

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.



PROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER December 2019

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Page 4 - Take note of upcoming Meet & Greets

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with links like HOME, TOPICS, PUBLICATIONS, LIBRARY, STATE RESOURCES, MORE TOOLS & RESOURCES, and NEWS & EVENTS. Below the navigation is a large photo of a smiling young girl. Underneath the photo, the title 'Belonging Matters—Helping Youth Explore Permanency' is displayed. To the left of the title is a thumbnail image of the bulletin cover, which features the title and some text. To the right of the title are three small icons: an envelope for email, a printer for PDF, and a share button.

Belonging Matters—Helping Youth Explore Permanency

Series Title: Bulletins for Professionals
Author(s): Child Welfare Information Gateway
Year Published: 2019

This bulletin seeks to inform the work of child welfare and adoption professionals as they help youth in foster care explore their permanency options and the value of secure permanent connections. Based on interviews with young people who were either adopted from foster care or who aged out of the system, this bulletin explores the beliefs, concerns, and emotions that motivate youth to seek or to avoid legal or relational permanency.

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Introduction

Help youth understand what family, belonging, and permanency mean.

Help youth explore their permanency options—what they want and why.

Don't allow independent living to be glamorized.

We also recommend the following Information Gateway publications:

- Working With Youth to Develop a Transition Plan (Guidance for Professionals)
- Kinship Guardianship as a Permanency Option (State Statutes)

Help for talking to youth about the future

A bulletin by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau is designed to help child welfare and adoption professionals in working with youth living in foster care.

"Based on interviews with young people who were either adopted from foster care or who aged out of the system, the bulletin explores the beliefs, concerns, and emotions that motivate youth to seek or to avoid legal or relational permanency," says AdoptUSKids.

Topics covered by the bulletin include:

- Help youth understand what family, belonging and

permanency mean.

- Help youth explore their permanency options – what they want and why.
- Don't allow independent living to be glamorized.
- Recognize that family loyalties may affect youths' desire to pursue permanency.
- Encourage birth family connections.
- Everyone's story is unique. Know the youth. Listen. Advocate.
- Be honest and direct with the youth.

For more information about this bulletin, visit www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/bulletins-belonging-matters.

There are other resources to help child welfare and legal professionals address the needs of youth living in foster care.

"It is essential that professionals pursue legal and emotional permanency for every youth on their caseload," according to the web page www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/professionals.

"These resources provide information for both child welfare and legal professionals about how to engage youth in their own case planning, prepare them for adoption and guardianship and address barriers to permanency."



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MARE registration questions, "Let's Talk" forms, "other" holds

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Inquiry and worker documentation and dashboard support, trainings

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Hold registrations, hold reports, discharging cases from MARE, misc. data reports

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Heart Gallery, Prayer and Recruitment Cards, Events, Meet & Greets

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MARE videos

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Photolisting narratives, social media, publications, MARE website updates

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Out-of-state family inquiries, ordering MARE materials

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Adoption Navigator Program

Navigators provide support and assistance to families throughout the adoption process

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Match Support Program

Match Support specialists offer personalized family support

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*NOTE: MARE is currently filling Match Support Specialist and Support Staff positions

Save the date for the statewide worker conference

Next year's statewide Adoption, Licensing and Foster Care Worker Conference is scheduled for May 28 and 29, 2020.

This conference is intended for adoption workers, adoption supervisors, purchase of service (POS) monitors, licensing workers, licensing supervisors, recruitment coordinators, foster care workers, foster care supervisors, permanency resource monitors, placement staff, post adoption resource center staff, adoption navigators, foster care navigators and adoption resource consultants.



Photo courtesy of Radisson

The conference will take place on May 28 and 29 at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel, 100 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo.

Once details of registration are announced, MARE will post it on its website and social media. Hope to see you there!

2020 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening set for April



The Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening. This year's gala takes place April 25, 2020 at the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak.

Those are the only details we know for now, but rest assured, we'll give you the other information later.

Meanwhile, mark your calendar!

Calendar of Events

January 18, 2020

MARE Meet & Greet, Sterling Heights
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

February 1, 2020

Art & Soul Meet & Greet, Plymouth
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

April 4, 2020

MARE Meet & Greet, Birmingham
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information regarding these events contact Jessica Thompson, MARE Recruitment Specialist: jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org

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