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Former Skillman Foundation CEO Announced as 2014 MI Children's Advocate Award

LANSING, Mich., April 24, 2014 – The **Michigan Children's Trust Fund** today announced **Carol Goss**, former CEO and president of the Skillman Foundation, as the 2014 Children's Advocate Award recipient for her work to fight child abuse and neglect through innovative neighborhood programming and outreach.

"In her leadership role at the Skillman Foundation, Carol Goss promoted a vision that child abuse and neglect are intolerable for all Michigan's children, and supporting families is a responsibility we all share," said **Michael Foley**, executive director, Children's Trust Fund. "Carol's tireless efforts to strengthen families align closely with the mission of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund. Her nationally recognized leadership in education reform, her visionary transformation of Skillman's grant making, and her focus on neighborhoods have come together to positively impact the lives of countless children and families. Carol's work exemplifies the vision of the Trust Fund to assure that all children thrive and reach their greatest potential."

Under her leadership, Skillman recruited nonprofits to create programs instead of simply waiting for applications. In 2006, Goss launched a decade-long program through which Skillman would create relationships with residents of six Detroit neighborhoods with the highest numbers of young children and put in place community supports to help them thrive. Goss is currently an Advanced Leadership Initiative fellow at Harvard University.

To date, Skillman has invested more than \$48 million in the 10-year initiative and leveraged \$6.90 from other funders for every dollar invested, or nearly \$370 million, for work in the neighborhoods. The foundation estimates that 40 percent of the children ages 11-18 living in the six neighborhoods now receive high-quality youth development programs.

As a girl growing up on Detroit's west-side Chadsey neighborhood, Goss saw her mother every day help neighbors and watch out for others' children.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award for something that I strongly believe in – to bring people together so we can move toward strengthening the lives of young people in Detroit and across Michigan," **Goss** said. "Together, we can build communities where child abuse and neglect are not tolerated and where families are supported. We each have a role we can play, and receiving this award will only spur me toward doing more and reaching out to more communities."

The award is now in its third year. The physical award is a unique Michigan-made prize aimed at capturing the special essence, wonder and promise of childhood, and features works by different Michigan artists. The 2014 Children's Advocate Award is by Mason sculptor **Doug DeLind**.

Created by the Michigan Legislature in 1982, the Children's Trust Fund is Michigan's only statewide nonprofit organization solely dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It has raised more than \$60 million to support programs that have affected more than 6 million children and families. For more information on the Children's Trust Fund, please visit www.michigan.gov/ctf.

**** The award will be presented on May 14 at the Lansing Center during the [Pam Posthumus Signature Auction Event](#).*