

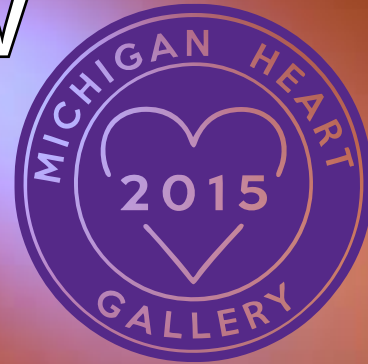
The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Human Services.



To learn about foster care adoption and view photolistings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at www.mare.org.

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**At last, a show
that lives up
to the hype!**



The story of Undray, above, and how he was adopted is part of a special MARE video production making its debut at the 2015 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening on Saturday, April 18. Before he was matched, Undray was among the teens on the MARE website who have waited the longest for a forever family.

- **Premiere of the 2015 Michigan Heart Gallery**
- **Premiere of a special MARE feature film**
- **Lunch, refreshments provided**
- **Saturday, April 18
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Emagine Theatres
Royal Oak**

ADOPTION AWARENESS NIGHT WITH THE DETROIT TIGERS

Come and celebrate this event with us and the Detroit Tigers on May 12. There will be an on-field ceremony prior to the 7:08 p.m. game, and the Michigan Heart Gallery will be on display in the concourse of Comerica Park throughout the night.

Enjoy this Tigers game and help The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) with this special ticket package.

Ticket package includes:

- Mezzanine or Lower Baseline Box ticket
- Detroit Tigers/Adoption Awareness t-shirt
- Donation to the Michigan Adoption



Resource Exchange

To buy tickets, click on Adoption Awareness Night on Events at www.mare.org.

For further information or to order 15 or more tickets, please contact Jeremy Hostetter at Jeremy.hostetter@detroit-tigers.com.

WRITTEN BY LACIE WATSON-HUGHES,

MARE ADOPTION NAVIGATOR

Children who have spent time in foster care often have unique needs that require a parenting strategy that cultivates an environment where everyone can be successful and thrive. Parents generally do a better job when they understand their children's (and their own) realities and needs. Building an Adoption Toolkit is a great way to gain knowledge, make connections and roadmap a future toward success.

It's never too early, or late, to build an Adoption Toolkit, but here are some suggestions to get you started.

1. Trauma Training

Take advantage of any opportunity that will increase your knowledge of Childhood Trauma including Attachment Disorders, Mood or Self-Regulation, Dissociation, Behavior Control, Biological Based Challenges, Cognition, Self-Concept, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Loss and Grief, Physical or Sexual Abuse, Neglect, Community or Domestic Violence, etc.

2. A Safety Plan

A sense of safety is critical for family bonding, emotional growth and general well-being. Adoptive parents have an obligation to develop a thoughtful and thorough safety plan that can address any behaviors or situations that compromise the well-being of all family members, property and pets.

3. Community Resources

Parents who have identified resources in their community are better prepared to reduce potential risks and get their children the help they need immediately. Some resources to consider are mental health providers, school and education advocates, Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARC), adoptive parent support groups and tutors.

4. An Open Heart

Open Heart Parenting is based on the belief that parents and

children will experience more closeness and less conflict when everyone's needs are respected and addressed. In this environment, children benefit emotionally, intellectually, and socially when allowed to express their feelings to an attentive parent, and the most effective discipline is based on mutual respect that maintains the sense of connection between parents and children. (openheartparenting.com)

5. Commitment

There may be no greater commitment than the one that a parent makes to their child(ren). Parenting with commitment goes beyond the obligation and expectation to care for, protect, and nurture. It holds parents responsible for teaching and modeling behaviors that demonstrate accountability, compassion, patience, respect, encouragement, support and love.

For more information, contact MARE at 800-589-6273 or visit www.mare.org and click on "For Families."



Reco loves the outdoors He likes cars, too, and wants to be a mechanic

Reco, as Rodrigo is known, prides himself in being an outdoorsman. Being out in the woods is one of his favorite weekend activities, and completing his hunter safety course is what he's most proud of. "I'm an outdoors person," says Reco. "All year-round." If he could visit anywhere, he'd go to Australia and perhaps hunt in the Outback. Reco shows concern for animals, too. For instance, if he had three wishes, one would be to help all endangered animals, and he cites a love of animals as an important thing he wants others to know about him. Another of Reco's interests is cars. He wants to be a customizer and car mechanic when he gets older, and he'd love to own exotic cars as well. Of course, with those interests, Reco includes hunting, fishing and learning about cars as the things he'd like to do with a forever family.



Reco has made significant strides in opening up about his life and some of his past experiences. However, he is still working on utilizing positive coping skills on a regular basis. He has been able to demonstrate a better understanding of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors as well as healthy boundaries.

Reco's desire to become part of a forever family is so strong that he asked one of his workers to "step it up!" Reco would like to have a family who would go to carnivals, do fun stuff and garden together. He prefers a mom and dad and would do best with experienced parents in a home in which he's the only or youngest child.

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DID YOU KNOW?

By visiting these websites, you can get helpful information about the adoption subsidy program:

- http://michigan.gov/documents/dhs/DHS-AdoptionSubsidy-Contacts_253834_7.pdf
- http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-60126_7116_63826_11423---,00.html



NEW RESOURCE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS Service covers the entire state

WRITTEN BY ADOPTIVE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

What is the Adoptive Parent to Parent Program?

This program provides a listening ear, knowledgeable guidance and community connections to any member of an adoptive family. Our services are offered at no charge, through consultants located throughout the state. We are here to serve any adoptive family member who has adopted in Michigan.

What do we offer?

The Parent to Parent Program encourages and supports adoptive families whenever, however and wherever they need it. We do this in three ways:

- Matching your family to one of our trained adoptive parent consultants whose adoption experience and background most closely fits your situation.
- Providing personal contact and support in whatever way and for however long you need it (phone, email, in person, etc.).
- Connecting your family to other adoptive families so that you can all support each other as you grow together.

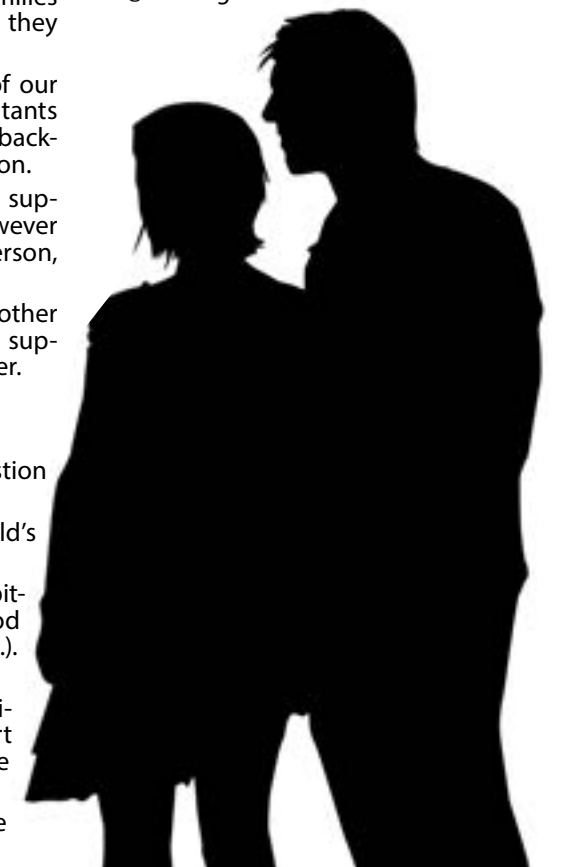
When should you call?

Call us any time you have a question about adoption, such as:

- Identity. How do I answer my child's questions about his/her identity?
- Behavior. My child is exhibiting some difficult behaviors (mood swings, temper, disobedience, etc.). What can I do?
- Resources. What kinds of medical, emotional and financial support are available to us as an adoptive family?
- Advocacy. How do I obtain the help my child needs in school?

- Referrals. Can you help me find a physician, therapist, or other specialist with experience in adoption issues?
- Peer support. Can I connect with another adoptive family? Is there someone else out there like us?
- Grief and loss. I have heard that there are certain ages when children more commonly have questions about their adoption. How do I respond?

For more information about the program, call 855-MICH-P2P or email Parent2Parent@afsn.org.





**Michigan Adoption
Resource Exchange**
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Phone: 800.589.6273

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Web: www.mare.org



Find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fourth Wednesday Each Month

Macomb County Adoptive Family Connections Meeting

6-8 pm.

The Macomb group meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Judson Center's Warren location. Join this supportive group of adoptive parents to share your joys and your challenges with people who truly get it. Often, invited guest speakers talk about adoption-appropriate topics or a short training session on parenting, trauma or another related subject is held. Dinner and childcare is provided. For more information or to RSVP, please email Thomas_Green@judsoncenter.org.

The Second Monday Each Month

Lapeer County Adoptive Family Connections Meeting

6:30-9 p.m.

Join PARC and the NALO Therapy Center for this Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents Support Group. We all need a space to honestly share our trials and successes. Please join us . . . and help your family grow stronger! This group meets on the second Monday of each month at NALOs offices in Lapeer. Dinner and childcare are provided. For more information or to RSVP, please email Jonathan_Albert@judsoncenter.org.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange invites you to join us for the Grand Opening of the 2015 Michigan Heart Gallery!

Imagine Theater, Royal Oak, MI

Register at www.mare.org

April 28, 2015

Adoptive Parent Support Group

6-8 p.m.

D.A. Blodgett/St. John's, 805 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Details: Special Needs adoption support group. Show resources and connect with other adoptive parents in this monthly support group. Pre-registration is required, and attendance is restricted to families who have adopted through D.A. Blodgett. Childcare is provided at no cost to those who register by noon on the Monday before the group. Please RSVP to Deida (Adoptive Family Support Network) at (616) 458-7945 or (616) 450-4826 or dartecki@afsn.org.

April 28, 2015

International Adoption Orientation

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bethany Christian Services, 30685 Barrington St., Madison Heights, MI 48071

Details: International adoption is an exciting journey. It blends a family's love for children and desire to adopt with the wonder, blessings, and challenges of international travel and receiving a child from another culture.

Please call 248-414-4080 to RSVP

May 5, 2015

Fabulous Foster and Adoption Group

6-8 p.m.

Summers-Knoll Elementary School on 2203 Platt Road in Ann Arbor

PARC is proud to join together with the Fabulous Foster and Adoption Group for this once a month meeting in Washtenaw County. This group meets on the first Monday of the month at Summers-Knoll Elementary School on 2203 Platt Road in Ann Arbor from 6-8 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy chatting over dinner from 6-6:30. After dinner, the adults meet while the older kids join PARC staff for a special youth group meeting, and childcare is offered for younger kids. There is a nominal fee for childcare. For more information or to RSVP please email Jennifer_Pedley@judsoncenter.org.

May 21, 2015

A-OK Parent's Group

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Hands Across the Water, 781 Avis Drive, Suite 200, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Details: The A-OK Parent's Group seeks to provide support to families investigating or experiencing the challenges of foster care and adoption. Families come together to share their experiences and gather advice from others who have been there. This group is facilitated by a licensing worker who has also been a foster parent and an adoptive parent. Please call 734-477-0135 or email kristen@hatw.org to pre-register.

For more information, contact MARE Recruitment Specialist, Jessica Thompson at jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org