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Be a Part of History...By Competing to Design the State of Michigan's Heirloom Birth Certificate

The Children's Trust Fund (CTF) of Michigan is partnering with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to conduct an art competition for the design of the new State of Michigan heirloom birth certificate. There will be three cash prize winners of \$750 each for selected designs.

The new heirloom birth certificate is intended to be a beautiful, permanent memento for anyone born in Michigan. While not an official birth record, the keepsake will showcase the child's name, date of birth, place of birth and names of the parents. A portion of proceeds raised from the sale of the heirloom birth certificates will go to the CTF to help prevent the abuse and neglect of children.



Submissions of designs for the heirloom birth certificates are limited to Michigan residents. Individuals or a team of individuals may submit designs on paper or in print-ready format on a CD in jpeg at a resolution of 600 dpi or higher. Paper copies and CDs should be marked clearly and legibly with the individual's first and last name. Designs may be sent by e-mail or mail. Those submitting designs are encouraged to bring their creativity to this competition and submit contemporary and/or traditional designs that highlight Michigan's beauty and the diversity and spirit of our great state. Multiple submissions are allowed.

Submissions will be accepted through December 16th, 2011. For more information about submission of a design for the heirloom birth certificate and eligibility requirements, please contact Glenn Copeland from the Michigan Department of Community Health at 517-335-8677 or by e-mail at CopelandG@michigan.gov.

Direct Service Program of the Month

Children's Aid Society

Nurturing Family Program

Children's Aid Society (CAS), a non-profit organization was founded in 1862, with the sole purpose and mission of "Preserving families and advocating for children by providing innovative direct service programs in Southeastern Michigan". As we approach our 150th Anniversary in 2012, CAS continues serving children and families within the communities throughout Detroit and surrounding area.

CAS provides prevention services to youth in Osborn High school as a collaborative partner. While providing services CAS Program Staff received a referral to assist a 15 year old female teenager, Amber. Amber was referred to CAS due to truancy from home and school, poor attitude, gang affiliation and low academic performance. Amber was dealing with many peer issues and family problems at the onset, and was in need of help to eliminate barriers to her success.

Amber was assigned a CAS Case Manager, Portia Kemp, who worked diligently with Amber and her family over nine months addressing the identified issues, establishing realistic goals and working on a life map to success. During the course of CAS service, Amber became pregnant and found herself becoming a teen mom at the age of 15yrs. Amber of course, was afraid, confused and concerned about the responsibility of becoming a mom, finishing school and still enjoying her life as a teenager. Ms. Kemp began working on Amber's behalf, advocating and linking Amber and her parents with the necessary resources such as , prenatal care, reliable support services, WIC ,etc. To assure she had a successful pregnancy and birth barriers to parenting successfully were identified and reduced by working with all family members.

Following the birth of Amber's beautiful daughter, Ms. Kemp assessed Amber's need for parenting skills and referred her to the CAS Family Nurturing Program (FNP) , which is our Teen Pregnant and Parenting program supported by the Michigan's Trust Fund. The Family Nurturing Program provides Pregnant teen young ladies and Parenting Mom and Dad Teens with Parenting Classes, Resources , Referrals and Teen Circle of Parents self help support groups. These services focus on the prevention of child abuse through parent support and education. Services are offered in youth resource centers within local high schools in the community where our teens live as well as CAS.

Amber has accomplished very important goals she set for herself and is happy to be a part of the Nurturing Family Program. Through her active participation in program services she strengthened her parenting and academic skills. As a result of successfully completing the program she gained employability and life skills training, a full time summer job and a community support network with other teen parents and staff within our organization. Amber is now a CAS Teen Ambassador, sharing information about CAS program services and sharing her story of Teen Parenting Success, "Dreaming, Believing, Succeeding." Amber states, "she plans to complete her High School Education in 2013 and further her education as a Social Worker, so she is able to continue helping others that appear hopeless. Without CAS and the support of her family she isn't sure if she would be on the road to success now." "Children's Aid Society is making a difference in the lives of children and families, one day, one child, one family at a time, remembering that all children are Unique and Different but SPECIAL."

For more information please contact:
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Resources and Events

Infant Sleep Safety Updated Policy

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has updated their policy statement on Infant Sleep Safety. An article on the changes is available at <http://www.healthychildren.org/English/News/pages/AAP-Expands-Guidelines-for-Infant-Sleep-Safety-and-SIDS-Risk-Reduction.aspx>. The American Academy of Pediatrics first recommended that all babies sleep on their backs in 1992, and these recommendations reflect additional safety measurements.

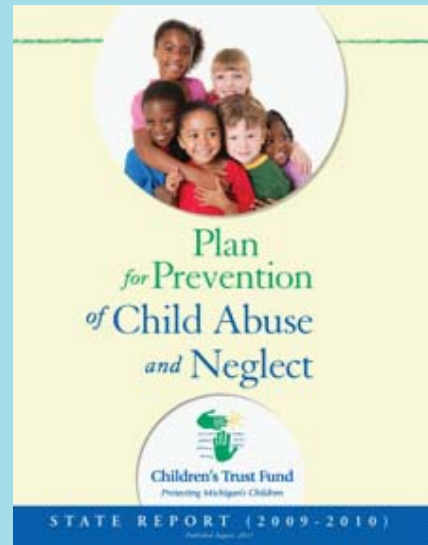
Halloween Safety

Netsmartz.org, a program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has released Halloween Safety tips for this season. “Child safety is vital year round, but Halloween is an especially important time for parents and children to pay extra attention to their surroundings and not let their guard down,” said actor Tim Kang a spokesperson for NCMEC. “Parents need to exercise a few basic safety precautions to help ensure that Halloween is both fun and safe.”

A Halloween safety flyer in English is available at <http://ncmec.vo.llnwd.net/o15/downloads/special/HalloweenSafety2009.pdf> and a Halloween safety flyer in Spanish is available at <http://ncmec.vo.llnwd.net/o15/downloads/special/HalloweenSafetySpanish2009.pdf>.

CTF Biennial Report Released

CTF has published its new Biennial Report covering the 2009-2010 fiscal years. Copies were distributed at the Annual Training last week. To request additional copies contact Christina Medina at 517-373-4320. The report is also available online at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ctf/Report_09-10_366960_7.pdf.



Partner Events

Washtenaw Area Council for Children (WACC) will be hosting its Annual fundraiser Autumn Delights: A Chocolate and Wine Tasting Extravaganza!! on October 28th, 2011 at Stone Arch in Saline. WACC promotes child safety and well being and prevents child maltreatment, abuse and neglect through educational services and programs in Washtenaw County. All funds raised at this event will be directly used for our Safe Sleep awareness program and our Cyber Safety program in schools - to prevent cyberbullying/bullying and educate children about using the internet/technology safely. Feel free to call the office at 734-434-4215 to buy tickets or for more information. Visit our website at www.washtenawchildren.org.

CARE House of Oakland County is holding an “Extreme Restaurant Makeover” on November 2, 2011 at 6:00 pm at Andiamo Bloomfield Township, 6676 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48301. Andiamo is briefly closing for an “Extreme Restaurant Makeover” (by noted Designer Ron Rea) and you can be among the very first to see the newly designed Andiamo! Tickets are \$100.00 or \$150.00 and will benefit CARE House of Oakland County and Variety – The Children’s Charity. To RSVP call 248-332-7173.

Local Councils - Regional Meetings

This writer recently completed seven Local Council (LC) regional meetings throughout the State of MI. Over 61 individuals, representing 48 Michigan LCs attended the meetings. In chronological order those meetings took place in Pontiac, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Gaylord, Newberry and Marquette. The energy, ideas, and information shared at those meetings was dynamic. Each meeting began with introductions and then creating a list of participant expectations. Of note, the expectations and planned agendas were compatible with each other.

A good portion of the morning was devoted to having the councils network with each other, sharing their programming and administrative accomplishments of the past year and assessing areas of opportunity. Successful LC programming and activities of this past year included; parent education, personal boundary/sexual abuse prevention, providing critical needed supplies to children and families and, healthy child and family socialization. There was a marked increase of LCs collaboration with local agencies, including the Great Start Collaborative and others as a way to strengthen programming and capacity building efforts. Areas of opportunity included fund development, communications and marketing and, board and volunteer development.

The next agenda topic was a look at needs assessments. This topic is timely since this is the last year of a 3 year grant cycle and LCs will soon be completing a new application. One of the first steps in that process will be the completion of a community needs assessment.

Another major subject area covered was evidence-informed/evidence-based programming (EI/EB). Participants had an opportunity to tell the group about their programs and what they are currently doing to demonstrate positive outcomes. When each person shared about his/her program the group brainstormed ways that each of those programs could walk down the quality road. In other words discussion centered on enhancing program quality processes for any activities or programs. There were many wonderful ideas that were brought forth during this conversation.

Finally, LCs piloted a model of peer review that CTF is calling Peer Sharing. Using the FRIENDS Peer Review in CBCAP® questionnaire, LCs reviewed and shared information about each other's community collaboration efforts. The idea behind the Peer Sharing process is enabling LCs a chance to share and support each other as they seek to make quality improvements for any facet of their council. After the piloting opportunity took place feedback about the process was shared. The generally favorable information will assist CTF in shaping its future peer review/sharing activities.

The following LCs are thanked for their hosting this year's regional meetings; Care House of Oakland County, the Kalamazoo CAN Council, Family Futures (Kent), the CAN Council of Saginaw County, the Otsego County Child Welfare Alliance, the Luce County Child Protection Council and the Marquette/Alger CAN Council. Their contributions to helping make each meeting a success were notable and appreciated. It was a thrill to be part of these meetings for the second year in a row. This writer enjoyed traveling to each part of the state where the Local Councils are doing impressive child abuse and neglect prevention work. It is an honor and privilege to work with so many dedicated people who are making a significant impact in their respective communities.

Emily Schuster-Wachsberger

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Communications

National Movement for America's Children

Now is the time for our nation to awaken to how we can provide every child with an equal opportunity for healthy growth and development. The Movement is a fast-growing grass-roots initiative of organizations and people from coast to coast, who are collaborating to develop a comprehensive national strategy to ensure that all of our children are given an opportunity to develop - socially, emotionally and cognitively - in healthy, nurturing homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities.



The above words are from the National Movement for America's Children Website. The Michigan Children's Trust Fund is energized to participate in this movement and welcome you to join us. Below are some ways you may be involved both on the shaping of the national strategy and networking with Michigan's group.

At the National Movement for America's Children website (<http://www.movementforchildren.org/>) you can:

1. Sign the Pledge calling for a national strategy for America's children!
2. Shape the Strategy that will be promoted and implemented nationwide, with your answers to the comprehensive national mentioned above.
3. Stand for Our Children by bringing the Movement to your community and on-line network! You may also join the Michigan Children's Trust Fund Group at <http://movementforchildren.ning.com/group/prevent-child-abuse-michigan>. Thank you for your partnership in protecting children from child abuse and neglect in Michigan and across the country.



Children's Trust Fund
Protecting Michigan's Children



Prevent Child Abuse
Michigan

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