

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 children, visit our website at www.mare.org.



Don't let an IEP make you scream OMG!

MARE offers support to help families with the process

STORY BY BOBBI HINTON AND JESSICA FRANKS , **MARE MATCH SUPPORT PROGRAM STAFF**

The back to school season fast approaches, and along with planning for supplies and schedules, many adoptive families may find themselves planning for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

MARE's Match Support Program specialists are happy to walk alongside families throughout a process that can feel intimidating. During the IEP process, specialists can help families develop questions to be addressed during

the meeting, which Match Support specialists often attend at the family's request.

They encourage families to consider things such as their youth's strengths, areas for improvement and any special considerations that need to be made to help the youth manage behaviors or address special diagnoses.

Specialists also remind families to obtain required documentation. Match Support can help families

connect with their school team and help them understand their youth's rights in regards to IEP requirements, including who to contact if additional help is needed.

IEP support is just one of the many areas of family-centered services that the MARE Match Support team provides to help adoptive families succeed now and into the future. If you are or know of an adoptive family who could use some extra support, call today at 734-528-2020!



Davion: a champion at fixing things

Want to know about car repairs? Ask Davion.

He likes to help and considers himself a mechanic who already fixes bikes and brakes.

"He is very into fixing things," says his worker. "He likes to take them apart and figure how they work."

Davion doesn't spend all his time in the garage, though, and enjoys riding bikes and horses as well as playing action-packed video games. Davion also enjoys playing card games such as Uno.

When it's dinnertime, Davion is ready for pasta aplenty since his favorite foods include mac 'n cheese and spaghetti served on dishes of red and blue, his favorite colors. After dinner, Davion might enjoy a game of catch since baseball is his favorite sport, although he likes basketball and football as well and follows the Detroit Lions and Tigers.

Because he is an athletic and energetic boy, Davion dreams of one day riding bikes with a future forever family. "Davion remains very eager to find an adoptive family," says his worker. He'd likely fit in well. "He's really personable and bubbly," says Davion's worker.



Davion, C08871.



Tatiana, C08496.

Tatiana is a fun-loving, sports-playing girl

If variety is the spice of life, consider Tatiana a well-seasoned personality.

She likes variety in her favorite colors: dark pink, hot pink, dark red, baby blue and yellow. Tatiana likes variety in her favorite animals: dogs, lions and bobcats.

She enjoys playing two sports – basketball and volleyball – and she loves singing and dancing. When she spends time with friends, Tatiana enjoys going to the park, watching TV, shopping and going to the mall.

She's taken an interest in learning how to cook and bake. When she gets older, Tatiana wants to become a social worker so she can help children or work in a nursing home to help the elderly.

If she could visit anywhere, Tatiana would travel to Africa, New York and Atlanta. "I want to explore," she says.

Her varied interests extend to music as Tatiana enjoys listening to R&B, hip hop and rap.

With her future forever family, Tatiana looks forward to sharing the same varied interests. For instance, Tatiana hopes they'll enjoy shopping, cooking and watching movies together.

Great parental tips for free

Get your learning cap on for MARE's navigator trainings

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange offers trainings for adoptive and foster care parents at least twice during the fiscal year, which runs Oct. 1-Sept. 30.

The trainings typically occur on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and they take place throughout the state. MARE's adoption navigator team organizes and hosts the trainings.

To give you more information about these trainings, we sat down with MARE Adoption Navigator Supervisor Kimberly Wolowski to get her insights.

How are these trainings structured?

Typically, registration is 30 minutes before the training starts, followed by the training for two hours before breaking for lunch, which we provide. The lunch hour is networking time for parents to interact with each other and to ask the trainer any additional questions. After lunch, we finish with the last hour of training. At the end of the training, parents receive a certificate that they can present to their agency for training credit hours.

What kinds of topics are covered?

Some of the training topics that we've covered include openness in adoption, building a support network, parenting teenagers, self-care, practical advice for raising children with attachment issues, parenting children with challenging behaviors and transracial adoption.

See [Trainings](#) on page 4



Trainings, continued from page 3

What upcoming topics are planned?

One of our adoption navigators saw a description online of a parenting technique called Trust-Based Relational Intervention for youth who've experienced trauma. We are planning to have a training based on this technique in September (see the box at the right).

Can parents suggest topics for these events?

Yes. At the end of each training, parents fill out a survey, which asks if the training was helpful and if they have suggestions for



future sessions and locations. We definitely have future trainings based on the suggestions of families.

For more information about adoptive and foster care parent trainings, visit the events section of mare.org and make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for announcements of upcoming events.

Upcoming training: Saturday, Sept. 21; registration at 9:30 a.m.; training, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Grand Rapids.

Trainer: Laurie Nyquist, a licensed professional counselor who received attachment-based, trauma-informed training from Karyn Purvis at the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University. She is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention practitioner.

Topic: Attachment styles and why they matter.

To register: Look for a post in August in the Events area of mare.org.

Mark your calendar for the adoption festival

The Tri-County Kinship Coalition invites you to attend the 29th Annual Adoption Festival and Family Fun Day Wednesday, Aug. 7, 6-9 p.m., at St. Clair Shores Veteran's Memorial Park!

- Free and open to the public.
- Free parking.
- Meet youth awaiting adoption.
- Visit the Michigan Heart Gallery.
- Speak with adoption professionals.
- Food trucks.

Attractions and activities for all ages include splash pad, bocce ball, shuffleboard, horse shoes, corn hole and other yard games!

The event occurs during the Music On The Lake Concert Series, featuring Captain Fantastic Detroit, an Elton John Tribute Band, so you also can enjoy the music during the festival.

Family movie night in the park immediately follows the concert so stay for the movie, too!



Calendar of Events

August 10
MARE Meet & Greet
Midland
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

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