

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 more about issues impacting youth, visit our website at Mare.org and click on the For Youth tab.



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Fostering Futures' college scholarship applications to be released in March

The Fostering Futures Scholarship (FFS) provides eligible youth in foster care with scholarship funds for tuition, fees, room/board, books, and supplies/equipment required for enrollment.

The FFS is available to students on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must complete one application per academic year and return it to Student Scholarships and Grants, listed at the bottom of the application.

The 2020-21 Fostering Futures Scholarship application will be available March 15, 2020.

Questions may be directed to Student Scholarships and Grants at mistudentaid@michigan.gov or call toll-free at 888-447-2687.

Michigan's most affordable colleges

You can find more information about scholarships at the College Affordability Guide website, CollegeAffordabilityGuide.org

The website ranks the most affordable colleges in each state, including Michigan.

According to the website, Michigan's top 10 affordable

colleges are, in order, Michigan Technological University, Ferris State University, Michigan State University, Kalamazoo College, Aquinas College, Hope College, Grand Valley State University, Gogebic Community College, Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University.

For many of the institutions, the website includes information about scholarships and grants. The website also ranks the state's top not-for-profit colleges and universities that offer online degrees.



Mark the calendar for Heart Gallery Grand Opening

You'll want to circle April 25 on your calendar!

Save the date for the 2020 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening because you're sure to enjoy it.

The annual event is a chance for you to have a day of fun. You get to come to the Emagine Theater in Royal Oak, you get to see a short film, you get free pop and popcorn, and if you're featured in the 2020 Heart Gallery, you get to see yourself on the display. You also might get a chance to interact with adoptive families who are attending.

In addition, the theater has some arcade games in the reception area that will be open for free play. You'll see the world premiere of the 2020 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening film, and you'll get the chance to have your picture taken just like celebrities who attend a premiere movie, complete with a walk on the red carpet.

You will have pizza, chicken tenders and salad for lunch. The theater has rented MARE their grill area so everyone can dine in



comfort there.

If you're interested in attending the event, you can have your worker pre-register you, but you don't have to be pre-registered. You can arrive the day of the event and enjoy the festivities.

You also don't have to be featured in the 2020 Heart Gallery display to attend the event. However, you should let one of your workers know that you want to go.





Youth compose poem to be featured in the 2020 Michigan Heart Gallery video

The latest Youth Advisory Board (YAB) meeting included a poetry workshop as Danielle and Kenadee drafted a poem titled "I Rise."

The poem reflects the thoughts and feelings of youth who live or have lived in foster care.

The poem will be featured in the video for the 2020 Michigan Heart Gallery Grand Opening (see page 2).

YAB meetings are designed to share information from individuals who are or who have been in foster care

so MARE can educate adoption workers and officials about the concerns of youth in care.

If you are interested in participating in YAB and want to attend a future meeting, make sure you contact your worker.

Youth participating in the YAB meetings have been able to enjoy a fun lunch and receive prizes for participation.



Facts About Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

Participants: Anyone who is or has been in foster care.

Meetings: Held quarterly at locations throughout Michigan.

How to attend: If you are in foster care, contact your worker. If you are a former foster care youth, contact Jennifer Brooks at 734-528-2061 or Jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.

Chuckles to soften winter's chills

Q: What's the name you give to a mushroom who likes parties?

A: Fun Gus.

Q: What does a cyclist ride in winter?

A: An icicle.

Q: What do you call a snowman party?

A: A Snow Ball.

Q: What time should you go to the dentist?

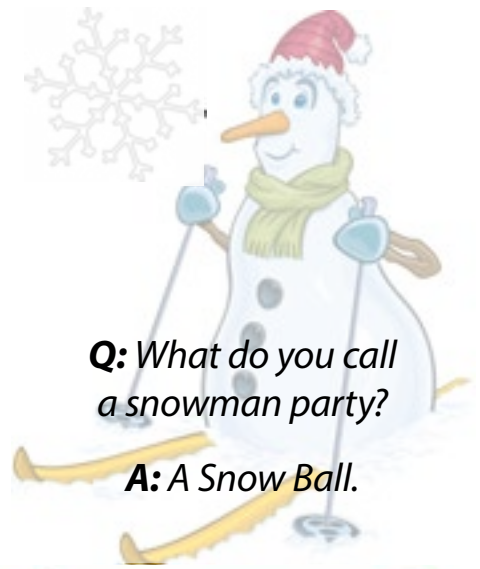
A: Tooth hurty.

Q: If the sun shines while it's snowing, what should you look for in the sky?

A: Snowbows!

Q: What's large and grey and doesn't matter?

A: An irreliphant!



Fun times abound at Meet & Greets



The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange has several upcoming Meet & Greets.

These are fun events where you can interact with prospective adoptive parents.

Activities include games and arts and crafts (pictured).

If you want to attend one of these

events – which usually occur on Saturday – make sure to contact your worker, who will let us know about your interest.

Upcoming Meet & Greets:

- March 8 in Pontiac.
- April 4 in Birmingham.
- June 27 in Detroit.

YOUTH RESOURCES

Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative - MYOI is a partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and 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.

(Michigan.gov/FYIT > MYOI)



Foster Youth in Transition - MDHHS website geared towards older youth who are experiencing foster care. It's a comprehensive, youth-oriented site with advice, interactive features, a useful glossary of foster care terms, and 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. (Michigan.gov/FYIT)