



Youth Newsletter



Exercise your brain muscles by taking this trivia quiz

1. What do Giant Pandas eat?
2. How many bases are in a baseball diamond?
3. Where does the Grinch live?
4. What is a group of lions called?
5. What is the largest state in America?
6. Where is the Eiffel Tower?
7. What is the world's longest river?
8. What year was the first Super Bowl?
9. What grows from acorns?
10. What is the closest planet to the sun?

Hop, skip or jump to the last page to see the answers

Here's a handy, helpful youth resource

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative - MYOI is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Oakland/Livingston Human Services Agency and many other local community partners. MYOI's goal is to ensure that young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health.
Michigan.gov/FYIT > MYOI)

Fall 2021

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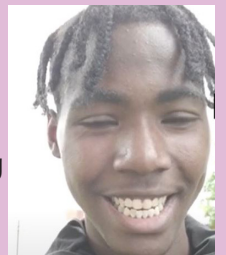
Page 1 - Anytime's the right time for trivia time



Page 2 - Another way to show families you're special

Page 3 - New youth board news

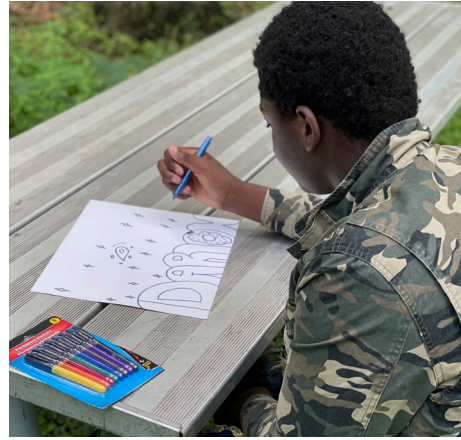
Page 4 - Check out the new Heart Gallery video featuring MARE youth!



Fun fact

The southernmost point of the United States isn't along the Gulf of Mexico or the Hawaiian Islands. It's American Samoa, and even though it's located in the Pacific Ocean, it's actually closer to New Zealand than Hawaii.

To learn about resources available to youth living in foster care, visit Mare.org > For Youth or contact your worker.



Grant Me Hope videos offer another way to let families know how special you are

Grant Me Hope is a recruitment opportunity that is offered to youth who have a goal of adoption. MARE partners with Grant Me Hope to produce video segments that are aired on local news stations and are featured on the Grant Me Hope website.

How Grant Me Hope videos are made

These videos are so fun to make. It starts with the production team finding a great location. We have filmed at zoos, aquariums, parks, museums and many other great places.

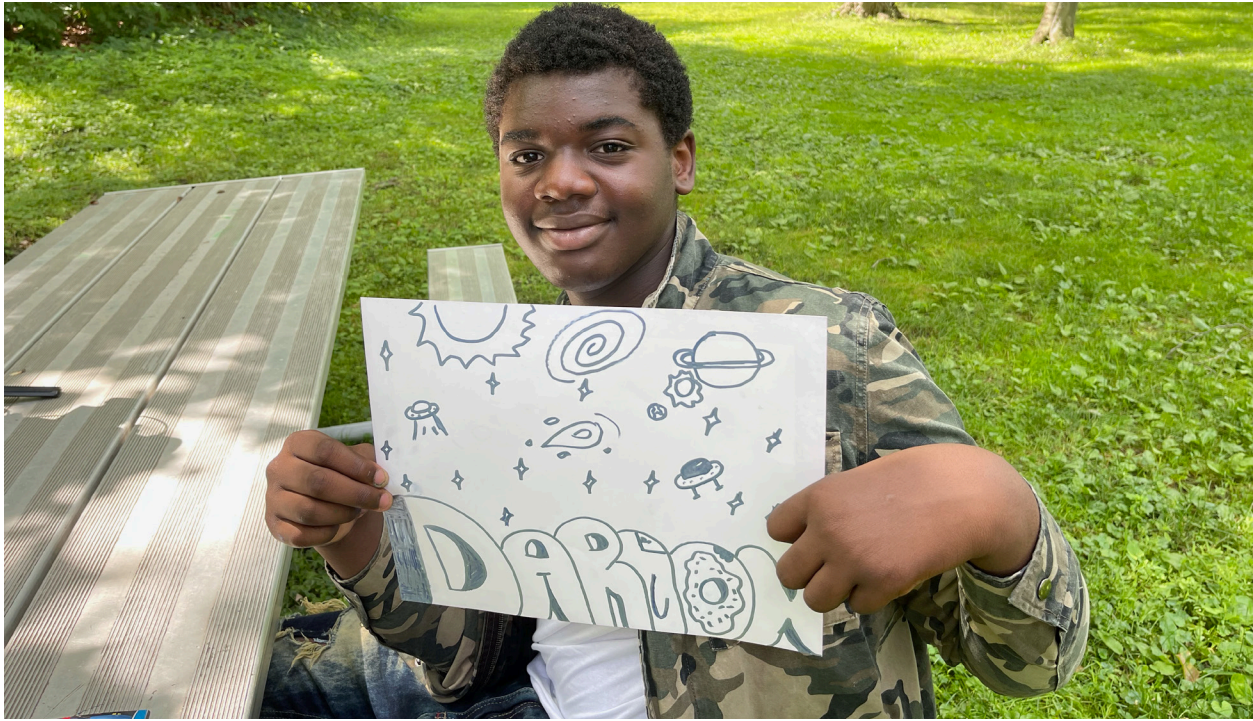
Your job that day would be to come prepared to answer some simple questions about yourself and to have fun! While filming, there are typically two cameras and two videographers (people who run the camera) and someone to interview you.

The interviewer will ask questions that will help viewers get to know you and what type of family you are looking for.

After the interview, the videographers will film what is called B-roll, which is done by filming you while you do stuff like playing or being creative. This content fills in the video and lets the viewer see you having fun.

The great thing about these videos is that they are personal and are made to show off who you are as an individual. We captured some photos of Darion, a MARE youth shown here, during the filming of his video in June. Darion wanted to show off his artistic skills in his video, so the videographers set up their cameras in a way to see his process.

Story by Gabrielle Kampsen • Photos by Jennifer Brooks



Interested in getting a Grant Me Hope video? Here's how to speak up!

If you are interested in seeing some of the videos that have been made so far, to learn more about Grant Me Hope, to read some success stories and more, visit the Grant Me Hope website: <http://grantmehope.org/>

If you are interested in a video for yourself, talk to your worker or contact MARE Youth Specialist Gabrielle Kampsen at gabrielle_kampsen@judsoncenter.org

Youth board lays groundwork for change

Change is coming to the "All About Me" forms youth fill out thanks to a recent Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meeting.

Those questionnaires provide direction for writing narratives when youth are photolisted on the MARE website. However, like MARE staff, youth agree that the form needs a refresher.

As MARE Youth Specialist Gabrielle Kampsen puts it, "We want to take a fresh look at the format and how we are writing the narratives to improve the questions and get to know the youth better."

During the recent YAB meeting, youth told MARE the kinds of questions they'd like to see

replaced such as their favorite color and things that make them laugh.

"They felt those questions didn't add a lot to the narrative," says Kampsen. "The youth want more questions about their preferred family structure and things geared more toward their specific interests."

So what's next in this process?

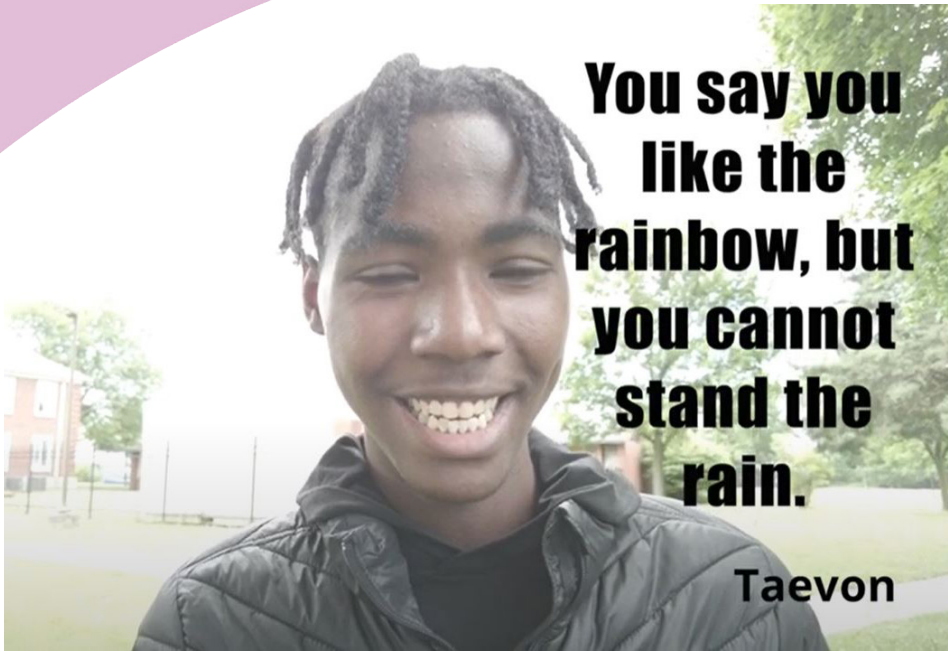
"The MARE team is going to meet and discuss what the youth thought," says Kampsen. "We'll talk about which questions to change and what we'll replace them with, then hopefully we'll implement that new questionnaire soon."

Facts About Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

Participants: Anyone who is or has been in foster care.

Meetings: Held quarterly at locations throughout Michigan.

How to attend: If you are in foster care, contact your worker. If you are a former foster care youth, contact Gabrielle Kampsen at 734-794-2926 or gabrielle_kampsen@judsoncenter.org.



You say you like the rainbow, but you cannot stand the rain.

Taevon

You won't want to miss the 2021 Heart Gallery video

Talk about a must-see film!

This year's Michigan Heart Gallery video is four stars and then some. The video is now available for viewing, and it's titled "Through Their Eyes," a tribute to the youth who appear on Mare.org.

As MARE Program Manager Michelle Parra puts it, "The driving force behind the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is the kids themselves. And that's what makes their stories so inspiring. Their stories

are in their words, through their eyes.

"For this year's Michigan Heart Gallery, we focused on the voices of Michigan youth. They have their own thoughts, their own ideas and their own dreams that really matter, and they are their own best advocates."

If you'd like to watch the 2021 Michigan HeartGallery video, visit: www.youtube.com/Videos byMare

Calendar

December 11
Virtual MARE
Meet & Greet

10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

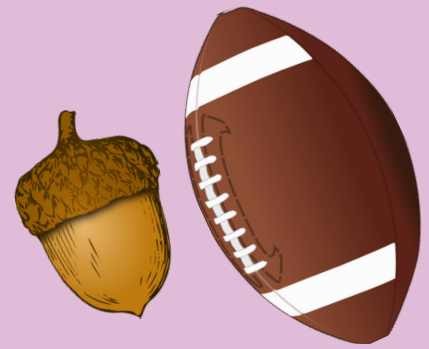
January 15
Virtual MARE
Meet & Greet

10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

May 21, 2022
In-Person MARE
Meet & Greet
Stevensville
Noon-4 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in one of these events, contact your worker.

Trivia answers



1. Bamboo
2. Four
3. Mount Crumpit
4. A pride
5. Alaska
6. Paris (Not Paris, Mich.)
7. The Nile
8. 1967
9. Oak trees
10. Mercury

Did you know?

You are not alone. Right now, many children between one and 17 are waiting for their forever families on mare.org. You can enhance your opportunity to meet a forever family through the types for recruitment efforts you choose on your MARE consent form. The easiest solution is to check the box next to "any," but you also can customize the ways you want to be featured by MARE. If you need more information or assistance, contact your worker.