

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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YOU'LL GET THE VIP TREATMENT AT THE 2015 HEART GALLERY GRAND OPENING

This gala event showcases you, so come and join the celebration!

Awesome! Reserved seating for waiting MARE youth

You deserve it! Special recognition of waiting MARE youth in attendance

Hey, that's me! Check out your new picture in the Heart Gallery

Yum Yum! Pop, popcorn and lunch provided

World premiere! See the debut of a special MARE video

Hope to see you there! Come and walk the red carpet

An audience! The public has been invited to this free event



How do I sign up? Contact your worker and have him/her sign you up at www.mare.org

SAVE THE DATES!



Take Charge of Your Journey!

2015 Michigan Teen Conference

Wednesday-Thursday **June 17-18, 2015** at



7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710

ARE YOU EXITING FOSTER CARE? DON'T GET LEFT IN THE DARK

This conference offers help for teens now and into the future

Calling all teens who are preparing to exit foster care. Saginaw Valley State University is hosting the 2015 Michigan Teen Conference to help you understand the process and resources available to you as you make this big transition. According to the Michigan Federation For Children and Families website, topics will include:

- Career planning
- College support programs
- Health and well-being
- Housing
- Job search/employment
- Legal rights of youth in care (101) and as adults (401)
- Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiatives
- Money management — beginner

(101) & advanced (401)

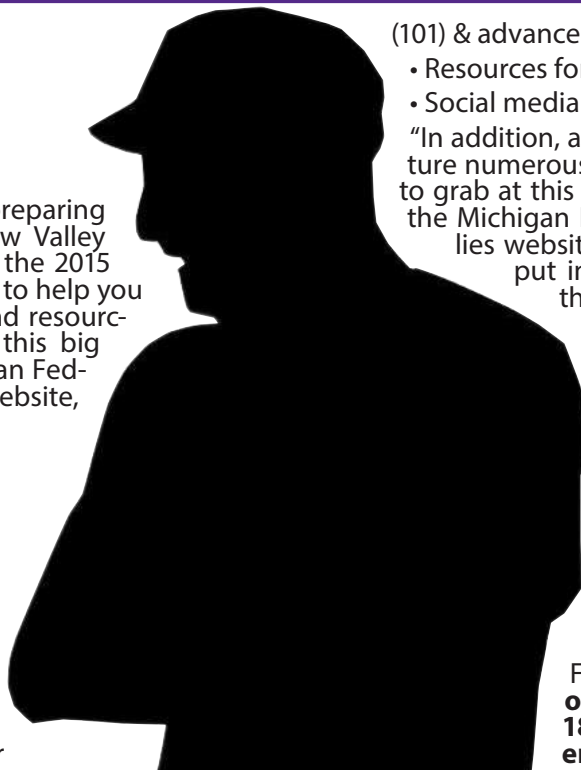
- Resources for older youth (ETV, YIT, YAVFC)
- Social media

"In addition, a special Walk Through Life will feature numerous life stations to visit and resources to grab at this fun, interactive two-hour session," the Michigan Federation For Children and Families website says. "It is a chance for youth to put into practice many of the life skills they acquired during the conference.

Stations will include":

- Education
- Employment
- Finances
- Housing
- Identification
- Transportation

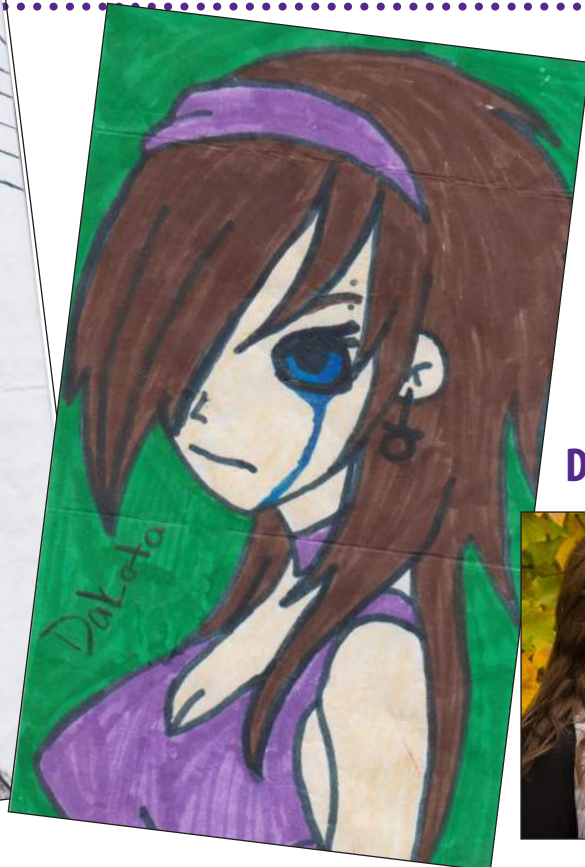
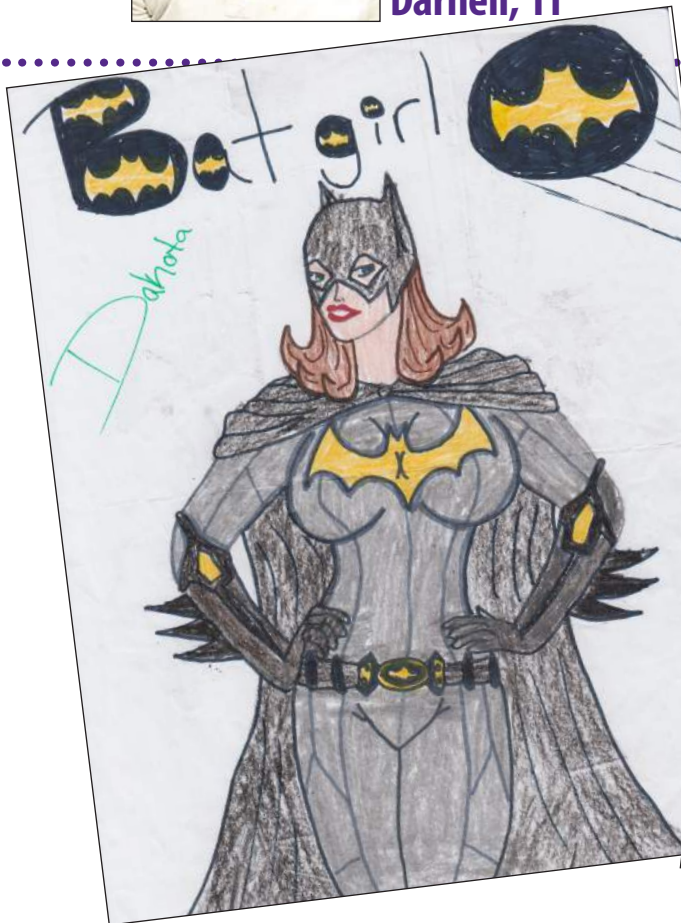
According the Michigan Federation For Children and Families website, more information about the conference is in the works. For more, visit http://michfed.org/event/save_dates_june_17-18_2015_michigan_teen_conference or call 517-485-8552.



THE TALENT SHOWCASE



Darnell, 11



Dakota, 15

IF YOU ARE A YOUTH AND WANT TO HAVE YOUR ARTWORK OR WRITING FEATURED ON MARE, HAVE YOUR WORKER CONTACT JENNIFER BROOKS BY CALLING 734.528.2061 OR BY E-MAILING JENNIFER _ BROOKS@JUDSONCENTER.ORG. YOU CAN SUBMIT UP TO 3 PIECES A MONTH AND RECEIVE A \$10 GIFT CARD FOR EACH SUBMISSION.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORY

March 28, 2015

Match Party
Lansing

May 2, 2015

Match Party
Grand Rapids and the Detroit Zoo

May 12, 2015

Adoption Awareness Day
Comerica Park, Detroit

July 11, 2015

Match Party
Grand Rapids

July 25, 2015

Match Party
Plymouth

**September, 2015
(Date TBD)**

Match Party
Detroit Zoo

For more information regarding these events please contact Jennifer Brooks, MARE Youth Specialist: Jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org

Fostering Success Michigan is seeking student stories to be highlighted on their website!

We are currently seeking students who are interested in being featured on our website. We have all heard the statistics and know about the obstacles students face. This is an opportunity for students and professionals alike to read the success stories and learn about what supports helped youth succeed. The stories will be used as a way to highlight students and their

achievements.

If you know of any youth or alumni of care between the ages of 18 and 24 who are currently enrolled in high school or college, we would love to hear from them.

Contact Fostering Success Michigan Student Researcher, Brittney Grant, at fostering-info@wmich.edu to have the interview questions sent directly to your inbox.

We look forward to featuring youth and alumni stories from across the state!



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 have come out of 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 503-717-1552)



Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative - MYOI is a partnership between the Michigan Department of 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. (www.michigan.gov/fyit/0,1607,7-240-44524-162619--,00.html)



Foster Youth in Transition - An organization that is geared towards youth who are aging out of foster care. It's a comprehensive, youth-oriented site with information, advice, interactive features and a useful glossary of foster care terms. This is a website with 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 517-373-9219)