



OPEN YOUR *Heart* TO ADOPTION



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 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.

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange

3840 Packard Road, Suite 170, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Toll Free: 800-589-6273 | TTY: 734-794-2984 | Fax: 734-528-1695

mare@judsoncenter.org



WHO ARE THE CHILDREN WHO WAIT FOR ADOPTION?

Adopting a child from foster care is often referred to as “special needs” adoption. Common traits of children waiting to be adopted from foster care include:

- Children school aged and above.
- Children with emotional, mental, learning or physical impairments.
- Children of minority backgrounds.
- Children who are part of a sibling group who must be placed together.

Many of these children have had traumatic past experiences that may include physical, sexual or emotional abuse and/or severe neglect. Others may have been born drug or alcohol exposed.

Around 93 percent of children in Michigan’s foster care system are adopted by their current foster family or a relative (someone with whom the child has an established relationship). The remaining children available for adoption, like those in this periodical and on the MARE website, don’t have an identified family to adopt them. Recruitment of a suitable adoptive family 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.



THE MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE: *Helping to Bring Children and Families Together*

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) is a statewide information and referral service for families interested in adopting children from foster care, and for adoption workers looking for homes for these children. The MARE website provides a listing of waiting children in Michigan and of Michigan families interested in adopting children with special needs. To view waiting children, please visit Mare.org > For Families > View Waiting Children.

MARE is not a placement service - we do not provide care for waiting children and do not complete family homestudies or foster care licenses. Instead, MARE refers prospective parents to agencies and answers questions they might have about adoption and children with “special needs.” MARE also provides technical assistance to adoption workers and agencies.

We encourage families who are interested in foster care adoption to be willing to consider at least two of the following characteristics:

- Children over the age of 5; Caucasian children over the age of 9
- Children who are part of a sibling group and must be placed in the same home
- Children of a minority background
- Children who have physical, emotional, developmental and/or learning needs

Families new to the MARE website should become registered users of the website in order to complete inquiries on children. Please view our handy Family User Guide to answer questions as you register, and if you need additional assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.





GET SUPPORT TO HELP THE MATCH LAST

Did you know that MARE has a Match Support Program?

Well into its fourth year, the Match Support Program is designed as a short-term (90-day) program to assist families with the transition of a new child into their home. In its first year, the program helped more than 50 families find the resources, trainings and listening ears they needed to help with their transition.

The program has even helped families find medical providers and clothing banks and assisted in registering children for school. Match support has been an asset to families thus far, and one parent even said, “MARE Match was the best thing that ever happened with our adoption process!”

STANDING BY AND READY TO ASSIST YOU

MARE adoption navigators are experienced adoptive parents who offer guidance and personal knowledge to potential adoptive families. They have years of parenting experience, resource and service finding skills and knowledge of foster care and adoption procedures. You often will find navigators attending community coalition meetings – sitting on both parent and professional panels – staffing Meet & Greets and participating in other statewide adoption events. Our navigators love getting out of the office and meeting the families they work with!

Navigators are also a great resource for families who need help advocating for themselves with their agency and teaching families where to find resources around the state.

Families who contact MARE for information on adopting children through foster care are given the option to work with a navigator to help guide them through the process. The navigator program is a free service.

Call 800-589-6273 and ask to talk to a navigator or fill out a form at <https://www.mare.org/For-Families/General-Adoption-Information-Inquiry>

I Rise

Choices that others made have me where I am today.
Memories bring me to my knees, but still I stand tall
Though not my doing, it is my path to walk.
Respect my past, hope for my future... see how I rise.

People looking from the outside may not understand
I may feel angry, I may not trust, but I will not break.
If you take a moment to listen you'll see
Hurts can be healed, trust can be built... come watch me rise.

Don't dismiss me or sweep my history under the rug,
It may have hurt, but it has made me wise.
My past is embedded in who I am
It's my strength, it's my fire... it fuels my rise
Placement is a big word for us, to you it's just a word.
It's time away from real life, but this life is mine.
It's my path changing every time I move
It's deeper than it looks... but I will rise.

Each of our stories have unique twists and turns
We handle them in our own ways, but we need support.
We look forward to our futures, to family, to love.
To shape our tomorrows... and together we will rise.

Photo by Elizabeth Walker



ACAR'RE

Playing Pokemon is Acar'Re's favorite after-school activity.

Photo by Jennifer Brooks



ANDREW

Andrew says he wants a family who's active and who'll enjoy participating in sports with him.

Photo By Nichole Horvath



SHAMARIONA

The most important thing Shamariona wants others to know is, "I love myself."

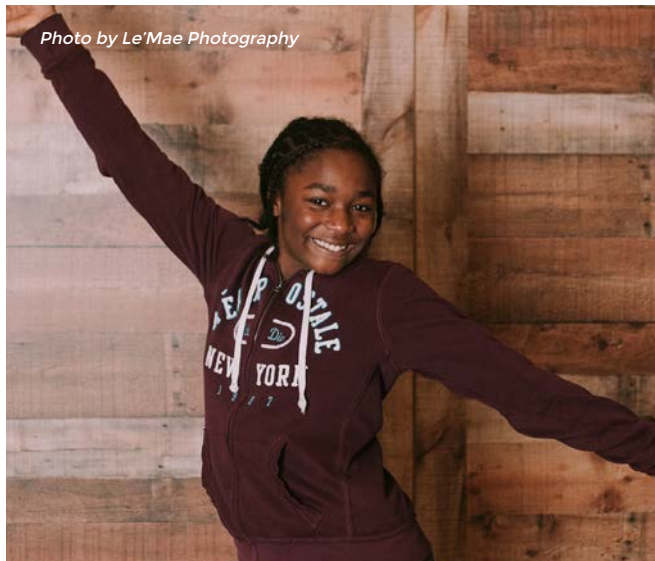
Photo By Elayne Cross Photography



SAMARIYA

Samariya likes writing in her journal and takes pride in her stories.

Photo by Le'Mae Photography



ZANIYA

When she gets older, Zaniya wants to become a doctor so she can help others.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



JAKIE

Jakie is a car aficionado who loves the Fast and Furious movies.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



TYLER

Tyler wants to use his experience by becoming a police officer to help other children like him.

Photo by Brandon Alford



JULES

Jules takes pride in "being a good person and always helping someone when they're sad."

Photo by Laura Robles



ROBERT

In addition to enjoying video games, Robert likes playing with his pet ferret.

Photo by Sarah Boyd



JAYDEN

Jayden dreams of traveling to Florida to visit Disney World and the princesses.

Photo by Megyn Ellis



JACOB

In his free time, Jacob enjoys singing and swinging.

Photo by Moon Studios Photography



TYLER

Tyler hopes to become a veterinarian or a scientist.

Photo by Derek Cookson



JESSE

Jesse likes watching TV and movies, but he really loves to draw.

Photo by Jessica Stratchan



RACHEL

"I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up!" says Rachel.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



TATIANA

Tatiana wants to become a social worker so she can help children or work in a nursing home to help the elderly.

Photo by Allie Siarto



PARRIS

Parris loves having spa days and going shopping.

Photo by Megyn Ellis



BRADLEY

Bradley likes to interact with others and to show what he can do.

Photo by Aly Darin Photography



JACOB

Jacob loves to play with Legos and help build things.

Photo by Rachel Resterhouse



AIYANA

Aiyana loves dance, especially jazz and hip hop.

Photo by Renee Aleisa



BRENDAN

"I would like to travel to the Atlantic Ocean so I can visit the Titanic wreck," says Brendan.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



RAYMOND

Raymond loves playing football and soccer, along with baseball and basketball.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



ISAAIAH

Isaiah loves dinosaurs and dreams of becoming a paleontologist.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



JOSEPH

Joey wants to become a police officer one day.

Photo by Lindsay Jaye Photography



BRITTNEY

When Brittney gets older she wants to become a nurse.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



ANDREW

"I am small but mighty and kind,"
Andrew says.

Photo by Jessica Strachan



IMANI

Imani's favorite activities include doing makeup,
going out to eat and going to the movies.

Photo by Megyn Ellis



KATHRINE

Kathrine enjoys playing board games
and solving puzzles.

Photo by Jessica Strachan



CAITLN

Caitlin wants people to know that
"I am an animal lover."

Photo by Karemmy Blanco



JUSTIN

Justin takes pride in his basketball skills and
wants others to know that he's good at it.

Photo by Focal Point Studio



LAZERIC

Lazeric's favorite basketball team is the
Golden State Warriors!

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



MIKALE

Mikale says he wants a family who enjoys having fun and likes going places together.

Photo by Lillian Scull



ANDREW

Andrew likes playing volleyball and basketball and participating in track.

Photo by Christine Schafer



CHARLEY

"I love all animals," Charley says, "but I love dogs and horses the most."

Photo by Katherine Hallam



SYDNEY

Sydney enjoys being active by participating in yoga, gymnastics and ballet.

Photo by Lisa Hodack



HEATHER

Heather enjoys swimming, bowling, shopping, going for long rides and eating at restaurants.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



ANTONIO

Antonio loves to play basketball and be a leader.

Photo by Christine Schafer



JONATHAN

Johnathan loves having others test his outstanding math skills.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



LA'KAYLA

"I like to dance and make pottery," says La'Kayla.

Photo by Mandy DeVries



CHEYENNE

Cheyenne loves drawing and cooking, and she takes a creative interest in crafts.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



KEVIN

Kevin wants to have family game nights.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



HARMONIE

Harmonie's favorite things to do include relaxing, swimming, and going to the movies.

Photo by Jodi Mercier



KENNETH

When he grows up, Kenneth says he wants to be a lawyer.

Photo by Lindsey Sanford



ARDEZ

He loves being on a team and enjoys playing football.

Photo by Lindsay Jaye Photography



KATLYNN

Katlynn enjoys being outside and likes going bass fishing.

Photo by Loren Sanders



CHRISTOPHER

Chris loves to participate in creative play.

Photo by Aly Darin Photography



CHRISTOPHER

Christopher enjoys athletics and specifically enjoys playing basketball.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



ERIC

Eric loves basketball and wants to be a pro one day!

Photo by Katherine Hallam



ARIES

Aries has a great singing voice and loves showing it off at church.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



CODY

Cody's passion is football and playing outdoors.

Photo by Melissa Marshment



LILLIENNE

Lilli wants to become a paramedic, which strikes at the core of her dream to help others.

Photo by Loren Sanders



KEMIYA

One of the favorite things that Kemiya enjoys is giving and receiving hugs.

Photo by Derek Cookson



GABRIEL

Gabriel is silly, playful, social and engaging.

Photo by Lillian Scull



SLEVEN

Slevan says his favorite food is "the dressings that go into a Thanksgiving meal."

Photo by Focal Point Studio



DYLAN

Dylan is always smiling and loves being active!

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



LOGAN

"I'm good at sports," says Logan.

Photo by Christine Schafer



EMMA

Emma says she's funny, loving, creative, kind, cautious, big-hearted and witty.

Photo by Derek Cookson



DANIEL

Daniel's favorite activities are spending time with friends and going to an indoor trampoline park.

Photo by Christine Schafer



HAILEY

Hailey always looks for the positive and tries to put a smile on others' faces.

Photo by Christine Schafer



TYLER

Tyler enjoys playing card games, building things with Legos and putting puzzles together.

Photo by Beth and Mike Severn



MALAIISA

Malaisa describes herself as a good listener and a problem solver.

Photo by Steven Van DeSteele



DARNELL

Darnell is very spiritual and enjoys attending church on Sundays.

Photo by Miriam Garcia



MARISSA

Marissa enjoys shopping, playing board games and watching youngsters.

Photo by Christine Schafer



DAWSON

When he gets older, Dawson wants to join the military or become a police officer.

Photo by Aly Darin Photography



DRAVEN

Draven dreams of the day he can be part of a family where he can share his great sense of humor and artistic abilities!

Photo by Katherine Hallam



DESTINY

Hunting for bugs is one of Destiny's favorite weekend activities.

Photo by Derek Cookson



TYLER

Tyler is a friendly, silly, funny and playful young man.

Photo by Alisa Divine Zehnder



AUGUST

August enjoys working on cars and wants to become a mechanic.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



MICHAEL

Michael loves to make jokes and is always smiling and pleasant to be around.

Photo by Loren Sanders



DOROTHEA

Dorothea has a bubbly personality that is infectious.

Photo by Jessica Strachan



DAYJAH

Dayjah puts her creativity to work by drawing and doing arts and crafts.

Photo by Loren Sanders



DAVION

Davion fancies himself a mechanic and says that he already fixes bikes and brakes.

Photo by Beth and Mike Severn



NIKKOLEY

Nikkoley participates in tennis at school and loves playing it afterwards.

Photo by Elle Ticula



SATIVA

Sativa enjoys shopping, fashion and putting together different outfits.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



BAYLI

Bayli's biggest ambitions are to become a zoologist or geologist one day.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



DEAZSHA

Deazsha sings and dances, and she says her faith is important to her.

Photo by Olivia Kippe



OMARIO

Omario has raced on the BMX biker series and has won trophies for his efforts.

Photo by Jessica Strachan



DRE

Dre writes his own songs and wants to become a music producer.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



DEVON

Devon participates in 4-H and loves hunting and fishing.

Photo by Melissa Marshment



DONYE

Donye says his favorite toy is Transformers.

Photo by Melissa Marshment



KENYETTA

Kenyetta takes pride in her love of animals and dreams of having a dog.

Photo by Melissa Marshment



TYSHAWN

Tyshawn likes playing with cars and trucks and building things with Legos.

Photo by Jessica Strachan



SHIANN

A perfect day for Shiann would be eating dinner, going to the mall and doing her nails.

Photo by Derek Cookson



OMAR

Omar says he wants to go fishing with a forever family and perhaps try hunting.

Photo by Melanie Reyes



ISA

Isa has an outgoing personality and loves to smile and make others laugh.

Photo by Rebekah Dietsche



ISABELLA

"I like to dance when nobody is looking," Isabella says.

Photo by Laura Robles



DAVID

When David notices someone struggling with an activity, he will be the first to offer help.

Photo by Olivia Kippe



SANDRA

Sandra's favorite activities include playing with Barbies and playing tag outside.

Photo by Stephanie Kieft



YAH'MESHIA

Yah'Meshia loves baking and has a gift for singing.

Photo by Loren Sanders



KEVIN

Kevin loves to write and sing.

Photo by Deborah Gillespie



RYKER

Ryker is very interested in technology and would like to be in the IT field in the future.

Photo by Christine Schafer



RED ARROW

Red Arrow wants a family who likes riding bikes, playing games and going to powwows.

Photo by A&M Photography



JAMES

When he gets older, James wants to become a paleontologist so he can dig up dinosaur bones.

Photo by Moon Studio Photography



HAYLEE

Haylee wants to graduate from high school and attend college and major in criminal justice.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



BRIANNA

Brianna is silly, energetic, fun-loving and sweet.

Photo by Rebekah Dietsche



DARIUS

Darius loves the computer and enjoys playing all different types of games on it.

Photo by Lisa Hodack



JAYDEN

Jayden loves the outdoors, especially when he finds some bugs.

Photo by Jennifer Brooks



CHRISTIAN

Christian describes herself as a funny, friendly, outspoken girl who's driven by her desire to succeed.

Photo by Christine Schafer



ZANDRA

Zandra wants a family who will support her participation in sports.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



JOE

Joe likes books of another sort and enjoys reading the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series.

Photo by Dawn Townsend



MCKANZIE

McKanzie loves playing games, especially with family and friends, and her favorite is Clue.

Photo by Melanie Reyes



ROBERT

Robert is an outgoing, determined, energetic and friendly child.

Photo by Robin Piach



BRIAN

Brian loves to play on his iPad and watch Diego.

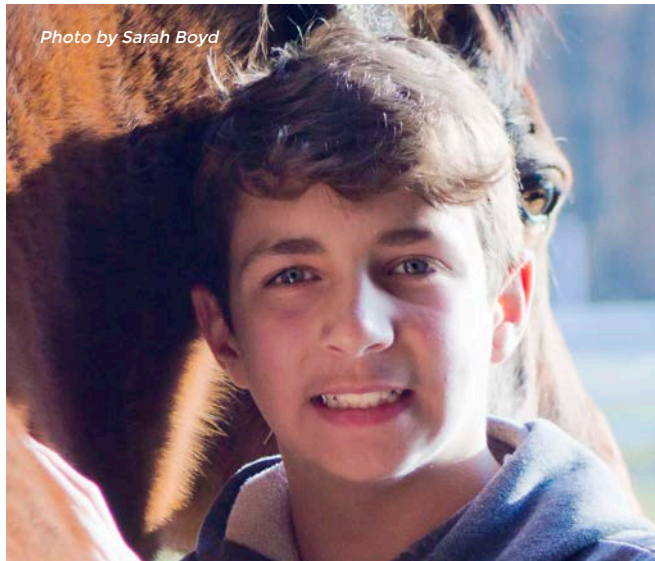
Photo by Elle Ticula



ROLAND

Roland is friendly and kind to everyone he meets!

Photo by Sarah Boyd



RYAN

Ryan likes making forts and building rafts when spending time with friends.

Photo by Jennifer Brooks



NEVAEH

Nevaeh likes singing, dancing and listening to music.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



DAKODA

With his future forever family, Dakoda says he looks forward to having birthday parties and going to Disney World.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



LE-AZHANIQUE

Le-Azhanique is an excellent reader and enjoys visiting the library.

Photo by Derek Cookson



JONATHAN

Jonathan loves building things with Legos.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



JOSHUA

Joshua's got a scientific mind and wants to become a computer programmer when he gets older.

Photo by Lillian Scull



AREONNA

Areonna wants to grow up to be a professional singer or paleontologist.

Photo by Megyn Ellis



DANIEL

Daniel has a hilarious outlook on life and likes to make people laugh.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



DANIELLE

If she's not writing poetry, Danielle is likely creating rap tunes.

Photo by Jennifer Brooks



MARCUS

Marcus loves using his imagination by building things and making objects out of colored paper.

Photo by Laura Robles



SANTAVIOUS

Santavious would like to be a professional basketball player when he grows up.

Photo by Karemmy Blanco



JOSHUA

"I am smart!" says Joshua.

Photo by Jessica Strachan



STEPHEN

Stephen loves building things, especially using Legos.

Photo by Karemmy Blanco



JALEN

Jalen is a sweet, lovable and charismatic young boy with so much drive.

Photo by Loren Sanders



CALEB

Caleb enjoys playing Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh with his friends.

Photo by Christine Schafer



JOSLYN

Joslyn enjoys playing outside, riding bikes and doing gymnastics.

Photo by Christine Schafer



ASCENDA

Ascenda loves to dance and listen to music.

Photo by Elizabeth Walker



AMAURIE

Amaurie loves art and drawing fictional characters.

Photo by Beth and Mike Severn



TAIVION

Taivion describes himself as smart, energetic and thoughtful.

Photo by Loren Sanders



DAESHAWN

Daeshawn says he's caring, funny, thoughtful and very motivated.

Photo by Robin Piach



CHARLES

Charles is very detail oriented and is a skilled builder with Legos.

Photo by Lindsay Jaye Photography



CECILIA

Cecilia enjoys playing volleyball, coloring and hooking rugs.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



KAEDYN

Kaedyn loves being outdoors and enjoys playing with remote control cars and airplanes.

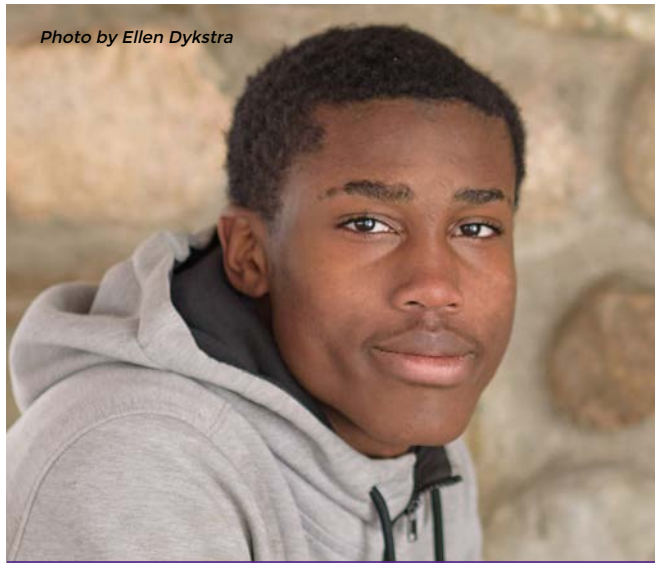
Photo by Corinne Toussaint



I'ZAYAH

I'Zayah enjoys playing video games, spending time outdoors, and going to the park.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



CHRISTOPHER

Christopher describes himself as an athletic kid who loves to play sports.

Photo by Focal Point Studio



MYRANDA

Myranda likes watching TV, playing Uno and curling up with a good book.

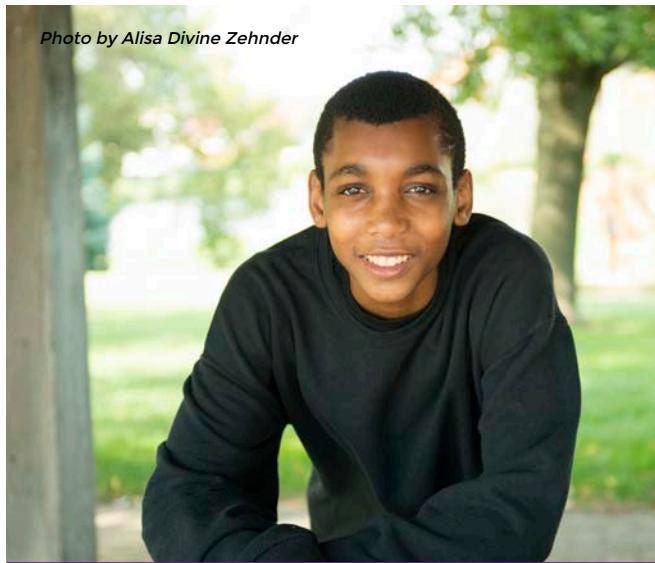
Photo by Focal Point Studio



ANGEL

Angel's favorite activities include dancing and roller skating.

Photo by Alisa Divine Zehnder



NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah has a big interest in reading and writing and is quite passionate about both.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



TYLER

Tyler likes playing video games and enjoys fixing and building things.

Photo by Christine Schafer



ORLANDO

Orlando is a religious young man who enjoys going to church.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



JENNA

Jenna's favorite activities include photography, coloring, reading and writing.

Photo by Elle Ticula



CHRISTOPHER

Christopher enjoys watching television and playing video games.

Photo by Katherine Hallam



JACOB

Jacob likes reading books, riding bikes, playing with cars and playing video games.

Photo by Allie Siarto



ADAM

Adam says he wants a future forever family who loves playing games as much as he does.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



RACHEAL

Racheal is quite talented and enjoys singing and dancing.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



CRYSTALEE

Crystalee likes to put on music videos and have a dance party.

Photo by Melanie Reyes



ROBERT

Robert has a quick wit and enjoys telling jokes.

Photo by Corinne Toussaint



KATELYN

Katelyn's biggest interest is music. She loves singing and dancing.

Photo by Cayla Johnson



CHRISTIAN

Christian is very creative, caring and likes to give gifts.

Photo by Nichole Horvath



COLIN

Colin loves telling jokes and can make one out of anything.

Photo by Ellen Dykstra



ALEJANDRO

Alejandro loves archery, hunting and camping.

A PARENT SHARES THE BEAUTY OF ADOPTING OLDER YOUTH

Maris Wallag understands the reward of adopting older youth firsthand.

She and her spouse adopted (-), (-) and (-)-year-old children from foster care, and when talking about their experience, Wallag emphasizes the positives fellow adoptive parents can realize by adopting older youth.

“I always joke that you should adopt older kids because they sleep in,” Wallag says with wide, bright grin, “and there’s no knocking at your bedroom door because they’re scared.”

Early in their adoption process, the Wallags recognized the benefits of adopting older youth.

“I don’t think people understand that when you adopt an older child, you get to take him to the concerts you want to go to,” she says. “You listen to the music you want to listen to. No offense to KIDZ BOP.”

“We go the scary movies that we like. They do their own laundry. We get to go to their sporting events. We don’t change diapers; we don’t get up in the middle of the night. The kids know where the fridge is. There’s a lot of independence that our kids have, which frees up a lot of our time to do other family matters.”



Wallag likens adoption of older youth to marriage because the children select their parents for life.

“The beautiful thing about adopting an older child is this child is literally saying, ‘I want you to be my parents, I want you to raise me, I want you to share all these milestones.’ We have so many milestones yet to share.”

She looks forward to sharing such milestones as learning to drive, going to the prom and picking a college dorm room and moving into it. Wallag acknowledges the apprehension some adoptive parents might feel about adopting older youth, but she points out that parents can ease the transition into the home.

“You have to be open to it -- you can find this child and make that connection,” she says. “You’re always going to be getting to know them because even with your birth children, you’re always learning new things about them.”



ABOUT JESSICA STRACHAN: *Former Foster Alumni*

Jessica Strachan is a Detroit-based journalist and foster care advocate. She's a Michigan native who spent her teenage years in the system, eventually finding her forever family alongside her little brother: A couple originally from the south known as Auntie and Uncle Harlan.

Jessica entered care at age 13 and remained a ward of the state with her forever family, helping to secure vital resources, scholarship funds and independent living at a crucial time in her life.

With her new foster family by her side, Jessica became one of three percent of foster kids who graduate from college. She went on to earn her masters degree from the University of Michigan and now has more than a decade of experience in her dream career as an award-winning writer and photographer.

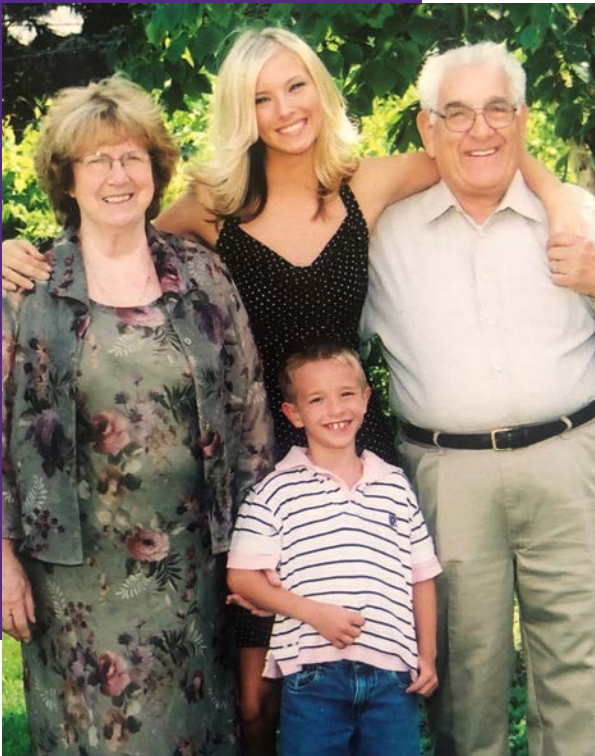
Her family made the adoption official when she was 27 years old.

Jessica spends her free time traveling the world and has been to more than 25 countries since aging out of the system. She held tight onto her dreams, from learning a second language to becoming published and creating a library to pass to her own kids one day.

She is now an advocate for foster families and the next generation of kids in Michigan. Her ultimate goal is to build her own family through foster care and adoption.

Jessica serves as a volunteer photographer for MARE with the Heart Gallery project, and dedicates her time to building up foster kids who need mentoring and to feel seen in their portraits. She has created a website designed to provide resources on foster care and adoption and features youth stories and her own personal journey. You can follow her work at www.fosteringsecondchances.com.

Jessica is currently in the process of becoming licensed as a foster parent herself in order to provide a loving home for foster youth of Michigan.





REQUESTING THE HEART GALLERY 2020

Want to help spread awareness for adoption through foster care in the state of Michigan?
Request the Heart Gallery display!

The Michigan Heart Gallery is a traveling photographic exhibit featuring photos of children in foster care who are waiting for their forever families through adoption. Reserving the Heart Gallery for your event is an easy way to advocate for Michigan's waiting youth and the need for adoptive families.

The Michigan Heart Gallery travels throughout the state visiting museums, places of worship, community events and more! To reserve the Heart Gallery or receive MARE's assistance in planning a recruitment event, contact:

Jessica Thompson

MARE Recruitment Specialist

jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org

734.528.2070 | www.mare.org

Reservations are taken on a first come, first serve basis. MARE will ship the display directly to you and provide a return shipping label. We ask that you please take the display to your local FedEx store the day after your event so we can ensure it will arrive at its next destination on time. The larger "main display" stands (need new dimensions here). MARE also has 12 banner stands (need new banner dimensions here) that are ideal for smaller spaces.

Due to the current pandemic we can also provide material for any virtual events such as our Heart Gallery video, etc.

Thank you for your interest in hosting the Michigan Heart Gallery!





STAY HOME, STAY SAFE, *Adopt!*

Coronavirus has changed day-to-day life for everyone, but one thing it hasn't changed is the need for permanent families in children's lives. Yes, you can still adopt from foster care in Michigan! While some parts of the adoption process may be moving a bit more like a tortoise than a hare, things certainly haven't stopped. MARE recently sent a survey to all agencies to learn the creative ways they are still working with families during the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order:

- **Homestudy process:** Warm up the Zoom app on your phone or laptop! Many agencies are using video conferencing for orientations, interviews and even a first walk through of your home. We all know there is no shortage of paperwork for pre-adoptive families to complete, but luckily most of it can be sent and completed through mail. Training and background clearances are critical parts of the homestudy process - there are options for remote training and, while some fingerprint locations are closed, most agencies are still scheduling families for background clearances.
- **Meet and Greets:** MARE piloted our first virtual meet and greet in July and it was a success! While we look forward to seeing you all in person again, virtual meet and greets are going to remain an option during the pandemic and likely even beyond.
- **Matching process:** If you're homestudy-ready and inquiring about youth on MARE, agencies are still doing their best to follow up. Families who may be a match for a child will review the Child Adoptive Assessment via email, and disclosure (or case conference) meetings are happening via video conference. Some families who have been matched even had their first visit with a child through video!

MARE staff is primarily working from home, rather than the main office, but we're ready to support and help families like yours through the process. Call us at 800-589-6273.

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, 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.cfsnwm.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.catholiccharitiesjhc.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.opendooradoptionservices.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.citylinc.org

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800-589-MARE | www.mare.org

