carmaine Segars at 248.353.0922 or abarney@childhelp.org Location: Childhelp

OTTAWA

Kinship Care Support Group - (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM) Kinship care support group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday.

There is no cost and child care and a meal are provided at each meeting. For more information contact Lindsey Iverson at (616) 396-0623.

Location: The Lodge, Calvary Christian Reformed Church 410 Beeline Rd., Holland

WASHTENAW

Siblings without Rivalry Parenting Program – (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM): May 13, May 20

Cost is \$23.00 per couple. To register call 734.222.3943. **Location:** Ann Arbor Preschool & Family Center, 2775 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

WAYNE

PRIDE Pre-Service Training – (10:00 AM – 4:00 PM): July 17 & July 24, July 28 & August 21. This is a two session series. Contact: 313.961.4777. **Location:** 511 E. Larned, Detroit, MI 48226

Foster Parent Adoption – (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM): May 3. This session explores tools to assist foster parents in their decision to adopt. The required documents and legal process will be reviewed. Contact: 313.961.4777. **Location:** 511 E. Larned, Detroit, MI 48226

Celebrating Fatherhood: Its Impact on Our Community Conference – June 10 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) & June 11 (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

This conference is open to the public. Please contact Stacy at 734.785.7705 x7314 for scholarship details. For registration questions and other concerns please contact Laura at 734.785.7705 x7271. Location: Greater Grace Temple, 25300 West 7 Mile, Detroit, MI 48219

The Seven Step Journey to Adoption

Contact Your MARE Staff

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Here are the basics to get started on your adoption journey. Please be aware that the steps and time it takes will vary from agency to agency.

- **Getting Started**—Call agencies to get information about adopting. Decide whether or not you want to find out more about the adoption process. Sign up for an orientation.
- **Initial Orientation**—At this meeting you will be given a basic understanding of children who need care, responsibilities of adoptive parents, and the process you will go through.
- **Pre-Service Training**—Attend 12 hours of "PRIDE" or another agency required training course.
- **Application Process**—Prospective parents complete the application and your assigned social-worker goes over it carefully with you.
- **Mutual Assessment and Homestudy**—The family worker meets with you in your home to talk about personal history, relationships, available space, and resources.
- **Approval**—A time of waiting while workers complete your background checks and review information you provided.
- **Placement**—You work with the agency to assure the best match between yourself and a particular child's or sibling group's needs.

You may print the entire 7 Step Journey in more detail by visiting:

www.adoptuskids.org/images/resourceCenter/famPocketGuide.pdf

grand opening
friday, april 23, 2010
6:00-8:30 p.m.
charles h. wright museum
detroit, mi
www.miheart.org

RSVP: 734.528.1692 x23257
Space is limited.



**Judson
Center**

The Michigan Heart Gallery is a photographic exhibit of Michigan's foster children who are waiting to find forever families. Please join us for the 2010 Grand Opening reception, an evening of awareness. *Space is limited.* RSVP at 734.528.1692 x23257



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EXCHANGE

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Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Visit us on the web:

www.mare.org

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is an information and referral service for prospective adoptive parents interested in adopting children with "special needs," and for adoption workers looking for homes for these children.

Micheala, Age 12

Micheala has a sweet, lovable, and outgoing personality. She enjoys doing art projects, singing, cooking, and eating! Micheala is very attached to her siblings and enjoys spending time with them.



Despite the hurt and anger she feels at being separated from her birth family, Micheala expresses her needs and wishes to be part of a family. She can be impulsive and often tests limits with adult authority. Micheala also needs guidance in learning to express her frustrations appropriately with peers and adults. She often acts younger than her age and may need help with some self-care skills. At school Micheala needs additional assistance in some subject areas. Her behavior in the classroom often impedes her academic success.

Micheala needs a caring and committed family who can provide a highly structured and nurturing environment with clear guidelines and plenty of individualized attention. A family for Micheala must be strong advocates for support services at school and in the community, and be willing to participate with her as needed. It will also be in Micheala's best interests to maintain regular contact with her siblings. *To inquire about Micheala, C06385, contact MARE at (800) 589-6273 or visit www.mare.org.*

