

# MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE



## ***Inside:***

*He's a cook; she's a budding fashionista, Pages 4-5.*

*Two like mac 'n cheese; one likes Chuck E. Cheese, Pages 8-9.*

*She likes yoga and ballet; he likes basketball and fishing, Pages 10-11.*

## ***Fall 2023***

*A spotlight on children waiting for permanent and loving families*

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Recruitment Periodical, published by the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE). Over the next several pages, you will be introduced to some of the youth in Michigan who are awaiting a loving, supportive and permanent family of their own through adoption. The youth featured here represent hundreds of other youth in Michigan's foster care system who are waiting to become part of a loving family through adoption. To learn more about these children and adoption, visit [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org).

On the MARE website, you will find photos, narratives and video clips of youth waiting to be adopted, as well as a wealth of information about adoption, including links to adoption-related resources.

If you have been thinking about adoption, we invite you to consider bringing a youth or sibling group into your life. If you have questions about adoption or are ready to begin the adoption process, simply call one of the agencies listed in the back of this periodical or contact an adoption navigator at 800-589-6273. MARE is available to answer your adoption-related questions, and we will do our best to get you headed in the right direction.

"Kat is a bold, energetic, and outspoken girl who knows what she wants."



**Katlynn (Kat) C010392**

Photo by  
Paul Rains

### **Katlynn's likes:**

- Running as well as walking
- Being active and playing sports such as basketball, softball, soccer and volleyball
- Reading and watching TV at night
- Watching movies, including her favorites "Corpse Bride," "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and the Harry Potter films

### **Katlynn's crystal ball:**

- Going to Paris "because I want to see the Eiffel Tower"
- Wants to be a doctor
- Traveling and camping together with her new family

### **Qualities of a forever family:**

- A mom and dad preferred, but a single female parent or two female parents may be considered
- Willing to make sure Kat gets any services that will benefit her

## **You won't want to miss the 2023 Heart Gallery video**

Don't miss the 2023 Michigan Heart Gallery video, and if you've seen it before, check it out again.

The video delivers a message about the "magic" of adoption, and it serves as a tribute to the youth living in foster care and those who adopt them.

As a quote near the end of the film puts it,

"There's something magical about the connection you can make with a child ... are you ready?"

If you'd like to watch the 2023 Michigan Heart Gallery video, visit:

[www.youtube.com/VideosbyMare](http://www.youtube.com/VideosbyMare)

We're certain you'll love it!

## Who are the children who wait for adoption?

Children who have been placed in Michigan's foster care system and are awaiting adoption have some similar experiences related to trauma including:

- Physical/sexual/emotional abuse
- Severe neglect
- Alcohol/drug exposed infants

Many of these children share similar characteristics that can make their adoptions difficult or "special needs". Some special needs adoptions include some combination of the following circumstances:

- Physical/mental/developmental impairments of the child
- Children who are school aged and up
- Of the 98% of children ages 5 and up waiting for adoption, 75% are aged 11 to 17 years of age
- Children who are a part of a sibling group who must be placed together
- Youth who identify as LGBTQI+
- Children of color

Around 93 percent of children in Michigan's foster care system that are awaiting adoption are adopted by their foster parent(s) or relatives. The remaining children, like those highlighted in this newsletter or on the MARE website, don't have an identified family to adopt them. Recruitment of a suitable adoptive home for these children is therefore necessary.

## Who can adopt a "waiting" child?

Many people may be surprised to learn that they do not have to be married in order to adopt a child from the foster care system. Potential adoptive parents do not have to own their own home or have a lot of money. They must have enough space in their home and adequate income to support a child. It is important to know that many children waiting for adoption are eligible to receive adoption assistance, which is intended to assist adoptive families in meeting the children's needs.

## How much does it cost to adopt a child from foster care?

The only costs you should incur from adopting a child from Michigan's foster care system are court filing and birth certificate fees. Some agencies may charge a fee for the Adoptive Family Assessment (also known as a Home Study); however, once you adopt a child through Michigan's foster care system, that fee is reimbursed to you.

## What is the adoption process?

Families must be approved through the Adoptive Family Assessment process before a child can be placed in their home for adoption. An Adoptive Family Assessment must be completed by a licensed adoption agency (which can be found in the back of this periodical and on www.mare.org) and can take an average of six months to complete. The Adoptive Family Assessment includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

- Personal history.
- Health statements.
- Criminal background checks.
- Income statement.
- Personal references.

Once the Adoptive Family Assessment is complete, you may start submitting inquiries to MARE about children you may be interested in adopting. When you inquire about children through the MARE website, your information will be sent by MARE to the child's adoption worker for consideration. Your worker will also be notified that you have inquired about a specific child or children.



**Kevin C09128**

### Kevin's likes:

- Playing basketball, football and soccer
- Action-packed video games

### Kevin's crystal ball:

- Traveling to New York because "I want to see the Statue of Liberty"
- Becoming a police officer

### Qualities of a forever family:

- Strong advocates for Kevin
- Patient as Kevin adapts to his new home



“Isaac is soft-spoken, kind, caring, inquisitive and strong.”

**Isaac’s likes:**

- Sledding and cross-country skiing in the colder months
- Fishing, swimming, bike riding, taking walks and playing and watching baseball in warmer weather
- Solving puzzles
- Cooking and helping with meal prep
- Relaxing and snacking after school
- Playing video games

**Isaac’s crystal ball:**

- Traveling to China and Tokyo because “it would be interesting, and I think the culture would be cool”

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- Only or youngest child
- Patient, understanding, experienced parent or parents
- Structured home with daily routine

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**Did you know?**

In addition to this quarterly periodical, the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange also publishes newsletters for youth, families and professionals. You can find them at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org) > Resources > Newsletters.



**Family  
Newsletter**

“Alice is a very outgoing, social and friendly girl with a kind personality.”



### **Alice's likes:**

- Participating in dancing and swimming and playing volleyball at school
- Spending time with family and friends on the weekends as well as going shopping and to the movies
- Making up dance routines with friends

### **Creative interests:**

- Drawing and is very talented at it

### **Alice's crystal ball:**

- Becoming a model and clothing designer
- Traveling to Jamaica “to see the scenery”

### **Qualities of a forever family:**

- Two experienced, patient parents
- Understanding, supportive and able to provide the guidance that helps her flourish

Photo by  
Kristina Mayre  
Photography



“Journie is independent, and she leads her peers in a positive way. She embraces her uniqueness with confidence.”

### **Journie’s likes:**

- Solving puzzles
- Making art
- Riding her bike
- Putting together challenging Lego sets
- Baking
- Going on outings on the weekends
- Relaxing and listening to music after school
- “Talking, laughing and having fun” with her friends
- Playing Bananagrams

### **Journie’s crystal ball:**

- Wants to be a neonatal nurse practitioner when she gets older

### **Qualities of a forever family:**

- Strong advocates for the services she needs to thrive
- Would do best as the youngest child
- Two experienced parents
- Prefers a family who has pets
- Open to letting Journie maintain her sibling relationships

### Matthew's likes:

- Playing with race cars
- Any and all video games that feature Mario
- Hands-on activities
- Joking around with others
- Listening to music every day at any time
- Making arts and crafts
- Watching animated movies
- Science class because he enjoys learning about the science of honey bees

### Matthew's crystal ball

- Would love to turn a wolf into a pet and has a plan about how to do it (you'll have to watch his video)

### Qualities of a forever family:

- Understanding and patient
- Single female parent who's experienced
- Fierce advocates for the services that will benefit Matthew
- Only child in the home

*Photo by  
Paul Rains*



**"Matthew is a fun child  
who loves to play."**



**Wykeen's likes:**

- Spending time with friends on weekends
- Playing soccer and basketball
- Going on bike rides
- Is patriotic and loves Memorial Day and Fourth of July

- Noshing on his favorite foods – hot dogs, spaghetti, mac 'n cheese, burgers and fries

**Wykeen's crystal ball:**

- Wishes to give peace a chance with – in his words – “no more violence in the world”

“Wykeen gets along with everyone. He is a really good young man who continually makes progress.”



**Henry's likes:**

- Playing on a tablet
- Going to the park
- Playing soccer and participating in football
- Playing with Beyblades and the Goku toys from the Dragon Ball manga series

- Bacon and eggs for breakfast followed by tacos for lunch then mac 'n cheese and spaghetti for supper

**Henry's crystal ball:**

- Becoming a police officer

“Henry is a friendly, sweet and helpful kid who laughs at everything.”



**Aliee's likes:**

- Lions and tigers – “they eat meat just like me!”
- Watching the TV show “Naruto” and the movie “Ghost Rider”
- Halloween “because of all of the sweet treats!”
- Going to camp, going on walks and going shopping

**Aliee's dream destination:**

- “Chuck E. Cheese because it's always fun playing games, eating pizza and winning prizes”

**Aliee's big wishes:**

- Going to Disney World with his family because “I would love it there!”
- Giving one of his close adults cash, jewelry and a Lamborghini





### Qualities of a forever family:

- Willing to adopt Aliee, Henry and Wykeen together
- Experienced parent or parents
- Able to make sure Wykeen, Henry and Aliee receive the services that will help them function at their best





“Sydney is very caring and wise beyond her years.”

*Photos by  
Christopher Lucas Photography*

**Sydney’s likes:**

- Learning and reading
- Being active
- Sculpting, decorating and coloring
- English class “because you can express yourself”
- Participating in yoga, gymnastics and ballet
- Playing board games
- Listening to music

**Tremendous traits:**

- Bright, intelligent and insightful
- Caring, loving and generous

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- One or two parents who are committed to Sydney
- Willing to facilitate any services that Sydney will require
- Would do best as the only child

“I would like to be in fashion designing.  
I would like to design something comfortable but also fashionable.”



“Aidan is loving, kind and caring.”

*Photos by Jodi Mclendon*

**Aidan’s likes:**

- Playing basketball and football
- Interacting with animals
- Biology class in school
- Celebrating Christmas by spending time with family and opening gifts
- Spending time with friends
- Playing video games
- Fishing and once hooked into a 30-pound salmon

**Aidan’s crystal ball:**

- Wants to travel to Alaska for the ice fishing and visit Australia “just because I’ve always wanted to”

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- Two experienced parents
- Fierce advocates for the services that will help him be at his best
- Patient and understanding

“I am funny and caring, and I have a good sense of humor.”

Photo by  
Brittany Emerson  
Photography



“I am very funny, very kind,  
and I have a heart for Jesus.”

**Jayla’s likes:**

- Attending language arts class at school
- Being outside
- Keeping her mind sharp by doing word searches
- Engaging with her friends
- Going swimming
- Playing board and card games, especially Uno and Old Maid
- Napping sometimes on weekends
- Watching movies

**Jayla’s crystal ball:**

- Becoming a cosmetologist or veterinarian
- Visiting New York City because “there’s so much to do there”

**Qualities of a forever family:**

- An experienced mom and dad
- Patient and consistent
- Must make sure Jayla gets the services she needs to thrive
- Prefers a family who has pets

"I'd like for my family to be patient with me and give me time to warm up."



Photos by  
Paul Rains

### **AliciaMay's likes:**

- Listening to music, especially country
- Noshing on tacos and pizza, topped off with a serving of ice cream
- Chilling by watching TV, reading a book or writing down her thoughts and memories
- Making art and talking about artists

### **AliciaMay's crystal ball:**

- Becoming a police officer
- Owning a car, attending concerts and celebrating Christmas anytime with family
- Playing games and going to movies with her future forever family

### **Qualities of a forever family:**

- One or two female parents or a mom and dad
- Able to make sure Allie gets any support she needs to flourish
- Would do best as the only child
- Patient, supportive and understanding



**IN-DEPTH  
PROFILES**

**Check out AliciaMay's In-Depth Profile at  
<https://mare.indepthprofiles.org/profiles/>**

Make sure to check out the MARE YouTube Channel to see videos of several of the children featured in the Fall 2023 Periodical.

**Visit [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org) for a complete listing of agencies who license families for foster care, in addition to adoption homestudies, including your Michigan Department of Health and Human Services county office.**

### **Adoption Agencies in Michigan**

The following is a list of adoption agencies whose primary focus is facilitating the adoption of children from the foster care system. Many of these agencies may also provide foster care services. This agency list is organized by regions of the state. Please contact an agency in your area if you are interested in beginning the adoption process. For an interactive map of statewide licensed agencies, visit: <http://www.mare.org/For-Families/New-to-Adoption/Find-a-Licensed-Agency>

### **Upper Peninsula**

Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Escanaba, 906-786-7212, [www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)  
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Iron Mountain, 906-774-3323, [www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)  
Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-227-9119, [www.cssup.org](http://www.cssup.org)  
Child & Family Services of the U.P., Marquette, 906-228-4050, [www.cfsup.org](http://www.cfsup.org)  
Sault Tribe Binogii Placement Agency, Sault Ste. Marie, 906-632-5250, [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com)  
Upper Peninsula Family Solutions, Marquette, 906-273-1095, [www.upfs.org](http://www.upfs.org)  
U.P. Kids, Houghton, 906-487-9832, [www.upkids.com](http://www.upkids.com)

### **Northern and Central Lower Michigan**

Adoption Option Inc., Midland, 989-839-0534, [www.adoptionoptioninc.org](http://www.adoptionoptioninc.org)  
Bethany Christian Services, Traverse City, 231-995-0870, [www.bethany.org/traversecity](http://www.bethany.org/traversecity)  
Child & Family Services of Northeast MI, Alpena, 989-356-4567, [www.cfsnemi.org](http://www.cfsnemi.org)  
Child & Family Services of Northwest MI, Traverse City, 231-946-8975, [www.cfsnwmi.org](http://www.cfsnwmi.org)  
Eagle Village, Hersey, 231-832-2234, [www.eaglevillage.org](http://www.eaglevillage.org)  
Ennis Center for Children, Saginaw, 989-558-0020, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
Holy Cross Services, Saginaw, 989-577-5814, [www.holycrossservices.org](http://www.holycrossservices.org)  
Legacy Adoption Service, Bay City, 989-686-3170, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
Legacy Adoption Service, Clare, 989-386-2101, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
New Light Child & Family Institute, Millington, 989-871-6695, [www.newlightonline.net](http://www.newlightonline.net)

### **Tri-County Area (Wayne, Oakland & Macomb Counties)**

Bethany Christian Services, Southfield, 248-414-4080, [bethany.org/locations/us/michigan/southeast-michigan](http://bethany.org/locations/us/michigan/southeast-michigan)  
Catholic Charities of S.E. Michigan, 855-882-2736, [www.ccsem.org](http://www.ccsem.org)  
The Children's Center of Wayne County, Detroit, 313-831-5535, [www.thechildrenscenter.com](http://www.thechildrenscenter.com)  
Ennis Center for Children, Detroit, 313-342-2699, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
Ennis Center for Children, Pontiac, 248-334-2715, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
Family & Community Services, Inc., Utica, 586-726-2988, [www.facadopt.org](http://www.facadopt.org)  
Forever Families, Livonia, 734-762-0909, [www.forever-families.org](http://www.forever-families.org)  
Homes for Black Children, Detroit, 313-961-4777  
Judson Center, Dearborn, 313-794-5653, [www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)  
Legacy Adoption Service, Troy, 248-423-2770, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
Methodist Children's Home, Dearborn, 313-531-4060, [www.mchsmi.org](http://www.mchsmi.org)  
Oakland Family Services, Pontiac, 248-858-7766, [www.oaklandfamilyservices.org](http://www.oaklandfamilyservices.org)  
Orchards Children's Services, Southfield, 248-258-0440, [www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)  
Spaulding for Children, Southfield, 248-443-0300, [www.spaulding.org](http://www.spaulding.org)  
Spectrum Human Services, Southfield, 248-552-8020, [www.spectrumhuman.org](http://www.spectrumhuman.org)  
Vista Maria, Dearborn Heights, 313-271-3050, [www.vistamaria.org](http://www.vistamaria.org)  
Wolverine Human Services, Taylor, 888-625-8669, [www.wolverinehs.org](http://www.wolverinehs.org)

## Southern Central Michigan

Adoption and Foster Care Specialists, Inc., Lapeer, 810-660-7590, [www.adoption-specialists.org](http://www.adoption-specialists.org)  
 Bethany Christian Services, East Lansing, 517-336-0191, [www.bethany.org/eastlansing](http://www.bethany.org/eastlansing)  
 Catholic Charities of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties, Adrian, 517-263-2191, [www.catholiccharitiesjllhc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesjllhc.org)  
 Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee, Flint, 810-232-9950, [www.catholiccharitiesflint.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesflint.org)  
 Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, 734-971-9781, [www.csswashtenaw.org](http://www.csswashtenaw.org)  
 Child & Family Charities – Capital Area, Lansing, 517-882-4000, [www.childandfamily.org](http://www.childandfamily.org)  
 Ennis Center for Children, Flint, 810-233-4031, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
 Ennis Center for Children, Howell, 517-881-0723, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
 Ennis Center for Children, Monroe, 734-349-6546, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
 Ennis Center for Children, Port Huron, 810-990-1424, [www.enniscenter.org](http://www.enniscenter.org)  
 Family & Community Services, Inc., Howell, 517-615-1275, [www.facadopt.org](http://www.facadopt.org)  
 Family Service & Children's Aid, Jackson, 517-787-7920, [www.strong-families.org](http://www.strong-families.org)  
 Fostering Futures, Ann Arbor, 734-481-8999, [www.fostering-futures.com](http://www.fostering-futures.com)  
 Fostering Solutions, Adrian, 517-263-0020, [www.fosteringsolutions.org](http://www.fosteringsolutions.org)  
 Growing Hope Through Love, Howell, 517-798-4020  
 Hands Across the Water, Ann Arbor, 734-477-0135, [www.hatw.org](http://www.hatw.org)  
 Livingston County Catholic Charities, Howell, 517-545-5944, [www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org](http://www.livingstoncatholiccharities.org)  
 Legacy Adoption Service, Ann Arbor, 734-971-1944, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
 Legacy Adoption Service, Jackson, 517-789-6444, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
 Legacy Adoption Service, Lansing, 517-886-1380, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
 Open Door Adoption Services, Jackson, 517-936-7713, [www.opendooradoptionsservices.org](http://www.opendooradoptionsservices.org)  
 St. Vincent Catholic Charities, Lansing, 517-323-4734, [www.stvcc.org](http://www.stvcc.org)

## Southwest Michigan

Arbor Circle, Holland, 616-396-2301, [www.pathwaysmi.org](http://www.pathwaysmi.org)  
 Bethany Christian Services, Grand Rapids, 616-224-7550, [www.bethany.org/grandrapids](http://www.bethany.org/grandrapids)  
 Bethany Christian Services, Holland, 616-396-0623, [www.bethany.org/holland](http://www.bethany.org/holland)  
 Bethany Christian Services, Kalamazoo, 269-372-8800, [www.bethany.org/kalamazoo](http://www.bethany.org/kalamazoo)  
 Bethany Christian Services, Muskegon, 231-733-1618, [www.bethany.org/muskegon](http://www.bethany.org/muskegon)  
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Grand Rapids, 616-456-1443, [www.ccwestmi.org](http://www.ccwestmi.org)  
 Catholic Charities–West MI, Muskegon, 231-726-4735, [www.ccwestmi.org](http://www.ccwestmi.org)  
 D.A. Blodgett Services, Grand Rapids, 616-451-2021, [www.dabsj.org](http://www.dabsj.org)  
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Kalamazoo, 269-344-0202, [www.fcsource.org](http://www.fcsource.org)  
 Family & Children's Services, Inc., Battle Creek, 269-965-3247, [www.fcsource.org](http://www.fcsource.org)  
 Legacy Adoption Service, Grand Rapids, 616-356-1934, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
 Legacy Adoption Service, Kalamazoo, 269-345-5776, [www.lasadoption.org](http://www.lasadoption.org)  
 Youth Guidance Foster Care & Adoption Center, Battle Creek, 269-969-9181, [www.cityinc.org](http://www.cityinc.org)

MICHIGAN  
ADOPTION  
RESOURCE  
EXCHANGE

Adoption  
Navigators



MARE is proud to offer the Adoption Navigator Program. Adoption navigators are experienced adoptive parents who offer guidance and personal knowledge to potential adoptive families. The adoption navigators have many years of parenting experience, adopted a number of children, and have knowledge of foster care, infant and older, and domestic and international adoption procedures.

Families who contact MARE for initial adoption information will be given the option to work with a Navigator to help guide them through the process. Having an Adoption Navigator is a free and voluntary service.

**Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange**  
**3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170**  
**Ann Arbor, MI 48108**



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