



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 photolistings and videos of waiting children, visit our website at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).

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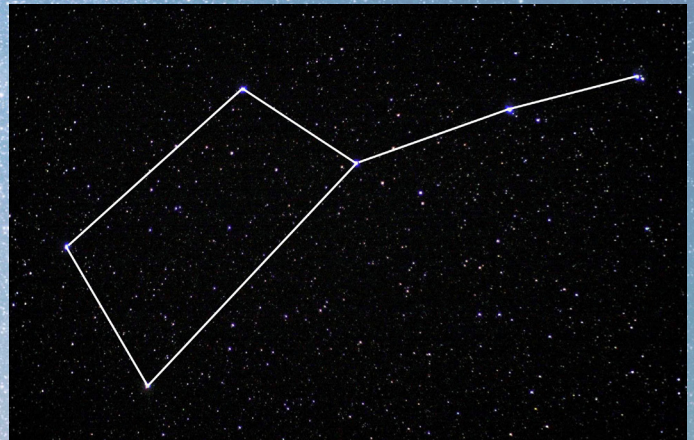
## *Shoot for the stars this summer*

Summer is a great season for stargazing.

From tracking the phases of the moon, to looking for constellations, the night sky is full of wonder. Plus, the nights are warm, and you don't have to be up early for school! Here are a few ways to help you get to know the galaxy:

- Use a landmark in your yard to keep track of where and when the moon rises each evening.
- Check your local forecast. The best view of the stars comes on clear, moonless nights with low humidity.
- Lay out a blanket or mat so you can comfortably lay down to look up to the sky.

Constellations are a group of stars that form a particular shape in the sky and have been given a name. They are kind of like a dot-to-dot puzzle up in the sky! The best way to spot the constellations is



with a star finder.

For directions to make your own star finder, check out NASA's website: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/starfinder/en/>. You could also use a star-finding app. Several free apps can be downloaded for most tablets and mobile devices.

# If your dreams include college, tap into this free resource

Dream of going to college, but not sure where to start? Education planners might help you with that process.

Education planners provide one-on-one assistance to youth in foster care and act as a liaison between the child welfare system and the education system.

Never heard of education planners and want to know more on what to expect from their services? Below are some of the services that they offer.

- Developing short and long term education goals.
- School enrollment and record transfer.
- Maintaining a youth in the school of origin.
- Figuring out transportation to school.
- Special education advocacy.
- College/vocational preparation and enrollment.

Unfortunately the education planners are not currently available in all Michigan counties, but 38 have the services available. To find a program near you, go to [www.michigan.gov/fyit](http://www.michigan.gov/fyit) then click on Education and Education Planners.



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## Share your success story!

Fostering Success Michigan is asking for students who are interested in being featured on its website.

This is an opportunity for students and professionals alike to read the success stories and learn about supports that helped you and others succeed. The stories will be used as a way to highlight students and their achievements. If you know of any youth or alumni of foster care between the ages of 18 and 24 who are currently enrolled in high school or college, Fostering Success Michigan would love to

hear from them.

Contact Fostering Success Student Advisor Brandon Youngblood at [fostering-info@wmich.edu](mailto:fostering-info@wmich.edu) to have the interview questions sent directly to your inbox.

*Fostering Success Michigan is a statewide initiative that aims to increase awareness, access and success in higher education and post-college careers for youth and alumni of foster care ([fosteringsuccessmichigan.com](http://fosteringsuccessmichigan.com)).*



# Recruitment? What's that?

## Ways to help families understand how wonderful you are!

Every child/youth deserves a family. To make that happen, families who want to adopt need to know about the children/youth who are waiting for forever families.

That's where recruitment comes in. Recruitment means putting information out in publications, on television and online to spread the word and get people interested in adoption. These are great ways for adoptive families to see information about you.

Recruitment also gets more people to think about adopting children.

When your worker and you go over the recruitment booklet and consent form shown at right, make sure you consider your options carefully. The more recruitment options you choose, the more chances you

have to reach adoptive families.

Also, certain types of recruitment options have the potential to reach broader audiences. For instance, Facebook, Twitter and newspaper websites reach a broader audience than MARE's newsletters and periodicals.

They all reach adoptive families, but the social media and newspaper websites have the potential to reach even more. Also, if you choose to be featured on social media or newspaper websites, understand that MARE staff monitor your information to make sure no inappropriate material gets posted to it.

When you pick your recruitment options, make sure you make the choices that will help show adoptive families how wonderful you are.

**CONFIRMATION OF CONVERSATION  
YOUTH ADOPTION RECRUITMENT BOOKLET**  
*(To be completed by youth ages 9 and up who are being featured for adoption recruitment.)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, age \_\_\_\_\_ reviewed the GUIDE TO YOUTH ADOPTION RECRUITMENT booklet with my Adoption Worker on \_\_\_\_\_. Below are my preferences regarding recruitment features:

I PREFER TO BE FEATURED in ANY recruitment activities or

I PREFER NOT TO BE FEATURED in any recruitment activities or

I am only interested in being featured in the following ways:

- Quarterly printed recruitment periodical
- Quarterly newsletter feature (family, professional or youth newsletter)
- Facebook feature
- Twitter feature
- Pinterest
- Recruitment video on MARE website
- Heart Gallery display
- Newspaper article/feature
- Television Spotlight
- MARE promotional materials (calendar, fliers, posters)
- Faith Community Outreach (prayer cards, bulletin features)
- Other suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

This form is valid for one (1) year from the date signed.

Youth Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Worker Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form to MARE at:  
3840 Packard Road, Suite 170, Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
or fax to 734-794-2962.

# Scenes from the red carpet at the 2017 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening



Pictured from left are Andrew (C08794), Shania (C09031), Camron (C08660) and Shantaina (C07907).

## YOUTH RESOURCES



**FosterClub** - FosterClub is a national network for young people in foster care and young foster care alumni. The site includes blogs from current foster youth, success stories from youth who were in the foster system as well as celebrities who faced foster care. It also provides a listing by state of contact information for professionals and hotlines.  
([www.fosterclub.com](http://www.fosterclub.com) 503-717-1552)



**Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative** - MYOI is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Oakland/Livingston Human Services Agency and many other local community partners. MYOI's goal is to ensure that young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health.  
([michigan.gov/FYIT](http://michigan.gov/FYIT) > MYOI)



**Foster Youth in Transition** - MDHHS website geared towards older youth who are experiencing foster care. It's a comprehensive, youth-oriented site with advice, interactive features, a useful glossary of foster care terms, and information on a variety of issues important to current and former foster youth. The site provides links on how to develop supports, find services, get answers to important questions and just keep you posted on what's new.  
([www.michigan.gov/fyit](http://www.michigan.gov/fyit))

For more information on getting involved with these organizations, contact Jen Brooks at [jennifer\\_brooks@judsoncenter.org](mailto:jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org) or 734-528-2061.