

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE



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Samariya's noble dream to help other youth, Page 4.



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Winter 2018

A spotlight on children waiting for permanent and loving families

Miriah C09319

Miriah's likes:

- Playing house and playing with Barbies with her friends.
- Reading the Baby-Sitters Club book series.
- Watching the movie "Monster House."

Qualities of a forever family:

- A mom and dad who can give her the one-on-one attention she needs.
- Knowledge of the impact of trauma on a child.

"I'm friendly and I like being around people."

Photo by
Hannah Dunne



Welcome to the Winter 2018 Recruitment Periodical, published by the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE). Over the next several pages, you will be introduced to some of the youth in Michigan who are waiting to have a loving, supportive and permanent family of their own through adoption. The children featured here represent hundreds of other children in the Michigan foster care system who are waiting to become part of a loving family through adoption. To learn more about these children and adoption, visit www.mare.org.

On the MARE website, you will find photos, narratives and video clips of children waiting to be adopted, as well as a wealth of information about adoption, including links to adoption-related resources.

If you have been thinking about adoption, we invite you to consider bringing an older child or sibling group into your life. If you have questions about adoption or are ready to begin the adoption process, simply call one of the agencies listed in the back of this periodical or contact an adoption navigator at 800-589-6273. MARE is available to answer your adoption-related questions, and we will do our best to get you headed in the right direction.

Save the date: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Join us at the Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening

The Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening is a great event that you won't want to miss. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2018, at the Emagine Theatre in Royal Oak. The show features the unveiling of this year's Michigan Heart Gallery, a traveling photographic exhibit featuring photos of youth currently in the foster care system waiting for their forever family through adoption.



The festivities also include food and refreshments and a red carpet where many waiting youth will walk and get their pictures taken. This year's Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening includes a special feature film that we're sure you'll love. So, mark your calendars, and come join us for this truly remarkable event. Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

Who are the children who wait for adoption?

Adopting a child from foster care is often referred to as “special needs” adoption. Common traits of children waiting to be adopted from foster care include:

- Children school aged and above.
- Children with emotional, mental, learning or physical impairments.
- Children of minority backgrounds.
- Children who are part of a sibling group who must be placed together.

Many of these children have had traumatic past experiences that may include physical, sexual or emotional abuse and/or severe neglect. Others may have been born drug or alcohol exposed.

Around 93 percent of children in Michigan’s foster care system are adopted by the child’s current foster family or a relative (someone with whom the child has an established relationship). The remaining children available for adoption, like those in this periodical and on the MARE website, don’t have an identified family to adopt them. Recruitment of a suitable adoptive family is, therefore, necessary.

More than 98 percent of the children available for adoption without an identified family are over the age of 5. More than 75 percent of those children are between the ages of 11 and 18.

Who can adopt a “waiting” child?

Many people may be surprised to learn that they do not have to be married in order to adopt a child from the foster care system. Potential adoptive parents do not have to own their own home or have a lot of money. They must have enough space in their home and adequate income to support a child. It is important to know that many children waiting for adoption are eligible to receive adoption assistance to help adoptive families meet the children’s needs.

How much does it cost to adopt a child from foster care?

The only costs you should incur from adopting a child from Michigan’s foster care system are court filing and birth certificate fees. Some agencies may charge a fee for the Family Assessment (also known as a Home Study); however, once you adopt a child through Michigan’s foster care system, that fee is reimbursed to you.

What is the adoption process?

Families must be approved through the Adoptive Family Assessment process before a child can be placed in their home for adoption. An Adoptive Family Assessment must be completed by a licensed adoption agency (which can be found in the back of this periodical and on www.mare.org) and can take an average of six months to complete. The Adoptive Family Assessment includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Personal history.
- Health statements.
- Criminal background check.
- Income statement.
- Personal references.

Once the Adoptive Family Assessment is complete, you may start submitting inquiries to MARE about children you may be interested in adopting. When you inquire about children through the MARE website, your information will be sent by MARE to the child’s adoption worker for consideration. Your worker will also be notified that you have inquired about a specific child or children.

Daniel’s likes:

- Playing basketball and football.
- Swimming, riding bikes and going to the park.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced parents who have knowledge of the impact of trauma on a child.
- Strong advocates for the services that will help Daniel thrive.

Daniel C08521



Samariya's likes:

- Sharing a laugh with others.
- Participating in soccer, basketball and cross country.
- Watching movies, going to the mall and playing games.
- Playing with dolls.
- Spending time with friends.
- Attending math and science classes.

Samariya's crystal ball:

- Wants to become a lawyer.
- Traveling to Florida and Hawaii to surf.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two parents or a single-female parent with a strong support network.
- Knowledgeable of the impact of trauma on a child.
- Youngest or only child in the home.
- Strong advocates for the services that will benefit Samariya.

**"I've been through a lot,
so I want to do some good
for other kids."**

Did you know?

MARE has a valuable resource for new adoptive families at mare.org. Click on For Families > New To Adoption. You'll find information about the adoption process such as how to get started and find support along the way. You can find licensed agencies in your area and information about the children listed at mare.org. If you have questions, call 800-589-6273.

Brendon's likes:

- Taking things apart and putting them back together.
- Working on cars and in the woodshop.
- Going to work and munching on pizza when he gets home.
- Collecting Hot Wheels cars.
- Shopping or going to the movies on the weekends.

Brendon's crystal ball:

- Hopes to become a welder or auto mechanic.

- Wants to get his driver's license and buy a Ford Raptor to go traveling.
- Hopes to visit Tennessee because "I've been there before, and it's beautiful."

Qualities of a forever family:

- Prefers to have a mom and dad.
- The only or youngest child.
- Knowledge of the impact of trauma on a child.
- Strong advocates for the services that will help him thrive.
- Open to letting Brendon maintain contact with his sister.

"I am able to pick up tasks quickly."



*Photo by
Hannah Dunne*

Jorge's likes:

- Watching Marvel superhero movies.
- Anything with Adam Sandler in it.
- Listening to music, particularly heavy metal, rock, rap and alternative music.
- Solving puzzles such as Sudoku.
- Attending science class.
- Doing well in school.

Jorge's crystal ball:

- Wants to become a chemical engineer or forensic scientist.

Qualities of a forever family:

- A single mother or a mom and dad.
- Would thrive with a male role model.
- The only or youngest child.
- Willing to advocate for any services that would benefit Jorge.

"I'm smart, friendly, helpful and respectful."

Photo by Hannah Dunne





Tichelle’s likes:

- Singing and dancing.
- Going to science class.
- Filling up on pizza and mac ‘n cheese.

Tichelle’s crystal ball:

- Looks forward to having fun, talking and dancing with a future forever family.

Qualities of a forever family:

- A single mom who is patient and experienced.
- Knowledge of the impact of trauma on a child.
- Strong advocate for the services that will help Tichelle function at her best.
- Open to letting Tichelle maintain her sibling relationships.

“Tichelle is a fun and loving girl.”

“The one thing she wants is someone who’s going to love her and take care of her.”

Tichelle’s worker



Terri's likes:

- Eating pasta and ice cream.
- Taking walks, playing games, riding bikes and listening to music.
- Going to church.

Terri's crystal ball:

- Wishes to travel to Ireland to explore her Irish heritage.
- Wants to become a professional traveler.

- Looks forward to becoming part of a family who likes laughing, hiking, taking trips and watching movies.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced parents who will make sure that she receives the services she needs.
- Patient and caring as Terri processes her past and settles into her new family.

Helping families stay together

MARE's Match Support Program is a statewide service for families who have been matched with a child from the MARE website and are in the process of moving forward with an adoption. Match support specialists deliver up to 90 days of services to families by providing them support before and during the child's transition into the home with referrals to support groups, educational training opportunities and other recommendations to helpful community resources. For more information, contact MARE at 800-589-6273.

Photos by
Hannah Dunne



Deavonte’s likes:

- Playing football and basketball and watching sports on TV.
- Eating pizza and sweets.

Deavonte’s crystal ball:

- Wants to become a pro football player or a doctor.
- Dreams of traveling to Honduras to sample its cuisine.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two parents or a single parent with a strong support network.
- Strong advocates for the services that will help Deavonte excel.
- Only or youngest child in the family.

“I like to read;
I like sports books.”

“My favorite sports teams
are the Seattle Seahawks
and the Detroit Lions.”

“I’m smart, caring
and athletic. ”

“My favorite subject
in school is math
because I’m really
good at it.”





Photos by
Hannah Dunne

Nikkoley's likes:

- Munching on nachos, Mexican foods, teriyaki chicken and broccoli cheddar soup.
- Participating in tennis during and after school
- Swimming, riding bikes, playing video games, going on walks and listening to music.
- Celebrating holidays by being around family and friends.
- Sleeping in on weekends and enjoying a good breakfast once he awakens.

Qualities of a forever family:

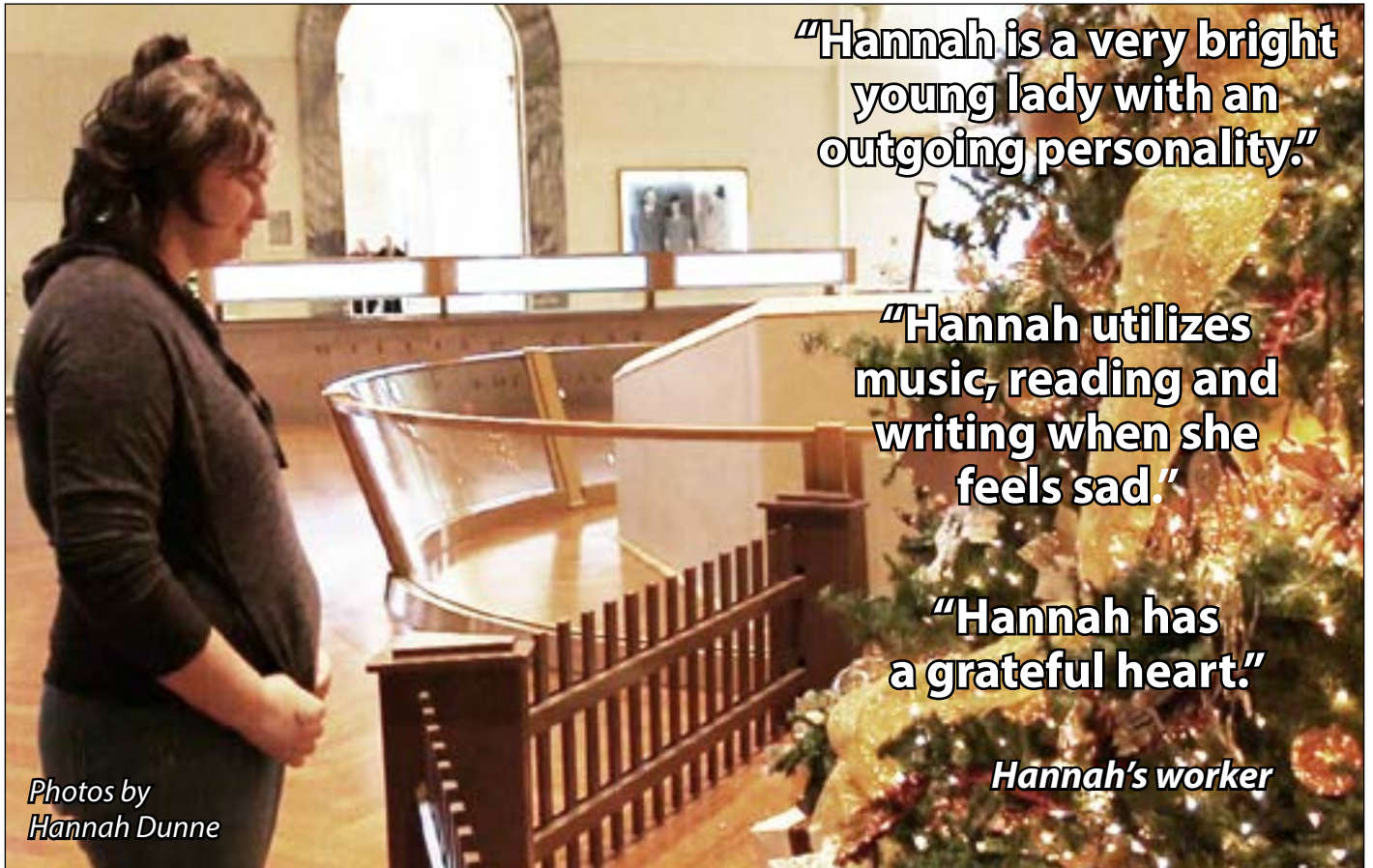
- A single mother or two parents.
- Willing to advocate for the services that will help Nikkoley.

- Able to provide the structure that Nikkoley thrives on.



"I like music because it keeps me positive."

"I want a family who loves music, too."



"Hannah is a very bright young lady with an outgoing personality."

"Hannah utilizes music, reading and writing when she feels sad."

"Hannah has a grateful heart."

Hannah's worker

Photos by Hannah Dunne



Hannah's likes:

- Singing and writing poetry.
- Painting, photography and doing crafts.
- Listening to music and reading romance and mystery novels.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced parents.
- Knowledge of the impact of trauma on a child.
- Fierce advocates for the services that will help Hannah function at her best.
- The youngest child.



Photos by
Hannah Dunne



Sophia’s likes:

- Playing sports, especially basketball.
- Helping others.

Intangible assets:

- Funny and outgoing girl who enjoys spending time with others.
- Accountable for her actions.

Sophia’s crystal ball:

- Wants to learn more about all sports.

Qualities of a forever family:

- A mom and dad or single-female parent who can provide the love and attention she needs.
- Knowledge of the impact of trauma on a child.

“She wants to be loved and respected by whoever adopts her.”

Sophia’s worker

Check out the MARE YouTube Channel to see videos of several of the children featured in the Winter 2018 Periodical at www.youtube.com/VideosbyMare.

*Photos by
Hannah Dunne*



Tyquan’s likes:

- Playing basketball and football.
- Exercising.
- Following the Detroit Lions.
- Watching Tom and Jerry.

Tyquan’s crystal ball:

- Wants to become a police officer or firefighter so he can help people.

Qualities of a forever family:

- Two experienced parents who can give him one-on-one attention.
- Only child in the home.
- Ability to provide structure and set appropriate expectations.

“I’m just an ordinary kid; I like to sing and all that kind of stuff.”

“They keep telling me I’m not a kid. I’m just a grown man in a kid’s body.”

“I am who I am; nobody can change that.”

“Have a blessed day, and go to mare.org to find me and other kids who need a home.”



Visit www.mare.org for a complete listing of agencies who license families for foster care, in addition to adoption homestudies, including your Michigan Department of Health and Human Services county office.

Adoption Agencies in Michigan

The following is a list of adoption agencies whose primary focus is facilitating the adoption of children from the foster care system. Many of these agencies may also provide foster care services. This agency list is organized by regions of the state. Please contact an agency in your area if you are interested in beginning the adoption process. For an interactive map of statewide licensed agencies, visit: <http://www.mare.org/For-Families/New-to-Adoption/Find-a-Licensed-Agency>

Upper Peninsula

Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Escanaba, 906-786-7212, www.cssup.org
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Iron Mountain, 906-774-3323, www.cssup.org
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-227-9119, www.cssup.org
Child & Family Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-228-4050, www.cfsup.org
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin & Upper MI, Marquette, 877-994-8344, www.lsswis.org
Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency, Sault Ste. Marie, 906-632-5250, www.saulttribe.com
Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan, Marquette, 906-249-5437, www.teachingfamilyhomes.org
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions, Marquette, 906-273-1095, www.upfs.org
U.P. Kids, Houghton, 906-487-9832, www.upkids.com

Northern & Central Lower Michigan

Adoption Option Inc., Midland, 989-839-0534, www.adoptionoptioninc.org
Bethany Christian Services, Fremont, 231-924-3390, www.bethany.org/fremont
Bethany Christian Services, Traverse City, 231-995-0870, www.bethany.org/traversecity
Catholic Family Services of the Diocese of Saginaw, Bay City, 989-797-6638, www.cfssite.org
Child & Family Services of Northeast MI, Alpena, 989-356-4567, www.cfsnemi.org
Child & Family Services of Northwest MI, Traverse City, 231-946-8975, www.cfsnwmi.org
Eagle Village, Hersey, 231-832-2234, www.eaglevillage.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Bay City, 989-686-3170, www.lasadoption.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Clare, 989-386-2101, www.lasadoption.org
New Light Child & Family Institute, Millington, 989-871-6695, www.newlightonline.net

Tri-County Area (Wayne, Oakland & Macomb Counties)

Bethany Christian Services, Madison Heights, 248-414-4080, www.bethany.org/madisonheights
Catholic Charities of S.E. Michigan, 855-882-2736, www.ccsem.org
Community Social Services of Wayne County, Detroit, 313-883-2100, www.csswayne.org
Child Safe Michigan, Royal Oak, 248-353-0921, www.childsafemichigan.org/
The Children's Center of Wayne County, Detroit, 313-831-5535, www.thechildrenscenter.com
Ennis Center for Children, Detroit, 313-342-2699, www.enniscenter.org
Ennis Center for Children, Pontiac, 248-334-2715, www.enniscenter.org
Family & Community Services, Inc., Utica, 586-726-2988, www.facadopt.org
Forever Families, Livonia, 734-762-0909, www.forever-families.org
Homes for Black Children, Detroit, 313-961-4777
Judson Center, Redford, 313-794-5653, www.judsoncenter.org
Lutheran Adoption Service, Troy, 248-423-2770, www.lasadoption.org
Methodist Children's Home, Redford, 313-531-4060, www.mchsmi.org
Oakland Family Services, Pontiac, 248-858-7766, www.oaklandfamilyservices.org
Orchards Children's Services, Southfield, 248-258-0440, www.orchards.org
Spaulding for Children, Southfield, 248-443-0300, www.spaulding.org
Spectrum Human Services, Southfield, 248-552-8020, www.spectrumhuman.org
Vista Maria, Dearborn Heights, 313-271-3050, www.vistamaria.org
Wolverine Human Services, Taylor, 888-625-8669, www.wolverinehs.org

Southern Central Michigan

Adoption and Foster Care Specialists, Inc., Lapeer, 810-660-7590, www.adoption-specialists.org
 Bethany Christian Services, East Lansing, 517-336-0191, www.bethany.org/eastlansing
 Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, Adrian, 517-263-2191, www.catholiccharitiesjllhc.org
 Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee, Flint, 810-232-9950, www.catholiccharitiesflint.org
 Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 734-971-9781, www.csswashtenaw.org
 Child & Family Charities – Capital Area, Lansing, 517-882-4000, www.childandfamily.org
 Ennis Center for Children, Flint, 810-233-4031, www.enniscenter.org
 Ennis Center for Children, Port Huron, 810-990-1424, www.enniscenter.org
 Family Service & Children's Aid, Jackson, 517-787-7920, www.strong-families.org
 Fostering Futures, Ann Arbor, 734-481-8999, www.fostering-futures.com
 Fostering Solutions, Adrian, 517-263-0020, www.fosteringsolutions.org
 Growing Hope Through Love, Howell, 517-798-4020
 Hands Across the Water, Ann Arbor, 734-477-0135, www.hatw.org
 Livingston County Catholic Charities, Howell, 517-545-5944, www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Ann Arbor, 734-971-1944, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Jackson, 517-789-6444, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Lansing, 517-886-1380, www.lasadoption.org
 Open Door Adoption Services, Jackson, 517-936-7713, www.opendooradoptionsservices.org
 St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing, 517-323-4734, www.stvcc.org

Southwest Michigan

Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, 616-224-7550, www.bethany.org/grandrapids
 Bethany Christian Services, Holland, 616-396-0623, www.bethany.org/holland
 Bethany Christian Services, Kalamazoo, 269-372-8800, www.bethany.org/kalamazoo
 Bethany Christian Services, Muskegon, 231-733-1618, www.bethany.org/muskegon
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Grand Rapids, 616-456-1443, www.ccwestmi.org
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Muskegon, 231-726-4735, www.ccwestmi.org
 D.A. Blodgett Services, Grand Rapids, 616-451-2021, www.dabsj.org
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Kalamazoo, 269-344-0202, www.fcsource.org
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Battle Creek, 269-965-3247, www.fcsource.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Grand Rapids, 616-356-1934, www.lasadoption.org
 Lutheran Adoption Service, Kalamazoo, 269-345-5776, www.lasadoption.org
 Pathways, Holland, 616-396-2301, www.pathwaysmi.org
 Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption Center, Battle Creek, 269-969-9181, www.cityinc.org



MARE is proud to offer the Adoption Navigator Program. Adoption navigators are experienced adoptive parents who offer guidance and personal knowledge to potential adoptive families. The adoption navigators have many years of parenting experience, adopted a number of children, and have knowledge of foster care, infant and older, and domestic and international adoption procedures.

Families who contact MARE for initial adoption information will be given the option to work with a Navigator to help guide them through the process. Having an Adoption Navigator is a free and voluntary service.

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170
Ann Arbor, MI 48108



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EXCHANGE**

HOMES
FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

800.589.6273
www.mare.org



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

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