

Finding that forever home

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange helps children and families

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NEWTON – If you're looking to start a family, adoption is always an option, and the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange is there to help.

MARE is a nonprofit organization that helps children currently in foster care find their permanent home. The process behind MARE is to give a child that goal of adoption.

MARE serves hundreds of children currently in foster care or in group homes. The children work with MARE to help connect with adults and families who are considering adoption.

MARE is all about keeping families engaged and providing resources to help complete the adoption process. Hundreds of children in need of their forever home include children that are in the age range of 6-12 and teenagers.

MARE supports children of color, sibling groups, teens, LGBTQ+ youth, and children with medical needs.

The Executive Director of MARE is Bridget Chiaruttini, and she is proud to be a part of the organization that serves the purpose of finding homes for children.

A social worker by training, Chiaruttini has over 20 years of experience working with children in foster care and through adoption. To her, the work MARE does for children is essential.

"This work is so important. We invest in child welfare," said Chiaruttini.

In 2022, MARE served over 850 kids across Massachusetts. Currently, MARE has about 650 kids who are seeking permanent homes. About 40% of those children are over the age of 12.

As of now, the children MARE supports are in foster homes and group homes while they attend school. The organization works a lot with social workers and the Department of Children and Families to follow up with the children and see how their day-to-day living is going.

Throughout the year, MARE hosts events statewide to connect and support social workers, waiting children and prospective adoptive families. MARE wants the kids seeking permanent homes to be as involved as possible in their process of looking for their forever home.

Activities include meet and greets, social gatherings and community events. The kids have the opportunity to make connections and be included in their own recruitment.

MARE helps the kids identify a family that works best for them. They encourage feedback to be given by the children in order to seek the chemistry that is or is not there.

Last year, MARE did 20 meet and greet events for the children and claim those activities make a huge difference in building connections between the children and the families who have the intention to adopt.

The community partnerships MARE develops are predominantly made in the Boston area. Events include activities at Jordan's Furniture, trampoline parks, outdoor courses, bowling, and other built-in activities.

As of 2023, MARE has been an organization for 66 years. It is the first adoption exchange not only in Massachusetts, but the first exchange in the U.S.

In the western region of Massachusetts, MARE has a partner hosted event in Springfield with DCF that provides

helpful information. Those meetings take place at the DCF Western Regional Office in Springfield.

Chiaruttini said there are a lot of children in foster care in the western region of the state.

MARE plans to provide more awareness for children seeking permanent homes in the region. However, they also find it essential to allow kids to stay in their familiar local communities as they tend to build close friendships while they are enrolled in local schools and live in local towns.

MARE consists of over 20 staff members. Their main office is in Newton, but staff are assigned to cover each region of the state, including Boston, Central, Western, Eastern and Northern.

Part of the MARE staff is Mary Liz Nogueras, the Outreach & Support Coordinator for Adoptive Families of Color. Nogueras has been in her current role for over a year and helps supporting families in the process of adoption.

Her role includes providing matching events for families of color and also supports, connections, and trainings for families wanting to adopt.

One of the trainings is through the Trust Based Relational Intervention. The training is for pre-adoptive and recently placed families to a series of Trauma Informed Parenting virtual trainings facilitated by Fostering Hope's TBRI practitioners.

This is a small-group, practical training, and participants are asked to be available on camera throughout the session, if possible. This opportunity is intended for Massachusetts pre-adoptive families who have completed MAPP training or families recently placed.

Nogueras is familiar with the line of work MARE dedicates itself to doing as she is also a parent who adopted children. A mother of six children, Nogueras is proud to be a part of MARE and granting the goal of adoption to hundreds of children and families seeking to adopt.

In its last fiscal year, MARE served 119 children of color. It is fulfilling for MARE to serve children seeking the right families.

"We seek to identify safe and loving permanent homes," said Nogueras.

One beneficial program MARE provides is a weekend family connection. The program pairs youth ages 10 and older who are living in residential care with host families who are committed to actively incorporate the youth into their community and family life.

The goal of the program is to build connections for the youth that will ultimately result in the identification of an adoptive family, while allowing the youth to have a positive experience of family life.

Whether you're married, single or partnered individuals, you're welcome to adopt children from foster care. There are many great kids that will thrive in a family setting.

"We're very passionate about serving the kids and see every kid have some sort of permanency," said Nogueras.

It is most beneficial for families to hear shared experiences in person and participate in support groups to discuss early stages and final stages in the adoption process. MARE is an all-inclusive support organization that is dedicated to their mission of finding that forever home for children.

To get involved and learn more about MARE, visit their website at www.mareinc.org.



New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 14 building/property checks, 29 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, one radar assignment, one motor vehicle investigation, one safety hazard, five animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

4:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation

tion, Unitas Road, Services Rendered
6:49 p.m. Fire/Training, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Nov. 15

10:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued

Sunday, Nov. 19

10:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Utley Road, Citation Issued

Firefighter safety grant opportunity announced

STOW – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that \$5 million in grant funding is available to support the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, fire suppression equipment, and related items through the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

The competitive grant program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security and the Department of Fire Services, reimburses local fire departments for the purchase of qualifying safety equipment.

Departments of every city, town, fire district, and eligible state authority may apply for a grant. Maximum funding amounts are based on the size of the population the department serves.

"The equipment funded through these grants will make firefighters and their communities safer," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence M. Reidy in a press release. "Whether it's a complete set of turnout gear or ballistic protection for use on a rescue

task force, every dollar goes toward protecting the people who protect us."

More than 130 different categories of tools, meters, personal protective equipment, communications devices, and other items are eligible for reimbursement through the program.

"The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of Massachusetts firefighters," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources."

For more information on the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, including eligibility requirements and conditions, fire chiefs and/or department grant managers should read the Notice of Funding Opportunity posted on the Department of Fire Services' website, mass.gov/doc/fy24-firefighter-safety-equipment-grant-notice-of-funding-opportunity/download.

- legal notice -

LEGAL NOTICE: TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands

Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.
6:10 p.m. - Public

Hearing:

1. NOI - Rte. 9 Reconstruction/West Main Street Rehabilitation and Related Work
2. NOI - Continuation - 68C Cottage Street - Matthew Shannon - Repair and addition
12/01/2023

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Job Opening

Town of Warren, MA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT Full-Time Operator/Mechanic Position

The Town of Warren, Board of Sewer Commissioners is accepting Resumes and Cover Letters for its Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/ Mechanic position. The pay scale ranges from \$22.83 to \$30.68/hour based on relative work experience, educational background, and professional licenses currently held. A generous benefit package is available including health insurance in which the Town pays 75% of the premium.

High School Graduate, preferably from a technical school: preferably 3 years' experience as an operator and mechanic at a wastewater treatment plant or any equivalent combination of education and mechanical experience will be considered. Be able to obtain a Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant License, Grade 4 or higher, within six months of hire. A Massachusetts Class D Driver's License with a clean driving history is required.

Please visit the Town's website, www.warren-ma.gov for a complete position description. Resumes and Cover Letters will be accepted until the position is filled. Please send your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer