

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 photolistsings and videos, visit our website at www.mare.org.



And the Oscar goes to ... many of you!

Some of you and your peers who are in foster care deserve an Academy Award nomination for your contributions to the 2019 Michigan Heart Gallery video.

The candor youth demonstrated in this incredible video about hope reached Oscar-worthy levels. The Oscar winners and their contributions include:

Haley: "All I want is a family who loves me. I don't care how they are. They could be weird, funny, different. I just want somebody who cares about me and loves me."

Hailey: "One thing I hope for the future is to one day be able to be in the acting field and to have someone there who will support me, maybe an adoptive family. I also hope for just a chance to enjoy myself."

Ta'nasia: "A lot of teens think they're lost, but we're not lost. We're just teenagers; we don't know everything even though we think we know everything. We just want families to adopt us and love us, take us out to places and things like that."

See **STARS** on page 4



Haley



Hailey



Ta'nasia



Jaxx



Keyaira



Jaiwan



Jesean



Santavious



Jordan



Andrew



Yah-Meshia



Isaaiah



Bryauna



Keyvon



Sarah

GAME ON!

That's the cry at many recent MARE Meet & Greets, where youth are enjoying playing new games between themselves and with adoptive families.

These games have been tested by a game store owner's children, youth on the MARE website and MARE staff and their children. Here, we're including a shortened report about the new playing options that you can enjoy at an upcoming MARE Meet & Greet. There are several other new games as well.

To see the schedule for upcoming MARE Meet &

Greets, turn to page 4. If you'd like to attend one, let your worker know so that he or she can contact us, then get ready to have some fun!

If you have a game suggestion, have your worker email the name of the game to MARE Youth Specialist Jennifer Brooks at jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.



You'll enjoy playing the fast-matching, card-slapping game Slapzi and the disc-shooting speed game Fastrack with peers and adoptive families.



You'll love interacting with adoptive parents while playing Tenzi, a fun, fast and engaging dice game. If you hunger for fun, the quick and easy game Gobblet Gobblers is for you. You can relate to Dory when playing this fun and challenging memory game

Another photo exhibit just for you

You might have heard about the Michigan Heart Gallery, but there's another photographic display that features youth who are living in foster care called Art&Soul Dreams. Since Art&Soul is approaching its fourth year of existence, we asked Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange Recruitment Specialist Jessica Thompson to tell you about this photographic exhibit.

What is Art&Soul?

Art&Soul is a photographic art gallery that travels around the metro Detroit area to help raise awareness for foster care and adoption. It features photos of youth in foster care and travels to art galleries, hospitals, churches and other organizations.

How did it get started?

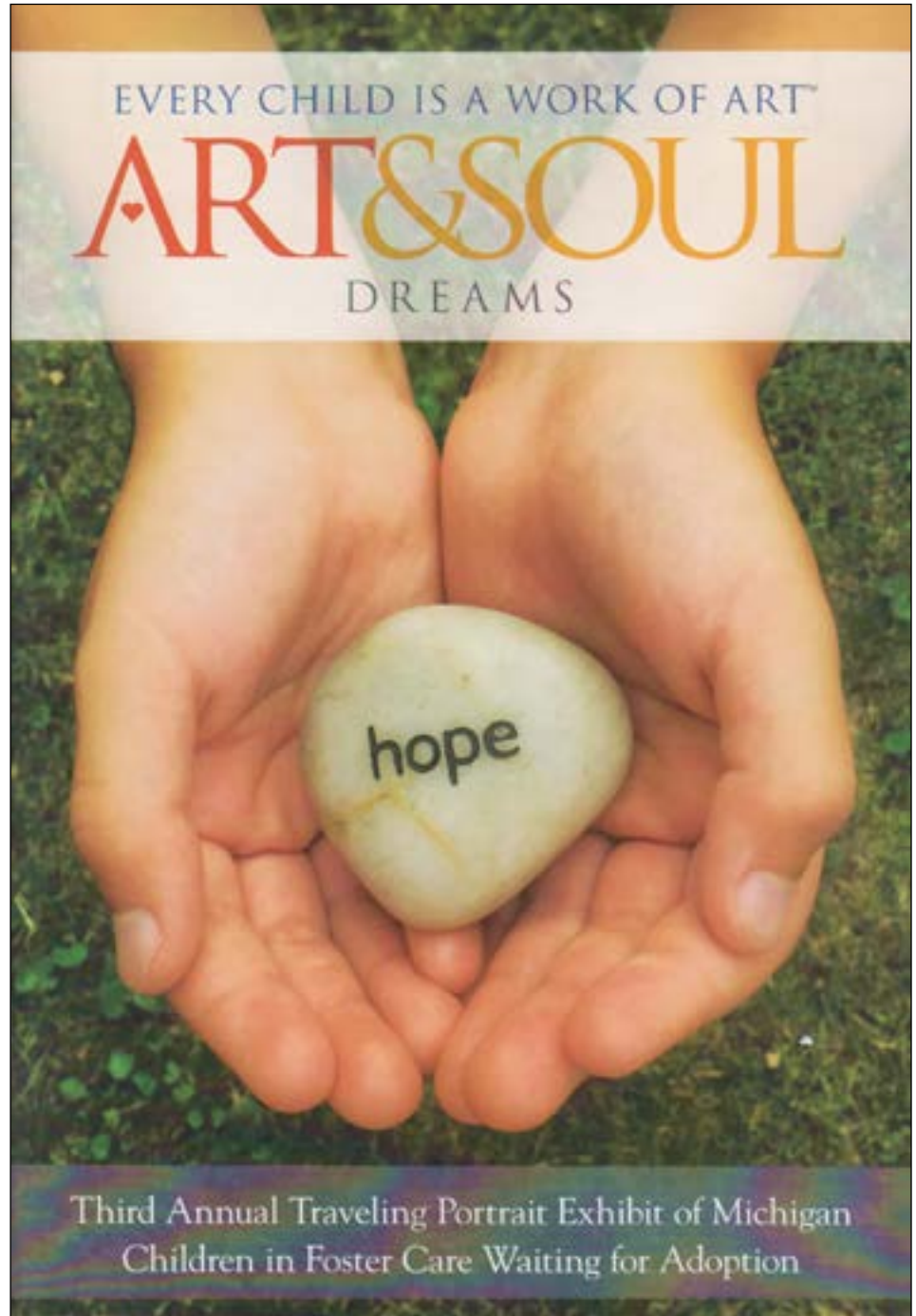
Melissa Parks is the CEO of Art&Soul and a former art teacher whose motto is "every child is a work of art." She wanted to educate the public about the need to adopt children who are living in foster care.

Is it true that Art&Soul holds Meet & Greets?

Yes! MARE partners with Art&Soul to do Meet & Greets for youth who are currently featured in Art&Soul or have been in the past. As long as you have been in the display at some point or you currently have an Adoption Resource Councilor or worker you can participate in those Meet & Greets.

What are Art&Soul Meet & Greets like?

Art & Soul Meet & Greets are



Art&Soul also produces an annual booklet of photos from the exhibit.

similar to the ones put on by MARE. The only difference is a lot of them are art-focused. If you attend an Art&Soul Meet & Greet, chances are pretty good that you'll return home with a piece of your own artwork.

How can I get in Art&Soul?

You could have your worker contact me, and I could let Melissa know that you want to be featured.

Jessica Thompson can be reached at 734-528-2070 or jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org.

YOUTH RESOURCES

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)

Youth in Transition - MDHHS website geared towards older youth who are experiencing foster care. It's a comprehensive, youth-oriented site with advice, interactive features, a useful glossary of foster care terms, and information on a variety of issues important to all youth who've experienced foster care. The site provides links on how to develop supports, find services, get answers to important questions and just keep you posted on what's new. (www.michigan.gov/FYIT)



MARE has upcoming Meet & Greets in Kalamazoo on June 22 and Detroit on July 13.

Hey you guys!

We would like to feature your creativity in an upcoming issue of MARE's Youth Newsletter.

We're looking for your short stories, poetry, artwork or any other creative piece that you'd like to share. This a great way to see your work in print and let others know how talented you are.

To submit a picture of a work, have your worker email it to jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.

STARS, continued from page 1

Jaxx: Hope is something for me to live towards. It's like a challenge, I guess. You keep pushing and you don't stop. It's kind of a motivation type thing."

Keyaira : "When I think of hope, I think of happiness."

Jaiwan "I feel like hope is a feeling that I will have a family and friends and that my family would love me no matter what I am."

Jasean: "You're hoping for everything to be OK, or you're hoping to go to an adoptive home that you want to be at."

Santavious: "I'm hopeful that there's good in people."

Jordan: "I hope to be a policeman and do a good job."

Andrew: "I hope to be a body builder."

Yah-Meshia: "I hope to get adopted."

Isaiah: "Hope means to me that I hope to get a good job when I'm older."

Bryauna: "Hope to me means, like, faith. My hope is that I find a good family."

Others who starred without speaking include

Keyvon and **Sarah**.