

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. To learn about foster care adoption and view photolistsings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).



# MARE cares about social media

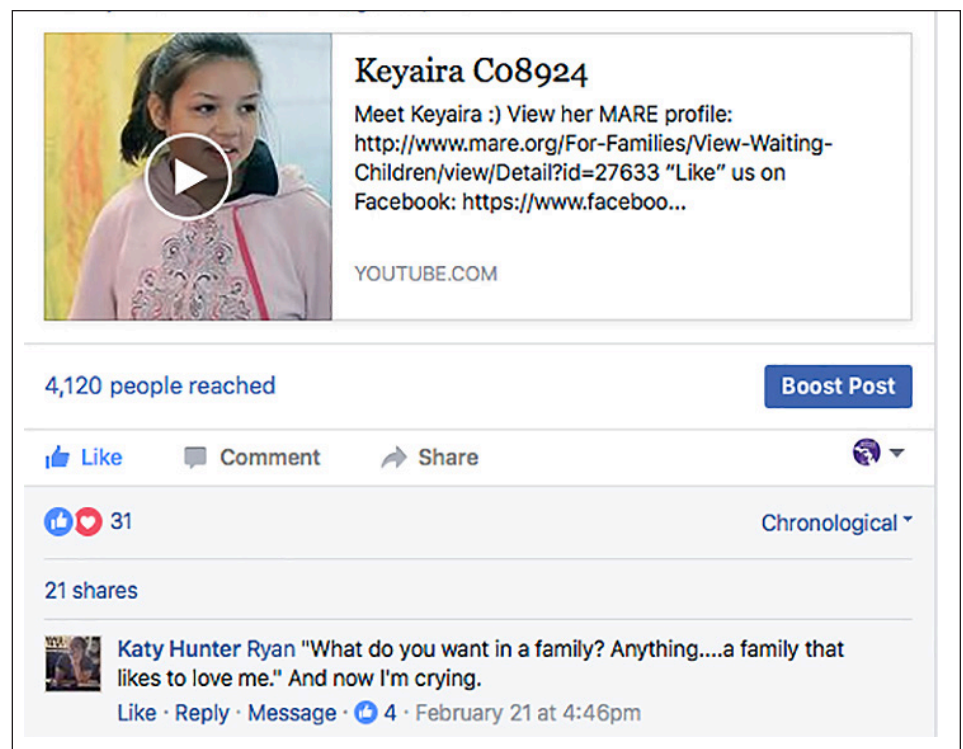
## Here's how and why we use the various platforms

Because MARE is in the midst of formalizing its social media policy, we thought it's a good time to share our goals and intentions with workers.

MARE uses social media as a way to reach a broad audience to help educate the general public about adoption and recruit potential adoptive families. Most often, MARE uses social media to showcase the youth who are photolisted on [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).

MARE uses four forms of social media to target an array of audiences including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest. In all areas of social media used, the main goal is to direct traffic back to the MARE website, which is where complete information is available and inquiries on specific children can be submitted.

On Facebook and Twitter, MARE shares recruitment information for children photolisted on the MARE website as well as MARE-related information and events. The material presented on Facebook and Twitter helps promote the adoption of Michigan's waiting



youth and provides important information to families and workers on topics such as workshops for parents and conferences for workers.

While MARE uses Pinterest to present much of the same material that's on Twitter and Facebook, we recognize that we're reaching a different audience.

Because of that, MARE uses Pinterest not only to help direct this audience back to the MARE website but also to share information regarding family life.

On Youtube, MARE posts child recruitment videos. MARE also shares the experiences of adoptive parents and posts public service See [Social media](#) on page 3

# How about a round of applause for a wonderful worker?

**Jennifer Fedewa shows extra concern for youth**

*The MARE team respects and admires Michigan's adoption specialists for the amazing work they do for waiting youth, so with each issue of the Professional Provider Newsletter, we will feature an adoption specialist nominated by a MARE staff member for an Exceptional Recruitment Award.*

*Now let's meet the new Exceptional Recruitment Award winner...*

Jennifer Fedewa goes above and beyond for the children on her caseload.

One of the youths currently on her caseload has significant specialized needs, so Jennifer reached out to a national agency on his behalf to enlist more help in recruitment even before he was photolisted on [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).

Shortly after this youth was photolisted, Jennifer contacted MARE and suggested changes to his narrative that personalized his story and made his needs more clear to potential adoptive families. When another youth on her



*Exceptional  
Recruitment  
Award*

caseload appeared in an online publication, Jennifer approached MARE about the youth with the higher needs and asked that he receive consideration for added

recruitment. After the youth's video got posted on MARE's social media, Jennifer wanted to know how many people had viewed the post.

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## When there's something strange in the MiSACWIS neighborhood, just call

Who ya gonna call?

The Help Desk!

Whenever you experience an issue in MiSACWIS, contact the Help Desk. The team is ready to address

your issue, but also, the Help Desk tickets allow MDHHS to prioritize fixes and understand the degree of issues.

The MiSACWIS Help Desk can be reached at 855-659-6599.



Illustration:  
[pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)

# Tips for expediting consent packets

STORY BY **MARY ROSSMAN, MCI SUPERINTENDENT**

Consent packets need accurate information to help speed the process of approval. Here are some tips to help you:

- Include the DHS-612-CH, Adoptive Family Assessment Addendum-Criminal History with all packets. If the assessments cite police reports, you must include them in the consent packet so MCI can review them.
- Under "Recommendation" on 612, state a reason or reasons for recommending, not just that you recommend them.
- All Special Evals and CPS reports should be included in the packet. If the family is not being recommended, copies of any referenced police reports or CPS investigations must be included.
- The agency should secure a letter or email from the LGAL

supporting the placement in any case that is complicated or has less significant issues (The LGAL should be informed of any concerns).

- Most agencies are using revisable 309 consent forms but not all.
- Workers continue to leave out the address of their agency on the 3217 and 3217 A – many have multiple branches and consent will be delayed while the secretary tries to identify which address to mail the 309 to.
- Workers also are misspelling names and entering wrong birthdates on 309s, requiring them to be re-done at a later date.

When all of the above issues are addressed in the packets, the consent is usually approved the same day we review it.

## Mark your calendar



Autumn C07620, age 17

August							2017
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

## Statewide Adoption Worker Conference

**Location:** Shanty Creek Resorts, Bellaire

**Hosted by:** The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

**Adoption worker participation highly recommended**

**Once more information becomes available, MARE will post it on social media.**

**Social media**, continued from page 1

announcements from AdoptUSKids. Videos from the Michigan Heart Gallery are also on the YouTube page.

Having the recruitment videos in one central location allows potential adoptive parents to see the videos easily. In addition, sharing videos on other social media is easier through a YouTube link.

To ensure the safety and privacy of MARE youth and to avoid problems that could arise, the comment section on YouTube is disabled. On Facebook, people can still post comments, but MARE monitors those throughout the day to make sure nothing inappropriate gets added to the posting about the youth.

Social media is a quick and effective way to distribute information and promote visibility of the children waiting for adoption in Michigan, and it helps spread the word about adoption-related events and activities around the state. So make sure to follow us and like us.

*If you have any questions or concerns about MARE's social media postings, call us at 800-589-6273 or email [mare@judsoncenter.org](mailto:mare@judsoncenter.org), [mark\\_fisk@judsoncenter.org](mailto:mark_fisk@judsoncenter.org) or [laura\\_rutkowski@judsoncenter.org](mailto:laura_rutkowski@judsoncenter.org).*





# MARE's Calendar of Events – A contract reminder –

MARE would like to take this opportunity to remind agencies that adherence to contractual obligations as well as policy and procedure ensures that the children of Michigan's child welfare system will be uniformly served, resulting in opportunities to connect waiting children with forever families.

**Section 3., letter g. of the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Contractual Agreement refers to Mare Related Responsibilities and states: "The contractor shall notify MARE no less than quarterly of planned adoption related events, scheduled or tentatively scheduled for the next quarter. These activities shall include but are not limited to orientations, training dates, workshops, adoption fairs, recruitment activities, post adoption support activities, and guest speakers. The contractor will indicate if the events are open to the public or limited to a specific audience and any costs for family participation."**

Please remember to submit your events at least quarterly to MARE Support Staff Karen Gowan at [karen\\_gowan@judsoncenter.org](mailto:karen_gowan@judsoncenter.org). This can be done via MARE's Calendar of Events Form, through a Contact Us form submission on the MARE website, or by simply emailing your event flyer to a member of the MARE staff. MARE applauds the efforts of Michigan's adoption workers to find waiting children forever families and welcomes the opportunity to provide information, referral, and support to all those who promote adoption.



## The 2017 Michigan Heart Gallery video

**Gabrielle, left, is one of the youth featured in the 2017 Michigan Heart Gallery video.**