



Professional 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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Let adoptive parents know that they can learn about foster care adoption at www.mare.org.



MARE Match Support provides resources for college-bound teens

Adopting a teen can bring different questions than adopting a younger child, and MARE Match Support specialists are ready to help get your families the answers.

One question your families might consider involves their teen's post-secondary education plan. There are a plethora of college and technical opportunities as well as financial support available for the youth today.

Match Support specialists can educate families on grants and scholarships specifically for students who have been in foster care, help schedule and arrange college tours, locate support programs within universities for foster and adopted youth that assist in the transition process, and educate families on life skills that may be important for their teen, such as banking and budgeting, grocery and meal planning as well as basic cooking skills.

Our specialists also provide 90 days of family-centered services, which include offering educational resources, training opportunities, referrals to support groups and a variety of other supportive services to help families and their teen succeed now and in the future.

In addition to answering questions such as resources for teens, Match Support specialists also listen about successes and struggles and assist with any bumps that may develop during the adoption process.

If you know of an adoptive family who could use extra support, call 734-528-2020.



Tips for youth on when/how to apply for college

Going to college is a big decision for the youth on your caseload. There are a lot of choices to make such as what to study, where to go and what their schedule will be. Before they get to all of that, they have to apply and get accepted.

Here are some things for youth to remember when applying to college:

- Begin early – it is recommended to start applying by the time they start their senior year of high school. Most applications are due by January if they'd like to attend in the fall semester.

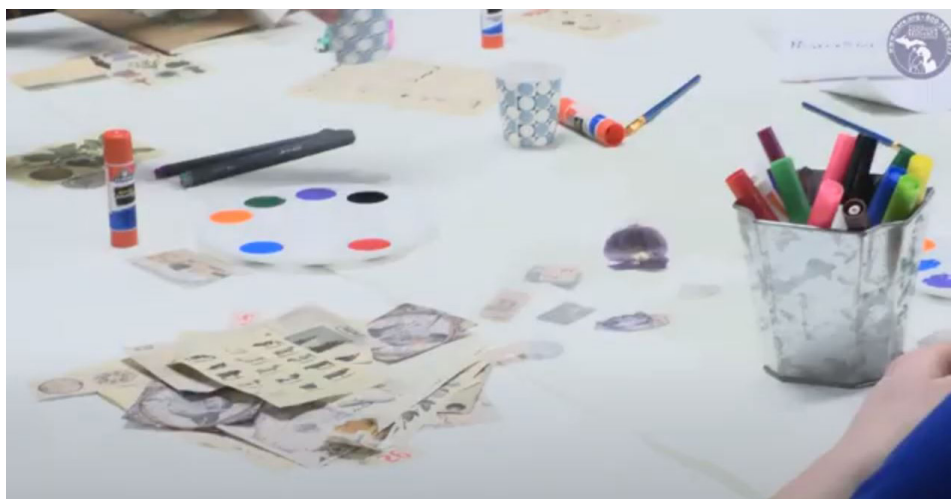
- Prep work – have the youth on your caseload make a list of colleges they'd like to go to, learn what their application requirements are, take standardized tests, gather letters of recommendation, write essays and visit the campus.
- Check on progress – there may deadlines for honors programs, scholarships and financial aid, so have them keep track with a calendar or spreadsheet.



New video helps quell Meet & Greet jitters



Going to a Meet & Greet can make youth on your caseload nervous. To alleviate the jitters, MARE interviewed youth with Meet & Greet experience for a video to help others who are going to an event for the first time. The youth in the video give advice about how to be themselves, what to expect and remind others to have fun! Check out the video and share the link with youth on your caseload at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2baWl3X9Rs>



Let your families know about free trainings

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange offers trainings for adoptive and foster care parents at least twice a year.

The trainings typically occur on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and they take place throughout the state. MARE's adoption navigator team plans, attends and puts on the trainings.

Training topics have included openness in adoption, building a support network, parenting teenagers, self-care, practical advice for raising children with

attachment issues, parenting children with challenging behaviors and transracial adoption.

At the end of the training, parents receive a certificate that they can present to you.

If you want more information, visit mare.org or contact MARE Adoption Navigator Supervisor Kimberly Wolowski at Kimberly_wolowski@judsoncenter.org or 734-528-2077.



Introducing MARE's new videographer, Travis Mason

In many ways, MARE's new videographer, Travis Mason, is a lot like the youth many of you serve. He loves playing Monopoly (if he can be the car), enjoys listening to music (Lil Wayne or Kendrick Lamar) and dreams of visiting a beautiful place (scenic Croatia).

Travis comes to MARE after graduating from the Specs Howard School of Media Arts and working in video production for General Motors. He then became a freelance videographer filming special events such as weddings. One of his most memorable jobs was as a crew member on the set of the Amazon Prime movie "Coachable."

When we held a Q&A session with Travis, the lifelong Michigan resident had just returned from a weekend trip to the Tawas area with his fiancé and her family. The trip embodied everything he likes about The Mitten State.

"I love Michigan in the summertime. It sounds so cliché, but it is great going to any of the lakes. Taking a road trip to a

lake and having a picnic is my perfect day."

What draws you to social work?

My fiancé and I want to adopt, and she is going to school for social work. It's just something that's in our hearts. We talk a lot about making sure youth are placed in a good home so they can have a good life.

Why were you interested in working for MARE?

This job combines two things that I love – videography and working with youth. I'm very passionate about videography, and when I meet the youth, it just tugs at my heart because they brighten my whole day. Being part of MARE is just a perfect match for me.

What satisfies you most about your job?

I like showing how special each youth is. When I've uploaded a video to their profile that lets their personality shine, I am very, very satisfied.

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

November 12
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.