



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BERRIEN COUNTY

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

April 11, 2016

Dear Community Partner,

The statistics on youth aging out of the foster care system in Michigan are tragic.

More than one in five will become homeless after age 18
Merely 58% will graduate high school by age 19
Fewer than 3% will earn a college degree by age 25
One if four will become incarcerated within two years of leaving the system

We need the support of caring individuals such as yourself to help these young teens and adults reach their full potential. Please consider making a donation to our Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI) to help provide independent living training and supports to youth for whom no other funding exists.

In addition to direct donations to MYOI, we are hosting the Fourth Annual MYOI Four Person Golf Scramble Fundraiser, Friday, June 17, 2016 at Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club in Benton Harbor, MI. We hope that you will help support this great cause and join us on the course!

The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative serves current and former foster care youth ages 14-25 who are transitioning to adulthood. The Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative assists youth in developing leadership, advocacy and financial skills to support long term success. These goals are accomplished through Individual Development Accounts (matched savings accounts), youth board meetings, community partnership development, and independent living skills training.

All donations are tax deductible and should be made payable to our 501c3 fiduciary, Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA). Note that the donation is for Berrien County MYOI. Donations can be mailed to: Berrien County Department of Health & Human Services Attn: Darlene Leonard, 401 Eighth St. PO Box 1407 Benton Harbor, MI 49023-1407.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darlene Leonard".

Darlene Leonard, MYOI Coordinator
Berrien County Department of Health & Human Services