

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE



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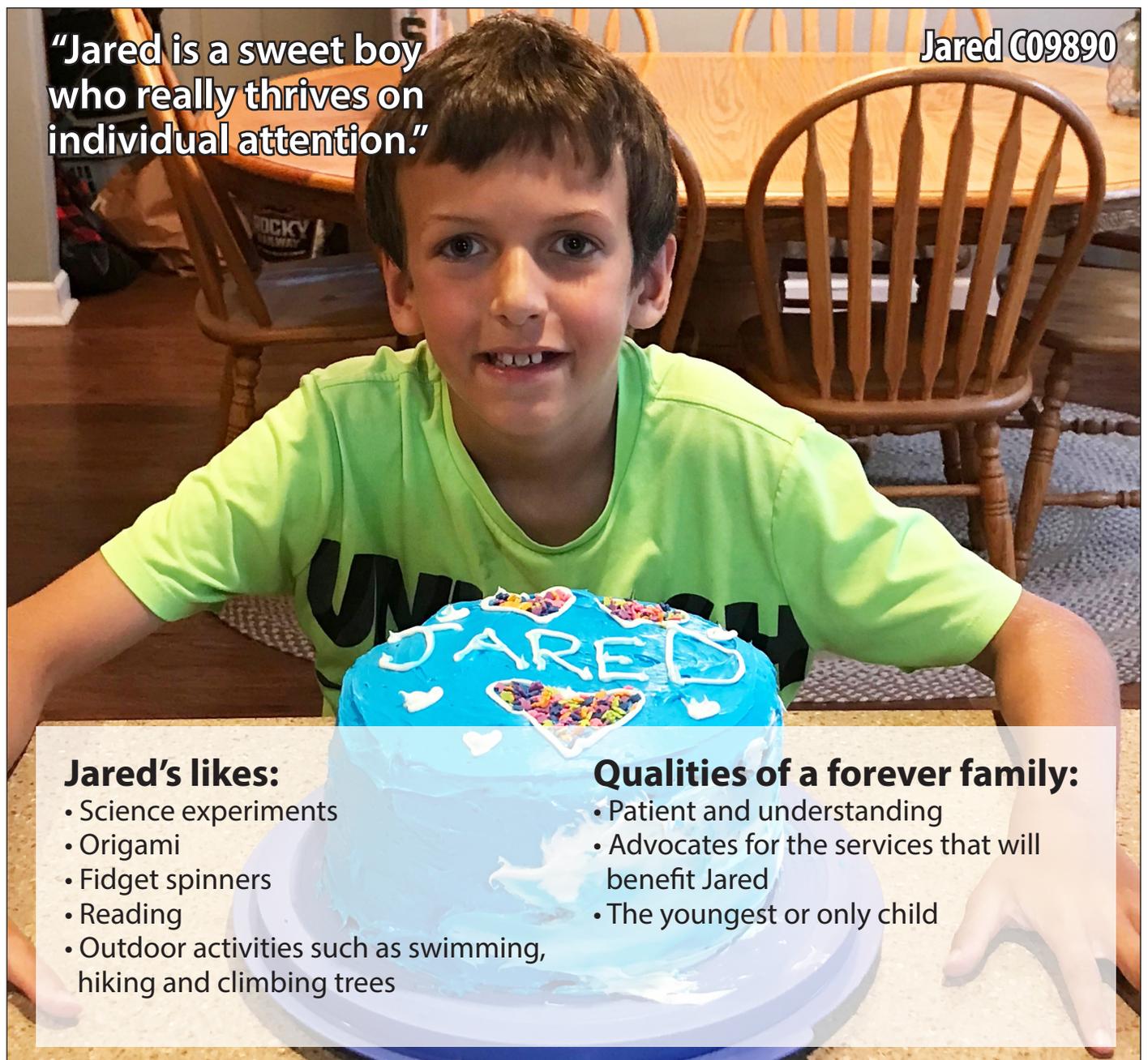
**A spotlight on children
waiting for permanent
and loving families**

Spring 2021

Welcome to the Spring 2021 Recruitment Periodical, published by the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE). Over the next several pages, you will be introduced to some of the youth in Michigan who are awaiting a loving, supportive and permanent family of their own through adoption. The youth featured here represent hundreds of other youth in Michigan's foster care system who are waiting to become part of a loving family through adoption. To learn more about these children and adoption, visit www.mare.org.

On the MARE website, you will find photos, narratives and video clips of youth waiting to be adopted, as well as a wealth of information about adoption, including links to adoption-related resources.

If you have been thinking about adoption, we invite you to consider bringing a youth or sibling group into your life. If you have questions about adoption or are ready to begin the adoption process, simply call one of the agencies listed in the back of this periodical or contact an adoption navigator at 800-589-6273. MARE is available to answer your adoption-related questions, and we will do our best to get you headed in the right direction.



"Jared is a sweet boy who really thrives on individual attention."

Jared C09890

Jared's likes:

- Science experiments
- Origami
- Fidget spinners
- Reading
- Outdoor activities such as swimming, hiking and climbing trees

Qualities of a forever family:

- Patient and understanding
- Advocates for the services that will benefit Jared
- The youngest or only child

Who are the children who wait for adoption?

Children who have been placed in Michigan's foster care system and are awaiting adoption have some similar experiences related to trauma including:

- Physical/sexual/emotional abuse
- Severe neglect
- Alcohol/drug exposed infants

Many of these children share similar characteristics that can make their adoptions difficult or "special needs". Some special needs adoptions include some combination of the following circumstances:

- Physical/mental/developmental impairments of the child
- Children who are school aged and up
- Of the 98% of children ages 5 and up waiting for adoption, 75% are aged 11 to 17 years of age
- Children who are a part of a sibling group who must be placed together
- Youth who identify as LGBTQI(+)
- Children of color

Around 93 percent of children in Michigan's foster care system that are awaiting adoption are adopted by their foster parent(s) or relatives. The remaining children, like those highlighted in this newsletter or on the MARE website, don't have an identified family to adopt them. Recruitment of a suitable adoptive home for these children is therefore necessary.

Typically, more than 98 percent of the children available for adoption without an identified family are over the age of 5. Typically, more than 75 percent of those children are between the ages of 11 and 18.

Who can adopt a "waiting" child?

Many people may be surprised to learn that they do not have to be married in order to adopt a child from the foster care system. Potential adoptive parents do not have to own their own home or have a lot of money. They must have enough space in their home and adequate income to support a child. It is important to know that many children waiting for adoption are eligible to receive adoption assistance, which is intended to assist adoptive families in meeting the children's needs.

How much does it cost to adopt a child from foster care?

The only costs you should incur from adopting a child from Michigan's foster care system are court filing and birth certificate fees. Some agencies may

charge a fee for the Adoptive Family Assessment (also known as a Home Study); however, once you adopt a child through Michigan's foster care system, that fee is reimbursed to you.

What is the adoption process?

Families must be approved through the Adoptive Family Assessment process before a child can be placed in their home for adoption. An Adoptive Family Assessment must be completed by a licensed adoption agency (which can be found in the back of this periodical and on www.mare.org) and can take an average of six months to complete. The Adoptive Family Assessment includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Personal history.
- Health statements.
- Criminal background checks.
- Income statement.
- Personal references.

Once the Adoptive Family Assessment is complete, you may start submitting inquiries to MARE about children you may be interested in adopting. When you inquire about children through the MARE website, your information will be sent by MARE to the child's adoption worker for consideration. Your worker will also be notified that you have inquired about a specific child or children.



Leeah's likes:

- Playing with baby dolls
- Being outdoors
- Going to softball games on weekends

Forever family qualities:

- Two understanding, patient parents
- Prior parenting experience

*Photo by
Lindsay Jaye Photography*



Brittney's likes:

- Singing and listening to music
- Watching WWE
- Shopping and going out to eat, especially if it's Chipotle
- Sports, especially volleyball
- Gardening

Intangible assets:

- Funny and enjoys laughing and making others laugh

Brittney's crystal ball:

- Becoming a nurse

Creative interests:

- Doing arts and crafts

Qualities of a forever family:

- A single female parent, two female parents or a mom and dad
- Willing to advocate for the services that will help the Brittney thrive

“Some things I'd like to do with a family are going shopping, going to the movies and going out to eat.”



Check out Brittney's 20 in 2020 profile at <https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>

*Photo by
Ellen Dykstra*



Raymond's likes:

- Playing with Legos
- Everything to do with Batman
- Ice cream and cake
- Watching movies and sports
- Playing video games
- Any holiday involving presents and candy

Intangible assets:

- Good sense of humor
- Takes pride in being nice

Qualities of a forever family:

- A parent or parents with patience and understanding
- Strong advocates to make sure his needs are met
- Able to provide consistent structure and a daily schedule
- Only child in the home
- Willing to let Raymond maintain his sibling relationships

“Raymond is determined to be adopted.”

“He is adventurous and is willing to try new things.”



Israel's likes:

- Playing sports outdoors such as basketball and soccer
- Everything about the military
- Learning about history
- Playing cards and video games

Israel's crystal ball:

- Learning how to build his own car

- Becoming a Marine or a forest ranger
- Studying the culture in Mexico

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced mom and dad
- Patient and able to meet his needs
- Actively involved with him
- Open to letting Israel maintain a relationship with his sister

“I want to be a soldier because I can serve the country and do what’s right.”

Did you know?

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange hosts and participates in virtual Meet & Greets. These festive events usually occur on Thursdays and Saturdays and offer adoptive

parents an opportunity to meet many of the youth who are listed on MARE’s website. If you’re interested in learning more, please visit www.mare.org or call MARE at 800-589-6273.



La'Miyah's likes:

- Playing basketball and running fast
- Watching movies and TV and eating snacks
- Playing games and spending time with family and friends

La'Miyah's crystal ball:

- Wants to become a rapper, basketball player or police officer
- Hopes to be rich, successful and happy

Creative interests:

- A talented writer who composes her own poetry and rap music
- Makes her own dance videos

Qualities of a forever family:

- A single parent or a mom and dad
- Pets, especially dogs



“La'Miyah is loveable and easy to get along with. She is funny, kind and wants to be accepted.”



“I am a very real and compassionate person. I am a good girl and not negative.”

*Photo by
Corinne Toussaint*



Bayli’s likes:

- Playing Pokémon
- Going to the movies, the bowling alley and the mall
- Studying science
- Staying positive

Bayli’s crystal ball:

- Becoming a primatologist and studying chimpanzees like Jane Goodall
- Owning an big house with a pet tiger

- Visiting Africa
- Going on vacation and visiting Lake Michigan’s beaches with her new family

Qualities of a forever family:

- A single female parent or two female parents
- Strong advocates for the services Bayli needs
- Only or youngest child
- Open to letting Bayli maintain her relationship with her brother



Taevon's likes:

- Building things with Legos
- Drawing
- Riding his scooter
- Camping and skateboarding
- Taking care of animals
- Watching TV and going to the movies
- Climbing on jungle gyms

Taevon's crystal ball:

- Traveling to Ohio just for the travel experience
- Eager for adoption

Creative interests:

- Wants to use his creative skills to become an architect

Qualities of a forever family:

- A mom and dad who are able to give him one-on-one attention
- Youngest child
- Strong advocates for the services that will benefit Taevon
- Patient as Taevon builds trust
- Willing to let Taevon maintain his sibling relationships



Keonte’s likes:

- Playing sports, especially basketball and football
- Spider-Man and Flash Gordon
- A plate of pizza and hamburgers
- Riding his bike
- Playing on his RipStik
- Computers and iPad
- Playing video games

Keonte’s crystal ball:

- Dreams of having family movie nights

Qualities of a forever family:

- A strong male role model
- Prior parenting experience
- Open to letting Keonte maintain his sibling relationships

“Keonte is a charmer. He is very energetic and loves to be center stage.”

“He is very athletic and good at all sports he plays.”



Bella's likes:

- Playing card and board games
- Celebrating Christmas by baking cookies and having hot cocoa with marshmallows
- Participating in garden club
- Reading
- Coloring and working with colored pencils and paint

Bella's crystal ball:

- Becoming a zoologist, veterinarian or animal trainer
- Having a dog

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced, patient and understanding parents
- Other children and pets
- Able to make sure Bella receives the services

"Bella is a kind, caring and silly girl!"

*Photo by
Focal Point Studio*



Angel's likes:

- Dancing
- Roller skating
- Participating in gymnastics
- Singing and writing
- Listening to music
- Curling up in a comfy chair and reading a good book

Angel's crystal ball:

- Traveling and enjoying outdoor activities with a forever family

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced parents
- Patient and loving
- Pets preferred

"Angel is a cooperative, silly, and active young lady."



Marcellous' likes:

- Listening to Elvis
- Dancing
- Going to the park
- Anything to do with electronics
- Watching movies and cartoons
- Reading and writing
- Playing on his iPad

Intangible assets:

- Shy, sweet, well-mannered and helpful

Qualities of a forever family:

- A patient parent or parents
- Able to give Marcellous the attention he requires
- Fierce advocates for his needs

“Marcellous deserves a chance at love, laughter, happiness and parents who will be there for him.”

Make sure to check out the MARE YouTube Channel to see videos of several of the children featured in the Spring 2021 Periodical.

Visit www.mare.org for a complete listing of agencies who license families for foster care, in addition to adoption homestudies, including your Michigan Department of Health and Human Services county office.

Adoption Agencies in Michigan

The following is a list of adoption agencies whose primary focus is facilitating the adoption of children from the foster care system. Many of these agencies may also provide foster care services. This agency list is organized by regions of the state. Please contact an agency in your area if you are interested in beginning the adoption process. For an interactive map of statewide licensed agencies, visit: <http://www.mare.org/For-Families/New-to-Adoption/Find-a-Licensed-Agency>

Upper Peninsula

Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Escanaba, 906-786-7212, www.cssup.org
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Iron Mountain, 906-774-3323, www.cssup.org
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-227-9119, www.cssup.org
Child & Family Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-228-4050, www.cfsup.org
Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency, Sault Ste. Marie, 906-632-5250, www.saulttribe.com
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions, Marquette, 906-273-1095, www.upfs.org
U.P. Kids, Houghton, 906-487-9832, www.upkids.com

Northern & Central Lower Michigan

Adoption Option Inc., Midland, 989-839-0534, www.adoptionoptioninc.org
Bethany Christian Services, Fremont, 231-924-3390, www.bethany.org/fremont
Bethany Christian Services, Traverse City, 231-995-0870, www.bethany.org/traversecity
Child & Family Services of Northeast MI, Alpena, 989-356-4567, www.cfsnemi.org
Child & Family Services of Northwest MI, Traverse City, 231-946-8975, www.cfsnwmi.org
Eagle Village, Hersey, 231-832-2234, www.eaglevillage.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Bay City, 989-686-3170, www.lasadoption.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Clare, 989-386-2101, www.lasadoption.org
New Light Child & Family Institute, Millington, 989-871-6695, www.newlightonline.net

Tri-County Area (Wayne, Oakland & Macomb Counties)

Bethany Christian Services, Madison Heights, 248-414-4080, www.bethany.org/madisonheights
Catholic Charities of S.E. Michigan, 855-882-2736, www.ccsem.org
Community Social Services of Wayne County, Detroit, 313-883-2100, www.csswayne.org
Child Safe Michigan, Royal Oak, 248-353-0921, www.childsafemichigan.org
The Children's Center of Wayne County, Detroit, 313-831-5535, www.thechildrenscenter.com
Ennis Center for Children, Detroit, 313-342-2699, www.enniscenter.org
Ennis Center for Children, Pontiac, 248-334-2715, www.enniscenter.org
Family & Community Services, Inc., Utica, 586-726-2988, www.facadopt.org
Forever Families, Livonia, 734-762-0909, www.forever-families.org
Homes for Black Children, Detroit, 313-961-4777
Judson Center, Redford, 313-794-5653, www.judsoncenter.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Troy, 248-423-2770, www.lasadoption.org
Methodist Children's Home, Redford, 313-531-4060, www.mchsmi.org
Oakland Family Services, Pontiac, 248-858-7766, www.oaklandfamilyservices.org
Orchards Children's Services, Southfield, 248-258-0440, www.orchards.org
Spaulding for Children, Southfield, 248-443-0300, www.spaulding.org
Spectrum Human Services, Southfield, 248-552-8020, www.spectrumhuman.org
Vista Maria, Dearborn Heights, 313-271-3050, www.vistamaria.org
Wolverine Human Services, Taylor, 888-625-8669, www.wolverinehs.org

Southern Central Michigan

Adoption and Foster Care Specialists, Inc., Lapeer, 810-660-7590, www.adoption-specialists.org
 Bethany Christian Services, East Lansing, 517-336-0191, www.bethany.org/eastlansing
 Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, Adrian, 517-263-2191, www.catholiccharitiesjllhc.org
 Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee, Flint, 810-232-9950, www.catholiccharitiesflint.org
 Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 734-971-9781, www.csswashtenaw.org
 Child & Family Charities – Capital Area, Lansing, 517-882-4000, www.childandfamily.org
 Ennis Center for Children, Flint, 810-233-4031, www.enniscenter.org
 Ennis Center for Children, Port Huron, 810-990-1424, www.enniscenter.org
 Family Service & Children's Aid, Jackson, 517-787-7920, www.strong-families.org
 Fostering Futures, Ann Arbor, 734-481-8999, www.fostering-futures.com
 Fostering Solutions, Adrian, 517-263-0020, www.fosteringsolutions.org
 Growing Hope Through Love, Howell, 517-798-4020
 Hands Across the Water, Ann Arbor, 734-477-0135, www.hatw.org
 Livingston County Catholic Charities, Howell, 517-545-5944, www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Ann Arbor, 734-971-1944, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Jackson, 517-789-6444, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Lansing, 517-886-1380, www.lasadoption.org
 Open Door Adoption Services, Jackson, 517-936-7713, www.opendooradoptionsservices.org
 St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing, 517-323-4734, www.stvcc.org

Southwest Michigan

Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, 616-224-7550, www.bethany.org/grandrapids
 Bethany Christian Services, Holland, 616-396-0623, www.bethany.org/holland
 Bethany Christian Services, Kalamazoo, 269-372-8800, www.bethany.org/kalamazoo
 Bethany Christian Services, Muskegon, 231-733-1618, www.bethany.org/muskegon
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Grand Rapids, 616-456-1443, www.ccwestmi.org
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Muskegon, 231-726-4735, www.ccwestmi.org
 D.A. Blodgett Services, Grand Rapids, 616-451-2021, www.dabsj.org
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Kalamazoo, 269-344-0202, www.fcsource.org
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Battle Creek, 269-965-3247, www.fcsource.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Grand Rapids, 616-356-1934, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Kalamazoo, 269-345-5776, www.lasadoption.org
 Arbor Circle, Holland, 616-396-2301, www.pathwaysmi.org
 Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption Center, Battle Creek, 269-969-9181, www.cityinc.org



MARE is proud to offer the Adoption Navigator Program. Adoption navigators are experienced adoptive parents who offer guidance and personal knowledge to potential adoptive families. The adoption navigators have many years of parenting experience, adopted a number of children, and have knowledge of foster care, infant and older, and domestic and international adoption procedures.

Families who contact MARE for initial adoption information will be given the option to work with a Navigator to help guide them through the process. Having an Adoption Navigator is a free and voluntary service.

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170
Ann Arbor, MI 48108



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HOMES
FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

800.589.6273
www.mare.org



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