

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 photolistings and videos of children, visit our website at www.mare.org.



YOUTH NEWSLETTER Summer 2021

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If your dreams include college, tap into this free resource

Dream of going to college, but not sure where to start? Here is something that might help you with that process.

Education planners provide one-on-one assistance to youth in foster care and act as a liaison between the child welfare system and the education system.

Never heard of education planners and want to know more on what to expect from their services? Below are some of the services that the program offers.

- Developing short- and long-term education goals.

- School enrollment and record transfer.
- Maintaining a youth in the school of origin.
- Figuring out transportation to school.
- Special education advocacy.
- College/vocational preparation and enrollment.

Unfortunately the education planners are not currently available in all Michigan counties, but 38 have the services available. To find out if there's a program near you, go to the site below:

www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,4585,7-240-44289_45022-296562--,00.html

Meet MARE's new youth specialist

Gabrielle Kampsen's stint at a daycare center sparked an interest in working with kids that eventually led to her joining the staff at MARE as the new youth specialist.

She replaces Jennifer Brooks, who's taken a new position with MARE. Like Jennifer, Gabrielle looks forward to working with foster youth and helping match them with forever families. You'll see her at MARE Meet & Greets, Grant Me Hope video shoots and Youth Advisory Board meetings.

In the meantime, take a few moments here to get to know Gabrielle better.

Tell us about your background

I graduated in spring from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in social work. I'm planning to go for my master's degree, so I'm not quite done yet. I have a very big family that includes three sisters, six nephews and two nieces, and I'm very close to my family. I am engaged and have been with my fiancé for about three years.

What draws you to social work?

I kind of circled the idea for a long time because people initially told me not to go into social work for

a variety of reasons. But I just knew I wanted to do something where I was helping people. I love being useful, and I love serving others, so after trying nursing and teaching, I returned to social work because that's where my heart is.

Why were you interested in becoming a MARE youth specialist?

I'm very close with my family, and I feel very lucky and want to make that happen for others. One aspect of the position that I love is interacting with the youth. I think they're so much fun, and they have so much to offer, so that's another reason I was very excited to get this position.

What satisfies you most about your job?

My favorite thing is getting to meet the youth, getting to see them and putting a face with the names I've been seeing on the computer screen. Getting to hear their stories – seeing their hope and resilience – has probably been the most satisfying for me.



Contact Gabrielle at 734-794-2926, ext. 23257 or gabrielle_kampsen@judsoncenter.org

Looking to have some fun and meet adoptive families?

Attend a Meet & Greet!

MARE has several of the events planned in the coming months, so if you're interested, contact your worker, who can get you signed up.

Here are a few of the Meet & Greets that MARE is planning:



September 11
MARE Meet & Greet*
10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

September 23
MARE Meet & Greet*
5:45-7:30 p.m.

* This event may be in person.
Check Mare.org for details.

For more information regarding these events contact Jessica Thompson, MARE Recruitment Specialist: jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org

MARE seeks your input to help improve its story form

MARE is taking a fresh look at the "What I Want People to Know" form that you fill out to help create a story about yourself.

MARE appreciates getting the forms, but we want to make the questions as meaningful as possible to give families a glimpse of the amazing person you are. That's why we're enlisting your help.

First of all, we're turning to the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to brainstorm some possible new questions to add to the form and discuss which ones to remove. If you can't attend a YAB meeting, don't worry; we still want your help and would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

You can give those ideas to your worker who can then send them to MARE Youth Specialist Gabrielle Kampsen at gabrielle_kampsen@judsoncenter.org.

Some possible questions that MARE staff came up with are:

- What do you love to learn about?
- What would be your superpower?
- What is something that you're really good at?
- What is your favorite song or movie?
- How do you want to change the world?

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
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WHAT I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT ME
(To accompany photolist profile)

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form when a child is being photolisted on the MARE website for recruitment purposes. It should be completed with or by the child and submitted with the photolist profile.

Workers: Please note that not all questions need to be answered on this form, and anything the child would like to share can be added. This is merely a guide to help get the conversation started and to gather information from the child to be used in the photolisting narrative.

Child's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____
What I like to be called/Nickname: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Adoption Worker's Name: _____ Agency: _____

ALL ABOUT ME!

- My favorite food is: _____
- My favorite color is: _____
- My favorite animal is: _____
- My favorite toy/game is: _____
- My favorite subject in school is: _____
- My favorite thing to do after school is: _____
- Activities I participate in include: (clubs, sports, youth groups, etc.) _____
- My favorite thing(s) to do on the weekend are: _____

- Would you rather swim in a pool or a lake?

These questions are just a few that we thought of as we were

Facts About Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

Participants: Anyone who is or has been in foster care.

Meetings: Held quarterly at locations throughout Michigan.

How to attend: If you are in foster care, contact your worker. If you are a former foster care youth, contact Gabrielle Kampsen at 734-794-2926 or gabrielle_kampsen@judsoncenter.org.

brainstorming.

We want to know what questions you want to answer, so please let us know!



Beat the heat with laughter!

Q: What does the sun drink out of?

A: Sunglasses!

Q: What does a mermaid use to call her friends

A: A shell phone, of course.

Q: Why does a seagull fly over the sea?

A: Because if it flew over the bay, it would be a baygull.

Q: What does bread do on vacation?

A: It loafs.

Q: What is a frog's favorite summertime treat?

A: Hopsicles!

Q: What happens when you cross a shark with a snowman?

A: Frostbite!

Q: What travels all around the world but stays in one corner?

A: A postage stamp!

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)



Foster 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 current and former foster youth. 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. (Michigan.gov/FYIT)



FosterClub - FosterClub is a national network for young people in foster care and young foster care alumni. The site includes blogs from current foster youth, success stories from youth who were in the foster system as well as celebrities who faced foster care. It also provides a listing by state of contact information for professionals and hotlines. (www.fosterclub.com 503-717-1552)