

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.



Hold it!

SIMPLIFYING MARE HOLD REPORTS

WRITTEN BY **LAURA RUTKOWSKI, MARE ADOPTION WORKER LIAISON**

MARE tracks foster care adoptions for the entire state of Michigan from the first month an agency accepts the case until the child has been legally placed by the court. There are common steps that occur for all adoptions: completing the identified family's adoption addendum, negotiating subsidy contracts, obtaining MCI consent, but there are also significant variables that effect *how and when* these steps occur for each child's case.

This information is crucial for DHHS and private agency partners to know; that's why adoption specialists provide updates on these steps and variables in the form of MARE Hold Reports (ADM 710). This policy was updated effective June 1. Here are some things to consider along with new information.

- Hold reports are submitted 6 months from the date the child is registered on Hold with MARE, and quarterly thereafter until the child is legally placed by the court. Six-month Hold reports are submitted from the Primary Adoption Worker's Worker Dashboard and saved in the child's MARE profile upon approval. Quarterly Hold reports are accessed in the "Worker Forms" section of the MARE Website located in the "For Professionals" heading, and are submitted to MARE via fax, email or mail. In the future, quarterly hold reports will also be submitted from the Primary Adoption Worker's Worker Dashboard. Stay tuned!

- The Hold report requires the Primary Adoption Worker to select the "Reason for continuation of the hold." This is the step of the adoption you are currently working on. You can only select one reason, but don't worry. The next section will allow you to provide more information See **Holds**, on page 2

Hold, continued from page 1

that relates to the other steps you've completed.

- The "Detailed explanation of the continued hold" is the place to provide information on the variables of the case. Rather than restating the selected reason, add further details. For example, if the AFA is not complete, the detailed explanation can clarify why. In many cases, the family is waiting for references, or the relative has been slow in completing paperwork for the 3130. Another current trend is documentation issues related to MiSACWIS. This seems to effect almost all the steps of the adoption process so gaining information on this issue will help DHHS fix the bugs. To appropriately report this, select "Documentation issues" as the reason for the continued hold, but elaborate in the "Detailed explanation" the specific circumstances related to MiSACWIS.

- The list of possible reasons for the continued hold is extensive. Please do not select "Other" unless the reason is not listed. Selecting "Other" when it

is not appropriate affects data that is reported to DHHS each month. We want to ensure the Hold reports accurately reflect the percentages of cases that are in each step towards completion, to better understand trends and patterns occurring within our state.

- The family name listed on the Hold report must be the same family currently listed with the child's MARE Registration Status. If the prospective adoptive family changes at any point in the child's case, the Primary Adoption Worker must update the child's MARE profile with the new family's name and DHS 4809. This will create an updated date of Hold and subsequent Hold reports.

- Hold reports are considered on time as long as they're submitted within 15 days of the due date. That's six months from the date of hold and again 90 days thereafter, if needed.

If Primary Adoption Workers or Supervisors have any questions regarding MARE Hold reports, feel free to contact MARE's Data Analyst, Chaely Chartier or me, MARE's Adoption Worker Liaison, Laura Rutkowski. MARE is here to help. You can "Hold" us to it!

Save the Date
July 27th & 28th

Creating Lasting
Permanency for MI Children

Statewide
Adoption
Worker
Conference

Location: DoubleTree-Bay City

Hosted by: Department of Health and Human Services

Adoption worker participation highly recommended.

Contact: Erin Setla-setlae@michigan.gov

Top 25 Reasons to Foster/Adopt a Teen

1. Everyone deserves to be special to someone.
2. No diapers required.
3. We sleep through the night. And sometimes half the morning.
4. No more carpools. We can drive you places.
5. You don't have to wait 10 or 12 years to see if we remember what you taught us. Instant gratification.
6. Because where would you be in life without the support of YOUR parents?
7. Because every kid deserves a loving family to rebel against.
8. Train your future caregivers.
9. We'll do our own laundry. Sometimes.
10. When we go to college, we want to know we can always come back.
11. We'll keep you young at heart.

12. We'll let you know when your old clothes are back in style.
13. We'll be ready to move out sooner.
14. Less hours on the phone with tech support. We'll fix it for you.
15. An excuse to go to all the high school basketball games again.
16. You can practice patience, kindness and empathy.
17. You'll never be bored.
18. Some of us never had a family dinner until we met you.
19. Because all kids grow up to be teens eventually.
20. Sick of Dora the Explorer? We'll watch Survivor with you.
21. We're not morning people either.
22. You won't have to read us

- the same book fifteen times every night.
23. We'll teach U 2 txt smile emoticon
24. Some nights we can cook dinner for you.
25. You may have missed my first day of kindergarten, but you can be there to watch me graduate!



Photos:
Stephannie Dobbins,
Aly Darin

To talk to one of MARE's Adoption Navigators about waiting teens such as Mauricio and Tayonna, call 800-589-6273 or visit www.mare.org for more information.

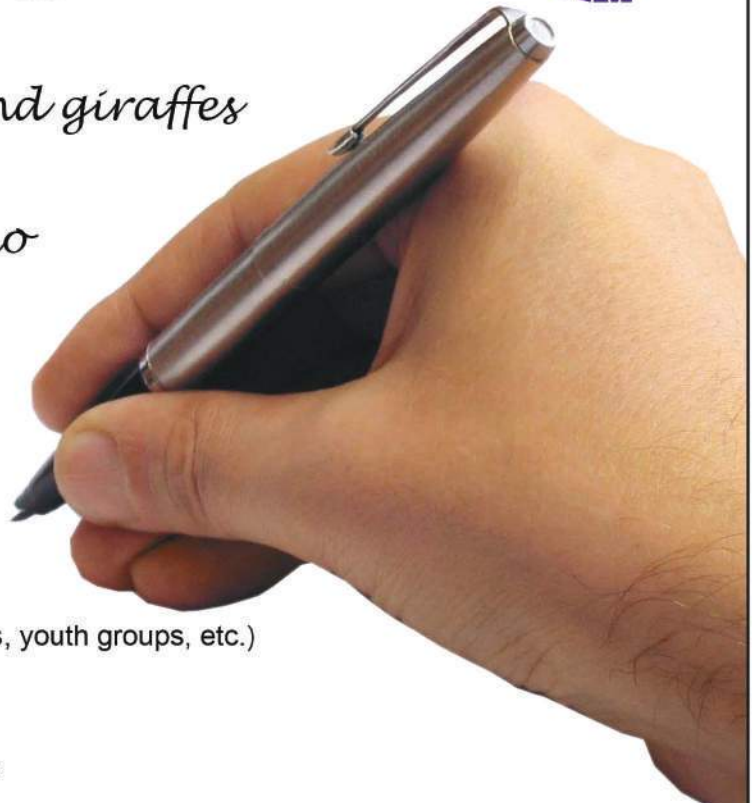
List courtesy <https://www.facebook.com/operationforeverfamily>



ALL ABOUT ME!



- ☺ My favorite food is: *Mac n cheese with hot dogs added*
- ☺ My favorite color is: *Green and white*
- ☺ My favorite animal is: *Elephants and giraffes*
- ☺ My favorite toy/game is: *Twister, Uno*
- ☺ My favorite subject in school is: *Math*
- ☺ My favorite thing to do after school is: *Eat*
- ☺ Activities I participate in include: (clubs, sports, youth groups, etc.)
- ☺ My favorite thing(s) to do on the weekend are:



HELPING TO MAKE YOUR KIDS SHINE ON THE MARE WEBSITE

Use these tools for telling terrific tales about them

WRITTEN BY **MARK FISK,**

MARE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

You know that all the children on the MARE website are extraordinary, yet conveying their amazing attributes in a narrative sometimes becomes difficult.

That's why getting the "What I Want People To Know About Me" – or "All About Me" – and the "What Others Say" forms filled out is important. These MARE forms can make a child's narrative outstanding.

For instance, check out the narrative for Samuel (C06032). His worker not only had Samuel fill out the youth form, but she also completed the "What Others Say" document. As a result, adoptive families learn that Samuel wants to travel to China and that "his smile lights up a

room."

Getting the forms filled out can lead to attention-getters such as the one for Marcus (C08346) that reads, "When Marcus opens a can of worms, it's not because of trouble." Since Marcus filled out the "All About Me" form, potential adoptive families learn that he loves fishing so much that some famous TV anglers better watch out for their jobs.

Filling out the "What Others Say" form becomes particularly helpful when children are unsure about their adoption plan and aren't forthcoming with information about themselves. Even if you don't know much about a child, chances are pretty good that someone at the child's placement knows more. He or she can fill out the form to provide more details for a narrative.

The forms also come in handy when meeting a child on your caseload face-

to-face for the first time. You can print the forms and take them with you as a way to get acquainted with the child and set him or her at ease.

By having the forms filled out, you supply MARE with more information about the children you oversee, which leads to better stories about how incredible they are. The forms provide a unique insight into each child's personality that can be conveyed in his or her narrative.

And because children's likes and dislikes as well as personalities constantly change, you can use the forms for the yearly updates of their narratives.

The "What I Want People To Know About Me" and the "What Others Say" forms are available to workers at [www.mare.org/ForProfessionals/WorkerForms/tabid/167/ FolderID/18624/Default.aspx](http://www.mare.org/ForProfessionals/WorkerForms/tabid/167/FolderID/18624/Default.aspx)

Meet the Buczkos: A family with room and love to spare

WRITTEN BY **KELLI OSTROSKY,**
MARE ADOPTION NAVIGATOR

This calm, patient family of two is hoping to grow their family through adoption.

John and Andrea look forward to sharing their relaxed rural lifestyle with one child or two children who would do well with animals. They live on a 200-acre farm not too far from town and have ample space to expand their family in their hearts and home.

"It's a good place for children to use up their energy exploring and actively use their imaginations," the family says.

A school employee, Andrea is willing to actively advocate for a child's special needs and has received special training for children with behavioral challenges. John, a future stay-at-home parent, looks forward to serving as a positive male role model for a child in need. John understands the impact of hardships and looks forward to providing a sense of hope and understanding to a child or sibling group.

The family is approved for children of either gender and any race, between the ages of 5-18. They are approved for mild physical impairments and moderate emotional, mental and learning impairments.

For more information about this family, please view their family registry profile at:

www.mare.org > For Professionals > Family Directory > Advanced Search then enter their Listing #: F08648

Or contact the family's MARE Adoption Navigator, Kelli Ostrosky, at 734-528-2078 or kelli_ostrosky@judsoncenter.org.

Andrea has been trained in handling children with emotional impairments and various other special needs. John would have unlimited time to dedicate toward meeting the needs of children at home and in the community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 27, 2015

MARE Meet & Greet, Lansing

July 11, 2015

MARE Meet & Greet, Grand Rapids

July 25, 2015

MARE Meet & Greet, Plymouth

**MARE
Meet
&
Greet**

July 27-28, 2015

Statewide Adoption Worker Conference, Bay City

September 27, 2015

Kinship Adoption Festival, Belle Isle, Detroit

Talk with adoption workers and adoptive parents, attend informational workshops, participate in children's activities and meet some of the Detroit area's waiting children.

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

The name changes, but the goal is the same

MARE's waiting youth requested a change to the name "Match Party" for events that they along with prospective adoptive parents attend.

Youth said the name implied that if they attended the party, they'd be matched with a family. So we're changing the name to MARE Meet & Greet to put the focus on families and youth getting to know one another.