

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.

PROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER March 2014

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MICHIGAN HEART GALLERY 2014

GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
10:30AM - 2PM
EMAGINE ROYAL OAK
200 N. MAIN ST.
ROYAL OAK, MI 48067

GLORIA BY
MAREK DZIEKONSKI

You're invited to the 2014 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening event! The Michigan Heart Gallery is a traveling photographic exhibit featuring photos of youth currently in the foster care system waiting for their forever family. MARE worked with over 80 professional photographers from all areas of the state to make this display possible which showcases 150 waiting youth. The grand opening event will take place on Saturday, April 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak. This event is free to the general public and will include lunch, popcorn, a red carpet and more!

This informational event will include remarks from Department of Human Services Director Maura D. Corrigan, Judson Center CEO Cameron Hosner and the premier screening of the MARE Youth Video Project. MARE partnered with Wayne State University's Communications and Fine Arts Department to help seven waiting youth create their own recruitment video. In an effort to engage older teens, each youth worked with a Wayne State student for a hands-on experience. They learned interviewing techniques, how to operate all equipment, picked the location, created all content and assisted in the editing process. Videos will be used as a personalized recruitment tool for each teen after their debut.

Following the presentation, guests are encouraged to enjoy lunch and the unveiling of the 2014 Michigan Heart Gallery display. Various agencies from the

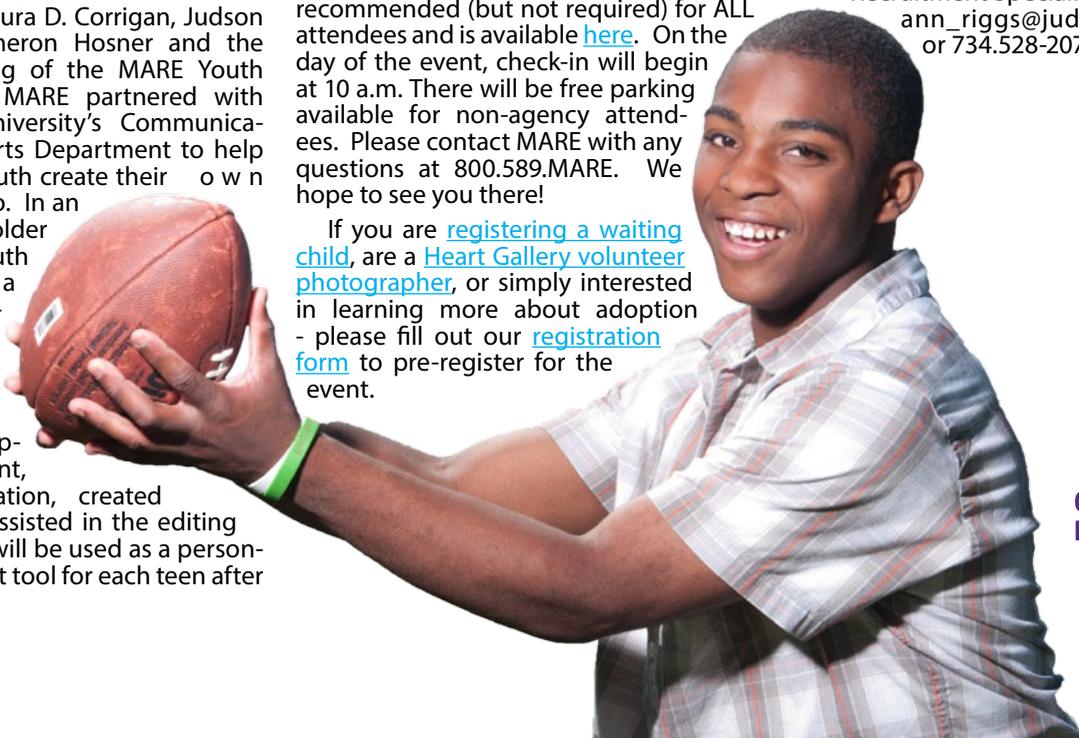
The 2014 Michigan Heart Gallery Exhibit will feature photographs of 150 waiting youth taken by over 80 professional photographers from all areas of the state.

tri-county area will be present to answer questions and help get you started on your adoption journey. Pre-registration is recommended (but not required) for ALL attendees and is available [here](#). On the day of the event, check-in will begin at 10 a.m. There will be free parking available for non-agency attendees. Please contact MARE with any questions at 800.589.MARE. We hope to see you there!

If you are [registering a waiting child](#), are a [Heart Gallery volunteer photographer](#), or simply interested in learning more about adoption - please fill out our [registration form](#) to pre-register for the event.

ADOPTION AGENCY TABLES:

We hope that you will join us at the Heart Gallery Grand Opening to recruit potential adoptive and foster families! There will be space for agencies to set up information tables. Please complete the [registration form to reserve your table](#). A confirmation will be sent to the registrant with further instructions a few weeks prior to the event. Please note: Due to space limitations, agencies may have to share tables. In addition, priority will be given to agencies who facilitate foster care adoption. Additional supportive services who wish to have a table will be accommodated as space allows. If you have any questions, please contact MARE Recruitment Specialist Ann Riggs at ann_riggs@judsoncenter.org or 734.528-2070.



QUA'VON BY
PHOTO BOUTIQUE

THE TIME-OUT ISSUE

Troubleshooting When Photolisting a Child

BY: BRANDON MONZON, MARE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

As many of you may know, there is a time-out issue on the MARE website. This time-out generally occurs when a worker is trying to fill out all of the information on the profile tab of a child's face sheet. A worker will put a lot of time and effort into crafting the information needed, only to submit it and have it say there is missing information. In a lot of cases, on the error page, it won't even let you select certain fields. We understand this can be very frustrating, especially after you've spent forty minutes typing everything up. We are aware of the situation and are currently testing and working on a fix for the issue. This tends to be an issue most with Internet Explorer, but we have seen it pop up on all of the different types of Internet browsers.

Unfortunately, that means for the time being, the time out issue will need to be addressed through alternative means to help alleviate any issues workers may be presented with. Please refer to this sheet if you get the time-out issue and use the tips listed to help work around the error until a permanent fix is in place.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NARRATIVE & WORKER/AGENCY TABS!

If you are in a child's profile and able to edit it, you are already one of the assigned workers. Also, the Narrative tab is only editable by a MARE staff member. Any information that you want to be added to the child's narrative can be added under the

"Child's Personality, how does the child describe himself/herself & current caregiver or other adult input" section.

The screenshot shows a web form titled 'Child's Personality' with three sections: 'CHILD'S PERSONALITY', 'How does the child describe himself/herself?', and 'Current caregiver or other adult input'. Red arrows point to the text input fields in each section, indicating where information should be entered.

The only time you should need to access the Worker/Agency tab is when you are adding a supervisor, recruiter or another worker to replace yourself as the primary adoption worker.

COPY & PASTE YOUR WORK BEFORE SUBMITTING!

While the time-out issue is being addressed by our tech people, we strongly encourage workers to copy & paste all of the information they add into a Word document, as you go. This way, if you do get the time out issue, you will have all the information you typed handily available to copy & paste. Another solution is to open a new tab or window and log back into the child's profile to copy & paste the information again and hit submit. You can also feel free to e-mail the Word document to a MARE staff member as well.

UPLOADING ISSUES!

We have noticed that some errors are the result of uploading items to a child's

profile.

* All photos that are uploaded should be **smaller than 2MB** and be a **JPEG** (that means the file should have a .jpg or .jpeg after it's filename). If you have a file that is larger than 2MB or in a different format, please re-size it down or e-mail it to Marco (Marco_Ruggeri@judsoncenter.org).

* If you try to upload a photo along with the recruitment plan and consent form, you may also get an error message. It is suggested that a worker either uploads only the picture or just the recruitment plan and consent form together. You can then e-mail, Laura (Laura_Rutkowski@judsoncenter.org) the remaining documents. If it is easier, you can just e-mail Laura all three pieces at the same time and she will upload them to the child's profile.

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO CALL!

We understand these issues are very frustrating. If you are running into issues submitting information to photolist or update a child's profile, please do not close out of their file. This will result in all of your information being lost and having to re-enter it from scratch. If you run into issues, please refer to this sheet. If you are still having issues please do not be afraid to call Laura (734.528.2018), and she will help you troubleshoot these and any other issues that may arise.

ADOPTION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

MSU Continuing Education Program in Metro Detroit

Michigan State University's continuing education program is offering an Adoption Certificate Series. This program is designed to help clinicians working with adoptive families meet the unique needs of this population. It contains five adoption-focused courses that provide a foundation for adoption-centered practice for mental health therapists and adoption professionals. Practitioners are encouraged to take any of the classes offered, even if completion of the overall Certificate is not the goal.

Please check out two of the course descriptions below as part the Adoption Certificate Series. If you are interested in registering or have questions regarding the program please contact Rosemary Jackson at 248.227.1081 or by e-mail at jacks807@msu.edu.

TREATING & SUPPORTING ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: CHANGE THE LENS, CHANGE THE LIFE

Description: The challenges facing parents and children of adoptive families can often result in tremendous stress. This stress can be expressed through destructive acting out behavior, resulting in fractured family relationships. This can lead to more acting out for both child and adult, creating a negative vicious cycle. This cycle can lead to a sense of hopelessness. In this course, participants will learn how to assist families in accessing their innate health through understanding concepts related to trauma, attachment, and the power of thought. Concrete strategies will be taught to support solid family relationships based on neurobiology, mindfulness principles, self regulation, and trauma informed attachment parenting.

INTERVENING WITH FAMILIES WHOSE ADOPTIONS ARE IN JEOPARDY

Description: This workshop will examine the issues adoptive families face that influence their decision to disrupt/dissolve their adoption. Information about adoption disruptions and dissolutions will be shared, and participants will be given an opportunity to consider the factors that can lead to a failed adoption. Approaches to intervening to lessen the risk of an adoption failing will be provided, and the typical dynamics of an adoption disruption will be discussed. Ways to help children and families cope with the threat of failed adoptions will be explored.

You can register for these courses online [here](#).

RECENT MCI CHANGES

BY: WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE SUPERINTENDENT

The MCI office recently moved. The mailing address is 235 S. Grand Ave. Suite 514. Our fax number is still 517-335-6177.

There has been a recent change of county director for Jackson County due to the tragic and sudden death of Jerome Colwell. As of Feb. 2, 2014, Zoe Lyons has been appointed as the director for Jackson Co. Expedited consents for Jackson Co. can be submitted to her for review and approval. Ms. Lyons is no longer the director in Ingham County. Carol Kehoe has been appointed director in Ingham on an acting basis. Expedited consents for Ingham Co. should be sent to the MCI office for review until a permanent director is appointed.

There will be several changes of other county directors due to recent realignments of certain coun-

ties and changes to the BSC assignments. These become effective on Feb. 17, 2014.

After Feb. 17 the changes in county alignment will be effective. There is a [spreadsheet on the DHS website](#) with information about county directors that workers can refer to. This spreadsheet will be updated by Feb. 17. The director in Mason and Oceana is an acting director at this time. Expedited consents from those counties should continue to be sent to the MCI office until a permanent director is appointed.

I'm also working on a Communication Issuance (CI) which will be distributed through the Monday morning Weekly Staff News announcement.

The MCI Office can be contacted at 517.335.6421

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE RATE NEGOTIATION

What Adoption Workers Need To Know

Effective January 21, 2014, the process for adoption assistance applications was updated to include the use of a newly created form, the [DHS-959, Adoption Assistance Rate Negotiation/Determination Worksheet](#). This form was developed by DHS to insure Michigan is in compliance with federal law regarding setting adoption assistance rates that are based on the needs of the child and the circumstances of the family.

All [DHS-1341-A, Request for Medical Subsidy for An Adopted Child](#) sent to the Adoption Subsidy Office must be accompanied by the DHS-959, Adoption Assistance Rate Negotiation/Determination Worksheet. These forms can be found on the DHS website under [Adoption Forms](#).

Please refer to the [Adoption Assistance Rate Negotiation training Power Point](#) for further information and guidance on this new process. General questions and concerns about the negotiation process can be sent to AdoptNegotiation@michigan.gov. Specific case questions should be made through your agency's assigned Adoption Subsidy Office caseworker. The current contact list can be found [here](#).



Kyron is a young teen who has a smile that lights up his whole face. He wants families to know, "I'm a nice kid!" Kyron showcases his excellent humor by telling jokes to others. He likes to eat hamburgers and bake brownies. Kyron is a sports fan, both watching and playing them. His favorite sports are football, baseball and basketball. Kyron's favorite teams are the Buffalo Bills, Chicago Bulls and Chicago White Sox. He also likes to go bowling, play ping pong and play skee-ball at Chuck E. Cheese. Kyron notes that he likes to watch WWE wrestling as well. He reported that he enjoys participating in his local church youth group. When Kyron grows up he would like to be a builder and build houses. He is a very hard worker and enjoys doing jobs for extra allowance. If Kyron could go anywhere on Earth, he said, "I'd like to see animals anywhere, like zoos or Africa, because I like soft and furry animals." If he could have three wishes he reported, "I would want to go fishing every single day, have my own bowling alley and go to the store to buy a lot of clothes."

Kyron says, "I'd like to have a forever family that will want to play games with me!" He added that when he thinks of adoption

he thinks of having people to talk with and waiting for the best family for him. Kyron wants his forever family to know that he will try his best because he really wants a family. Kyron is in need of an adoptive family that can provide him a warm, caring and loving home in which he can thrive. He does best with structure, routine and consistency in his daily schedule. Kyron would benefit from a transitional period to really get to know his adoptive family. The family must be able to provide Kyron with guidance and encouragement on improving his social skills and effectively managing his emotions. The adoptive family will need to be active advocates and a true ally to Kyron to ensure he receives all the necessary support he needs to achieve his goals. The family must continue and seek out any additional support services that would be beneficial in helping him transition into his forever family. Kyron adds, "What most makes me feel like I belong in a family is being held, cuddled and talked to."

For more information about Kyron and to view his video and profile, visit www.mare.org.

2014 Michigan Teen Conference • Wed-Thurs • June 18-19

This special conference is for youth ages 14-21 preparing to exit foster care, their caregivers and the professionals who work with them.

Wednesday-Thursday **June 18-19, 2014** at
Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI

**Promote this event with foster youth and
be pro-active: secure funding now!**

Funding sources: YIT • MYOI • Private fund raising
Use registration form to calculate cost for your funding request.

ONLINE REGISTRATION
COMING SOON TO www.michfed.org



Find the conference
on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/MichiganTeenConference>

Also find conference details at
www.michfed.org

EARLY CONFERENCE SPONSORS INCLUDE:

Fostering Success Michigan
Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Michigan Department of Human Services–Youth In Transition
Michigan Federation for Children & Families

Use Sponsor Form provided to add your name to this list!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 8, 2014

Brighton MARE Match Party

11am - 2pm

E-mail Ann Riggs at ann_riggs@judsoncenter.org to register.

March 22, 2014

Fenton Match Party

12pm - 3pm

E-mail Ann Riggs at ann_riggs@judsoncenter.org to register.

April 5, 2014

Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening

10:30 am – 2 pm (registration/check-in opens at 10 a.m.)

Royal Oak Emagine Theatre

200 N. Main St. Royal Oak, MI 48067

Pre-registration is recommended & is available on the MARE website.

Free to general public

Program includes remarks from Department of Human Services

Director Maura D. Corrigan, Judson Center CEO Cameron Hosner and

the premier screening of the MARE Youth Video Project.

April 24, 2014

Circle of Light

6pm - 7pm

CARE House

44765 Woodward Ave.

Pontiac, MI 48341

(CARE House is located just north of Pontiac St. Joe's)

Circle of Light is celebrating the dreams of children and honoring those who make dreams come true.

Light refreshments will follow the event.

E-mail Charles Ludwig at dudwig@carehouse.org to RSVP or contact him by calling 248.332.7173

June 7, 2014

Hersey Match Party

TBD

E-mail Ann Riggs at ann_riggs@judsoncenter.org to register

View a comprehensive list of events at www.mare.org.

HOW DO YOU PREPARE CHILDREN & FAMILIES FOR ADOPTION?

They say a worker is only as good as the tools they have to use. MARE and the state Adoption Oversight Committee (AOC) have recognized that Michigan's adoption workers have limited tools to use while preparing our youth & families for adoption. MARE is currently working to create a resource library for adoption workers containing books, activities, tip-sheets, scholarly articles and whatever other creative tools are available to support this transition preparation. Our goal is to provide materials for adoption workers to utilize and share with other professionals on the child's recruitment team to better prepare children of all ages and cognitive abilities, as well as the families they will be joining permanently. What do you use? What would you like made available to you? Please send your ideas and resources to Heidi Raubenolt at Heidi_raubenolt@judsoncenter.org.