

Finding Forever

A MARE NEWSLETTER
FOR YOUTH AWAITING
ADOPTION

SUMMER 2024

www.mare.org



Join us for this year's Heart Gallery Premiere

Save the date for the 2024 Michigan Heart Premiere because you're sure to have fun.

As a preview to the show, we asked MARE Recruitment Specialist Jessica Thompson what you can expect.

What makes this event special?

It's a chance for you to have a day of fun. You get to come to the theater, you get to see a short film, you get free pop and popcorn, and if you're featured in the 2024 Heart Gallery, you get to see yourself on the display. You also might get a chance to interact with adoptive families who are attending.

What are some of the fun things to do at this event?

The theater has some arcade games in the reception area that will be open for free play. You'll see the premiere of the 2024 Michigan Heart Gallery 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'll also receive movie passes to either use the day of the event or come back to the theater another time.

Will there be food other than popcorn?

We will be having pizza, chicken tenders and salad for lunch. The theater has rented us their grill area so that we can dine in comfort there.

The big event

What: The 2024 Michigan Heart Gallery Premiere

When: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
Saturday, September 21

Where: Emagine Theater,
Royal Oak.

Cost: Free!

How can I attend?

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 2024 Heart Gallery display to attend the event. However, you should let one of your workers know that you want to go.

Summer 2024

In this issue:

Page 1 - Get ready for the 2024 Heart Gallery premiere

Page 2 - Meet MARE's new Communications Specialist

Page 3 - Summer Wordsearch

Page 4 - Upcoming Youth Advisory Board Meetings

Find out how you can get a custom write up all about you on your MARE profile! - Page 2

Meet Adriana, MARE's new Communications Specialist!



Normally when we introduce new staff, we have a proper interview with them. Since the person who normally interviews new staff is the Communications Specialist, I thought I could just tell you about myself.

I am originally from Delaware but I just moved to Michigan this year. I wanted to be closer to family and friends and decided Michigan was a good middle point to move to. I would describe myself as extroverted, kind, and quirky. When I'm not writing your narratives, I enjoy reading, singing, bingeing TV shows, and hanging out with my friends and family. My favorite color is pink and my office is fully decked out in piggy things. Pigs are my favorite animal because they are so intelligent and kind.

One thing to note about me is that I am a total foodie. I love trying new cuisines and restaurants but I can be a bit of a harsh critic.

My favorite types of cuisine are Italian, Hispanic, and Greek, in that order.

Up until last year, I had never been outside of the U.S. but once I received my passport, the travel bug bit me. Last year, I traveled to Scotland and Germany on tour with a singing group I was a part of, and it was one of the best trips I've ever taken. I also traveled to Canada and the Bahamas where I got to swim with pigs! I was filled with complete joy on that trip. I am so grateful for the opportunities I've had so far to travel and experience new cultures. If I could travel anywhere else in the world, I'd love to visit Italy and Greece. The history and culture there is just breathtaking and I'd love to see it myself.



One of the most important principles of my life is to help people. Being the person to tell the stories of MARE's youth makes me feel like I'm doing just that. I joined MARE because I felt the passion of the people who work here and I could see the vision for this job. I wanted to be a part of something like this. This job is so fulfilling in so many ways and I look forward to coming to work everyday. I get excited when I get to work on a new narrative because it feels like I get to meet a whole new person. I look forward to working on Enhanced Narratives with youth who are interested. Enhanced Narratives are another recruitment opportunity where I get to meet you and tell your story through your eyes. If you're interested in this type of recruitment, have your worker reach out to me at adriana_cazzell@judsoncenter.org.



IN-DEPTH PROFILES



There's a new rookie on the scene and he just finished an In Depth Profile with MARE. Aiden is a football fanatic so he chose to feature his love of the sport on his In Depth Profile. He's in the early stages of his high school football career, but he has his sights set on playing for U of M one day. After the last notes of "Hail to the Victor" have played on his college football days, he hopes to be scouted and play for the NFL. Check out Aiden's In Depth Profile. Just follow the QR code!

Creating an In Depth Profile gave Aiden a chance to choose what he wanted to let potential adoptive families know about him. MARE worked with Aiden to develop the concept and create the material... and nothing was published until Aiden gave MARE the final thumbs up. If you're interested in creating an In Depth Profile, have your adoption worker contact jennifer_brooks@judsoncenter.org.

Summer Activity

Summer Wordsearch

G Q X G S N G C Y G Y U E Y R
F W B L P F V V A C A T I O N
M I T A I S I C A M P I N G P
R A R A R F A R B D C T L K O
R Z R E N B E N E E O L Y I P
I Q D S W P E G D F A S Y T S
P V Z F H O A C U C L C J E I
V O A S U M R S U A A I H U C
P S O J U W A K T E R S E J L
A S Y L U N R L S E C D T S E
R S N F B O S K L B S Q W L J
K R Y S U Q W H Y O G C D G E
T M W Z L W N Z I I W V B P Z
S W I M B S C X S N Z S O Z O
T Q T N T K J I O V E W H V E

marshmallows

sandcastle

fireflies

pool

fireworks

lifeguard

vacation

tan

sunshine

beach

barbecue

park

swim

camping

popsicle

kite

Youth Advisory Board Meetings

MARE's Youth Advisory Board had an exciting meeting on **Tuesday, July 9th**. Fostering Success Michigan presented college resources for youth in foster care as well as answered any questions about navigating the college process.

The Youth Advisory Board was invited to tour Eastern Michigan University's campus. You will get to see the buildings on campus and talk with the Mentorship, Access, and Guidance in College (MAGIC) Program director, Raven Burch. The MAGIC Program is an initiative at Eastern Michigan University to assist students who have experienced foster care. It provides many supports for the students in the program to help them achieve their academic goals.

All MARE youth are invited and encouraged to attend the Youth Advisory Board meetings. Ask your worker to contact Gabrielle_Werkheiser@JudsonCenter.org to sign you up to attend.

Wordsearch Answer Key

Summer Wordsearch

G Q X G S N G C Y G Y U E Y R
F W B L P F V V A C A T I O N
M I T A I S I C A M P I N G P
R A R A R F A R B D C T L K O
R Z R E N B E N E E O L Y I P
I Q D S W P E G D F A S Y T S
P V Z F H O A C U C L C J E I
V O A S U M R S U A A I H U C
P S O J U W A K T E R S E J L
A S Y L U N R L S E C D T S E
R S N F B O S K L B S Q W L J
K R Y S U Q W H Y O G C D G E
T M W Z L W N Z I I W V B P Z
S W I M B S C X S N Z S O Z O
T Q T N T K J I O V E W H V E

marshmallows	sandcastle	fireflies	pool
fireworks	lifeguard	vacation	tan
sunshine	beach	barbecue	park
swim	camping	popsicle	kite

Calendar

August 27

Waiting Family Forum
Virtual Event

5:30 - 7:30PM

Registration will be available soon on www.mare.org

September 21

Heart Gallery Premiere

EMagine Theater

Royal Oak

11AM - 2PM

For more information, contact jessica_thompson@judsoncenter.org or call 734-528-2070.

Take note: Watch for notices of upcoming Meet & Greet on www.mare.org and on Facebook and Instagram.

MARE contact information

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
3840 Packard Road,
Suite 170

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Toll Free: 800-589-6273

TTY: 734-794-2984

Fax: 734-528-1695

mare@judsoncenter.org