

YOUTH NEWS

For Michigan Adoption Youth

WAITING CHILD TELEVISION FEATURE

A partnership between
Fox 2 News Detroit
&

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange

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MARE is a program of Judson Center and is funded by the Michigan Department of Human Services.

Fox 2 News Detroit and Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange developed a partnership starting last winter. In that time 6 youth have had a chance to participate in a segment called 'A Place to Call Home' on Fox 2 News Detroit. The most recent youth's segment was shot in October. I want to share his special story and experience with all of you out there who may not even know that this opportunity is available, or maybe hesitant about giving permission to your Adoption Specialist to complete an application for you to be chosen.

A young man Maurice, 17 year old waiting youth was approached when his application for the feature was submitted by his Adoption Specialist. The registration form asks for ideas where the youth would like to have their Fox 2 News segment taken. Most youth have suggested the zoo, park, baseball field, or skate rink, but Maurice was different. He expressed interest in visiting a college campus. MARE partnered with Fox 2 News to feature his story and give him a chance to experience a real college campus at Eastern Michigan University.

Maurice, as all the other youth that have had this opportunity was nervous, but as soon as the camera turned on, so did his charm and true longing for this was his big chance to show the world his desire to find his Forever Family.



This upcoming feature will be aired in the near future so keep your eyes open to witness an amazing youth tell his story and share with the world who he really is and what type of Forever family he is looking for!

MICHIGAN'S YOUTH ADOPTION RESOURCE CENTERS

Here are a few resources for youth to look into for educational assistance:

Reaching Out: MSU program: Aids foster care youth during college years

•ETV(Education and Training Voucher) Website:

www.mietv.lssm.org

• TIP (Tuition Incentive Program)

• YIT (Youth in Transition)

• FC2S (Foster Care to Success) Website:

www.fc2success.org

Transition to Independence (TIP)

• Western Michigan University; John Seita Scholarship

• University of Michigan, Blavin Scholarship

• Michigan State University; Foster Care Youth Endowed Scholarship

• Michigan State University; Grant Expendable Foster Care Scholarship Fund

• Macomb Community College; Fostering Success Scholarship

• Aquinas College; Fostering Success Scholarship

• Lansing Community College; Junger Scholarship

• Ferris State University; Ferris Youth Initiative

• Michigan Indian Tuition Program

Google the different resources that you may be interested in to see if you qualify. Each program has different criteria and eligibility requirements.

Don't Forget About MYOI

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.

What is MYOI?

MYOI's goal is to ensure that young people in foster care have successful outcomes in housing, education, employment, community engagement and health. Each site provides:

Youth Boards

Youth boards serve as the leadership and advocacy arm of MYOI. Youth are trained in leadership, media and communication skills, including how to strategically share their story and present on panels.

Community Partner Boards

A community partner board is a group of businesses, public and private agencies, and community representatives that have an interest in assisting youth who are transitioning out of foster care. Community Partner Board members provide support, discounts to services and advocacy for older youth in care.

Training

Training opportunities provided to youth encompass asset purchases, life skills, and preparation for adulthood including, housing, employment, education, health and community engagement.

Matches

Each youth has an Individual Development Account (IDA). Youth are required to save money in their IDA each month. MYOI matches the IDA funds dollar to dollar up to \$1000 per year for a youth to purchase an asset.

Stipends

Youth earn stipend payments for participation in events and meetings. The stipends assist youth to save money in their IDAs. Earning stipends is a tangible way to recognize the time and effort the youth contributes to the program.

Eligibility

Michigan youths who are active in the foster care system, placed out of their home based on abuse and neglect, after age 14 and up to age 21. Michigan youth, ages 18 to 21, that have been in foster care on or after their 14th birthday but are no longer under DHS supervision.

Enrollment

Verify eligibility with the local coordinator.

Complete the enrollment packet.

Complete eight hours of financial literacy training.

Open one Individual Development Account (IDA) and one **personal** savings account.

Complete an on-line survey.

ONE DAY
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE



**NATIONAL
ADOPTION DAY**
Celebrating a Family for Every Child



Visit nationaladoptionday.org

November is National Adoption Month!

Michigan will celebrate Adoption Day on **Tuesday, November 20, 2012!**

What are **you** doing to celebrate adoption in your community? Let MARE know about events and celebrations you are hosting during Adoption Month and we will add them to the events calendar on the MARE website. We also have giveaways and adoption recruitment materials available to agencies and courts free of charge!

Contact Ann Riggs, MARE Recruitment Specialist at (734) 528-2070 or ann_riggs@judsoncenter.org.

UPCOMING ADOPTION EVENTS

MARE Match Party

Saturday, November 10, 2012, 11AM-2PM, Novi, MI

NOTE: Registration is currently FULL for children, but there are still spots left for families.

To register a family, contact MARE at 800.589.6273.

Michigan Adoption Day!

Tuesday, November 20, 2012, Various locations statewide

Join the Michigan adoption community in celebrating adoption! Contact MARE if you are in need of promotional materials for your events.

MARE Match Party

Saturday, December 8, 2012, 11AM-2PM, Lansing, MI

To register a child or family, contact MARE at 800.589.6273.

MARE is currently scheduling match parties and recruitment events for fiscal year 2013.

Please contact Ann Riggs, MARE Recruitment Specialist at (734) 528-2070 or

ann_riggs@judsoncenter.org if you would like to partner with us on an event.

Contact the MARE Staff

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MEET SHILO!

Fall 2012's Featured Child

Shilo would like families to know, "I am funny, I like to laugh and I am nice!" She is an active young girl who enjoys playing games and playing with Barbies. Shilo likes playing outside, swimming, going to the park or beach, and doing arts & crafts. When she hangs out with her friends she likes to listen to music, play at the park and get ice cream.

Shilo loves to go shopping and is willing to try new things. She likes stuffed animals and her favorite animal is a dog, especially puppies.

When asked what she is most proud of, she replied, "I am proud of my grades, I get A's and B's!" If Shilo had three wishes she says, "I would like to be 16 years old, to have even more friends and to have a nice family." When she grows up she would like to be a nurse.

Shilo has been working very

hard to manage her emotions regarding her difficult past. She is learning how to develop positive social skills and improve her ability to express her frustrations through appropriate outlets. Shilo would benefit from encouragement and guidance on improving her self-image. She responds very well to a highly structured and consistent schedule and living environment.

Shilo reports, "I would like to go shopping, visit Disney World and adopt a dog with my forever family!"

An adoptive family for Shilo would need to have patience and understanding when it comes to her transitioning into the family setting. Shilo thrives with unconditional love and support.

It would be beneficial to Shilo if she were the only or youngest child in the home with older adult children (late high school or college

aged). The family must be able to address Shilo's needs and be able to seek out any support services that would be beneficial to her well being.

In addition, the family must be supportive and continue to facilitate therapeutic services for as long as Shilo may need them. The family must be strong advocates for Shilo at home, in the community and at school to make sure that all of her needs are being met.

It is important to Shilo that she is able to maintain contact with her siblings, who are in another adoptive placement, as she has strong bonds with them.

To learn more about Shilo, C07042, contact MARE at 800.589.6273 or visit www.mare.org.

Check out
Shilo's
feature on
Fox 2 news!

2013 YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

Now is the time for you to show off your artistic skills!

THEME: What Superhero's would you and your forever family have?

On a plain sheet of paper use your skills to draw, sketch, or paint what your Superhero Forever family would be. If your drawing is chosen you could win a \$50.00 gift card!

**For more information or to submit your drawings contact: Jen Dickey, MARE Youth Specialist at 734.528.2061 or email at Jennifer_dickey@judsoncenter.org.
Deadline for submissions is December 31st 2012**