



Family Newsletter

Save the Date for the Premiere!

September 10, 11a.m.-2 p.m. Emagine Theater, Royal Oak

Heart Gallery Event Details:

- Free and open to the public
- Red carpet treatment
- Gallery viewing
- Photo ops galore
- Lunch provided
- Chances to talk to adoption professionals and to meet youth in foster care
- A feature film with the theme, "It Matters"
- Register at mare.org

If you can't make it in person, join us live on Facebook, www.facebook.com/MichiganAdoptionResourceExchange



Summer 2022

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Fun, kid-friendly ways to put the sizzle in summer

By Kim Ross, Kimberly Grover, and Jessica Franks, MARE Adoption Navigators

Summer is here and many kids revel in extra free time, no homework, sleeping in and great weather ... ahh! But summer is long.

What do you do when the novelty wears off and kids tug at your shirtsleeves with the usual "I'm bored"? We've compiled some simple, free or low-cost ideas to help your family have a great summer!

Shadow Drawing. Have your kids line up all their favorite toys outside. Put a piece of white paper on the ground behind each toy, then challenge your kids to trace the shadow on the paper before the sun moves. Once they're done tracing the shadow, it's like they made their own coloring/painting page. They can even do this craft on the sidewalk with chalk.

Rock Painting. Kids can paint rocks, write inspirational quotes and more on a rock and then hide them around the neighborhood or town they live in.

Imagine You Can Fly! With chalk on the fence, sidewalk or driveway, draw huge butterfly/bat/fairy wings. Lie down on, or, in the case of the fence, stand in front of the creation and take a selfie as a butterfly, bat or fairy.

Scavenger Hunts. Try a traditional scavenger hunt or use a scavenger hunt app to explore a new city or do some team building with family and friends. Many cities in Michigan have scavenger hunts hosted by some of the apps found in the links on the next page.



Other easy fun activities

Search for four-leaf clovers

Check the couch cushions for loose change

Make chalk drawings on the sidewalk

Look up the word "cairn" in the dictionary, then build a mini cairn

Read a book

Start a rock collection

Blow bubbles

Play catch or frisbee

Make a fort or relaxing nook

Write a letter to a friend

Make a collage

<https://teambuilding.com/blog/scavenger-hunt-apps>

<https://www.educationalappstore.com/best-apps/best-scavenger-hunt-apps>

Farmer's Markets

Find a Farmer's Market at <https://mifma.org/find-a-farmers-market/>

Outdoor Movies

Some Huron-Clinton Metroparks will be offering outdoor movies starting in August.
www.metroparks.com/movies-in-the-parks/

You can find other drive-in theaters by searching the Pure Michigan website, www.michigan.org/search?search=drive-in+movies

Waterparks and Spray Parks

Auburn Hills Splash Pad, Riverside Park (3311 Squirrel Ct., Auburn Hills, 248-370-9353) Recently-built splash pad is FREE!

Berkley Splash Pad at Oxford Park (2100 Bacon, Berkley) This splash pad is FREE!

Brighton Waterpark, Jump Island Inflatable Waterpark (6140 Bishop Lake Road, 877-496-8586). Not free, but fun!



*Photo courtesy
Clarkston Spray Park*

Clarkston Spray Park at Clintonwood Park (6000 Clarkston Road, 248-625-1444).

Farmington Hills Splash Pad at Heritage Park (24725 Farmington Road, 248-536-5617) Entry to Heritage Park is FREE and so is the Splash Pad!

Rochester Hills Splash Pad (Emmons and Auburn Roads). Admission is FREE!

More Info: <https://www.oaklandcountymoms.com/oakland-county-waterparks-sprayparks-37405/>

Across Michigan: A search on www.michigan.org/water-parks will fill you in on all of the water parks and splash pads in the state. To find more outdoor fun, check your local community websites.

Join Marcus as he charts his course to fun

Marcus has a blueprint for fun, and it involves technology, toys and games.

"Marcus enjoys hands-on activities," says one of his close adults. "He can tell you all about robotics or Lego builds. He recently built a robotic arm and enjoys putting things together. He has plans to make his own video games, too."

Marcus likes playing games – especially the video variety – jumping on the trampoline and playing with dogs, playing on the tablet and playing with Nerf toys. Flag- and feline-lovers take note because Marcus likes the colors red, white and blue and cats as

well as dogs.

Forget about Burger King's pleasing patties or Dairy Queen's dream creams; Marcus's revered royal restaurant focuses on tasty pastries and circular sensations. Yes, if he could travel anywhere in the world, Marcus would visit Donut King, which he apparently has visited.

"They have the biggest doughnuts in the world!" says Marcus, who also likes satisfying his sweet tooth with cookies, his favorite food.

When he's asked about the qualities he wants in a future forever family, Marcus says he wants one who spends time together doing fun things.



Marcus (C09862)



Becca (C09233)

Meet Becca: A clever young mind

Becca doesn't need a car, ship, bus, train or plane to travel to dream destinations – she uses her mind.

Specifically drawing, reading and writing take her to pleasant places, and those three subjects get her mind churning as fast as an engine on a speedy vehicle or vessel.

"Sometimes I just start drawing, and I get lost in the drawing," says Becca. "I just go to a whole different world, and it can be pretty soothing to get lost in the world of drawing.

"It's the same thing for reading actually. Whenever I read – and I get focused on reading – I just get lost in the world of the book.

"My favorite thing to do is read and write. I'm actually reading a lot of Pokémon because I really, really love Pokémon. I'm also writing a poem.

"Whether I'm reading or writing depends on what kind of mood I'm in. If I don't want to write, I read. And if I don't want to read, I write. Sometimes I get ideas for my writing from reading, and it helps with my

reading level and gives me higher self-esteem.

"I love the Dog Man books, and I have all 10 of them. My favorite character is Li'l Petey because he's so funny, and it makes me happy that I get to read stuff that makes me laugh."

One of Becca's other big passions involves the animal kingdom, a wonderful world she appreciated as a youngster when she first saw the otters and polar bears at the Detroit Zoo. Becca's love of critters inspires her to become a veterinarian.

As you probably can tell, Becca is a smart young lady who could make a family proud of her intellectual acuity. She would do best with a mom and dad in a family in which she's the youngest child. Becca's love of animals drives her wish for a family who has a dog.

Becca would fit in well with a forever family who loves game nights, and if you challenge her to a game of trivia, you're bound to lose. On the other hand, you'd be a winner with such a clever young mind in your household.

Calendar

August 13
In-Person MARE
Meet & Greet
Detroit

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 13
Adoption Navigator
Training Day
With Trainer
Lauren Peabody
Brighton

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration to come
in July on mare.org

September 22
Waiting Family Forum
Virtual Training

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration to come
in August on mare.org

October 1
In-Person MARE
Meet & Greet
Midland

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information,
contact jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org or call
734-528-2070.

Take note: Watch for
notices of upcoming Meet
& Greets on www.mare.org
and on Facebook and
Twitter.