

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE



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Camron plans his future fortune, Page 4.

Akira is a gifted and funny teen who puts her talents to work, Page 6.

Sadie and Miquel are like peas and carrots, Page 8-9.

A spotlight on children waiting for permanent and loving families

Spring 2016

WELCOME TO THE Spring 2016 Recruitment Periodical, published by the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange. Over the next several pages, you will be introduced to some of the youth in Michigan who are waiting for their opportunity to have a loving, supportive and permanent family of their own through adoption. The youth in the Spring 2016 periodical are representative of hundreds of other children in the Michigan foster care system who are waiting to become part of a loving family. To view these children and to learn more information about adoption, please visit our website at www.mare.org.

On the MARE website, you will find photos, narratives and video clips of waiting children, as well as a wealth of information about adoption, including links to adoption-related resources.

If you have been thinking about adoption, we invite you to consider bringing an older child or sibling group into your life. If you have questions about adoption or are ready to begin the adoption process, simply call one of the agencies listed in the back of this periodical. MARE is available to answer your adoption-related questions and we will do our best to get you headed in the right direction.



Alvin C07409

Photo by
Angela Phipps

Alvin's likes

- Playing basketball, which he'd do in his sleep if he could.
- Spending time with friends.

Alvin's

crystal ball

- Wants to travel to Hollywood because "that's where the celebrities are."

**Looking for an outing?
Join us and show support for the cause!**

Adoption Awareness Day

With The Detroit Tigers

**Ticket packages for this game vs. the
Houston Astros on July 31 at 1:10 p.m. include:**

- Lower Baseline Box, Upper Box Infield or Upper Reserved
- Detroit Tigers/Adoption Awareness T-shirt
- Donation to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange



To order tickets, visit www.mare.org. For further information or to order 15 or more tickets, please contact Jeremy Hostetter at Jeremy.hostetter@detroittigers.com

Who are the children who wait for adoption?

Adopting a “waiting child” from foster care is often referred to as special needs adoption. This term often makes people think of children with severe mental or physical impairments. In reality, special needs adoption means a child or children who may be difficult to place for adoption for a variety of reasons, including:

- Children school aged and above.
- Children with emotional, mental, learning or physical impairments.
- Children of minority heritage.
- Children who are part of a sibling group that must be placed together.

Many waiting children have had traumatic past experiences that may include physical, sexual or emotional abuse and/or severe neglect. Others may have been born already exposed to drugs or alcohol.

Around 93% of children in Michigan’s foster care system are adopted by the child’s current foster family or a relative (someone with whom the child has an established relationship with). The remaining children available for adoption, like those in this periodical and the MARE website, have no identified family to adopt them. Recruitment of a suitable adoptive family is, therefore, necessary. About 97% of the children available for adoption without an identified family are over the age of 5. About 79% of those children are between the ages of 11 and 18.

Who can adopt a waiting child?

Many people may be surprised to learn that they do not have to be married in order to adopt a child from the foster care system. Potential adoptive parents do not have to own their own home or have a lot of money. They must have enough space in their home and adequate income to support a child. It is important to know that many children waiting for adoption are eligible to receive support subsidies to help adoptive families meet their needs.

How much does it cost to adopt a child from foster care?

The only cost you should incur for adopting a child from the Michigan foster care system is court filing fees. Some agencies may charge a fee for the Family Assessment (also known as a Home Study). However, once you adopt a child through Michigan’s foster care system, that fee is reimbursed to you. Families must be approved through the Adoptive Family

Assessment process before a child can be placed in their home for adoption. An Adoptive Family Assessment must be completed by a licensed adoption agency (which can be found in the back of this periodical and on the MARE website). The Adoptive Family Assessment will include, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Personal history
- Health statements
- Criminal background check
- Income statement
- Personal references

Once the Adoptive Family Assessment is complete, you may start submitting inquiries to MARE about children you may be interested in adopting. When you inquire about children through the MARE website, your information will be sent, by MARE, to the child’s adoption worker for consideration. Your worker will also be notified that you have inquired about a specific child or children.

For more information about adoption and to learn about Michigan’s waiting children, please visit our website at www.mare.org

Yajaira C08265




Yajaira’s likes

- Attending church services weekly.
- Participating in arts and crafts activities.

Yajaira’s
crystall ball

- Wants to travel to Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic.

Photo by
Karen Bertram



Quotable:

“I want to be a game designer. I want to first get my bachelor’s degree. Then I want to get my master’s degree ... because I want to become a master at something.”

Camron’s likes:

- Almost any type of sport but particularly football and basketball.
- Playing video games, watching TV, and going swimming.

Camron’s crystal ball:

- Wants to become involved in a church youth group as this has been a positive experience for him in the past.
- Would like to be a mechanic or engineer when he grows up.
- Plans to create a video game called the “Renaissance Game,” featuring ninjas, archers and ancient weapons such as “swords and ninja stars.”

Qualities of a forever family:

- Ability to be patient and love him and give him hugs.
- At least one positive male role model in the home.
- Be strong advocates for the services that will help Camron function at his best.
- Willing to work with him to form a bond.

Did you know?

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange hosts and participates in Meet & Greet events throughout the year. These festive events usually occur on a Saturday and offer adop-

tive parents an opportunity to meet many of the youth who are listed on MARE’s website. If you’re interested in learning more, please visit www.mare.org or call MARE at 800-589-6273.



Photos by
Ariela Photography



My'asia's likes:

- Playing Nintendo Wii and shooting hoops.
- Eating pizza!

Creative interests:

- Crocheting, acting and drawing.

Intangible assets:

- Thrives in a leadership role.
- She's described as a sweet and special girl.

Qualities of a forever family:

- In My'asia's words, "A family that has kids so I can play

with the kids."

- One who will support her as she grows and continues to develop new coping skills.
- Able to provide structure and consistency in the home and will engage her with community events and programs.
- Willing to take her shopping!

Quotable:

"I want to be a teacher when I grow up."

Photo by
Amanda Williams
Photography



Akira's likes:

- Enjoys styling her hair and makeup.
- Her favorite food is chicken, and her favorite subject in school is math.

Intangible assets:

- Has a pleasant and funny personality.

Creative interests:

- She's described as a "gifted singer, artist and writer."
- Often can be seen writing songs and poems or perhaps drawing pictures.

ems or perhaps drawing pictures.

Qualities of a forever family:

- A strong female presence in the home.
- A good network to help provide supervision and one-on-one attention.
- Patience as Akira adjusts to and develops trust with them.
- Willing to advocate for the services that will benefit Akira at home, in the community and at school.
- Able to set firm boundaries.

Photo by
Jennifer Brooks



Bronson's likes:

- Playing with remote control cars and trucks.
- Listening to country music and watching cartoons.
- Playing board games and card games, and he says that he's exceptional at playing video games.

Intangible assets:

- A good eater who enjoys most everything.
- A very loving child who responds well to hugs and praise.

Bronson's crystal ball:

- Wants to turn his artistic talents and love of drawing into a career by becoming an illustrator or graphic novelist.

Quotable:

"He enjoys building things with his hands and drawing," says his worker.

Qualities of a forever family:

- A home with two experienced parents or a single-female parent and a family with strong and positive role models.
- Must be understanding, accepting and willing to help Bronson express himself through positive means, particularly when he becomes upset.
- Willing to be strong advocates to ensure that all of Bronson's needs are met in the home, at school and in the community.

*Photos by
Hannah Dunne*





Sadie's likes:

- Playing outside and riding her bike.
- Making crafts such as necklaces and bracelets.
- Watching TV and keeping it tuned to Nickelodeon.
- Especially loves "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and "Victorious."

Intangible assets:

- Cares deeply about others and enjoys spending time with her siblings.

Miquel's likes:

- Watching "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" or "Alvin and the Chipmunks."
- Playing sports, especially basketball.
- Being outside and riding his bike.

Quotable:

"Miquel is a very likable young man," says his worker.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Willing to adopt Sadie and Miquel together.
- Two experienced parents who can provide the one-on-one attention they need to thrive.
- Able to be patient as Sadie and Miquel adapt to their new home.

- A home with other children as long as Sadie and Miquel get proper attention.
- Strong advocates for services that will help Sadie and Miquel function at their best in school and at home.
- Willing to let the children maintain sibling relationships.



Donald's likes:

- Being outside, riding bikes and playing basketball.
- His brother because "he's funny and he's smart."
- Reading and playing with WWE action figures.

Donald's crystal ball:

- Aspires to be a superhero when he grows up, and if that doesn't happen he'll go into another noble profession: pro wrestling.

Donald's dream menu:

- Includes grilled cheese, burgers, pizza and chips.





Dylan's likes:

- Being outside and playing with cars.
- Going for rides while listening to music and looking at other cars.

Intangible assets:

- Silly, fun, very sweet and always happy.
- An energetic and busy boy who loves

Qualities of a forever family:

- A family willing to adopt Donald and Dylan together.
- A two-parent home with a mom and dad due to the amount of attention and supervision they need.
- Must be loving and patient as Donald and

staying active.

- Outgoing and friendly.

Quotable:

“Dylan is imaginative and playful,” says his foster parent.

Dylan adapt to them and their new home.

- The boys would benefit from having older, not younger, siblings.
- Willing to be fierce advocates to make sure that Donald and Dylan receive the services they need to thrive at home, in school and in the community.



*Photo by
Hannah Dunne*

Elijah's likes:

- All sports but especially football, basketball and wrestling. He's on the high school wrestling team.
- Writing poems and songs.

Intangible assets:

- An active and athletic kid with a bright future.
- Maintains a high grade point average.
- A likeable teen who thrives when he's coached, nurtured and rewarded.

Elijah's crystal ball:

- Plans to attend college and has scouted universities so he can decide where he wants to go once he graduates high school.
- Dreams of having a forever family who'll encourage his participation in wrestling and other sports.

Quotable:

"I would describe my personality as very exciting, vibrant and colorful."

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced parents in a home with or without other children; however, he doesn't want to "get lost in the shuffle of a big family."
- Willing to help Elijah achieve his goals and to make sure that he receives the services that will help him thrive.
- His worker says that Elijah "has a lot of love and personality to contribute" to his forever family.
- Would like pets if possible.

Aaliyah's likes:

- Giving and receiving gifts.
- Coloring, working on crafts, doing word searches and solving puzzles.
- Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and mac 'n cheese.

Aaliyah's crystal ball:

- Wants to travel to Hollywood to watch the filming of the TV show "Victorious."
- Dreams of sewing, playing games and writing stories together with her future forever family.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two patient, experienced parents who can give her the one-on-one attention that she requires.
- Strong advocates for the services that will benefit Aaliyah.
- Willing to learn how to help Aaliyah manage her behavior.
- Preferably a home with pets, particularly cats.

Quotable:

"I want to be loved and told that I'm loved."

*Photo by
Heather Halligan*



Make sure to check out the MARE YouTube Channel to see videos of several of the children featured in the Spring 2016 Periodical.

Adoption Agencies in Michigan

The following is a list of adoption agencies whose primary focus is facilitating the adoption of children from the foster care system. Many of these agencies may also provide foster care services. This agency list is organized by regions of the state. Please contact an agency in your area if you are interested in beginning the adoption process.

Upper Peninsula

Anishnabek Community & Family Services, Sault Ste. Marie, 906.632.5250, www.saulttribe.com
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Escanaba, 906.786.7212, www.cssup.org
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Iron Mountain, 906.774.3323, www.cssup.org
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906.227.9119, www.cssup.org
Child & Family Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906.228.4050, www.cfsup.org
U.P. Kids, Houghton, 906.487.9832, www.upkids.com
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper MI, Marquette, 877.994.8344, www.lsswis.org
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan, Marquette, 906.249.5437, www.teachingfamilyhomes.org
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions, Marquette, 906.273.1095, www.upfs.org

Northern & Central Lower Michigan

Adoption Option Inc., Midland, 989.839.0534, www.adoptionoptioninc.org
Bethany Christian Services, Fremont, 231.924.3390, www.bethany.org/fremont
Bethany Christian Services, Traverse City, 231.995.0870, www.bethany.org/traversecity
Catholic Family Services of the Diocese of Saginaw, Bay City, 989.892.2504, www.cfssite.org
Child & Family Services of Northeast MI, Alpena, 989.356.4567, www.cfsnemi.org
Child & Family Services of Northwest MI, Traverse City, 231.946.8975, www.cfsnwmi.org
Eagle Village, Hersey, 231.832.2234, www.eaglevillage.org
Heaven Sent Adoption, Charlevoix, 231.237.9880, www.heavensentadopt.com
Lutheran Adoption Service, Bay City, 989.686.3170, www.lasadoption.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Clare, 989.386.2101, www.lasadoption.org
New Light Child & Family Consultants, Millington, 989.871.6695, www.newlightonline.net

Tri-County Area (Wayne, Oakland & Macomb Counties)

Adoption Options Worldwide, West Bloomfield, 248.855.2813, www.adoptionoptionsworldwide.com
Bethany Christian Services, Madison Heights, 248.414.4080, www.bethany.org/madisonheights
Catholic Social Services of Wayne County, Detroit, 313.883.2100, www.csswayne.org
Child Safe Michigan, Royal Oak, 248.353.0921, www.childsafemichigan.org/
The Children's Center of Wayne County, Detroit, 313.831.5535, www.thechildrenscenter.com
Ennis Center for Children, Detroit, 313.342.2699, www.enniscenter.org
Ennis Center for Children, Pontiac, 248.334.2715, www.enniscenter.org
Family Adoption Consultants, Utica, 586.726.2988, www.facadopt.org
Forever Families, Novi, 248.344.9606, www.noviforeverfamilies.net
Homes for Black Children, Detroit, 313.961.4777, www.homes4blackchildren.org
Judson Center, Redford, 313.794.5653, www.judsoncenter.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Troy, 248.423.2770, www.lasadoption.org
Methodist Children's Home, Redford, 313.531.4060, www.mchsmi.org
Oakland Family Services, Pontiac, 248.858.7766, www.oaklandfamilyservices.org
Orchards Children's Services, Southfield, 248.258.0440, www.orchards.org
Spaulding for Children, Southfield, 248.443.7080, www.spaulding.org
Spectrum Human Services, Southfield, 248.552.8020, www.spectrumhuman.org
St. Francis Family Center/CSS of Oakland County, Southfield, 248.552.0750, www.cssoc.org
Vista Maria, Dearborn Heights, 313.271.3050, www.vistamaria.org
Wolverine Human Services, Taylor, 888.625.8669, www.wolverinehs.org

Southern Central Michigan

Adoption Specialists, Inc., Lapeer, 810.660.7590, www.adoption-specialists.org
 Alternatives for Children & families, Burton, 810.250.3800, www.acfinc.org
 Bethany Christian Services, East Lansing, 517.336.0191, www.bethany.org/eastlansing
 Catholic Charities of Lenawee County, Adrian, 517.263.2191, www.catholiccharitiesjlhc.org
 Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee, Flint, 810.232.3418, www.catholiccharitiesflint.org
 Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 734.971.9781, www.csswashtenaw.org
 Child & Family Charities – Capital Area, Lansing, 517.882.4000, www.childandfamily.org
 Ennis Center for Children, Flint, 810.233.4031, www.enniscenter.org
 Ennis Center for Children, Port Huron, 810.990.1424, www.enniscenter.org
 Family Counseling & Children Services of Lenawee, Adrian, 517.265.5352, www.fccsoflenawee.org
 Family Service & Children's Aid, Jackson, 517.787.7920, www.strong-families.org
 Fostering Futures, Ann Arbor, 734.481.8999, www.fostering-futures.com
 Hands Across the Water, Ann Arbor, 734.477.0135, www.hatw.org
 Livingston County Catholic Charities, Howell, 517.545.5944, www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Ann Arbor, 734.971.1944, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Jackson, 517.789.6444, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Lansing, 517.886.1380, www.lasadoption.org
 St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing, 517.323.4734, www.stvcc.org

Southwest Michigan

Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, 616.224.7550, www.bethany.org/grandrapids
 Bethany Christian Services, Holland, 616.396.0623, www.bethany.org/holland
 Bethany Christian Services, Kalamazoo, 269.372.8800, www.bethany.org/kalamazoo
 Bethany Christian Services, Muskegon, 231.733.1618, www.bethany.org/muskegon
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Grand Rapids, 616.456.1443, www.ccwestmi.org
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Muskegon, 231.726.4735, www.ccwestmi.org
 D.A. Blodgett Services, Grand Rapids, 616.451.2021, www.dablodgett.org
 Family Adoption Consultants, Kalamazoo, 269.343.3316, www.facadopt.org
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Kalamazoo, 269.344.0202, www.fcsources.org
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Battle Creek, 269.965.3247, www.fcsources.org
 Greater Hopes Family Services, Grand Rapids, 616.451.0245, www.greaterhopes.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Grand Rapids, 616.356.1934, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Kalamazoo, 269.345.5776, www.lasadoption.org
 Pathways, Holland, 616.396.2301, www.pathwaysmi.org
 Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption Center, Battle Creek, 269.969.9181, www.cityinc.org

Please visit www.mare.org for a complete listing of agencies who license families for foster care, in addition to adoption homestudies, including your local County Department of Health and Human Services office.



The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is proud to offer the Adoption Navigator Program. Adoption Navigators are experienced adoptive parents who offer guidance and personal knowledge to potential adoptive families. The Adoption Navigators have many years of parenting experience, have adopted a number of children, and have knowledge of foster care, infant & older, and domestic & international adoption procedures.

Families who contact MARE for initial adoption information will be given the option to work with a Navigator to help guide them through the process. Having an Adoption Navigator is a free & voluntary service.

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170
Ann Arbor, MI 48108



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EXCHANGE**

HOMES
FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

800.589.6273
www.mare.org



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