

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Human Services.



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To learn about foster care adoption and view photolistings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).

# Tired of counting the days to adoption? To help you, join MARE at these forums

WRITTEN BY **MAGGIE WHITE, MARE ADOPTION NAVIGATOR**

In the movie *When Harry Met Sally*, Billy Crystal's character said, "When you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible." The same could be said about adoption.

Once you make the big decision to welcome a child into your life, it's only natural that you want to get started right now! The process of waiting to be matched with a child can be confusing and frustrating at times.

To assist adoptive parents in the process, the MARE Adoption Navigators are holding Waiting Family Forums periodically throughout the year. Join us and learn exactly what happens to your inquiries after you submit them on the MARE website, find out what you can do to make the most of your wait time, learn ways to strengthen your inquiries, get tips on how to effectively



ly advocate for your family, and meet other waiting families. Families who are approved to adopt and families who are in the process of completing their home study are all welcome to attend.

We have two dates and locations in 2015 for you to choose from:

- Wednesday, September 16 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., in Warren.
- Saturday, November 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., in Battle Creek.

*We'll be announcing more dates and locations for 2016 soon! For more information or to RSVP, please email [maggie\\_white@judson-center.org](mailto:maggie_white@judson-center.org).*

## July 2015



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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



To contact MARE,  
call 800-589-6273 or  
visit [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org)



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[www.youtube.com/user/VideosbyMARE](https://www.youtube.com/user/VideosbyMARE)

# This kid digs having a ball

Kyron longs for a forever family to share his fun times

**K**yron might be pictured with a bowling ball, but he's more accustomed to having a basketball in his hands. "Being good with the basketball" is one of the things he says he's most proud of, and practicing the sport represents one of his favorite things to do when playing with friends. This 17-year-old likes all sports and particularly enjoys going swimming and bowling. Kyron also likes playing with cars, and when he visited the auto show, he loved sitting in fancy ones and likely displayed his beaming grin. And if you want to see Kyron at his most joyous, give him the remote on a wrestling night. "On TV," Kyron says, "WWE makes me laugh." Along with smiles and laughter come more serious thoughts. For instance, Kyron says he most wants people to know that he tries to be good, and with a forever family he longs to spend a night playing video and board games together, especially "Battle-ship," which he's very good at.

Kyron responds well to routine and structure within the family setting. Kyron is learning how to manage his emotions and develop positive coping skills such as taking time outs or going to his room

when he becomes frustrated. He does best when things are explained in a clear and consistent manner. At school, Kyron likes attending his classes, especially gym and math, gets along well with his peers and gets good grades. He admits the hardest thing for him to do is accept when he is told "no," but he is working to be better in this area. Kyron also noted that his biggest worry about being adopted is that people would be mad at him and tell him what to do.

Kyron wants his forever family to know that he will try his best because he really wants a family. Kyron needs an adoptive family who can provide him a warm, caring and loving home in which he can thrive. He does best with structure, routine and consistency in his daily schedule. Kyron would benefit from a transitional period to really get to know his adoptive family. The family must be able to provide Kyron with guidance and encouragement on improving his social skills and effectively managing his emotions. The adoptive family will need to be active advocates and a true ally to Kyron to ensure he receives all the necessary support he needs to achieve his goals.



# Joy comes easily in a job she loves

MARE Adoption Navigator savors her personal, professional roles

**L**ife can change on a dime, but in MARE Adoption Navigator Maggie White's case life changed when she adopted her son. Alex was 10-years-old when he moved home, and he was a whirlwind of energy, the absolute king of hilarious one-liners, and a master at finding the loophole in every single rule. He was not only the catalyst for changing up Maggie's home life, he was also the reason for a career change.

Maggie had worked as a professional writer for more than 10 years and began focusing on parenting and adoption-related writing soon after her son came home. In November 2011, Maggie joined the MARE Adoption Navigator team and has found so much joy in walking beside families as they discover the child or children they were meant to parent.

At each Meet and Greet, Maggie has



to remind herself that it is her role to help find families for the children and not adopt each one herself. (Because there hasn't been a Meet & Greet yet where one or more of the kiddos didn't tug at Maggie's heartstrings!) Having adopted a pre-teen herself, Maggie is a firm believer that no child is too old to be adopted – every child needs a family.

After being a single parent for more than three years, Maggie met her now-husband, Ken. In addition to her husband and son, her family now includes stepchildren and four beautiful grandchildren. Her son, Alex, is entering his senior year of high school and – at 6'1" – totally towers over his mom.

In addition to her full-time work as an Adoption Navigator, Maggie works part-time for the Adoptive Family Support Network and is also pursuing her bachelor's degree in social work.



## SAVE THE DATE

Join the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Statewide Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parent Collaborative Council at the Foster, Adoptive, Kinship Parent Conference. The conference will focus on trauma-informed parenting, resources and supports for caregivers, community collaboration, parent-child attachment, mental health, bullying, and suicide prevention.

Friday, August 21, 2015 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Great Hall, 5021 Bay City Rd., Midland, MI 48642

Questions? Contact Jessica Deering at [DeeringJ@michigan.gov](mailto:DeeringJ@michigan.gov), 517-241-6679 or Stephanie McCann at 517-373-2591 [MccannS5@michigan.gov](mailto:MccannS5@michigan.gov)

## The Match Party name changes, but the goal remains the same

# MARE Meet & Greet

MARE's waiting youth requested a change to the name "Match Party" for events that they along with prospective adoptive parents attend. Youth said the name implied that if they attended the party, they'd be matched with a family. So we're changing the name to MARE Meet & Greet to put the focus on families and youth getting to know one another.



For more information about MARE Meet & Greets, visit [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org) or call 800-589-6273





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## 2015 Kinship Adoption Festival



**Kaiser family**  
By Douglas Bacon

- Agency booths • Food available • Attractions and activities for all ages • Meet waiting youth
- Visit the Michigan Heart Gallery • Attend informational workshops

**Sunday, Sept. 27,  
1-5 p.m.**

**Belle Isle State  
Park, Detroit**

For more information,  
contact the Michigan Adop-  
tion Resource Exchange,  
800-589-6273, or visit  
[www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Fourth Wednesday Each Month

#### Macomb County Adoptive Family Connections Meeting

6-8 pm.

The Macomb group meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Judson Center's Warren location. Join this supportive group of adoptive parents to share your

joys and your challenges with people who truly get it. Often, invited guest speakers talk about adoption-appropriate topics or a short training session on parenting, trauma or another related subject is held. Dinner and childcare is provided. For more information or to RSVP, please email [Thomas\\_Green@judsoncenter.org](mailto:Thomas_Green@judsoncenter.org).

### The Second Monday Each Month

#### Lapeer County Adoptive Family Connections Meeting

6:30-9 p.m.

Join PARC and the NALO Therapy Center for this Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Support Group. We all

need a space to honestly share our trials and successes. Please join us . . . and help your family grow stronger! This group meets on the second Monday of each month at NALOs offices in Lapeer. Dinner and childcare are provided. For more information or to RSVP, please email [Jonathan\\_Albert@judsoncenter.org](mailto:Jonathan_Albert@judsoncenter.org).

### July 11, 2015

MARE Meet & Greet, Grand Rapids

### July 25, 2015

MARE Meet & Greet, Plymouth

For more information, contact MARE Recruitment Specialist, Jessica Thompson at [jessica\\_thompson@judsoncenter.org](mailto:jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org)