Meet Tashiana C06141!

Tashiana is a loving child with a great spirit. Tashiana’s laughter and smile can fill the hearts of individuals who work with her. She is an active and outgoing child who enjoys interacting with others. Tashiana says that she wants a family to want her and truly treat her like she is a part of their family. She would like to be adopted by a family who shares in and supports her interest in staying active. Church is a very important aspect of her life. She would like for her future parents to have her involved in as many activities as possible. She reports, “The most important thing I would like other people to know about me is that I like to sing and dance!”

Tashiana needs an experienced family who understands how past experiences can influence current behaviors. A caring and committed family who gives her plenty of structure and positive individual attention would be best. Church is a very important aspect of her life. She would like for her future parents to have her involved in as many activities as possible. She reports, “The most important thing I would like other people to know about me is that I like to sing and dance!”

To inquire about Tashiana, contact MARE at 800-589-6273 or visit www.mare.org

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

MARE is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is proud to announce a brand new, user-friendly website! The new website will allow families to jump into the driver’s seat of adoption, stay involved and organized all while having a better understanding of the adoption process.

For anyone who has seen the sweet faces on the MARE website and has submitted an inquiry to learn more, the process is not exactly cut and dry. From technical issues and record keeping lists to the “hurry up and wait” period, followed by the “what ever happened with that inquiry?” moment, it can be exhausting and downright hard. I must admit, having a lack of control and being “in the backseat” has never been my strongpoint.

While the behind the scenes processes haven’t changed, the new website gives families greater control. One of the main changes will be the family dashboard. Later in the summer, families will be able to update their family information for their family profile, upload photos, and have real-time updates of their inquiries!

The inquiry process has been made easier for families as well. After a one-time registration, families can simply log in and select the children they want to inquire about and submit an inquiry – no more refilling out your data every time you inquire about a child!

Each registered family will also gain access to a private dashboard. This is where past inquiries will be listed, including any updates MARE has on the status of each inquiry.

Heidi Reubeneit, Program Manager at MARE explains: “It allows for inquiries to be made on specific children that will be sent directly to the child’s assigned adoption worker and the family’s assigned worker as well. This will allow for quicker response times from workers and the ability of the family to see the response from each worker in real time; eliminating the need for families to contact MARE to find out the status of their inquiry.”

There is also an addition of a colored light system for “stages of holds.” Heidi Reubeneit describes the changes:

“Families will now be able to search the child photolists and filter out children who have a match pending or whose workers are already inundated with homestudies.” Since all of the photolisted youth are in various stages of meeting their forever families, this addition will guide families towards more productive inquiries.

Some of the new features are available now; others will be rolled out or improved in time. For example, the stages of holds colored light system will become more and more useful for families over time as the children’s workers get accustomed to the new site and start keeping that status regularly updated.

We are excited at MARE about these new changes and look forward to the positive outcomes which will result. So buckle up, keep your eyes on the road, and let’s enjoy navigating this new path together!
MARE Calendar of Events

Dates and event details are subject to change. Please check the MARE website and contact event organizers for updated information.

June 28, 2013
Ennis Center Community Health Fair
Ennis Center for Children, 20100 Greenfield, Detroit, MI 48235
12pm – 5pm
There is free admission to this event, which includes: child and adult health screenings, child and adult fitness activities, hotdogs, hamburgers, & snacks, vendors, food trucks, prizes, and more.

July 1, 2013
Washtenaw County Support Group for Adoptive and Foster Parents
Genesis of Ann Arbor
6:30pm – 8:30pm
Please contact Christine Moeiellinger 734-644-1530

July 7, 2013
Traverse City Parent Connections Group
West Side Community Church
6pm – 8pm
Please RSVP to Kirsten Boeve at either 231-590-8644 or kboeve@bethany.org

July 8, 2013
Muskegon Parent Group
DHHS on Baker Street, Muskegon
Support group is from 5pm 6pm and training is from 6pm-7pm
RSVP to Mary Doctor at 231.726.1200 ext. 216 or by email at mdoctor@cwservicesi.org

July 20, 2013
Kalamazoo County Match Party
Kalamazoo
11am – 2pm
Check the MARE website for registration details.

July 24, 2013
Adoptive Parent Support Group
Jackson Center, 12220 13 Mile Pk., Warren, MI 48088
6pm – 8pm
Contact Pam Ferguson at pamela_ferguson@judsoncenter.org or 810-732-8510

August 3, 2013
Macomb County Match Party
Sterling Heights
11am – 2pm
Check the MARE website for registration details.

August 9, 2013
Adopting Older Kids Support Group
HANDs Across the Water, Ann Arbor
6:30pm – 8:00pm

August 20, 2013
Raising Healthy Families Support Group
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids
6pm – 8pm
To register email registration@altar.org or call 616.458.7945

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

Boredom Busters

Create a one-of-a-kind piece of art to celebrate your individuality.

Attend a support group or playgroup with other families to challenge those social skills.

Develop a summer reading check-off list. Include titles which hold significance to you or your family such as “A Home for Chocs.”

Learn a new skill such as dance or sports and learn to trust and build emotional connections to others.

Take on a service project such as pulling weeds in a schoolyard to improve the environment.

Plant a tree to celebrate your adoption milestones.

Watch an adoption-themed movie such as “Dinosaur” or “Hotel for Dogs.”

Recall events to reinforce what makes your family special.

Create a new family bedtime ritual and tell your child “You are special because ______.” Come up with a new reason every night and build up your child’s self-esteem.

Cook or bake something special for a sensory experience (Fresh squeezed lemonade or homemade ice cream, anyone?)

Take part in a cultural activity to prepare for a crisis cultural adoption or further expose your child to his or her culture.

10 Things Adoptive Parents Should Know

By: Amberlynne Finet, former MARE Youth

Amberlynne was in the foster care system for 12 years and photolisted on the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange. She was adopted in 2011.

Everyone, at some point, has wished that they told their parents what they were thinking, or what they should know about them. For some reason, whether that is because they were scared to do so, or were afraid of the consequences, or they thought it and then forgot it until years or even decades later, we don’t always tell parents these things. With children in the system, we go through something like this at some point, but because we feel like our thoughts and opinions don’t matter, we keep these thoughts bottled inside, myself included. So, here are ten things that parents should know:

1) We’re not as adaptive to change as you might think we are. The myth is “Well, since they moved around so much, maybe they will easily adapt to our family.” This is not the case. It takes us a while to settle in, and we wish that parents would be patient.

2) We really like affection. Affection is one of the ways to help build relationships.

3) Coming to school activities really does matter. When you are there it says that you care what we do and that you support us.

4) Don’t yell at us. Yelling will neither fix your issue nor will it help us out in any way. In fact, yelling will do nothing but scare us because of previous experiences.

5) Talk to us. Sometimes we know that we frustrate our parents. So, talk to us. Ask us what’s going on or have a family meeting.

6) We like it when you include us in things. We understand when you get busy, but we would like to go with you to places, even if it’s just down the road to the store.

7) Ask us how our day was. We might sometimes roll our eyes at all but it makes us feel good.

8) Don’t be super noisy. While we don’t mind telling you things, having to know every single thing we’re doing can be really annoying, as well as make us feel like you don’t trust us.

9) Teach us things. Especially for the older kids, people assume that we know how to do things just because we’re older, but that’s not the case at all, and it’s important that we learn how to fend for ourselves in the world.

10) Lastly, just know that we love you. Through grumpy days, happy days, emotional days, frustrating days, and everything in between, we love you with everything we have. It might take us a while to build a trust with you, but we love you and someday we will show you just how much we do.