

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.



Saturday, April 16, 2016

Join us at the Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening



Photo by Mike Lanzetta

Visitors to last year's Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening look over the photographic display.

The Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, April 16 at the Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak with doors opening at 10 a.m. The show features the unveiling of this year's Michigan Heart Gallery, a traveling photographic exhibit featuring photos of youth currently in the foster care system waiting for their forever family.

The festivities also include food and refreshments and a red carpet where many waiting youth will walk and get their pictures taken by the paparazzi who frequent this great show. This year's Michigan Heart Gallery Grand

Opening includes a special feature film that we're sure you'll love.

So, mark your calendars, and come join us for this truly remarkable event. And make sure to follow the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

Registration is now available by visiting www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-michigan-heart-gallery-grand-opening-tickets-22551200247

2015 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening Photos by Melissa Covell



Help families take advantage of MARE's support services

The Match Support Program is a state-wide service for families who have been matched with a child from the MARE website and are in the process of moving forward with an adoption. The Match Support Specialists deliver up to 90 days of services to families by providing them with assistance in transitioning the child into their home, referrals to support groups, educational training opportunities, and other recommendations to helpful community resources.

Our Match Support Specialists are a beneficial support for any family throughout the adoption process. They will be there for the family to answer any questions that they may have and to provide support and guidance during any adversity that may occur in the process.

If you have a family in mind that you believe would be a great match for the Match Support Program, you can find the referral form on the MARE website under "worker forms" or you can contact the program supervisor. If you are interested in having a Match Support Specialist provide a brief presentation to your agency regarding our valuable services and the referral process, please contact the Match Support Program Supervisor, Tara Radina at (734) 528 – 1721 or via email at Tara_Radina@judsoncenter.org.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with families!

Meet the Specialists!

Janet Jonatzke

A lifelong resident of southwest Michigan, Janet joined MARE as a Match Support Specialist in October of 2015. Janet has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Albion College and is planning on eventually pursuing her Master of Social Work. An internship at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center stimulated her interest in trauma and how it affects individuals across their lifespan, and she is excited to be building upon that knowledge while working with families as part of the Match Support Program. Outside of work, Janet enjoys staying active with activities such as weightlifting, yoga, reading, and traveling.

Amanda Dunham

Amanda recently moved to Michigan to serve as a Match Support Specialist. She graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri and has experience in mental health, child welfare and medical social work. In her free time, Amanda enjoys running, reading, hiking and spending time with her husband and dog. Amanda and her husband are in the process of becoming approved as adoptive parents. She is passionate about adoption and enjoys her role supporting forever families through the Match Support Program.



*Amanda
Dunham*



*Janet
Jonatzke*

Taking a spin with new Dashboard

Reminders:

Show 5 entries	Search:			
Child Name	Reminder Type	Registration Date	Due Date	Add Report

MARE has made some big updates to your Worker Dashboard system. The new Reminders section located at the top of each Worker Dashboard has replaced the former 6 Month Hold Reminders section. There, you will see active cases that are registered on hold with MARE, as well as the date they were registered, the due date of the child's next hold report, either 6 Month or Quarterly whichever is appropriate to the child's case, and a link to create the Hold report. This should look familiar as it is very similar to the old 6 Month Hold Reminders section.

One very important note is that the

data in this new section is NOT retroactive, meaning the new Reminder for a Quarterly Hold report will only apply to children who have a completed 6 Month Hold Report submitted after 2/23/2016. You may see cases showing a Quarterly Hold Reminder that you previously completed. Don't worry! Because the website was not able to collect this data at the time you submitted it, the Reminders are currently showing as pending, but the completed reports you submitted to MARE via email or fax are stored in the Case Notes section of the Child's profile. These inaccurate Reminders will disappear as soon as the child's profile is dis-

charged from MARE tracking, and moving forward, all Reminders will be accurately tracked and displayed.

This new Reminders section will soon alert you to other pending updates for your registered cases, including due dates for Photolisted children such as the annual updates for the child's photo, profile information or narrative, child specific recruitment plan and recruitment consent form. We look forward to rolling out these alerts in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your Reminders, please contact MARE Data Analyst Laura Rutkowski.



Above, Jessica Morgan, Alicia Schifler, and Gabriella Walker, all from Lutheran Adoption Service in Troy, came out to support adoption! Right, Gabriella shoots a free throw following the game.



Having A Ball At Adoption Awareness Night With The Pistons



Workers, families and children joined in support of adoption during the Pistons' game against New Orleans Feb. 21 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.



MARE's own Jessica Thompson, Jennifer Brooks and Tara Radina stand ready to spread the word about adoption.

Photos by MARE Data Analyst Laura Rutkowski

Empowering waiting youth through mentoring

Mentors are trained to understand issues specific to youth in foster care and are supported by a team of social work professionals through Child Safe.



Do You Want A Mentor?

Child Safe is hosting an informational session for all youth ages 7-23, in Foster Care from Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties who are looking for a consistent long-lasting friendship.

What is a Mentor?

A Mentor is someone who is there to support you, care for you, and to assure you that you are not alone in dealing with your day to day challenges. They are here to help boost your ability to make decisions as well as become your role models, friends and most important advocates. We ask that you and your mentor commit for at least one year, 2-4 times per month.



THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR MENTOR!

- Get help with homework
- Go to lunch or to the movies
- Attend Sporting events/games
- Help boost your self-esteem
- Build strong relationships

*****Snacks will be Provided*****

Please join us to learn how you can be matched with a mentor as well as a chance to win great prizes.

When: April 12, 2016 @ 6pm

Where: Child Safe Michigan
4415 Springer Ave
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Please RSVP by April 4, 2016 to:
jbrubaker@childsafemichigan.org or call
248-554-6410

Research shows that mentoring can have a tremendous impact on a child's life. And who could benefit more from this opportunity than youth in foster care waiting for a permanent family?

The Child Safe Michigan Community-Based Mentoring Program is dedicated primarily to youth in foster care ages 7-23 who reside in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. Not only do youth in foster care have to deal with age appropriate problems, but they also have to face being separated from family, residing in new homes, attending new schools and the hardest issue of all, dealing with the abuse and neglect that led to their placement in foster care.

Mentoring is a proven and effective way to combat these negative experiences. The mentor/mentee connection offers the youth the chance to develop a relationship with an adult, other than an authority figure, who then becomes a friend, role model, advocate (and in some cases a recruiter) for the youth.

This caring and consistent relationship leads to increased self-esteem, improved social skills, additional opportunities for success in life, and an improved outlook on the future for the youth.

This program requires a one-year commitment where the mentor meets 2-4 times a month with the youth within the community. Mentors are trained to understand issues specific to youth in foster care and are supported by a team of social work professionals through Child Safe.

Interested in referring a child to this program? Contact Jennifer Brubaker, Child Safe Mentoring Supervisor at (248) 554-6410 or Jennifer_brubaker@childsafemichigan.org. Looking for mentoring resources outside of the Tri-County area? Visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mentormichigan>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 16, 2016
Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening
Imagine Theatre, Royal Oak

11 a.m.-2 p.m.
April 23, 2016
MARE Meet & Greet
Lansing, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 14, 2016
MARE Meet & Greet
Plymouth, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

May 21, 2016
MARE Foster/Adoptive Parent Day
Warren

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