

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.



Take charge of your future!

2018 Michigan Teen Conference provides skill-building tools

It's your future, so take charge! The 2018 Michigan Teen Conference aims to help you prepare for your future.

Many vital topics will be covered at this year's conference: money management, employment, educational opportunities, health and wellness, housing and more!

If you're between the ages of 14 and 21 and in foster care, independent living or young adult voluntary foster care, this conference is geared towards you and will help you develop critical life skills. You're welcome to bring a caregiver or professional with you; having an adult with you is required if



you're under 18.

Attendees will sharpen their understanding of what is available and what skills are required when making that transition to adult life.

If you're interested in attending this conference, talk to your worker about it!

Conference details

When: Wednesday-Thursday,
June 20-21

Where: Saginaw Valley State
University, 7400 Bay Road,
University Center, MI 48710

More information: [http://michfed.org/event/register today june 20-21 2018 teen conference](http://michfed.org/event/register%20today%20june%2020-21%202018%20teen%20conference)

Questions: Diana Ripley,
dripl@samaritas.org, 517-395-2338

Make your own 'highlight reel' and let families know how special you are

Here's what to expect when MARE films a video of you

One of the best ways to highlight yourself for a future forever family is having your own MARE video produced. To help you understand the process, we asked MARE Youth Specialist Jennifer Brooks about the types of things you can expect at one of these video shoots.

If you film a video of me, what questions could I expect?

If you're concerned about questions we might ask, have your worker contact us and we can send you a list of them so you can be prepared. They're all questions about you. You are the expert. We talk about your likes and your interests.

How would you make me feel comfortable?

We always start out with a "shake the sillies out" to get you laughing and make you feel at ease. We also can film you doing some activities just to get you used to having the camera on you. Before we start interviewing you, we will prepare you to let you know what to expect.

What's the structure of the interview?

We start off with an introduction. We'll ask your name, age and grade. After that we usually ask school questions such as favorite subject and why you like it and then move into personal interests such as what you like to do for fun, how you describe yourself and what you want to be when you grow up. The last part of the video is your chance to tell viewers



MARE staff will help you feel comfortable in front of a camera. Here, MARE Communications Specialist Hannah Dunne films Kaedyen (C09489).

what you're looking for in a forever family and what activities you want to do with them.

Where do you film the videos?

We like to film where it's visually impressive. Sometimes we do it at fun places like Henry Ford Museum, Airtime or a park near where you live. We also film in other places such as residential facilities. We've even shot videos at our MARE office. Most importantly, we need a quiet space to interview you.



See [MARE video](#) on page 4

Behind the scenes at the 2018 Heart Gallery video shoot



The theme of this year's Michigan Heart Gallery video is a quote from youth speaker and former foster care youth Josh Shipp: "Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story."

For the video, Raslamp (C08776) visited Concordia University's football practice to shadow offensive line coach Andrew Rode, left and above. Raslamp dreams of becoming a football coach while Hannah (C09289), below, wants to become a cosmetologist. Here she visits with Stacey Rackham, stylist and owner of Mint Hair Crafting. Filming Raslamp and Rode is MARE Communications Specialist Hannah Dunne.

To watch the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/VideosbyMare>



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 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 Bri Simmons at 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).

MARE video, continued from page 2

How long does it take?

You can take as much time as you need, but it can take up to 30 minutes at most. We like to include an activity that you enjoy such as drawing, playing basketball, dancing and singing. The activity will depend on what you like.

How do I get my own MARE video?

Contact your adoption worker and let him or her know you're ready and you give permission for it. Then your worker will contact MARE.



Samariya (C08993) works on an arts and crafts activity at a recent Meet & Greet. If you want to attend an upcoming MARE Meet & Greet, let your worker know.

YOUTH RESOURCES

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 > 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)