

2011 Michigan Teen Conference

Details inside.
Request YIT funds now.
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Take Charge of Your Journey!

This conference is for:

**Youth ages 14-21 preparing to exit foster care
and their caregivers and the
professionals who work with them**

**Tuesday-Wednesday
June 21 - 22, 2011**

**NEW LOCATION
FOR 2011**

**Ferris State
University**
Big Rapids, MI

Sponsored by:

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Michigan Department of Human Services–Youth In Transition
Michigan Federation for Children and Families

2011 Michigan Teen Conference

Take Charge of Your Journey!

Do you know a youth in **Foster Care or Independent Living** who needs to learn about money management, employment, educational opportunities, healthy relationships, or housing? If you do, then help them register for the **2011 Michigan Teen Conference**.

Youth must be ages 14 to 21 and in Foster Care or Independent Living. If they are under the age of 18 they must have a chaperone attend the conference with them. Caretakers of the youth and professionals who work with teens are also invited. Attendees will sharpen their understanding of what is available and required for foster youth to make the challenging transition to adult life.

Conference requirements for chaperones: All youth under the age of 18 must have a chaperone at all times, including overnight. A minimum of one adult chaperone to three youth is required throughout the conference. Dorm rooms sleep up to four individuals; therefore, same-sex chaperones will be needed. Chaperones must be identified on the registration form.

The Student Recreation Center will be open to attendees both Monday and Tuesday evenings.

PRELIMINARY Conference Schedule (subject to updates)

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

7:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Registration
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Opening remarks and keynote address
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Workshop A
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 – 3:30 PM	Workshop B
3:30 – 4:30 PM	Tour of FSU campus
5:00 – 6:30 PM	Dinner
7:00 – 11:00 PM	Recreation/entertainment options at the Student Recreation Center, Poetry Slam led by Ozone House Project Speak Out, etc.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
9:15 – 10:30 AM	General session
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Workshop C
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Walk through Life
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Conference closing and gift giveaway

Registration fees, overnight accommodations

Registration fee is \$110 per person. Registration fees include workshop materials, lunch, dinner and evening activities on Tuesday, and breakfast and lunch on Wednesday. If you arrive Monday evening, residence hall dining is available.

County Youth in Transition funds can be used for the youth to attend the conference. Funds can be accessed through the local DHS foster care worker.

Additionally, YIT funds can be used for chaperones' TRAVEL COSTS ONLY—mileage, meals (\$65 of the \$110 fee is for meals), and overnight room. YIT funds CANNOT be used for chaperones' cost of registration for the conference (\$45 of the \$110 fee; other funding resources will be needed to cover this portion of the fee). YIT funds can be accessed through the local DHS foster care worker. **Fees must be paid by May 30 to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.**

Overnight accommodations will be available in on-campus dorm rooms for youth and their chaperones. Bring an alarm clock, fan (no air conditioning!), and toiletries. Linens and towels are provided. Alternatively, off-site hotel locations are available nearby at participants' own expense (see page 3 for suggestions).

Cost for on-campus dorm room: Two nights (June 20 and 21) per person: **\$45.00**
One night (June 21) per person: **\$25.00**

REQUEST YIT FUNDS IMMEDIATELY

through your local DHS as registration and payment must be received at LSSM by May 30, 2011.

WORKSHEET TO CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF YIT FUNDS NEEDED

This worksheet is provided for your use in making an early request for YIT funds. It does not take the place of a registration form, which will be part of the full conference brochure to be issued soon.

YOUTH registrations:

_____ x \$110 = \$ _____

YOUTH overnights:

_____ x \$45 (2 nights) = \$ _____

_____ x \$25 (1 night) = \$ _____

CHAPERONE travel:

_____ x \$65 (meals) = \$ _____

CHAPERONE overnights:

_____ x \$45 (2 nights) = \$ _____

_____ x \$25 (1 night) = \$ _____

YIT funds needed: \$ _____

This conference is an excellent place for foster parents to earn training credit hours.

Keynote presenter **Jaiya John**



Jaiya John is the founder of Soul Water Rising, a global human relations mission. He is a professional speaker, poet, author, and youth mentor and advocate. Jaiya's passionate, poetic presentations offer inspiration to transform heart and mind. He has addressed thousands of youth and adults internationally, always with the intent of stirring the soul to remember itself. This work is truly his mission, ministry, and life. Jaiya was a professor of social psychology at Howard University (1995-1998) and associate director for the National Center on Permanency for African American Children (1999-2001).

Through the Young Life Drumbeat program, Jaiya offers youth mentoring, leadership, and heritage projects, along with creative literacy contests and projects. Jaiya's work with youth centers on positive, productive identity as a root for life success and achieving purpose. Globally, Jaiya is invested in healing and treating our human spirit for its fundamental

ailment: failure to recognize our inescapable oneness in the web of life. This same web offers our way out of suffering. From work on global and local social disparities, to conflict and trauma between and within groups, to the fragile life arc from childhood through adulthood, Jaiya reaches for our personal and collective giftedness to release human beauty from its self-imposed cage of misunderstanding.

Jaiya was born into foster care in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Within him grew a burning passion for giving his life to improve the way human beings relate to each other. Jaiya studied psychology at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and earned his doctorate from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in social psychology, focusing on identity development and intergroup relations. In 1988, he lived in the Himalayan nation of Nepal, where his study of Tibetan medicine gave him insight into holistic concepts of physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Being of not only African (including Balanta, Mende, and Kru) but also Blackfeet and Cherokee descent, and having grown up in the midst of the Southwest's American Indian and Latino communities, Jaiya has a deep appreciation for the spiritual and communal passions that spring from these worlds. This spirit he ingrains in his messages about our social world.

Guest presenter **Dr. Marcella Wilson**



...will present a powerful presentation called "Silent No More" that speaks to youth regarding the issues of racism, intolerance and bullying. The presentation gives the history of hate in the USA, a history that touches every culture, then speaks to how when you remain silent you are promoting hatred, and in the face of intolerance you must be "silent no more."

Dr. Marcella Wilson is President/CEO of Matrix Human Services in Detroit. Her work at Matrix has been showcased on CBS Evening News, in *The New York Times* and *Time Magazine*.

What to do with your free time Monday (June 20) and Tuesday (June 21)

Monday and Tuesday evenings:

7:00 – 11:00 PM **FSU Student Recreation Center** will be available to conference registrants. The activities available at the center will include outdoor fun (frisbees, soccer balls, footballs, etc.).

Tuesday only:

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Ferris State University Campus Tour** conducted by students of FSU
7:00 – 11:00 PM **Ozone House Project Speak Out** will present a **Poetry Slam**

Area hotels

If you prefer overnight accommodations in a nearby hotel, here are several options with special room rates. Reservations and payment must be made directly with the hotel; tell them you are with the 2011 Michigan Teen Conference. Reserve your room early to assure space is available (tax is additional).

Quality Inn

1705 S. State Street
Big Rapids, MI
(231) 592-5150
\$55 per night
A block of rooms will be held until June 1

Holiday Inn

1005 Perry Street
Big Rapids, MI
(231) 796-4400
\$82 per night
A block of rooms will be held until June 1

Chaperones are responsible for their assigned youth AT ALL TIMES.

Workshop A descriptions

Tuesday, June 21, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Eating: It's More Than Opening a Can

How to plan, shop and prepare healthy, low-cost meals. Practical information on how to get the most for your money through menu planning and food safety practices. Participants will leave with many ideas, resources and recipes to help them eat healthy for less. Learning will be interactive and fun.

Presenter: **Shannon Lindquist** is an educator with the Health and Nutrition Institute for Michigan State University Extension. She facilitates healthy eating, food safety and resource management with many different age groups.

Alternative Education and Post-Secondary Attainment

This presentation will be on how to access resources, so that youth can complete their secondary education through either the GED or High School diploma. The second part of the presentation will look at the importance of a post-secondary experience and how a youth can stay engaged and on schedule toward their degree, certificate, or the completion of the program.

Presenter: **David Cardinal** was a public school teacher and taught secondary social science after graduating from Central Michigan University. Since 2007, he has been an Education Coordinator, first for the former CIAO Project. Since 2009, David has been working with adults and youth in the different programs offered through the Michigan Works! Agency (MW!A) in Wayne County. He has served hundreds of transitioning foster youth in and out of Wayne County, helping them complete their high school diploma or its equivalency. Recently, David has taken on a Project Coordinator role for Project ACE (Access to College for Everyone). ACE assists youth and adults with post-secondary attainment and overcoming barriers that they encounter along the way.

Employability: Hire Me!

This session will help the student to prepare, identify and organize their thoughts as they actively job search. The student will learn about three types of skills: employability/self-management skills, transferable skills and job content skills. These skills will allow the student to pull all of this information together for that one-minute commercial during a job interview. The purpose is to convince the employer to hire them. When the interviewer asks the question, "Why should I hire you?", the student will have acquired the skills to respond confidently.

Presenter: **Lisa Johnson** has been a Lead Youth Advocate, for four years for the Michigan Works! Workforce Investment Act Youth Program. She is responsible for assisting eligible youths that are in need of assistance with employment, education, training and career development. Prior to coming to Michigan Works!, Lisa was employed by the Michigan Head Start Program as a Child Development Associate.

Family, What Is It Good For? Absolutely Everything!

This fast-paced, interactive workshop will provide ideas and discussion about life-long relationships and family for older youth in foster care. We will discuss: (1) How family is defined and is it important? (2) How can you find family? (3) How is family developed and maintained? (4) Is having a legal family important? Why or why not? and (5) How can young people communicate who they identify as family to their family and caseworkers? Be prepared to think and talk about what family means to you.

Presenter: **Paula Young** has worked for the State of Michigan since January 2007. She worked in Wayne County as the Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative Coordinator where she managed youth programming, community partner boards and over 200 youth participants. Currently, she is the Departmental Analyst for MYOI and Permanency Teaming in the Department of Human Services Central Office, Permanency Division. Previously, she worked at New Detroit, Inc., where she managed a federal capacity-building grant.

Workshop B descriptions

Tuesday, June 21, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Rental Housing: What You Need to Know about Renting Property

An overview of renting property, from the legalities of a lease to different housing options will be covered. Topics will also include landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities as well as resources to help with a rental housing search. We will also cover topics such as affordability, signing a lease, and utilities.

Presenters: **Drew Mahan** and **Scott Clark** are Homeless Program Specialists at the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. They currently administer the federal stimulus program Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, which has prevented over 2,500 families from becoming homeless in Michigan since 2009.

Impact of MYOI on Foster Youth

MYOI youth will discuss the importance of the program and how it has taught them to advocate for themselves. The youth will give personal examples of how they have benefited from the program. Discussion on how this program has enabled them to have a voice and tap into their own leadership skills based on their experiences and beliefs.

Presenters: **Jessica Rossow** and **Cheri Duncan**, both Macomb County DHS staff, will lead the workshop, along with two participating MYOI youth.

Social Media for Teens/Young Adults

This session will discuss pros and cons of social networking and what you need to know: How social networking can help young people make positive connections both for their future and for their current situation; and what to do and what NOT to do in today's social networking world to best leverage social media for your current and future life.

Presenter: **Ben Potter** graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a degree in multi-media marketing with a concentration in music business. Taking the concepts he learned in college and developing his skills through real world experience with the technology prevalent in today's society, he developed an independent social media marketing consultancy and was hired full time at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan as their Communications and Events Specialist.

Navigating Funding Sources for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Often youth leaving foster care are not prepared for the "real world." This session will help youth and service providers identify funding sources and services that are available to youth from ages 14 to 21. The primary focus will be Youth in Transition, Education and Training Voucher funding, and college financial aid.

Presenters: **Jennifer Maurer** is Program Coordinator for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, employed by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan. Jennifer previously was employed with LSSM as a Foster Care Worker and ETV Case Manager. **Ann Rossi** is Education/Employment/YIT Departmental Analyst at DHS. Prior to coming to DHS, she was a Foster Care/Independent Living Worker and ETV Coordinator at LSSM. **Jennifer Wallace** is Outreach Manager for Financial Aid programs for the Michigan Education Trust. She is the former Director of Foster Care Policy and the former Director of the Tuition Incentive Program for DHS. The TIP Lady speaks to over 100,000 students a year all over the State of Michigan on topics like "Where's the Money" and "Financial Literacy."

Teens and the Law

A variety of legal issues affect teenagers. This session will explore several issues, including but not limited to the difference between misdemeanors and felonies, the difference between contracts and leases, as well as the functions of a lawyer and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL or LGAL) in the foster care system, voting and citizenship.

Presenters: **DeLois T. Leapheart** began practicing law in 1982 in the State of Indiana and in 1983 in the State of Michigan. She is the founder of the law firm DeLois T. Leapheart P.C. and a non-profit agency called Adoption Option Inc. She has taught as a professor at Northwood University since 1992. She also is the Director of Northwood's Mock Trial program, which won the 2009 National Mock Trial Championship. **Matthew D. McMaster, JD**, is sole practitioner of law for Matthew D. McMaster, PLLC, and a professor of Business Law at Northwood University in Midland. Matt obtained his Juris Doctorate from Ave Maria School of Law where he served as an Associate Editor to the school's *Law Review* journal. His focus practice areas are Estate Planning and Family Law, including adoption and guardianships, and he and his wife, Allison, are expecting their first child in August of 2011.

"Dollar \$ense": 10 Steps to a Good Money Life

Our money is a precious and limited resource. We need it for so many things, but we only have so much of it. This presentation will focus on a variety of easy-to-use money management skills that will help you use your money as efficiently and effectively as possible so that you get MORE of the things you need and want with whatever amount of money you currently have.

Presenter: **Dave Truel** has been a Money Management Educator with Michigan State University Extension for the past 10 years. Using his prior experience as a banker, attorney, real-estate broker and debt counselor, Dave has taught classes on money-related topics in many settings, including schools, businesses, social service agencies and churches.

Spirituality and You

Believe it, or not, we are all created as spiritual beings. That's why we are always searching for something that makes us feel happy, content, or just accepted. This workshop will help you understand who you are as a spiritual being and how this "Spirituality" thing plays a role in your life, or at least how it can play a role in your life.

Presenter: **Christine Berke** is the Director of Campus Ministry for the Wesley House at Ferris State University. She has been involved with youth ministry her entire life. Before coming to Wesley House, she worked with youth at the Big Rapids High School in various capacities. Christine earned her BS in Social Work and minor in Speech Communication and her master's in Education at Ferris State University.

Organize Your Life: Time Management and Organizational Skills

Through interactive discussion, presenters will provide practical skills for organizing your life and managing your time. These organizational and time management skills are the first steps to a successful education, career, and future. These important skills will better prepare you for a fulfilling and successful life.

Presenters: **Keith Stump** is the Independent Living Skills Coordinator for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan in Lansing. Keith has worked as an educator in several countries and enjoys assisting youth and adults from diverse backgrounds. **Daniel Avelar**, a trained Family Life Educator, is a member of support staff at Lutheran Social Services of Michigan in Lansing. Daniel has broad experience as a social worker and is an important contributor to LSSM's Independent Living Skills program.

From Foster Care to College Campus: The Seita Scholar Experience

Staff and students in the Seita Scholars program will share information about how Western Michigan University supports students who have aged out of foster care. Seita Scholars (former foster youth attending WMU) will talk about their experiences of leaving foster care and starting college and will provide helpful hints about what youth in foster care can do to prepare for a future in college.

Presenters: **Kristin Putney** is Campus Coach for the Seita Scholars program and works directly with WMU students who have aged out of the foster care system on WMU's campus. Kristin has her master's degree in Social Work and has had many years of experience serving in the child welfare system on multiple levels. The **Seita Scholars** who will present with Kristin are foster care alumni who have made the transition from growing up in foster care to being successful college students.



Walk through Life

Wednesday, June 22, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

This Wednesday afternoon activity will include numerous life stations and resources as the basis for a fun, interactive two-hour session, intended for youth to put into practice many of the life skills they acquired during the conference.

Education

- Colleges and information
- Trade schools
- Educational Training Vouchers

Employment

- Americorp Vista
- Armed Services
- First Responders—Fire Department/ Police/ Emergency Medical Technicians
- Job applications

Finances

- Banks and credit unions
- MSU Extension

Housing

- Apartment Search
- Landlord

Identification

- Secretary of State
- Vital Records

Transportation

- Insurance agent

Thank you to our fantastic **Conference Planning Committee** members:

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MICHIGAN:	Laura Mitchell (CHAIR), John Elmore, Tanya Maki, Jennifer Maurer, Keith Stump
FOSTER CARE ALUMNI:	Alexis Alexander, James Foster, Leslie Hutchins
ADOPTION OPTION INC:	Jennifer Nigro
BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES:	Ryan Nettesheim
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES:	Chris Durocher, Megan Mills, Ann Rossi
MICHIGAN FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES:	Rose Homa, Kadi Janssen

Conference registration form

TO REGISTER

Mail the completed form to LSSM, 207 E. Fulton, 4th Floor, Grand Rapids MI 49503
or fax the completed form to (616) 356-5779.

Registrations and full payment must be received by LSSM by May 30, 2011.

If you have questions, please contact Laura Mitchell at LSSM limitc@LSSM.org or (800) 886-5776.

**Registration should be completed by Agency or DHS Staff or Caregiver.
Please type or print clearly.**

Contact person			
Name:			
DHS office or private agency:			
Agency address:			
City/state/zip code:			
Telephone:		Fax number:	
E-mail address for contact person:			
One chaperone is required for every three youth.			
Chaperone			
Name:			Fee
Role/title:			\$110
Cell phone #:		Email:	
Youth attending			
Youth's name	Age (at time of conference)	Circle gender	Circle fee
		M F	\$110
		M F	\$110
		M F	\$110
Other adults/staff attending			
Name	Role/title		Circle fee
			\$110
			\$110
			\$110
			\$110
On-campus dorm rooms • First come, first serve•			
Length of stay	Rate per person	# of people	Amount
Two nights (Monday & Tuesday, June 20 & 21)	\$45		\$
One night (Tuesday, June 21)	\$25		\$
Total amount payable to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan: \$ _____			
LSSM Federal ID#: 38-1360553			

**A signed consent for each youth attending must be submitted with the registration.
The consent form is provided with this brochure; one youth per form; copy as needed.**

Registration fee includes all workshop materials; lunch, dinner and evening activities on Tuesday; and breakfast and lunch on Wednesday. Fees must be paid prior to attending the conference.

County Youth In Transition funds CAN be used to pay for the youth to attend the conference. Additionally, YIT funds can be used for chaperones' travel costs only—mileage, meals (\$65 of the \$110 fee is for meals) and overnight room. YIT funds CANNOT be used for chaperones' cost of registration for the conference (\$45 of the \$110 fee). YIT funds can be accessed through the local DHS foster care worker.

Cancellation policy: All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Written cancellations received and verified on or before June 1, 2011, will be refunded, less a \$25 fee. No refunds will be issued after June 1, 2011. If you are unable to attend, please notify LSSM in Grand Rapids—(616) 356-1934 or (800) 886-5776—that you will send someone in your place.

Liability policy: By registering to attend the conference, you are agreeing to be financially responsible for any damages incurred by yourself to any portion of the facilities in use by the conference. You are also agreeing to be responsible for abiding by FSU campus rules and local laws for the duration of the conference.

*Alternatively, overnight accommodations can be made at a nearby hotel. See page 3 for a list of options.

Michigan Teen Conference Consent to Use of Name or Photo or Interview

Intended use _____ Michigan Teen Conference _____ Date: June 21 & 22, 2011

REGISTRATION: I give my permission to the Michigan Teen Conference and its Planning Committee to use my name and information about myself and the circumstances of my relationship with the Michigan Teen Conference for registration tracking prior to and during the conference, and accounts receivable billing after the conference, as deemed appropriate by the Conference Planning Committee.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: I give my permission to the Michigan Teen Conference and its Planning Committee to use my name and information about myself and the circumstances of my relationship with Michigan Teen Conference for room assignment and monitoring at the designated residence hall at Ferris State University.

I understand that I will not be paid for the use of my name, and that I do not have the right to inspect or further approve the use to which my name, likeness, words and/or voice may be applied. I release the Michigan Teen Conference and its Planning Committee and all persons operating under its authority from any liability relating to the use of my name, likeness, words and/or voice or information about the circumstances of my relationship to the conference.

I consent to use of:

- Any and all of the following, or**
- My name (required)
- My portrait, picture, video image, photograph or any reproduction or likeness of me
- Quotation of my remarks
- Audio recording of my voice
- Information about myself, my family and the circumstances of our relationship with the Michigan Teen Conference and its 2011 Planning Committee.

Youth's Name (please type or print legibly):	Youth's Signature:
Youth's Address:	Daytime Phone:
Agency Name or DHS County Office:	
Personal Representative for Minor Child:	
Name of Personal Representative (please type or print legibly)	
Signature of Personal Representative:	Date:

For recipients of Department of Human Service funded services, this permission expires on **12/31/11**. **This consent form is required for all youth who attend the Michigan Teen Conference for items that are identified above with a check mark.** Other items of consent are at the sole discretion of the person legally responsible for the youth. Please see box at the right for list of persons responsible to sign this consent.

Please keep one copy of this signed Agreement in the youth's file and attach one to the Michigan Teen Conference Registration Form.

**Children's Services Manual
FOSTER CARE – RELEASE OF INFORMATION**
Consent for Release of Information to Others
CFR 722-4 (page 2 of 4) • CFB 2008-009 • 10-1-08

Type of Care/Legal Status	Authorizing Party
Temporary court ward	Court/judge & parent/legal guardian
Permanent court ward	Court/judge
State ward (Act 220)	DHS monitor*
State ward (Act 296)	DHS monitor*
Voluntary foster care	Parent/legal guardian
MCI-O	DHS monitor*
OTI foster care	Sending state authority/court
Child placed out of state	Michigan authority supervising child
*For this conference only	