

Let's Talk About ...

Finding Your Forever Family!



*A guide for Michigan youth being
featured for adoption recruitment
and their adoption workers*



RECRUITMENT? WHAT'S THAT?

Every child deserves a family. To make that happen, families that want to adopt need to know which kids are waiting for homes. The internet and printed material are great ways for those families to see information about children ready for adoption.

Recruitment also gets more people to think about adopting children.



What is Adoption?

Adoption is a legal way for parents to take a child into their family. Children who are adopted become a permanent part of the family, just as if they had been born into that family.

What is Recruitment?

Recruitment means putting information out in newspapers, television and the Internet to spread the word and get people interested in adoption. This is a way to let families know that there are children waiting to be adopted.

WHAT IS MARE?

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) is an information and referral service for families interested in adopting children. MARE works to match families who want to adopt with children who need families.



Here are the main things MARE does:

- Maintain the www.mare.org website with pictures and descriptions (photolistings) of kids waiting for adoption
- Maintain an informational hotline, 800-589-6273 that interested families can call to learn more about adoption
- Work with agencies (like the one your adoption worker works for) to help them find families who want to adopt children

What is Photolisting?

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) wants to do all it can to find new families for children. When the court decides it is best for a child to be adopted into a new family, the caseworker sends information to MARE. The information would include your name, picture, your interests and hobbies and the type of family you want.

WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE PHOTOLISTING?

Before you are listed with MARE, several things must happen:

- 1.) First, the court must say that it is time for your caseworker to start looking for a permanent family for you.
- 2.) Then, you and your caseworker will talk about what recruitment means and how it is done. Together, you will work on information that may be included in the description that will be printed. This includes information about you and the type of family you would like. MARE will also need a recent photograph that can go along with the description.
- 3.) If you are 9 or older, you will also sign a form that tells MARE what type of recruitment features you want to do. To protect your privacy, only your first name will be listed. The description that your case worker sends in will give basic facts about your age, grade in school and things you are interested in.

After all three steps are done, and with final permission from the Department of Health & Human Services, you will be listed with MARE to begin looking for families that match what you need.



What does confidential mean?

Confidential describes information that someone has promised not to tell. When MARE is looking for families, they keep some information private until they can tell if a family will be a good match for you.

TALKING IT OUT

It is important to think and talk about your feelings regarding recruitment and the publicity that comes with it. Here are a few things to go over with your caseworker:

Talking About Adoption

Finding a permanent family is a huge decision. Make sure you talk about adoption a lot with your caseworker, therapist, foster parent or any trusted adult so you can understand everything and be prepared.

You should also talk about what your relatives, siblings or foster parents might think when you start looking for an adoptive family. This can be a hard thing to talk about. You and your caseworker should decide the best way to handle it. Again, it is important to let people know how you are feeling. You might be surprised and find that it gets easier after talking it out.

Talking About Recruitment

Although not many people view adoption photolisting websites or publications unless they are planning to adopt, it is possible that someone you know may see your picture and recognize you. If someone at school says they saw you in the newspaper or on Facebook, what will you say? You should take some time to think about how to handle this in advance and talk it out with your caseworker.

You decide ...

Do you want important people in your life (like family members and friends) to know that your caseworker is looking for an adoptive family for you? You should decide if and how you want to let them know. Do you want to tell them or would you want someone else to let them know?

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER LISTING

When families learn about a child that they may be interested in adopting, they contact MARE. MARE will let your caseworker know if a family contacts them about you. Your caseworker will then contact the family's agency to find out if it may be a good match. If there is a possible match, the caseworker will talk with the family's worker, meet with the family, and decide if it's a good idea to introduce you and the family on a visit.

It takes some time to find a family that will be the best for you. It is your caseworker's job to "recruit" to find a family for you.



Photo by Loren Sanders

You decide ...

If a possible match for a family is found, how do you want to be told? Would you like your caseworker to tell you, or maybe your foster parents? When it is time to meet the prospective family, where would you like that to happen? It may not be able to happen the way you plan, but you should think about these things in advance.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

By now you probably have some questions about all of this recruitment stuff. Use this space to write out some questions you have about being featured publicly for recruitment. Then, talk through these questions with your adoption worker, foster parent, therapist or one of MARE's staff members.

MY QUESTIONS

WAYS CHILDREN ARE FEATURED FOR ADOPTION

There are many recruitment tools that caseworkers use to feature children available for adoption. Some examples include:

- Websites (www.mare.org, www.adoptuskids.org)
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.)
- Matching events (adoption festivals, meet & greets)
- Newspaper articles
- Television features
- Radio broadcasts
- Printed materials (brochures, fliers, posters, etc.)
- Heart Gallery
- Faith community outreach



On the following pages are examples of what actual recruitment features look like. This will help you to understand where your picture or video may appear.

Every type of recruitment is not used for every child. Your caseworker, you, and MARE will decide what ways are best to help to find a family for you.

PHOTOLISTING ON WWW.MARE.ORG



MARE will display your photo, information about you and sometimes a video of you talking about yourself and the type of family you might like to be adopted by!

About SHANTE Listing #C07835

ADD TO INQUIRY BACK



Print this page

Female
13 years old
Black

Siblings being placed together: 7

None

Impairments:

Physical - None
Emotional - Moderate
Mental - Mild
Learning - Moderate

Waiting Since: 10-06-2010
Story Last Updated: 02-12-2015
Photo Last Updated: 04-10-2015

OPEN

Shante is a typical girl in many ways. Her favorite colors are pink and black, her favorite toy is Barbie, and she loves painting nails when hanging out with friends. However, Shante distinguishes herself by her empathy for others, particularly the homeless. For instance, she considers herself a "fashionista," and when she gets older she wants to turn that passion into a career making clothes for the homeless. One day, she'd like to build a house and dedicate part of it as a homeless shelter. Some of the things she wants others to know about her include that she's a caring, loving, funny girl who isn't afraid to take a stand against bullying. With her forever family, Shante would like to go shopping, do hair and play with stuffed animals.

Shante struggles with regulating her emotions and behaviors that require close supervision. Shante has difficulty with making meaningful connections with others. She is currently in need with an adoptive family. However, she has had difficulty speaking due to her lateral moves. Shante is experiencing a lot of anxiety due to not knowing what the future holds.

Shante would do best with two experienced parents. However, a single female parent would be considered. Either way, her forever family should provide love and encouragement while demonstrating patience as Shante transitions into her new adoptive home. The family must be willing to continue and seek out any support services that would help Shante while in with the family and allow her with her emotional, developmental and educational needs. It is very important to Shante that she is allowed to maintain close contact and interaction with her plural siblings when she visits very much.

Shante C07835



View Waiting Children

Submit an Inquiry →

Impairment Level Guidelines →

Recently Matched →

Listed Children Statistics →

New to Adoption

FAQs →

Outside Michigan Links & Resources →

Find a Licensed Agency →

Adopting a Child in Michigan →

Adopting an Older Child →

Family Registry

Post-Adoption Information

Adoption Navigators

Match Support Program

General Adoption Information Inquiry

Disruption/Dissolution Survey for Parents

Family Profile

PHOTOLIST STATUS: WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Open:

My worker is ready to hear about your family to see if we are good match. Please inquire today!

Reviewing Home studies:

My worker is busy reading and reviewing all of the home studies sent recently. If my forever family isn't within these, my worker will let you know by changing my status back to Open.

Placement Pending:

PHOTOLISTING ON WWW.ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG



AdoptUSKids is a national photolisting website with photos and descriptions of waiting kids from all over America waiting to be adopted. AdoptUSKids, like MARE, will display your photo, information about you and sometimes a video.

Christopher

[PRINT](#)[CLOSE](#)

MI01C08900

Status:	Available
Name:	Christopher
Age:	12
Race:	African American/Black
Gender:	Male
State:	Michigan
Case #:	MI01C08900
Last Profile Update:	11/05/15
Photo Updated:	07/29/15



Christopher - Male, age 12

About Christopher

One of his workers sums up Christopher the best by saying that he's "a keeper." Christopher is eager to please, too, and enjoys receiving attention, praise and gifts from adults. This creative and active boy counts basketball as one of his favorite activities. "I am good at basketball," he says. He not only takes pride in his basketball skills but also in his football ability and dreams of playing it as a future career. When he's not shooting hoops or catching footballs, Christopher enjoys playing video games on the Xbox. He also likes rapping and playing with his friends. In addition to his basketball and football skills, Christopher is excellent at gymnastics, and he's interested in learning karate and tae kwon do. With a future forever family, Christopher would like to go out and play sports and video games.

LINK TO MARE PROFILE ON TWITTER



www.youtube.com/user/VideosbyMARE

People interested in adoption become “followers” of MARE’s Twitter feed. These are short posts about adoption, upcoming events, interesting articles, or links to waiting youth’s profiles. MARE might post a link to your profile on its website to encourage families to learn more about you.



MARE @MAREinMichigan · Aug 11

Meet Jalen! What a funny smart and stylish kid that could bring so much to a home! fb.me/7wUWuVMHQ



PINTEREST PINS



www.pinterest.com/mareadoption/adoption-resources/

Families, workers, and advocates for adoption visit Pinterest to share “boards” about family life and adoption. MARE has created a Pinterest account focusing on adoption and recruitment for Michigan’s waiting youth. Anyone can view this, and then “like” and “re-pin” it, for others to see.

FACEBOOK POST



www.facebook.com/MichiganAdoptionResourceExchange/

MARE has a Facebook page where information on adoption events are posted and waiting kids are featured. People with a Facebook page can "Like" MARE and follow its status updates. MARE may post a link to your MARE profile or video so that followers of MARE on Facebook can learn about you!

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE

HOMES
FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

800.589.6273

www.mare.org

Create Call to Action Like Message

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange Non-Profit Organization

Timeline About Photos Reviews More + Add Page Section

60% Page likes (1,446) | 12,446 likes

3,280 likes · 14 likes per post

10 web hits (1 mo)

New Pages Feed See what's happening on new pages

Invite Friends to Like this Page

Status Photo / Video Offer, Event

www.youtube.com/embed/dUyXQ2Yw208

Hunter C08151

See if this is the waiting child you are looking for. MARE profile here: <http://www.mare.org/Facilities/WaitingChildren/ChildC08151/Details.aspx?ChildID=08151>

MARE RECRUITMENT PERIODICAL

Every three months, MARE produces a booklet featuring at least 10 kids in Michigan looking for adoptive families. This booklet goes to agencies, community centers, churches, and other places where families may see it.

MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE



Inside:

Jovial Johslin jumps for joy at new things, Page 5.

Smiles abound in Amanda's kingdom, Page 8.

Justice's hands-on approach to life, Page 11.

Summer 2016

A spotlight on children waiting for permanent & loving families

MARE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS

MARE creates newsletters for families, adoption workers and youth waiting for adoption. These newsletters include a Featured Child section to spotlight a child waiting for adoption with his or her photo and a description.

This kid digs having a ball

Kyron longs for a forever family to share his fun times

Kyron might be pictured with a bowling ball, but he's more accustomed to having a basketball in his hands. "Being good with the basketball" is one of the things he says he's most proud of, and practicing the sport represents one of his favorite things to do when playing with friends. This 17-year-old likes all sports and particularly enjoys going swimming and bowling. Kyron also likes playing with cars, and when he visited the auto show, he loved sitting in fancy ones and likely displayed his beaming grin. And if you want to see Kyron at his most joyous, give him the remote on a wrestling night. "On TV," Kyron says, "WWE makes me laugh." Along with smiles and laughter come more serious thoughts. For instance, Kyron says he most wants people to know that he tries to be good, and with a forever family he longs to spend a night playing video and board games together, especially

when he becomes frustrated. He does best when things are explained in a clear and consistent manner. At school, Kyron likes attending his classes, especially gym and math, gets along well with his peers and gets good grades. He admits the hardest thing for him to do is accept when he is told "no," but he is working to be better in this area. Kyron also noted that his biggest worry about being adopted is that people would be mad at him and tell him what to do.

Kyron wants his forever family to know that he will try his best because he really wants a family. Kyron needs an adoptive family who can provide him a warm, caring and loving home in which he can thrive. He does best with structure, routine and consistency in his daily schedule. Kyron would be a transitional



September 2015

PROFESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

Page 1: Board Announcements
Page 2: "You're Welcome" our new staff
Page 3: Adoption and Placement
Page 4: Care for the Family
Page 5: Child Welfare
Page 6: Child Welfare

Here's your primetime primer

Tips to help you get your youth ready for the big event

1500 400 Avenue C, Lakeview, MARE Adoption Workers Liaison

MARE Meet & Greet

Shouldn't be an attendance of 1000+ if it's a family... this probably happened on your wedding night... the "MARE" Meet & Greet... you'll be able to meet the staff... you'll be able to meet the staff... you'll be able to meet the staff...

Safety First!

To make for a successful day, MARE staff always begins the day with a safety check... MARE staff always begins the day with a safety check... MARE staff always begins the day with a safety check...

OK, so summer ends, but big deal because the fun...

Join us at a party on Belle Isle ...

Fun 'n games

Here's what you can expect:

- A summer picnic, water, including the giant inflatable for the...
- Fun 'n games
- A summer picnic, water, including the giant inflatable for the...

RECRUITMENT VIDEO ON MARE

Recruitment videos are made by the MARE staff. They will usually come to where you live and tape you answering questions about yourself, the things you like to do and the type of family you would like to have. These videos are edited to highlight you and posted on the MARE website.



Anyone can view these videos, but no one is allowed to make comments on them on this website.

MICHIGAN HEART GALLERY DISPLAY & VIDEO

The Heart Gallery is a portrait exhibit of youth waiting for adoptive families. A real photo shoot by a professional photographer is arranged by your worker with scheduling assistance from MARE and the photo is featured on a large exhibit that travels throughout the state of Michigan for the public to view.

The video is sometimes shown to people who are thinking about adoption. Here's an example of what one of the displays may look like:



NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Some local newspapers regularly feature kids waiting for an adoptive family. The article usually includes your picture, some information about you, and your adoption worker talking about the type of family that would be best for you.

These articles are usually printed in the newspaper and posted on the newspapers' website.

Awaiting Adoption: 'Take a chance' and make a difference in a teen's life



118
shares



Clockwise from top left: Ashly, Antonio, Eugene and Lakynyi are just four of the older children at www.mare.org waiting for a home and family to call their own. (Christine Schefer, Sara Boyd, Sara Taylor and Nicole Horvath)



By MLive.com

[Follow on Twitter](#)

on April 06, 2016 at 9:30 AM, updated April 06, 2016 at 9:33 AM

[Print](#)

[Email](#)

By Mark Fisk, MARE Communications Specialist

Adoptive families often overlook the children in Michigan who through no fault of their own have no home and no family.

Many of these children living in foster care have crossed into their teen years, and their smiles on the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange's website mask the heartache they feel about not having a family.

MARE PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

MARE creates lots of printed materials to send to families interested in adopting and to generate public interest in adoption. Most materials feature pictures of kids waiting for adoption. These include brochures advertising MARE, flyers for adoption events, desk calendars, and posters.



Every Child
Deserves A
Place To Call
Home!

The Michigan
Adoption
Resource
Exchange is

dedicated to finding permanent
homes for children in foster care.

www.mare.org
800-589-6273



FAITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH

There are many faith communities (churches, synagogues, temples) that are very invested in helping to find waiting kids adoptive homes. These communities may display your picture and description in their church bulletin, on a small prayer card handed out to their members or in some other way. Here's a sample of what an ad in a church bulletin may look like:



Andrew picks Florida as the one destination on Earth that he'd most like to visit! He wants to be able to see the blue ocean and bury his feet in the white sand on the beaches. Andrew loves life's simple pleasures. He likes sledding and playing in the snow after a busy day at school. Andrew would like people to know that, "I am kind" and "I am nice."

For more information on Andrew C06034, please visit www.mare.org

OTHER WAYS YOU MAY BE FEATURED

RADIO INTERVIEW

You may be asked to do an interview for a radio station along with your adoption worker to talk about yourself and the type of family you would like to adopt you.

TELEVISION SPOTLIGHT

Sometimes TV news stations feature children waiting for adoption in their city. This may include being interviewed by a news reporter, being recorded doing a fun activity, and your adoption worker talking about the type of family that would be best for you.

MATCHING EVENTS

MARE holds matching events where kids waiting for adoptive families and families who are interested in adopting come to meet each other in a fun, party-like event. These “meet and greets” usually include games, arts and crafts, food, and lots of fun!



SPECIAL NOTES FOR ADOPTION WORKERS

- This booklet was designed to guide a conversation between youth in need of adoption recruitment, the adoption worker and the child's current caregiver. Please don't read it word for word or just drop it off at a visit! Set aside time to have an open discussion about what adoption recruitment means for the individual child and leave time for questions.
- This booklet is to be used as a guide with ALL children in need of adoption recruitment. Although a signature is only required for children ages 9 and older, it is important that the concepts be explored with all children at a level he or she can understand.
- A copy of the "Confirmation of Conversation" form must be submitted to MARE at the time of initial photolisting and every year thereafter. It may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the MARE office.
- Be prepared to answer questions and address concerns. If you need assistance or ideas, contact the MARE social work staff at 800-589-6273; they are here to help!



This booklet was created by the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange as a tool for Michigan adoption workers to utilize when talking to youth about adoption recruitment.

For more information or for additional copies, please contact MARE at:

800-589-6273 www.mare.org

3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170

Ann Arbor, MI 48108



*The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
is a program of Judson Center
and funded by the Michigan
Department of Health and Human Services.*



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.