

# YOUTH NEWS

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A PLACE TO CALL HOME

A partnership between  
Fox 2 News Detroit  
&  
Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange

Fox 2 News Detroit and the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange developed a partnership starting last winter. In that time, 8 youth have had a chance to participate in a segment called 'A Place to Call Home' on Fox 2 News Detroit. The most recent youth's segment was shot in March. I want to share her special story and experience with all of you out there who may not even know that this opportunity is available, or maybe hesitant about giving permission to your Adoption Specialist to complete an application for you to be featured.

A young woman Teanna, 14 year old waiting youth was approached when her application for the feature was submitted by her Adoption Specialist. The registration form asks for ideas where the youth would like to have their Fox 2 News segment taken. Most youth have suggested the zoo, park, baseball field, or skate rink, but Teanna was different. She expressed interest in her love of cooking, but mostly her love for cheesecake. MARE partnered with Fox 2 News to feature her story and give her a chance to experience what it is like to cook in a professional kitchen as well as taste the amazing cheese cakes that come from Peteet's Famous Cheese Cakes.

Teanna, as all the other youth that have had this opportunity, was nervous, but as soon as the camera turned on, so did her charm, for this was her big chance to show the world her desire to find her forever family.



**This feature aired in March, but can still be found on the Fox 2 Detroit website. Watch this amazing youth tell her story and share with the world who she really is and what type of forever family she is looking for.**

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MARE is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

At **Ferris State University** Big Rapids, MI

***Take Charge of Your Journey!***

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



**2013 Michigan Teen Conference • Wed-Thurs • June 19-20**

This special conference is for youth ages 14-21 preparing to exit foster care, their caregivers and the professionals who work with them.

Wednesday-Thursday **June 19-20, 2013** at  
**Ferris State University** in Big Rapids, MI

**OTHER UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS**

**Heart Gallery Grand Opening**

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 10AM-4PM, Detroit, MI To register, contact MARE at 800.589.6273.

**Match Party**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 11AM-2PM, Lansing, MI  
*Sensory friendly event.*

To register a family or youth, contact MARE at 800.589.6273.

**MARE Match Party**

*Saturday, June 22nd, 2013, 11AM-2PM, Grand Rapids, MI.*  
To register, contact MARE at 800.589.6273.



Send us writing or drawings!

## MEET RACHEL!

Poetic Youth of the month!

### My Life

#### By: Rachel

Do you know what it's like to be me?

To have no place to go, no one to call "family"?

Do you ever fear life because you've seen what it can do?

Thinking it's something to laugh at until tragedy hits you?

Do you ever feel like you don't belong?

Because it's all you've ever been told?

Have you ever been locked out on a winter's night?

when it's beyond freezing cold?

No, you don't know what it's like to be alone in life.

But I can tell you this. I can take the bullying for years longer.

Because of what you've said and done, I'm stronger.

I have a future; I know what I am going to be. Only I control my destiny!

### Did you know?

#### Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative assists with:

- Education.
- Employment.
- Housing.
- Physical and mental health.
- Permanency.
- Social and community engagement.

#### Who is eligible?

Youth who have been in foster care after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, are currently age 14 to 20 and are eligible for Youth In Transition (YIT) funding. Your local MYOI coordinator can tell you if you are eligible for YIT funding.

#### How does a youth enroll?

1. Contact the local coordinator. To find out who your local coordinator is, call Jen Baumann, MYOI Analyst, at 517-241-8904.
2. Attend orientation.
3. Attend eight hours of financial literacy training.
4. Complete enrollment packet.
5. Take online survey.
6. Open an Individual Development Account and personal savings account.