



Youth Newsletter



Meet Kaylee: An artist and storyteller

The holiday season approaches when the MARE team first gets to know Kaylee, and we learn that apples are fine, but for pies, pumpkin is divine.

We also learn that she's not a fan of spicy food, and she's definitely not much of a morning person. On our second visit a few weeks later, Kaylee tells us that given a choice between modes of transportation, she'd rather travel by train than plane.

"I am deathly scared of planes," she says before revealing where she'd like to go. "I went to Florida one time, and I loved it. Now I want to live there."

And Kaylee definitely would want her adoptive family to join her in Florida. However, the biggest takeaway from our cool conversations with this congenial young lady has to be Kaylee's passion for art, especially drawing,

which she learned on her own.

"I used to watch 'how-to-draw' videos," she says. "I would basically copy what they're doing and that's how I got better at drawing. I watched a bunch of people draw and then I just did it.

"I'm good at drawing," she says as a wide, friendly smile spreads across her face. "I like to draw animals and sometimes butterflies. Sometimes I can draw whatever comes out of my head, but other times, I'll look at a picture and just draw it.

"I normally use pencils, but sometimes I use Sharpies. It depends on what I'm drawing."

Kaylee then shares the story of the drawing that she takes the most pride in featuring her birth family drawn from a memory of being at

Winter 2024

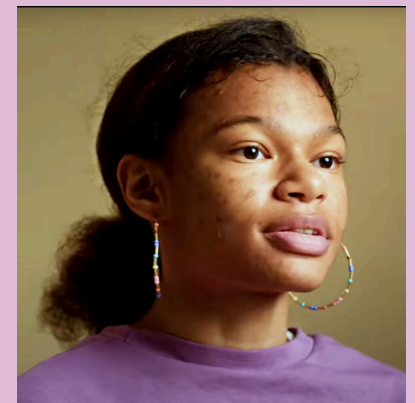
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To learn about resources available to youth living in foster care, visit Mare.org > For Youth or contact your worker.

the beach.

"It took me hours to do that," she says, accentuating "hours." "It's my family; my brother and my sister are in the water, and my two dogs are on the beach by the water. Mom and dad are on the sandy part. It's basically my family having fun doing what we'd do every summer."

It's a memory Kaylee clearly cherishes, but if there's anything Kaylee enjoys as much as drawing, it might be telling the stories about the things that inspire her.

"At my old house, we had a front yard with a whole bunch of trees," Kaylee says, "and in the fall, they would turn a bunch of different colors, and I would always draw that. And my friends would always say, 'teach me how, teach me how!' My friends always ask me how to draw."

As eager as she is to share her knowledge and artistic expertise with her peers so they can preserve their own memories, Kaylee is just as anxious to make new ones with a forever family. Some of the things Kaylee hopes to do with her new family include going to the movies, going for ice cream and going to the zoo.

Kaylee would do best with one or two female parents or a mom and dad. Her new parent or parents should be patient, experienced and trauma informed. Kaylee would do best as the only or oldest child in the family. Kaylee would do well in a home with pets because she loves animals.

"I especially like horses and dogs," Kaylee says. "I used to talk to my dogs and feel like they understand me. I really like petting animals and taking care of them."

Another way to tell your story

From time to time, MARE interviews youth whose profiles appear on our website to get a better, more in-depth story about them.

If you'd like what we call an "enhanced narrative" like Kaylee's on your MARE profile, contact your worker. The interviews typically occur on a computer over Zoom and happen at times convenient

to you and your worker.

They generally last around 15 minutes, and we give you the opportunity to shape what's said about you by letting you see your new narrative before it gets added to your profile on Mare.org. We also try to keep the interviews lighthearted and fun.

With that in mind, we look forward to talking to you!



FUN FACTS ABOUT KAYLEE

Would you rather cook or do the dishes? "Do the dishes. I like playing in the water for some reason."

Fast food or fancy restaurant? "Fancy restaurant. I like sitting in the restaurant instead of going

through the drive through."

Watching the movie or reading the book that it's based on? "I would read the book first because I feel like I get more information from the book than the movie." Camping or staying at home? "Camping because I love being outdoors!"

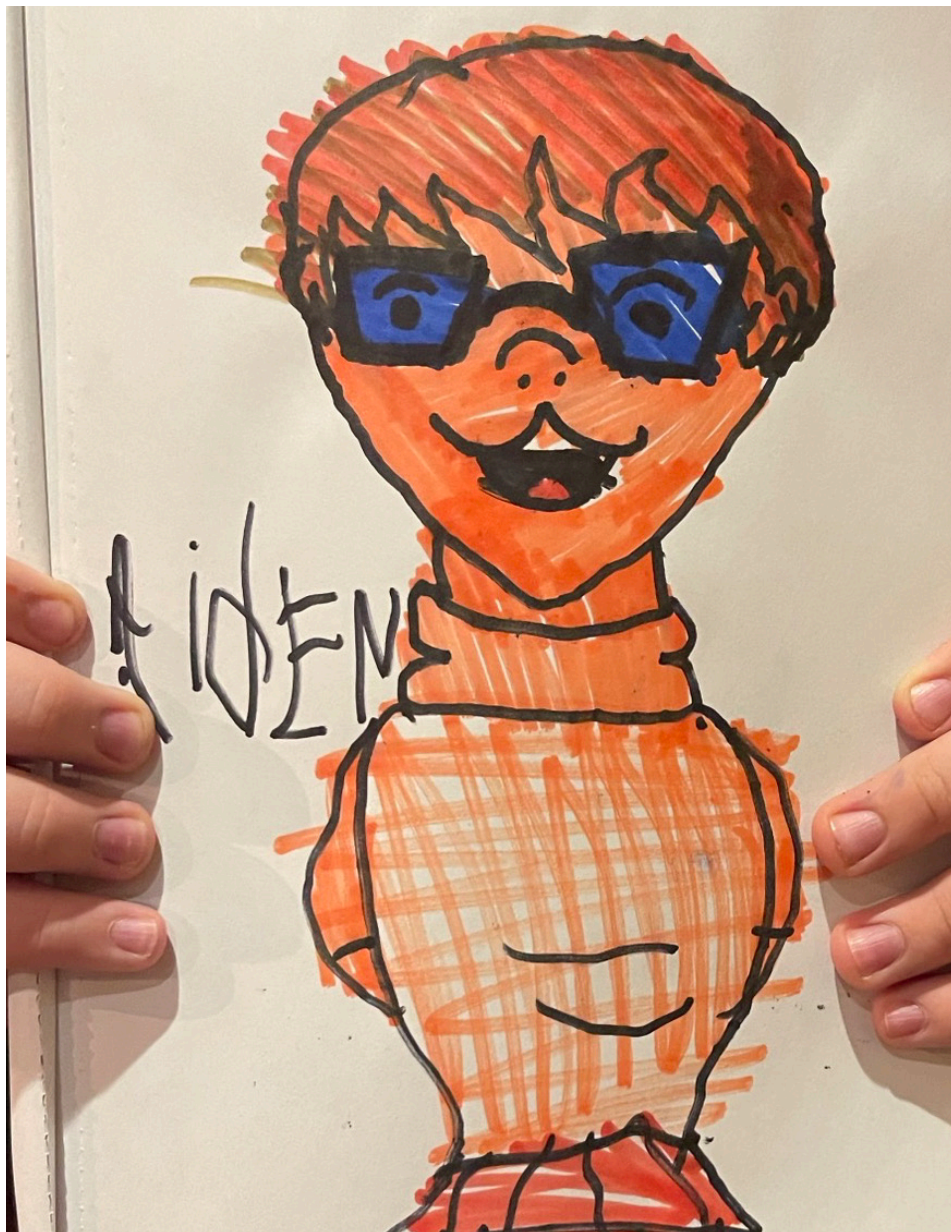
Scooby-Doo! Aiden showcases his talent with his drawings

Count Aiden as one of the people who ranks Scooby-Doo among the best cartoons ever.

Here, he shows off his drawings based on the cartoon series, which he made during a recent event. Shown are Aiden's depictions of Velma, Shaggy and Scooby, and the drawings show a young artist at the top of his game, don't you think?

"Aiden just drew them so effortlessly and said he loves to draw, and that these characters were his specialty!" says Jennifer Brooks, MARE's adoption permanency/youth specialist.

If you have a drawing you'd like to share, have your worker email a copy of it to Gabrielle_Werkheiser@judsoncenter.org.



Aiden, C09945



Check out the Heart Gallery video

"Magical" is how adoption from foster care is described in the 2023 Michigan Heart Gallery Video.

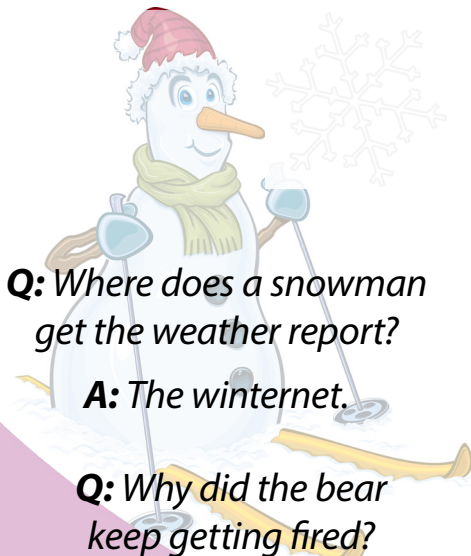
It's a heartwarming, informative and engaging film that features some of the youth living in foster care

whose profiles have appeared on Mare.org, including Toriana, above.

We hope you enjoy it for the first time or again if you've already seen it. Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=quk77pNlmk8&t=5s



Jokes to soften winter's chills



Q: Where does a snowman get the weather report?

A: The winternet.

Q: Why did the bear keep getting fired?

A: He always disappeared in the winter.

Q: Which one is faster, hot or cold?

A: Hot because you can catch a cold.

Q: What do snowmen win at the Olympics?

A: Cold medals.

Q: Where do polar bears keep their money?

A: In a snowbank.

Q: What do you call a slow skier?

A: A slope-poke.

Calendar

March 17

MARE In-Person Meet & Greet
Flint

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

April 27

MARE In-Person Meet & Greet
Bloomfield Township

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 22

MARE In-Person Meet & Greet
Holland

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information, contact jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org or call 734-528-2070.

Take note: Watch for notices of upcoming Meet & Greets on www.mare.org and on Facebook and Instagram.

Did you know?

You can check out descriptions of the types of workers assigned to your case as well as their job duties at www.mare.org/For-Youth/Types-of-Workers.

