

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. To learn about foster care adoption and view photolistings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at www.mare.org.



Meet Corinne, MARE's new videographer

She brings loads of experience and energy to the job

She's traveled from the Midwest to the Deep South and beyond, and everywhere Corinne Toussaint has gone she left her mark with her philanthropy and generosity. Her desire to serve others led her to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, where Corinne has become the communications specialist in charge of videography. Even

though she's been on the job only a short time, Corinne still loves the time she has spent with youth.

"I enjoy meeting the kids I video even if it's just a brief time," she says. "I get to show what's special about every one of them."

Corinne comes to MARE after working as a videographer for several non-profit organizations, including one in Haiti, where

she met her husband. They have a two-year-old daughter and a newborn baby.

In her Q&A, you'll find more interesting facts about this wife and mother who likes dachshunds "because they're short and cute like me" and who loves playing the video game *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*.

See [Corinne](#) on page 2

"I enjoy meeting the kids I video even if it's just a brief time. I get to show what's special about every one of them."

Videographer Corinne Toussaint

Resources for families with college-bound teens

Adopting a teen can bring different questions than adopting a younger child, and MARE Match Support specialists are ready to help get your families the answers.

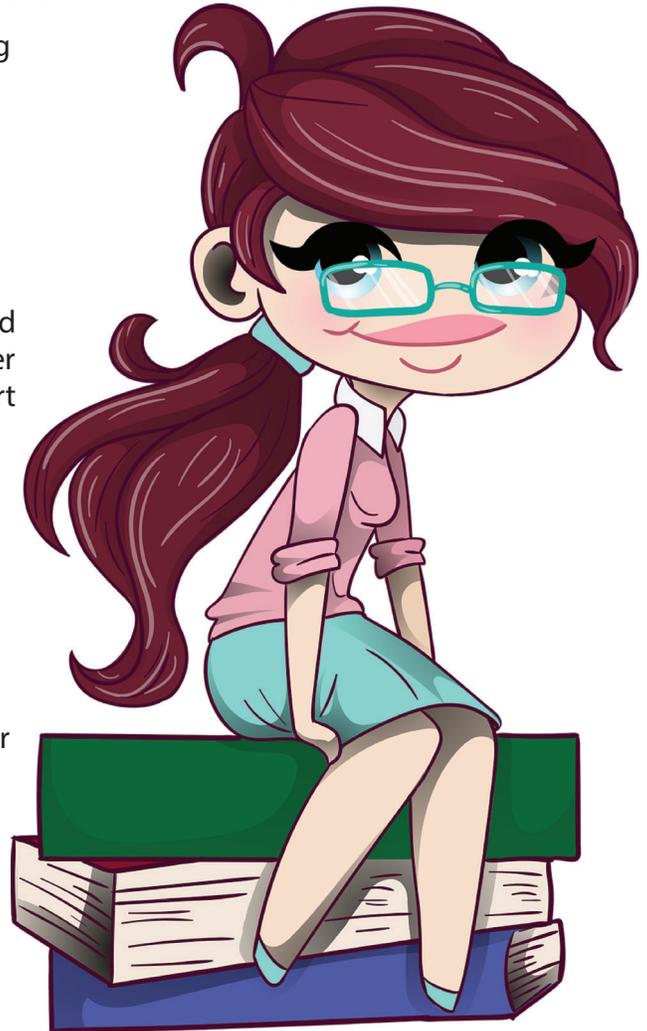
One question your families might consider involves their teen's post-secondary education plan. There are a plethora of college and technical opportunities as well as financial support available for the youth today.

Match Support specialists can educate families on grants and scholarships specifically for students who have been in foster care, help schedule and arrange college tours, locate support programs within universities for foster and adopted youth that assist in the transition process, and educate families on life skills that may be important for their teen, such as banking and budgeting, grocery and meal planning as well as basic cooking skills.

Our specialists also provide 90 days of family-centered services, which include offering educational resources, training opportunities, referrals to support groups and a variety of other supportive services to help families and their teen succeed now and in the future.

In addition to answering questions such as resources for teens, Match Support specialists also listen about successes and struggles and assist with any bumps that may develop during the adoption process.

If you know of an adoptive family who could use extra support, call 734-528-2020.



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Corinne, continued from page 1

What's your professional background?

I went to Columbia College in Chicago and graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in producing. Afterwards, I traveled to Haiti to work for a non-profit making videos, which was a lot of fun. I've also made videos on the side for other non-profits.

What draws you to social work?

I've always been drawn to helping people. In school, I always participated in opportunities to give back. I would go on trips down to Kentucky to help build houses every summer with my church, then I did some alternative spring breaks while I was in college,

traveling to New Orleans and other places to help others. I just like to give back.

Why were you interested in becoming a MARE communications specialist?

It was not only an opportunity to use my film degree, but also a way to spread awareness of the need to adopt youth living in foster care. Although we aren't quite in the position to do it yet, my husband and I have an interest in becoming foster parents. Working with MARE seemed like a really great way to contribute to the cause.

What satisfies you most about your job?

When I get emails saying that a child has found a family.

Youth Advisory Board can get youth a “degree” in self-care

More reasons for kids on your caseload to become involved

During the most recent meeting of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), participants learned more about the importance of self-care, a subject that youth had said was important to them.

The meeting took place at Mint Hair Crafting in Royal Oak where a few young ladies got pampered and heard about the importance of positive self-care. The young ladies who participated in this special Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meeting received first-class service from an amazing group of stylists.

YAB meetings are designed to gather information

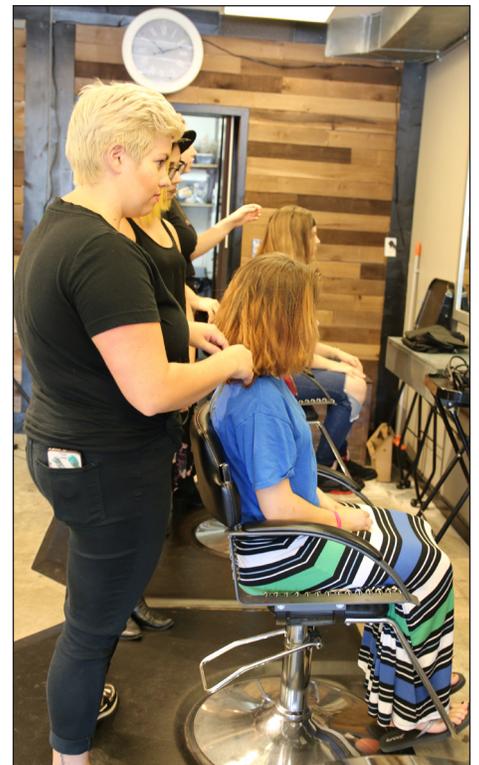
from individuals who are or who have been in foster care so that MARE can educate adoption workers and officials about the concerns of children waiting for an adoptive family.

Youth participating in the YAB meetings have been able to enjoy a fun lunch and receive prizes for participation.

If your youth are interested in participating in YAB and want to attend a future meeting, contact MARE Youth Specialist Jennifer Brooks at 734-528-2061 or by email at jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.



Youth participating in the most recent YAB meeting at the hair salon included Sienna (Joy), Marriah and Shawna.



MICHIGAN ADOPTION MONTH

Giving thanks for families

NOVEMBER 2018

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter during November for Adoption Month. We'll have features about waiting youth, stories about exceptional adoptive families, updates about courthouse celebrations and more.

For a list of Adoption Month celebrations, visit www.mare.org/MI-Adoption-Day.

To contact the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, call 800-589-6273.

Keep your updates up-to-date ...

Reminders:

Child Name	Reminder Type	Due Date	Add Report
	Quarterly Hold Report	11-12-2018	Add Report
	Quarterly Hold Report	11-12-2018	Add Report
	Consent Signature Update	08-23-2019	
	Recruitment Plan Update	08-23-2019	
	Photo Update	08-30-2019	
	Narrative Update	09-05-2019	

Showing 1 to 6 of 6 entries

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- Make sure to use your worker dashboard as a reminder of what's coming due, such as the quarterly hold reports shown above.
- MARE will also email reminders of what's coming due.
- If you have an issue obtaining any update, be sure to contact MARE Social Work Supervisor Margaret White, margaret_white@judsoncenter.org, 734-528-1722, who will assist in developing a solution.

... and let families know help is available



MARE adoption navigators are experienced adoptive parents who offer guidance and personal knowledge to potential adoptive families. Staff members include, from left, Judith McNaughton, Kim Ross, Kelli Ostrosky, Kimberly Wolowski, Dorene Jones, Mac Ballantine and Amber Tiemeyer. Families can call 800-589-6273 and ask to talk to an adoption navigator.

Calendar of Events

November 11, 2018

MARE Meet & Greet, Brighton

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Followed by a Waiting Family Forum hosted by MARE adoption navigators.

2-4 p.m.

January 12, 2019

MARE Meet & Greet, Pontiac

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

January 26, 2019

MARE Meet & Greet, Detroit

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

February 16, 2019

MARE Meet & Greet, Kalamazoo

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information regarding these events

contact Jessica Thompson,

MARE Recruitment

Specialist: [jessica_thompson](mailto:jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org)

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