

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.



Working the kinks out of the Inquiry Follow-up Report process

STORY BY **MARTHA KACZALA, MARE ADOPTION WORKER LIAISON**


As you might know, the Inquiry Follow-up Report procedure has recently changed.

Like many changes, this one has not been without its kinks and challenges, and MARE appreciates all child and family adoption workers who have offered insight and suggestions to improve the new system. MARE is in the process of implementing some of those changes to make the process as user-friendly and efficient as possible.

The Inquiry Follow-up protocol is a crucial step in a youth's search for a forever family. The communication this protocol supports lets child workers, family workers, families and MARE have status information regarding inquiry submissions and supports all parties involved in the very important work of adoption professionals.

As we continue to work the kinks out of this new Inquiry Follow-up Report process, please remember to submit your reports via your dashboard in a timely manner and in compliance with time frames outlined in Adoption Policy ADM 720, Placement of a Child Listed on the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange:

“Once notified by MARE or the prospective adoptive family’s agency, the child’s adoption worker has 21 calendar days to collect information on studied and approved families ... by the end of the 21-day calendar time frame, the adoption worker must decide which prospective adoptive family is most appropriate to meet the child’s needs and forward the child’s referral packet to that family’s agency ... The child’s adoption worker and the



MARE Inquiry Follow Up Report

(Submitted to MARE within 30 calendar days of inquiry date ADM 720)

Date of Report: _____ **Worker completing report:**
 Child worker Family worker

Date of Inquiry: _____
Child’s Name and C Number: _____
Family’s Name: _____

Detailed explanation of inquiry progress
Homestudy (BCAL 3130) sent by family’s worker on: _____
Homestudy (BCAL 3130) reviewed by child’s worker on: _____
Non-Identifying portion of Child’s Assessment (DHHS-1927) sent by child’s worker on: _____
Other worker unresponsive
Provide date(s) of attempted contact: _____

Other notes: _____

Outcome
 Family selected

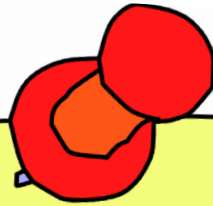
Family not selected for this child because:
 Determined family cannot meet child’s documented needs
 Family is no longer interested
 Child is matched with a different family
 Child’s permanency plan has changed or will change soon
 Other notes: _____

Other worker unresponsive- determination cannot be made

MARE Inquiry Follow Up Reports are submitted to MARE’s Adoption Worker Liaison
Martha_kaczala@judsoncenter.org
Fax: 734-794-2962
3840 Packard Road Suite 170 Ann Arbor, MI 48106

adoption worker for each approved adoptive family must complete the MARE Inquiry Follow-up Report within 30 calendar days from receipt of the inquiry.”

Thank you to all adoption professionals! MARE is honored to support you in the very important work you do!



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 210(c)(8) of the 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."

Remember to submit your events at least quarterly to MARE Support Staff Karen Gowan at 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 mare@judsoncenter.org.

MARE applauds the efforts of Michigan's adoption workers to find forever families for children waiting to be adopted and welcomes the opportunity to provide information, referral and support to all those who promote adoption.

Reminder

**For any policy-related questions,
supervisors can contact:**

child-welfare-policy@michigan.gov

Our library lends families a hand

Consider this resource a life support system of sorts

STORY BY **BOBBI HINTON, MARE MATCH SUPPORT STAFF**

Anytime is the perfect time to cozy up with a new book and a great blanket.

Why not help a family this winter with a great resource from MARE's Match Support Program? Our lending library can benefit families by offering information about how to best support the newest child in their home.

We have numerous books with tips on things from child hygiene, to how trauma affects the neurological system, and real life stories from other families who have adopted. Our library has something for just about everyone, and if we don't have the book that would best fit your family's needs, we'd be happy to help you find it!

Aside from books, our 90 days of family-centered services can include other educational resources such as articles and webinars, training opportunities and referrals to support groups. In addition to providing educational opportunities, Match Support



specialists listen about successes and struggles and work to assist with any bumps that may develop during the transition into the home and the adoption

process.

If you know an adoptive family who could use some extra support, give us a call at 734-528-2020!

Save the date: Saturday, April 13

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 13, 2019, at the Emagine Theater 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 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.



Old Mission Point Lighthouse by Jakki Hanna

Statewide Adoption, Child Protective Services (CPS), Licensing and Foster Care Worker Conference

Location: Grand Traverse Resort, Acme

Hosted by: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Services Agency

When: April 24-25, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Hotel accommodations: For information, see MDHHS Communication Issuance 19-007.

Calendar of Events

May 18

MARE Meet & Greet, Sterling Heights
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 8

Art & Soul Meet & Greet, Utica
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 22

MARE Meet & Greet, Portage
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information about these events, contact Jessica Thompson, MARE Recruitment Specialist: jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org



Hi, I'm Emma, and I write poetry

The youth on your caseload don't need a special talent such as Emma's to find a forever family, but they can be open to helping adoptive parents find them.

On her recruitment consent form, Emma told her worker that she wants to be featured in as many ways as possible to find a forever family, including newsletters such as this one.

Try to encourage the youth on your caseload to do the same. It's one of the best ways for them to find their forever family.

MARE contact info

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange

3840 Packard Road, Suite 170

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Toll Free: 800-589-6273

TTY: 734-794-2984

Fax: 734-528-1695

mare@judsoncenter.org

Attention!

We are now on Instagram.

Be sure to follow us there at [@mareinmichigan](https://www.instagram.com/mareinmichigan).

