

Be the Change

Winter 2025

Change the life of a
child... adopt from
foster care



MICHIGAN
**ADOPTION
RESOURCE**
EXCHANGE

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Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of Be the Change – a quarterly publication dedicated to highlighting Michigan children in need of permanent, loving families. In this issue, you'll meet some of the young people in Michigan who are looking for a supportive and permanent family through adoption. These featured youth represent hundreds of others in Michigan's foster care system who are also hoping to find a loving home.

At MARE, we are here to help answer your questions and walk with you through the adoption journey. To learn more about adoption, visit www.mare.org, call us at 800-589-6273, and follow us on social media. No matter where you are at in the process, we want to support you.

- Michelle Parra, LMSW
Director of MARE and Family Services Judson Center

Jorden's In-Depth Profile

Another way of introducing MARE youth



Jorden just completed an In-Depth Profile and you should check it out! Jorden hopes to be a rapper one day and chose to share some of his skills with potential families. He has an impressive catalog of raps that he has written exploring topics from his history, love, and loss. He has a real talent for making what is unique to him, universal to all.

In-Depth Profiles are a personalized way for MARE youth to share their story in their own way with potential families. In-Depth Profiles are entirely youth-led and MARE staff supported. Jorden's In-Depth Profile and many more are live on indepthprofiles.mare.org now!

Who Can Adopt? You Can Adopt!

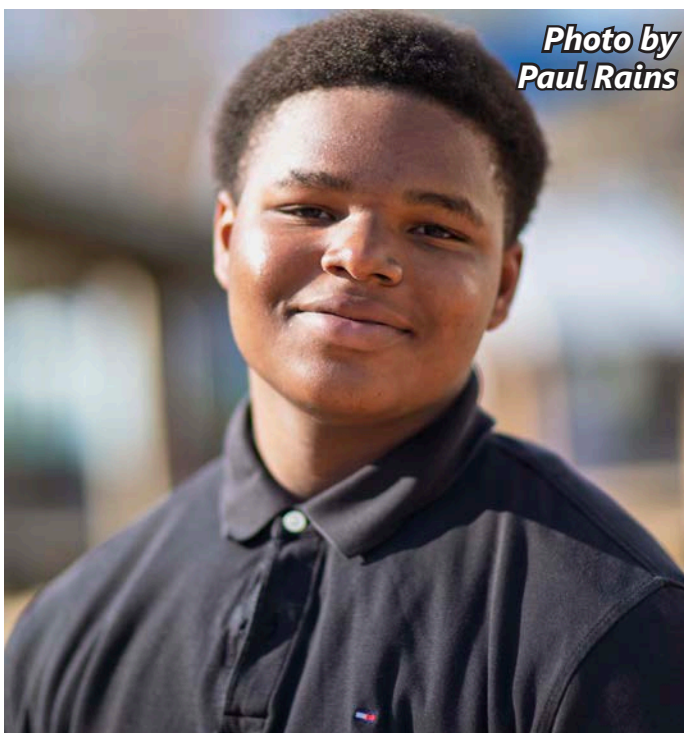
The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange exists to connect hopeful adoptive families with Michigan youth who need a permanent, loving family. Notice that we didn't say they need a perfect family? Trust us, the kids aren't looking for perfection. If you would struggle to help a teen with their algebra homework... that's okay. If your aim when playing a game of catch is a bit off... that's okay. If your knowledge of music and slang is still stuck in the 80s... that's okay, too! Kids need love, stability, consistency, advocacy and a parent or parents who will stick with them no matter what. There are a lot of myths about who can adopt. Let's bust some of those:

- **Do you have to own your own home?** No! As long as you have safe, stable housing with enough room for a child to play and have their own space, you can adopt.
- **Do you need to be married?** Absolutely not. Married couples, single parents, same sex parents... all family structures are welcome. In fact, some kids would thrive best in homes with same sex or single parents. Even if you aren't married, you can adopt.
- **Do I need to make a lot of money?** Nope. As long as you have the resources to adequately cover your monthly bills and necessities for your family and any children you welcome into your home, you can adopt.

Be the change... adopt!

Vincent C010765

"Vince is energetic, excitable, and overall happy. He enjoys activities he's involved in and is kind to others."



*Photo by
Paul Rains*

Vince's likes:

- Spaghetti, tacos, and alfredo
- The colors blue, purple, and lavender
- Monopoly, Uno, and Phase 10
- Hanging out with friends
- Traveling
- Celebrating every holiday

Remarkable traits:

- Caring, mature, active, and motivated

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced mom, mom and dad, or two moms
- Siblings or a pet friendly home would be a bonus
- Supportive, consistent, and patient



"Serenity is an outgoing teenager who loves to listen to music and dance."

Serenity's likes:

- Tacos
- Dogs
- The color purple
- Shopping
- Spending time with loved ones
- Playing fun pranks on friends
- Playing video games
- Dancing

Remarkable traits:

- Lively, passionate, creative, and loveable

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced mom, dad, or both
- No siblings but fur siblings would be fun
- Patient, secure, and supportive

Did you know?

The Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange has staff to help you during every step of your adoption journey. From answering your first questions about adoption to supporting your family after being matched with a child, we're here to help. Learn more at www.mare.org



"There is something that draws people to Marcus. To know him is to love him."

Marcus's likes:

- Spending time outdoors
- Going for walks
- Playing video games
- Playing with toys
- Showing his affection
- Cocomelon toys
- Looking at leaves
- Playing with the grass

Remarkable traits:

- Radiant, independent, happy, and affectionate

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced parent or parents
- Youngest or only child in home
- Attentive, compassionate, understanding, and supportive

"McKinzi is exuberant, entertaining, playful, friendly, grateful, silly, and goofy."

All About McKinzi:

McKinzi loves horses and dogs. It would be her dream come true to learn how to ride a horse and live on a farm with them. She wants to be involved in gymnastics. She loves to organize things. Christmas is her favorite time of the year. Her favorite color is teal.

She has so many favorite foods, it's hard to narrow them down but to list a few, she likes McDonald's, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, dinosaur egg oatmeal, and drumstick ice cream cones. McKinzi's favorite holiday is Christmas because she likes to give and receive presents.



Additional Info:

McKinzi has been said to have "a BIG personality," by those closest to her. McKinzi has goals of financial security and comfort in her future.

She wants to own a large house, have her own room, her own dog, a phone and go on many fun vacations. McKinzi is looking for a home with a mom, mom and dad, or two moms who are experienced and trauma informed. She would thrive as the only child in the home.

She will need a family that can help her maintain her relationships with her siblings.

She wants to travel to Myrtle Beach or Alaska someday. She would love a family that is supportive and loves to travel.

*Photo by
Paul Rains*

*Photo by
Paul Rains*



"Zackry likes to please others and is very polite. He engages people with ease."

Zackry's likes:

- Zebras
- The colors red and blue
- Chicken nuggets and ice cream
- Swimming
- Riding his bike
- Firetrucks and police cars
- Going out to eat
- Art class

Remarkable traits:

- Energetic, compassionate, joyful, and eager

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced parent or parents
- Youngest or only child in the home
- Patient, understanding, and likes to joke around



Shiloh's likes:

- Nachos
- Dogs
- The color red
- Practicing doing her hair or nails
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Shopping

"Shiloh has an old soul. She has a sense of humor and has strong leadership qualities."

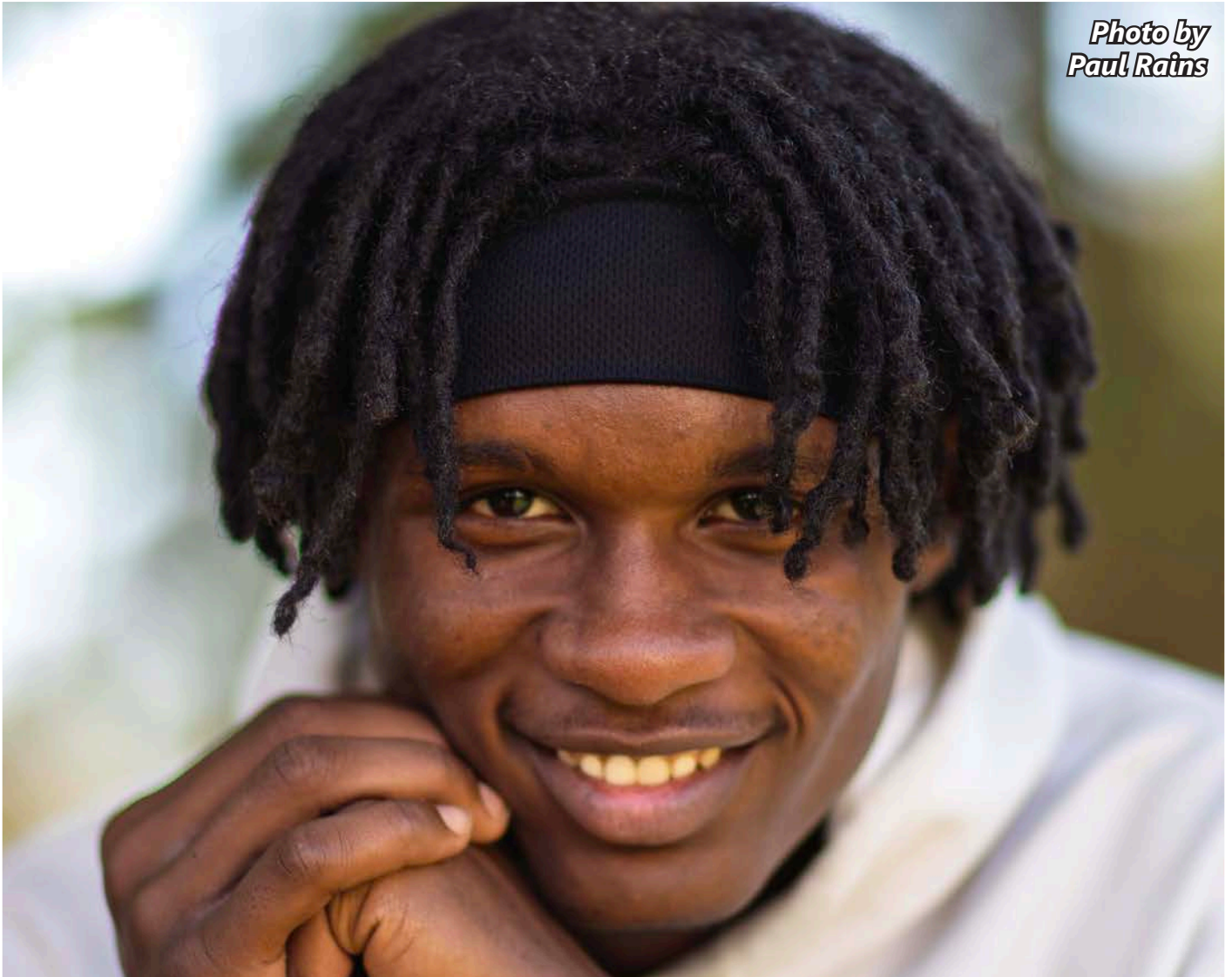
Remarkable Traits:

- Intelligent, honest, creative, and playful.

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced mom or parents
- Siblings or fur siblings are an added bonus
- Empathetic, patient, supportive, and has strong family values

*Photo by
Paul Rains*



Shamarr's likes:

- Dogs
- The colors blue and red
- Playing basketball and football
- Celebrating all the holidays
- Watching movies
- Playing video games
- Spending time with friends

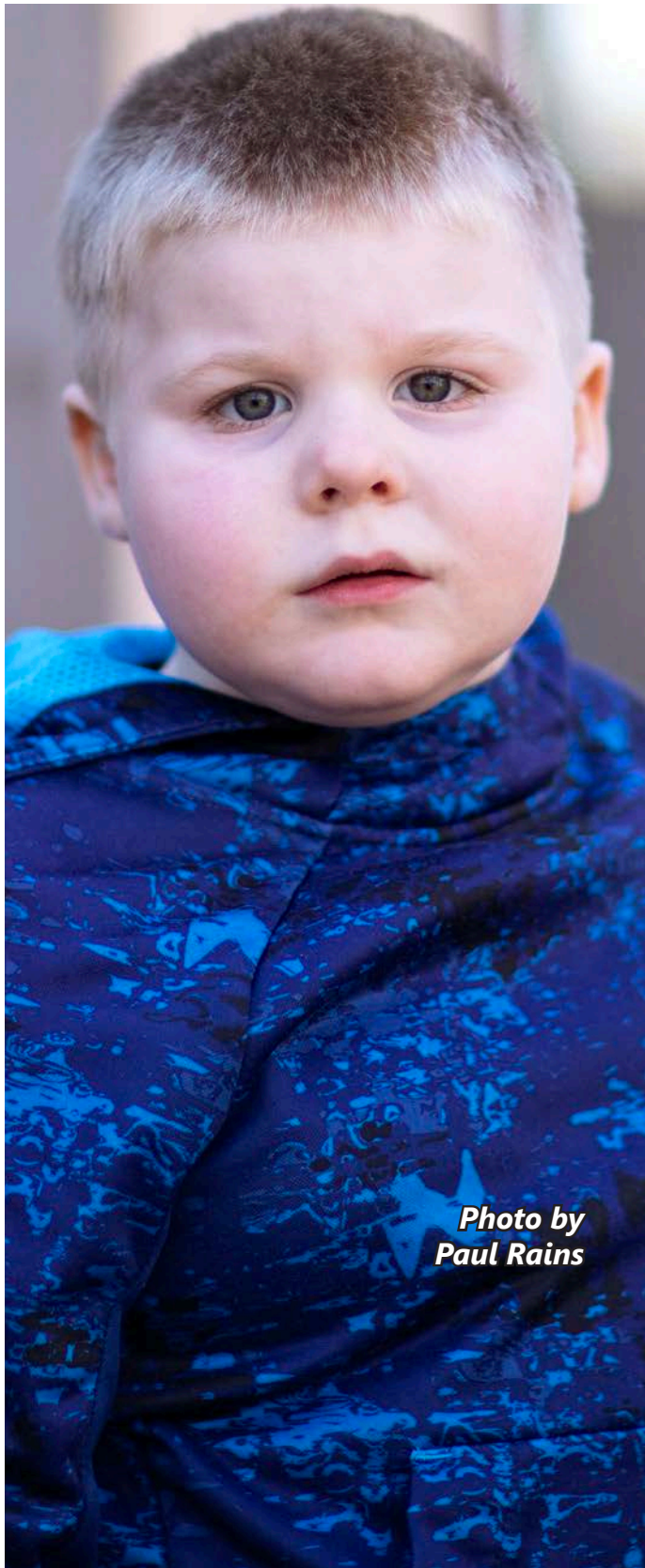
Remarkable Traits:

- Warm-hearted, easy-going, collected, and hardworking

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced dad or mom and dad
- Pets would be a bonus
- Supportive, patient, and loving

"Shamarr is a joy to be around. Spending time with Shamarr is always a pleasant experience."



*Photo by
Paul Rains*

Riley's likes:

- Cuddle time
- Elephant and pig books
- Mickey Mouse, Bluey, Winnie the Pooh, and Peppa Pig
- The color red
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Goldfish crackers
- Bouncing on a trampoline

Remarkable Traits:

- Cheerful, independent at times, curious, and thoughtful

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced parent or parents
- Youngest child in the home
- Will adopt with his sister, Katie
- Loving, affectionate, and supportive

"Riley is very loving, is cuddly with select people, and is inquisitive."

Katie's likes:

- My Little Pony: Equestria Girls
- The colors pink and purple
- Riding her bicycle
- Taco soup and chips
- Pasta with red or white sauce and parmesan
- Art class
- Kittens and Puppies

Remarkable Traits:

- Inquisitive, independent at times, joyful, and active

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced parent or parents
- Will adopt with her brother, Riley
- Loving, affectionate, supportive, and patient

"Katie is cheerful, eager to try new things, caring, outgoing, and friendly."



*Photo by
Paul Rains*



Shantea’s likes:

- Relaxing
- Listening to music
- Playing video games
- Pizza, spaghetti, and ice cream
- Cats and dogs
- The colors purple and black
- Drawing and face painting
- Going on outings

“Shantea has potential to be a leader as she is assertive and confident. She is wise and self-aware. She loves music and has a beautiful voice.”

Remarkable Traits:

- Persistent, creative, laidback, and self-assured

Qualities of a forever family:

- An experienced mom or moms
- Youngest, oldest, or only child in the home
- Pets would be a bonus
- Confident, supportive, and strong

Ready to adopt? MARE is here to help!

When you're ready to learn more about adoption or to begin the process, the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange is available to you free of charge.



Adoption Navigators: Guiding families interested in adoption.

Staffed by experienced adoptive parents, the MARE navigator team is eager to provide support to all families considering adoption. Whether you just have a few questions you want answered or you are ready to begin the adoption process, the navigators are available to assist you and be a listening ear. The navigator team offers several services:

- Guiding your family by answering questions and helping initiate the adoption process.
- Providing support throughout your adoption journey.
- Hosting regular trainings and providing referrals
- Providing a voluntary directory of approved families.

If you'd like an experienced adoptive parent to walk alongside you on your adoption journey, complete the General Adoption Information Inquiry on www.mare.org or call 800-589-6273 to be connected with an adoption navigator.



Match Support Specialists: Supporting families after they're matched with a child.

Match Support is a statewide service available to you once you're matched with a child from the MARE website and are proceeding with adoption. Program specialists tailor their services to your unique needs, goals, and interests. While specialists have the flexibility to assist in several ways, families' top requests often include:

- Providing parenting resources and training options
- Navigating trauma and developing attachment
- Understand behaviors and brainstorming solutions
- Working with adoption teams
- Locating service providers

If you'd like a caring, professional partner on your adoption journey, Match Support is here for you! For more information, contact Julie Miller, Match Support Program Supervisor, by calling 734-528-2002 or emailing Julie_Miller@judsoncenter.org.



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. For an interactive map of statewide licensed agencies, follow the QR code.

Upper Peninsula

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

Northern and Central Lower Michigan

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

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

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

Southern Central Michigan

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

Southwest Michigan

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

For an interactive map of statewide licensed agencies, follow the QR code.





FOR CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE

800-589-6273

www.mare.org

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange

3840 Packard Rd., Suite 170

Ann Arbor, MI 48108



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

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