

# MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE



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***Winter 2021***

**A spotlight on children  
waiting for permanent  
and loving families**

Welcome to the Winter 2021 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 a loving, supportive and permanent family of their own through adoption. The youth featured here represent hundreds of other youth in Michigan's 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](http://www.mare.org).

On the MARE website, you will find photos, narratives and video clips of youth 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 a youth 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.

**MARE's Match Support Program** is 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 can give families up to 90 days of services such as referrals to support groups, community resources and educational training opportunities. To learn more, visit [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org) or call 800-589-6273.



**Daniel's likes:**

- Spending quality time with friends and family
- Playing basketball
- Noshing on macaroni and cheese and pepperoni pizza

**Daniel's crystal ball:**

- Becoming a member of his school's basketball team

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- Two experienced parents
- Able to make sure Daniel gets the help he needs to thrive
- The youngest or only child
- Willing to let Daniel maintain his relationship with his brother

**Daniel C08521**

**20 IN 2020**

*Check out Daniel's 20 in 2020 profile at <https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>*

## 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 their 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.

Typically, more than 98 percent of the children available for adoption without an identified family are over the age of 5. Typically, 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, which is intended to assist adoptive families in meeting 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 Adoptive 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](http://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 checks
- 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.



**Aries C09881**

*Photo by Katherine Hallam*

### Aries' likes:

- Dancing and swimming
- Doing arts and crafts
- Cooking, and wants to be a chef

### Forever family qualities:

- A mom and dad or two female parents
- Only or youngest child in the home

**Breian's likes:**

- Attending church and participating in the youth leadership team
- Playing team basketball
- Playing card games such as Uno and board games such as Life
- Reading teen romance novels
- Going to the movies

**Breian's crystal ball:**

- Wants to travel to Kenya to carry out her goal of helping others

**Creative interests:**

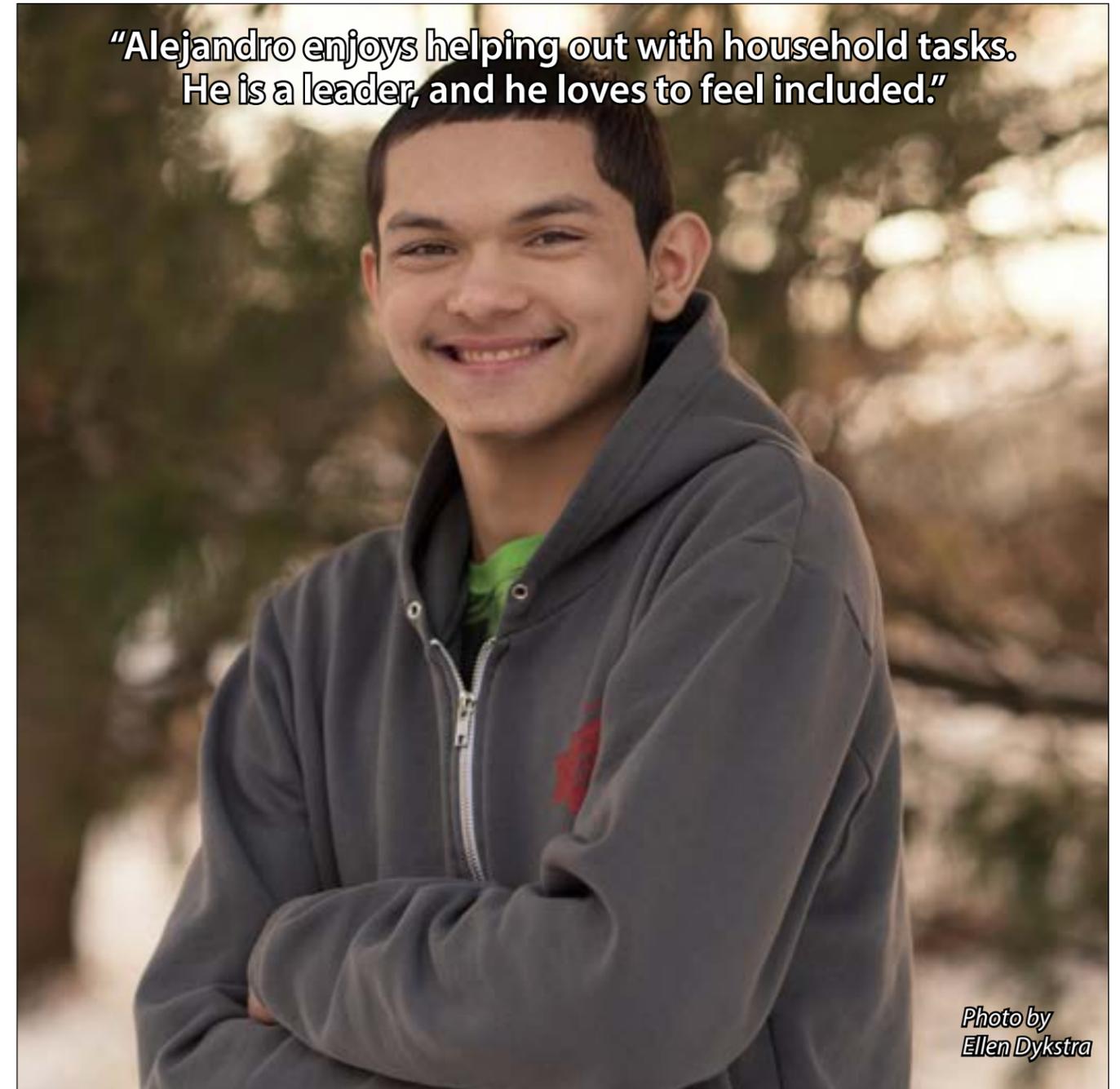
- Writes poetry and does makeup
- Drawing Bible verses such as the one pictured above

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- A single female parent or two female parents
- Fierce advocates for the services that will help Breian function at her best
- Pets preferred

**"I want to help all homeless people with their physical pain and emotional hurt."**

**20 IN 2020** Check out Breian's 20 in 2020 profile at <https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>

**Alejandro's likes:**

- Spending time outdoors
- Archery, hunting and camping
- Playing and watching sports such as hockey, lacrosse, baseball, football and basketball
- Doing outdoor chores such as sweeping the deck, organizing the tools and mowing the lawn
- Hiking and going to the park

**Alejandro's crystal ball:**

- Wants to become a Navy SEAL, Marine or police officer

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- A single dad or two parents
- Able to make sure Alejandro gets the services he needs
- Open to letting Alejandro maintain his sibling relationships

“Gilbert has a great personality and a great sense of humor.”



Photo by  
Jessica Thompson

**Gilbert’s likes:**

- Boxing
- Listening to rap music
- Having salad for lunch
- Hot weather
- Spending time with friends

**Gilbert’s crystal ball:**

- Becoming a boxer
- Visiting Puerto Rico
- A forever family who’ll let him be himself

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- Parents who are understanding, patient and supportive
- A forever family with a positive male role model
- Strong advocates for Gilbert
- Open to letting Gilbert maintain appropriate relationships
- Able to provide a structured home environment with daily routines

“I’ll always be there for you no matter what. I am trustworthy and am a good listener.”



**Jules’ likes:**

- Swimming and being outside
- Roller skating
- Playing video games
- Going shopping
- Watching movies such as the Avengers series
- Attending gym and art class

**Jules’ crystal ball:**

- Owning her own company
- Going out to eat and to the movies with her new forever family

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- Open and supportive
- The youngest child in her new forever family

**20 IN 2020** Check out Jules’ 20 in 2020 profile at <https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>



**Sienna's likes:**

- A stuffed dog named Taco
- Playing on her iPad
- Coloring and painting
- Writing
- Doing arts and crafts
- Noshing on spaghetti and meatballs
- Writing letters to Santa
- Trick or treating on Halloween
- Hunting for Easter eggs
- Learning new things, especially about animals
- Looking at Google Maps

**Sienna's crystal ball:**

- Dreams of owning a horse, and perhaps a rabbit, too
- Wants to become an art teacher

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- Committed and patient
- Able to give her guidance and support
- Open to letting her maintain her sibling relationships
- Youngest child



**Did you know?**

MARE offers online resources for people who are new to the adoption process. Subjects covered include the first step in the process, costs, type of home needed by an adoptive family and the different types of adoption. Check it out at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org) and click on For Families > New to Adoption.



**Robert's likes:**

- Playing and being a fan of baseball, basketball and football
- Sketching and drawing
- Reading comics
- Listening to a wide range of music

**Robert's crystal ball:**

- Attending the University of Michigan or Michigan State University

- Owning his own business
- Visiting Puerto Rico to sample the cuisine

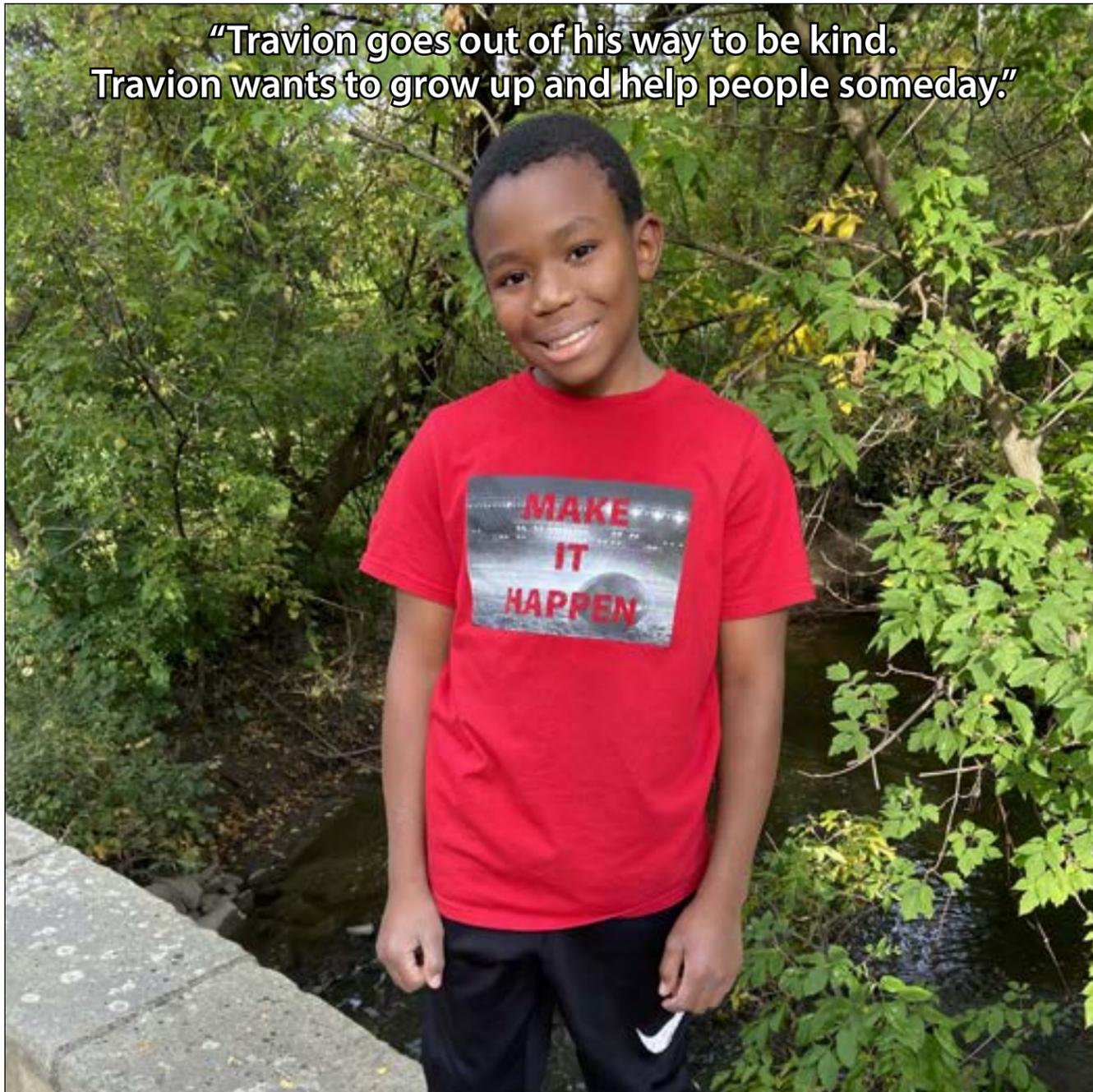
**Qualities of a forever family:**

- One or two parents
- Strong advocates for the services that will help Robert function at his best
- Open to letting Robert maintain his sibling relationships.

**"A family can help me and inspire me to feel comfortable in fulfilling my goals. They can help me with my goal of starting my own business."**

**20 IN 2020** Check out Robert's 20 in 2020 profile at <https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>

“Travion goes out of his way to be kind.  
Travion wants to grow up and help people someday.”



**Travion’s likes:**

- Constructing things with Legos
- Playing basketball
- Riding his bike
- Spending time with friends
- Cooking and munching on pizza and waffles

**Travion’s crystal ball:**

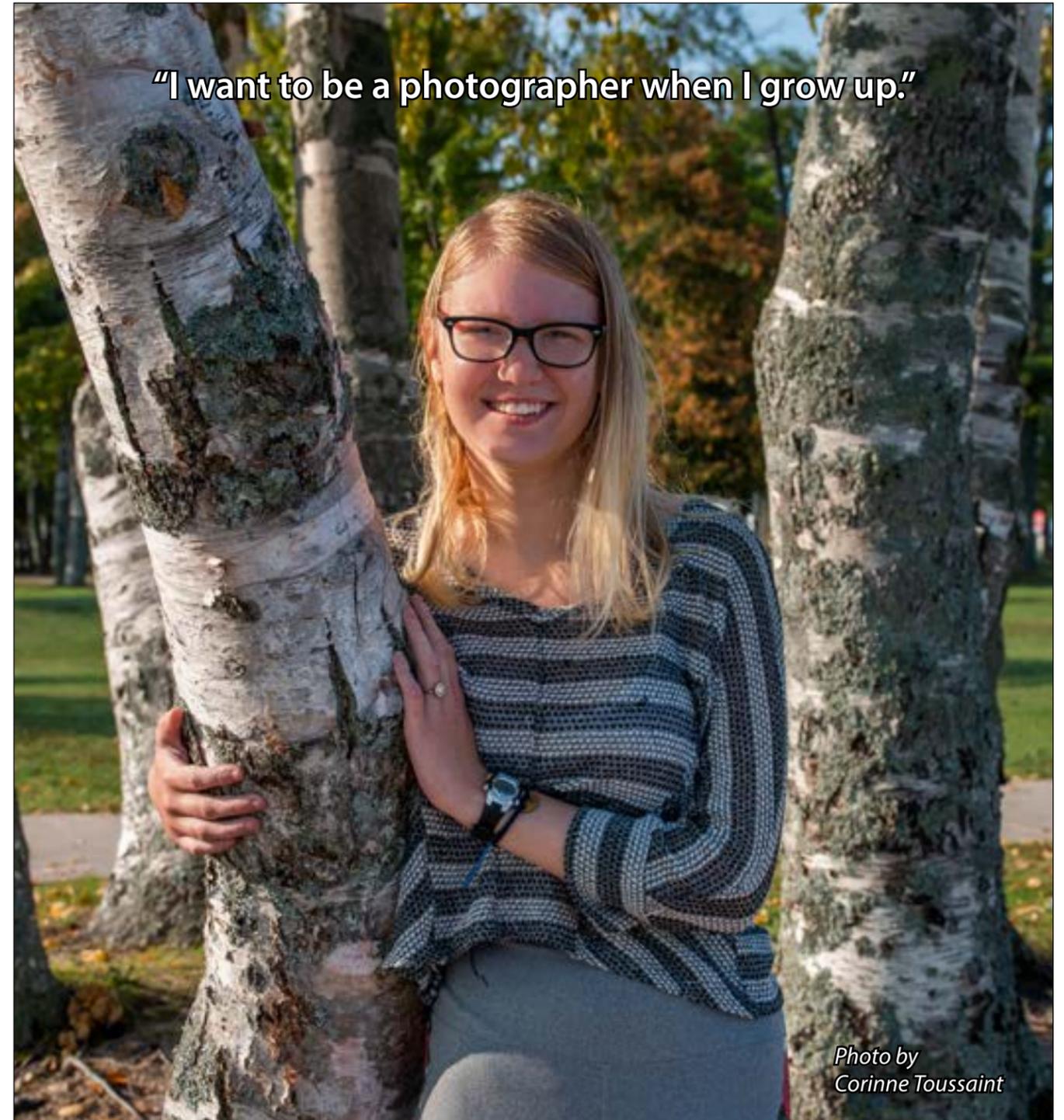
- Becoming an engineer or car designer

- Visiting Universal Studios to see the Transformers there

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- A patient, experienced mom and dad
- Strong advocates for the services Travion needs to thrive
- The only or youngest child in his new family
- A forever family who has pets

“I want to be a photographer when I grow up.”



*Photo by  
Corinne Toussaint*

**Jenna’s likes:**

- Photography
- Reading and writing
- Going to the movies
- Getting ice cream
- Playing board games, especially Monopoly

- Spending time with friends talking and going on a road trip

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- One or two parents
- Strong advocates for the services that will help Jenna thrive



Photo by  
Lisa Hodak

### Shantea's likes:

- Watching movies
- Playing on the Xbox, especially Minecraft
- Participating in swimming and gymnastics
- Going to the water park
- Drawing and face painting
- Cats, dogs and ferrets
- The color blue ("I always wear it.")
- Salads, spaghetti and chocolate ice cream

### Shantea's crystal ball:

- Becoming a singer when she gets older
- Visiting Hawaii to see the volcanos

### Qualities of a forever family:

- A single female parent, two female parents or a mom and dad
- Wants to be the youngest child in her new forever family
- Prefers a family who has pets

**"I like being unique."**

**"I like dancing because I dance really goofy."**

**"I would like a family to take me to the beach and have fun there and not worry about anything!"**



### Carson's likes:

- Playing basketball
- Cheetahs and snow leopards
- Chicken tenders, hot dogs and burgers
- Playing action-packed video games

### Carson's crystal ball:

- Wants to own a gold Porsche
- Hopes to travel to Hawaii

### Qualities of a forever family:

- Prior parenting experience
- Able to make sure he gets the services he needs
- Willing to let Carson maintain important relationships
- Youngest child in his new home

**"Carson is a great leader, very helpful and creative."**

**"Carson loves science projects."**

Make sure to check out the MARE YouTube Channel to see videos of several of the children featured in the Winter 2021 Periodical.

Visit [www.mare.org](http://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](http://www.cssup.org)  
 Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Iron Mountain, 906-774-3323, [www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)  
 Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-227-9119, [www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)  
 Child & Family Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-228-4050, [www.cfsup.org](http://www.cfsup.org)  
 Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency, Sault Ste. Marie, 906-632-5250, [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)  
 Upper Peninsula Family Solutions, Marquette, 906-273-1095, [www.upfs.org](http://www.upfs.org)  
 U.P. Kids, Houghton, 906-487-9832, [www.upkids.com](http://www.upkids.com)

#### Northern & Central Lower Michigan

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

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

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

#### Southern Central Michigan

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

#### Southwest Michigan

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

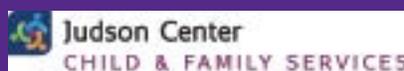
**Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange**  
**3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48108**



**MICHIGAN  
ADOPTION  
RESOURCE  
EXCHANGE**

**HOMES**  
FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

800.589.6273  
[www.mare.org](http://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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