

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.



Project lets youth help plan and produce their own profiles

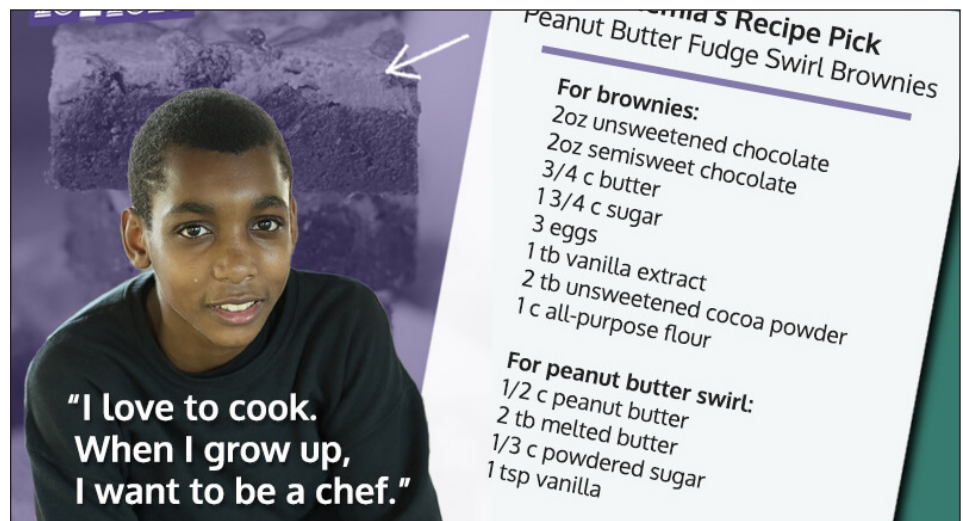
MARE has started a project called 20 in 2020, which celebrates 20 Michigan youth in foster care who are sharing their stories with potential adoptive families in 2020.

Youth decide what they want to share and then get to work creating an In-Depth Profile. They are in the driver's seat from start to finish, so their profiles best represent who they are.

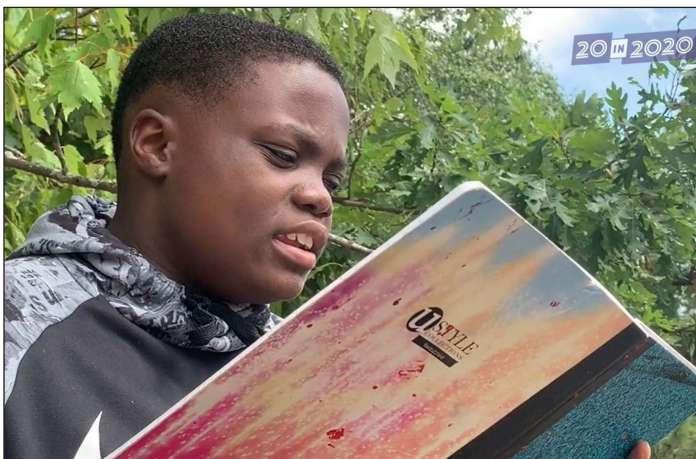
Youth create and share through their In-Depth Profiles with the hope that families like you are inspired to step forward and adopt.

Youth in foster care deserve the opportunity to speak directly to potential adoptive families. In-Depth Profiles exist so their voices are heard.

You can view In-Depth Profiles at Mare.indepthprofiles.org.



In their In-Depth Profiles, Nehemiah (C09329) talks about cooking and basketball while Jennifer (C09242) reveals plans for a series of novels.



Zandra shares some of her poetry, and Christian provides nature tips.

Elizabeth dreams of fame, fortune, family

The trappings of being a celebrity intrigue Elizabeth. If she had three wishes, she'd want to be a billionaire and be famous, and she'd live in a mansion and "drive a fancy car."

Then she'd travel to Africa where Elizabeth says she'll "feed the kids in need." If you want to be famous, you need to look your best, and Elizabeth does just that. "I take pride in my hair and makeup," she says.

To achieve her celebrity status, Elizabeth wants to become a movie star or author. Elizabeth's personality matches her celebrity dreams. She's described as a free-spirited and bubbly youngster who enjoys making others laugh.

Some of Elizabeth's favorite things to do include singing, dancing, listening to music and watching TV. She not only enjoys going out to eat but also cooking on the weekends.

Some of her other favorite things are the color pink, puppies and watermelon and smoothies. Elizabeth likes playing board games such as Monopoly and The Game of Life. Elizabeth loves swimming and dreams of going to the beach or pool with her future forever family.

Most of all, Elizabeth says she hopes for "nice parents who care about me."



Elizabeth (C09673).



Daniel (C08521).

Daniel's tremendous trait is his pleasant personality

Daniel would be a popular military commander because he makes others feel at ease.

He'd be a good store greeter because he makes others feel welcome. When he's asked the most important things he wants others to know about him, Daniel says, "I'm very helpful, active and smart."

Instead of serving in the military or working in retail, Daniel wants to become a construction worker. His dreams include traveling to California and becoming a member of his school's basketball team. Daniel loves sports, and basketball is his favorite, but he also enjoys football.

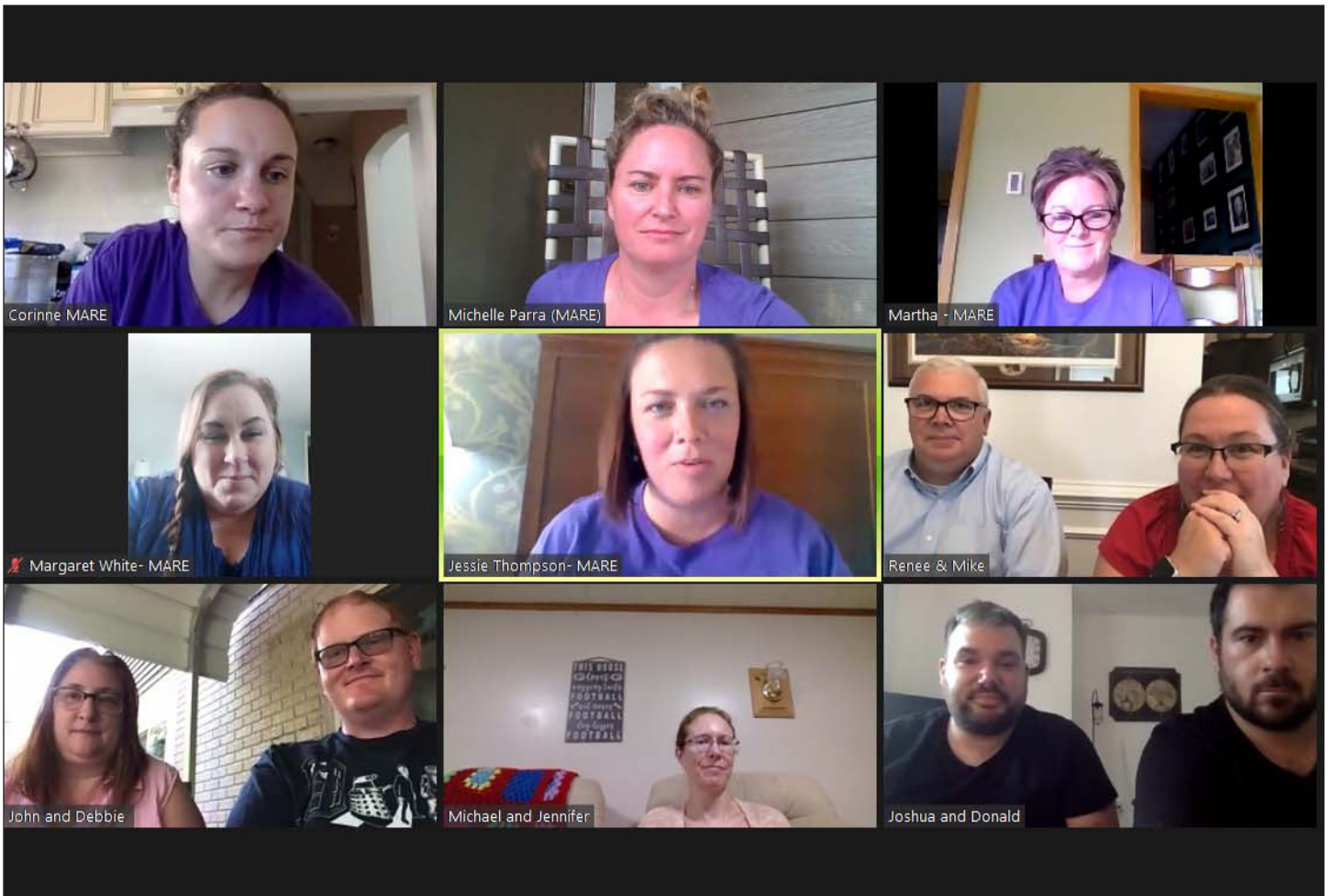
Given a choice, Daniel would fuel his active way of life with his favorite food, macaroni and cheese and pepperoni pizza. His favorite color is blue and his favorite animal is the snow leopard.

Daniel loves celebrating Christmas and his birthday by spending time with friends and family.

It takes Daniel time to get comfortable with new people. Once he does, "Daniel is very kind, thoughtful, fun and sometimes goofy," says one of the people close to him, who adds that Daniel is kind, curious and funny.

20 IN 2020

Check out Daniel's 20 in 2020 profile at <https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>



MARE's virtual Meet & Greet are a huge hit

Families like what they see in MARE's new virtual Meet & Greet.

"Families are saying they enjoy interacting with the kids that way and feel like they actually get to meet all the kids during the virtual Meet & Greet," says MARE Recruitment Specialist Jessica Thompson. "The kids have liked doing it virtually as well."

"I just attended the M&G this past weekend and I noticed the same thing," says MARE Adoption Navigator Supervisor Kimberly Wolowski. "Families had the chance to meet all the kids, and I felt like the kids were more relaxed and talkative too. The only downside is that some families and kids had a few technical and internet issues, but that is to be

expected."

MARE hosted these events in person before the pandemic, but since the outbreak, MARE has been working on bringing these events to you virtually. Our plan is to host at least two virtual Meet & Greet per month.

You can find registration information for these events on our website. It also will be sent out through our email, so if you're on our list you will receive notification that way. You will register as a family the same way you would for in-person Meet & Greet.

We are really excited to still be able to bring youth and families together during this time. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call us at 800-589-6273 or visit Mare.org.

MARE
Meet
&
Greet

It is our hope that many matches will be made in an effort to find our youth who live in foster care their forever families.

Trainings give families valuable information

Virtual Waiting Family Forums started in October and will be presented quarterly.

MARE recognizes that the process of waiting to be matched with a child can be exciting, confusing and frustrating at times. To assist you through this process, the MARE adoption navigators host quarterly Waiting Family Forums. Join us and learn exactly what happens to your inquiries after you submit them; find out what you can do to make the most of your wait time; learn ways to strengthen your inquiries; get tips on how to effectively advocate for your family; and meet other waiting families.

Families who are approved to adopt and those completing their home study are all welcome to attend.

Look for future Waiting Family Forums on our home page under Events. Pre-registration is required.

If you have any further questions, please contact the MARE Adoption Navigator Supervisor Kim Wolowski via email at kimberly_wolowski@judsoncenter.org or by phone at 1-800-589-MARE.



MICHIGAN
ADOPTION
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Adoption Navigators

Watch the 2020 Heart Gallery Grand Opening

MARE hosted this year's Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening remotely on Sept. 12, 2020.

The video is now available for viewing, and it features workers, parents and youth talking about

the rewards of adopting from foster care. It also features a poem written by youth in foster care entitled "We Will Rise."

You can view the video of the event at Mare.org.



Announcements

Covid-19 has not impacted MARE adoption navigators' ability to speak to, provide information to and otherwise service families interested in adoption. They are working remotely, and the hotline and navigators' direct lines remain available as well. Please continue to keep in contact with your navigator. If you prefer to pause your efforts at this time, you

should communicate this via phone or email.

If you are interested in working with an adoption navigator, contact Kim Wolowski, adoption navigator supervisor, at Kimberly_wolowski@judsoncenter.org.



Here's an important reminder!

November is Michigan and National Adoption Month, and

we'll still be celebrating it despite the pandemic. We're not sure if we will be hosting any events at that time, but perhaps the celebration will be virtual.

Regardless, make sure you stay abreast of the latest information about upcoming events and celebrations at Mare.org and on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds.