

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

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



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AN INSIDER'S VIEWPOINT

Dylan tells workers, families what it's like waiting for home

When Dylan wrote about his foster care experience, he steered clear of preaching to the choir of fellow waiting children. Instead, with his therapist's help, he wrote a PowerPoint presentation that is aimed at an audience of foster care and adoption workers as well as adoptive families. Perhaps you can relate to his message in the presentation entitled "How to Help, Not Hurt."

In it, Dylan wrote about foster children's feelings and behavior. He talked about how foster children might show misbehavior such as tantrums, physical and verbal aggression and ignoring others – particularly workers. He also told his audience "what you cannot see, but I can feel.

"Anger at parents," he wrote, "resents towards workers and parents, sadness from not being with parents, and depression from not having a family."

Then he addressed why foster kids have difficulty trusting others. He cited "abuse, betrayal, not staying in one foster family," adding that those problems can trigger behaviors such as isolation and avoidance. When he wrote about how foster children, particularly teens, feel about not having a place to call home, Dylan doesn't mince words.

"Holidays stink," he says. Foster teens tend to rebel by not following rules in the foster home and at school. They might resort to smoking and drinking and "fighting because we are angry," he wrote.

See **Dylan**, on page 2

PHOTOS BY PHOTO BOUTIQUE

A yellow rectangular graphic with a purple border. At the top, it says "Another MARE Dream Teen thinks big" in large, bold, purple letters. Below that, in smaller purple text, it says "Dylan's PowerPoint presentation 'How to Help, Not Hurt' shows the powerful thoughts of waiting teens. Here's an excerpt:". To the right of this text is a small photo of Dylan, a young boy with red hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, white shirt, and striped tie. Below the excerpt is a quote in purple text: "Sometimes I still sabotage myself. I still want a family, but I get nervous and scared so I act up. I'm trying to do better with that, and hoping that someone will get who I am and what I need. ... I want a family who will stick with me, no matter how hard I try to push them away." At the bottom of the graphic, the word "Step" is visible in large purple letters, followed by "on up" in smaller purple letters. In the bottom right corner of the graphic is the MARE logo, which includes a map of Michigan and the text "MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE".

Another MARE Dream Teen thinks big

Dylan's PowerPoint presentation "How to Help, Not Hurt" shows the powerful thoughts of waiting teens. Here's an excerpt:

"Sometimes I still sabotage myself. I still want a family, but I get nervous and scared so I act up. I'm trying to do better with that, and hoping that someone will get who I am and what I need. ... I want a family who will stick with me, no matter how hard I try to push them away."

Step on up

Dylan, 14



A BIG HAM IN A SMALL BODY

Keven's Fox 2 video shows the power of recruitment

"I got a fish. Wanna see it?" Keven says to a Fox 2 News crew.

Then the wet weeds from the end of his fishing line slap the camera lens as water droplets stream down and laughter fills the air.

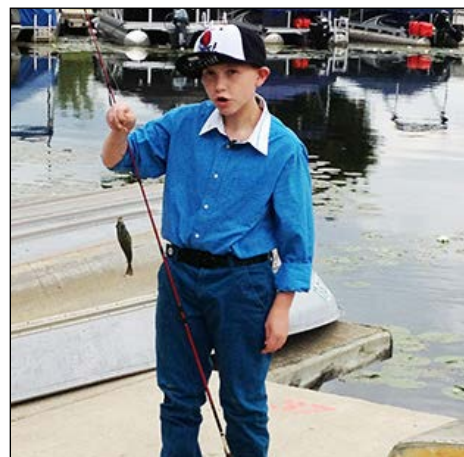
That's Keven in a nutshell, and "nut" as in funny.

When the Fox 2 video aired, it generated a bunch of interest in Keven, and when MARE shared the link on its Facebook page, more potential adoptive parents took notice. The video shows the power of recruitment and why it's important for waiting children to share their strengths in many ways.

Sure, Fox 2 doesn't have the resources to video every waiting child who signs off on it on his consent form. However, children who genuinely want the adoption option should understand all of the possibilities available to them.

When showing a child the consent booklet, take the time and pull up the MARE Facebook page or a video on a computer to show the child the possibilities of recruitment with MARE.

Then maybe one day, whether it's via Facebook, Youtube, Fox 2 or a newsletter, their strengths will touch an adoptive family who wants to share the rest of their lives with them.



Keven not only helped his own recruitment efforts by attending a video shoot with a Fox 2 News crew, he also had fun doing it. His video was shot at Kensington Metro Park where Keven and the crew spent quite a bit of time at the park's farm center.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER BROOKS,
MARE YOUTH SPECIALIST



AN 'OOPS' THAT CAN BE FIXED

Contact us about recent child entries

Due to email server issues spanning from August 22 to September 3, 2014, some Child Edit Requests made through the MARE website were not received by MARE. If you notified MARE of a case transfer, or if you requested access to a child's dashboard as a supervisor or recruiter since August 22, please contact Chaely Chartier, MARE Data Analyst, via phone or email and leave the following information:

- The name and case number of ALL CHILD FILES you need access to;
- Whether case responsibility is being transferred or if you need to be added as

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE

an additional team member;

- If it is NOT a case transfer, what role you are requesting (supervisor or recruiter)

Chaely can be reached at Chaely_chartier@judsoncenter.org or 734-528-2043. We apologize for the inconvenience.

• Dylan, continued from page 1

• Near the end of his presentation, Dylan talked about what foster children "really want you to know.

• "Kids have feelings, too," he said. "We just don't show them easily, and we try not to talk about it."

• Then he went on to sum up his own struggles while living in the foster care system.

• "Sometimes I still sabotage myself," he said. "I still want a family, but I get nervous and scared so I act up.

• "I'm trying to do better with that, and hoping that someone will get who I am and what I need. ... I want a family who will stick with me, no matter how hard I try to push them away."



MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY

Giving thanks for families

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014

How Are You Celebrating Michigan Adoption Day in 2014?

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is pleased to offer Michigan courts and adoption advocates the opportunity to order adoption-related items to be used in conjunction with Michigan Adoption Day on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. MARE would also like to help you plan and/or promote your event.

We are offering the following items (free of charge) for your event:

- The colorful and interactive “Me, Myself & I” Lifebook (Maximum 25)
- MARE Calendars (Maximum 15)
- Various adoption-themed giveaways (Maximum 30 each)
- MARE & MARE Family Services Brochures (Maximum 30 each)
- Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption Guide for Families (Maximum 30)
- Teddy Bears (1 per child being finalized on Adoption Day - FOR COURT USE ONLY)
- Promotion of your event on the MARE website (www.mare.org/miadoptionday) and social media (*if desired*)

[CLICK HERETO COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM](#)

Please complete the form and **submit no later than October 6, 2014**. Items will be shipped via FedEx by November 3, 2014.



Questions? Contact MARE at 800-589-6273 or mare@judsoncenter.org

www.mare.org

800.589.6273

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MARE's 'Dream Teens'

Our roster is chock-full of All-Stars

Teens offer plenty of exciting milestones for adoptive parents to help celebrate:

- Dates and proms
- Driver's training
- Exploring college
- First jobs
- Graduations
- Holidays
- Learning DIY skills
- Managing money
- Moving on and up
- School functions
- Sporting events
- Starting careers



Step up to the plate, and give teens a chance!

Call MARE at 800-589-6273 or visit www.mare.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 25, 2014
Resource Parent Training Day
Greater Grace Temple, Detroit

Visit www.mare.org/resources/trainingday for details and registration.

Saturday, November 1, 2014

MARE Match Party
Kent County, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Contact Jennifer Brooks, MARE Youth Specialist at (734) 528-2061 to register a child or family.

Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Michigan Adoption Day

Events happening statewide

Visit www.mare.org/miadoptionday for details.

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

Phone: 800.589.6273

E-mail: mare@judsoncenter.org

Web: www.mare.org