



Youth Newsletter

Summer 2023

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To learn about resources available to youth living in foster care, visit Mare.org > For Youth or contact your worker.



Consenting to videos improves your chances for a family and fun

Story by Gabrielle Werkheiser, MARE Youth Specialist

MARE offers many different ways you can choose to connect with families.

Often referred to as “recruitment,” your available options provide information about you so potential adoptive families can see you and learn about you. You decide what recruitment you want by filling out the MARE consent page.

One form of recruitment is through videos, and there are two types you can choose from. You can have a

MARE video that goes on your MARE profile and on our MARE YouTube page. You also can choose a TV spotlight with a Grant Me Hope video.

Grant Me Hope videos are featured on news stations across Michigan. This means that many more potential adoptive families have the chance to see these videos and to hear the unique stories and interests that you share. Sometimes these videos are seen by people who want to give back to the youth.



Emmanuel enjoyed a day at the Roseville Chuck E. Cheese.



A Detroit Zoo worker noticed Tyler's Grant Me Hope video on TV and arranged a special day at the wildlife center for this animal lover.

One example is of a fellow MARE youth named Emmanuel, who mentioned in his video that he likes Chuck E. Cheese's video games. Staff members at the Roseville location saw his televised video and invited him to their grand re-opening event to play their games for free. He was the very first to play in the arcade!

Another great story is of K'y mari, who talked about the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series in his video so author Jeff Kinney sent him an autographed book from the series.

In our last Youth Newsletter, we featured a story of Tyler and how he was invited to the Detroit Zoo for a personal tour. Some

members of the zoo's team saw his video and how he loves animals, so they wanted to give him a special day at their zoo.

These stories are great and show that there are many people who see these videos, but it is also important to remember that adoptive families see these videos, too. Having a recruitment video is a great way to get your voice heard and to tell the viewers who you are.

So make sure to talk to your worker if you are interested in a recruitment video, and when you're signing your consent page, make sure to say "yes" to having a video.



Gain the know-how for independent living

If you're interested in learning independent life skills, your worker can provide information for you.

One of the resources your worker can access is the Casey Life Skills (CLS), a free tool that assesses the behaviors and competencies youth need to achieve their long-term goals. It aims to set youth on their way toward developing healthy, productive lives. Examples of the life skills CLS helps youth self-evaluate include:

- Maintaining healthy relationships
- Work and study habits
- Planning and goal-setting
- Using community resources
- Daily living activities

- Budgeting and paying bills
- Computer literacy
- Their permanent connections to caring adults

The CLS website is designed to be used by workers in collaboration with youth between the ages of 14 and 21. It is appropriate for all youth regardless of whether they are in foster care, live with their biological parents, or reside in a group home.

If you want to learn more about this service, contact your worker and have him or her visit: <https://www.casey.org/casey-life-skills/>

Or you can have your worker call MARE at 800-589-6273 for assistance.



Scholarship application deadline nears

The Fostering Futures Scholarship provides scholarships to students who have experienced foster care in Michigan on or after age 13. The 2023-24 application is currently available, and the priority deadline is Aug. 1, 2023

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.

For more information about the scholarships, call 888-447-2687, visit <http://www.ffkids.org/#home> or scan the QR code at the right.



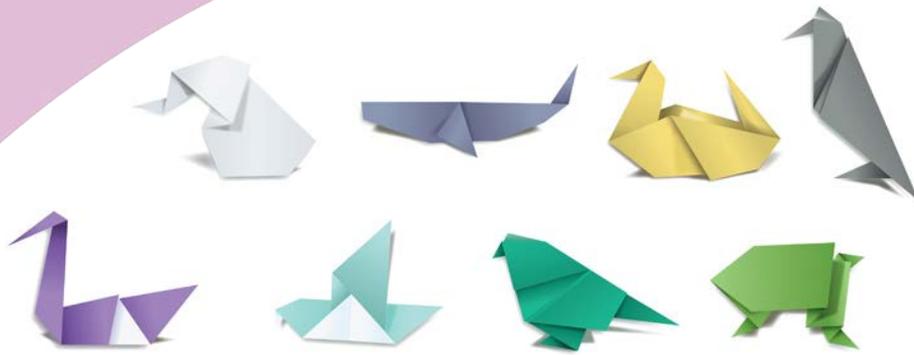
Another helpful resource for college and more

Fostering Success Michigan is a statewide initiative that aims to increase access and success in higher education for students with experience in foster care.

At fosteringssuccessmichigan.com, you'll see links to topics such as Campus Support Programs, Financial Aid Toolkit and College Application Toolkit. Fostering

Success Michigan has added other helpful links for voting, "resources for life" and "coaching students through mandatory vaccines on campuses."

Kids' Corner



Get creative with a crafty idea

Origami is a great pastime for kids and adults alike. There are plenty of tutorials to learn various folds. They can be as simple or as complex as any folder's skills. This craft requires only paper and your hands so it's portable, inexpensive and engaging. The best paper for origami is thin. Magazine paper works great. Have one of your close adults take a stack of magazines (all the same size) to your local copy shop. For a few dollars they can remove the bindings and cut the pages to the sizes you'll want.

Have your close adult get patterns for multiple skill levels. You can help them cut paper to size prior to the activity and practice patterns ahead of time to assist if someone gets frustrated or confused. Suggest playing music without lyrics, and gather drawing utensils for those who don't want to fold.

Origami, like many art forms, can educate and inspire – from geometry facts to life lessons.

See links below to learn more and help plan your origami activities.

10 Best Origami Projects for Beginners



www.thesprucecrafts.com/top-origami-for-beginners-2540688

5 Reasons Why Origami Improves Students' Skills



www.edutopia.org/blog/why-origami-improves-students-skills-ainissa-ramirez

Blinking Origami Eyeball



kidsactivitiesblog.com/61095/blinking-origami-eyeball/

Calm Music in the Art Room



theartyteacher.com/calm-music-in-the-art-room/

Calendar

August 19
In-Person MARE Meet & Greet
Taylor
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

September 16
2023 Michigan Heart Gallery Premiere
Imagine Theaters
Royal Oak
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

The event will feature a movie, luncheon and more.

For more information, have your worker contact [@jessica_thompson](https://twitter.com/jessica_thompson) [@judsoncenter.org](http://judsoncenter.org) or call 734-528-2070.

Did you know?

On Mare.org, there's a web page titled "For Youth In Care," www.mare.org/For-Youth/For-Youth-in-Care.

The page contains answers to common concerns and frequently asked questions. Topics covered include:

- Why do I have so many workers and who should I call for what?
- What does it mean to be photolisted?
- Why do some kids have videos and some don't?