



Youth Newsletter



Meet MARE's new videographer

Despite his stormy sounding last name, MARE's new videographer Paul Rains has a very sunny disposition.

And he shares much in common with youth living in foster care. He likes traveling and has a dream destination. He enjoys listening to music and has some favorite tunes. He likes playing games and doing special activities on the weekends.

One of his current favorite things to do involves you. "When I interviewed for this job," says Paul, "I realized that the work I did could make a difference in the lives of youth on MARE's website. And so far, I've met some really inspiring youth."

To help you get to know him better, we decided to ask Paul some of the same kinds of questions he might ask you when he films your video.

How would you describe yourself?

I would describe myself as fashionable and inquisitive – I'm always questioning things – and I have a desire to just keep learning about the world around me.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Binging TV shows. I'm watching "Succession" right now about a very wealthy family who's kind of crazy, unhinged a little bit.

What is your favorite animal?

Giraffes because they're just so majestic.

What is your favorite board game?

Monopoly Go because you get the satisfaction of playing it without having to sit through the whole process.

Your favorite game piece?

The top hat – it's dapper.

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To learn about resources available to youth living in foster care, visit [Mare.org](https://mare.org) > For Youth or contact your worker.

What do you like to do on weekends?

I have a pretty busy social life. I like going out to eat, to a concert or something like that.

What kind of music do you like and who's your favorite musician?

I have a wide range of music that I enjoy. I don't have a favorite musician, but I have favorite albums. Right now, the new Beyoncé album is playing a lot as I amp up for her concert in July.

If you could travel anywhere, where would it be and why?

I've always wanted to go to Japan. The culture, the entertainment, the pageantry and bright lights are speaking my name. I'm going to get there at some point.

If you had a superpower what would it be?

I'd want to fly. That's everyone's favorite, right? That way I could get anywhere a little quicker than everyone else.

“I'm in a position of getting to meet all the youth and helping them tell their stories. I really enjoy making the connections with them.”

**– Paul Rains,
MARE's new
videographer**

Join us for this year's Heart Gallery Premiere

Save the date for the 2023 Michigan Heart Premiere because you're sure to have fun.

As a preview to the show, we asked MARE Recruitment Specialist Jessica Thompson what you can expect.

What makes this event special?

It's a chance for you to have a day of fun. You get to come to the theater, you get to see a short film, you get free pop and popcorn, and if you're featured in the 2023 Heart Gallery, you get to see yourself on the display. You also might get a chance to interact with adoptive families who are attending.

What are some of the fun things to do at this event?

The theater has some arcade games in the reception area that will be open for free play. You'll see the world premiere of the 2023 Michigan Heart Gallery film, and you'll get the chance to have your picture taken just like celebrities

The big event

What: The 2023 Michigan Heart Gallery Premiere

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.,
Saturday, September 16.

Where: Emagine Theater,
Royal Oak.

Cost: Free!

who attend a premiere movie, complete with a walk on the red carpet.

You'll also receive movie passes to either use the day of the event or come back to the theater another time.

Will there be food other than popcorn?

We will be having pizza, chicken tenders and salad for lunch. The theater has rented us their grill area so that we can dine in comfort there.



How can I attend?

If you're interested in attending the event, you can have your worker pre-register you, but you don't have to be pre-registered. You can arrive the day of the event and enjoy the festivities. You also don't have to be featured in the 2023 Heart Gallery display to attend the event. However, you should let one of your workers know that you want to go.



Zoo worker sees video, invites Tyler for an exciting day

A Detroit Zoo worker noticed Tyler's Grant Me Hope video on TV and arranged a special day at the wildlife center for this animal lover. They took him via a cart to the animal exhibits he most wanted to see: wolves, penguins and red pandas. He even got a bear hug. "I had so much fun spending a day at the zoo with Tyler," says MARE Youth Specialist Gabrielle Werkheiser. "He was so positive and excited that it made you forget about the cold weather and rain! You could tell that he enjoyed being there and really is passionate about animals."



Can't-miss online summer camps

The website Summer Camp Hub suggests the best virtual summer camps for kids.

You can have fun while learning more about AI, STEM, coding, cooking and arts and crafts, among other topics.

To find out how to sign up, visit summercamphub.com/free-online-summer-camps/



More youth news you can use

Youth Today is an independent newspaper that reports on issues important to youth and advocates for youth across the country.

Covered topics include child welfare, foster care, mental health and the justice system. Read and learn more at youthtoday.org.

Educational resources for you

Bold.org is helping students fight their debt through scholarships and educational resources. There are many scholarships to apply for that are broken into categories. They also feature a blog with entries such as "what is the difference between a grant and a scholarship?" and "how to write a scholarship essay." This is a great resource for youth who are looking for help with college.

On Mare.org, youth can find the For Youth > Resources & Documents page that has an "Education" link, which also has many resources to help those who are pursuing higher education.

Kids' Corner



<https://www.artbarblog.com/yarn-wrapped-cardboard-letters/>



A crafty way to teach a skill!

At the art blog page listed below left, you can learn how to make Yarn-Wrapped Cardboard Letters.

Why, you might ask? Not only will wrapping the letters engage you in making a fun and creative piece of art, but also the activity can give you experience that you can use later on.

"The one thing I do like about crafts is that they often can teach a skill. In this case, the skill is wrapping yarn. Down the road, you can bring this skill into your art-making if you chose."

Fostering Futures college scholarship application deadline is approaching

The Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS) provides eligible foster youth with scholarship funds for tuition, fees, room/board, books, and supplies/equipment required for enrollment.

The FFS is available to students on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must complete one application per academic year and return it to Student Scholarships and Grants, listed at the bottom of the application.

The 2023-24 Fostering Futures Scholarship application deadline is Aug. 1, 2023. For more information visit www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid/programs/fostering-futures-scholarship or scan the qr code shown here.

Questions may be directed to Student Scholarships and Grants at mistudentaid@michigan.gov or call toll-free at 888-447-2687.



Michigan's most affordable colleges

You can find more information about scholarships at the College Affordability Guide website, www.collegeaffordabilityguide.org

The website ranks the most affordable colleges in each state, including Michigan. According to the website, Michigan's top 10 affordable colleges are, in order, Michigan Technological University, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, Kalamazoo College, Aquinas College, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, Gogebic Community College, Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University.

For many of the institutions, the website includes information about scholarships and grants. The website also ranks the state's top not-for-profit colleges and universities that offer online degrees.

Calendar

May 20

In-Person MARE Meet & Greet
Gaylord
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 24

In-Person MARE Meet & Greet
Holland
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

July 22

In-Person MARE Meet & Greet
Brighton
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Take note: If you want to attend an upcoming MARE Meet & Greet, ask your worker to contact jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org or call 734-528-2070.

Michigan quiz

1. What's the state fish?
2. You can find moose in this national park located within the state's boundaries.
3. The state stone is ...
4. An authentic working Dutch windmill is located in this Michigan city.
5. The state has this many counties.

Answers

1. Brook trout
2. Isle Royal National Park
3. The Petoskey stone
4. Holland
5. 83