



Children's Trust Fund

Protecting Michigan's Children

NEWS BRIEFS

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Help Foster Children over the Holidays

The holidays can be a challenging and difficult time for kids in foster care. Child & Family Services (Ingham County) is reaching out to people in the community to help make this season a happy time for children in their care. You can help in many ways:

- Host a toy drive for kids in foster care: Gifts are needed for kids of all ages, but especially teenagers (e.g., small boom boxes, Game Boy games, movie passes, jewelry, cologne, clock radios, etc.).
- Cash donations: Every year Child & Family Services hosts a holiday party for kids in foster care. You can help underwrite party expenses or you can make a donation to help purchase gifts for kids in care.
- "Adopt" a foster child for the holidays: Toys are collected to place "under the tree" for every child in care—you can purchase gifts specifically for a child or group of children!

Contact Mary Reed in the Development Office at 517.882.4000 ext. 126 for more information or to purchase a gift.

*The winter does
what it can for its
children.
—John Ashbery*



Prevent Child Abuse
Michigan

Tools for Interagency Collaboration

The National Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center for the nine Children's Bureau Systems of Care grantees has published its latest *A Closer Look* publication, in which each edition focuses on one of the systems of care principles. This edition focuses on the principle of Interagency Collaboration. The other editions, which are focused on the principles of an Individualized, Strengths-Based Approach to Child Welfare and Family Involvement, can be found at

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/service/soc/communicate/initiative/closerlook/>.

Parent-Child Activity Materials



Free parent-child materials to help support positive family interactions and early literacy development are available for downloading at the Washington Learning Systems website. To download materials go to www.wlearning.com and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

These materials include activities for adults and young children that encourage early language and literacy development from birth through preschool. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically. The preschool materials are specifically designed to address the three key skills of 1) language development, 2) phonological awareness, and 3) general print awareness.

You can also preview the "Language is the Key" videos for early literacy facilitation on the website. These videos are for sale, and copies can be made as long as they are not sold. They are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog (Filipino), Mandarin, and Korean.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Maddox, Washington Learning Systems, at 206.310.7401 or mmaddox@wlearning.com.

PAM Posters, Bookmarks, and Packets Available

Prevention Network is clearing shelf space to make room for the 2009 PAM posters, bookmarks, and packets. Therefore, past Parenting Awareness Michigan (PAM) posters and bookmarks are available. None of the items are dated, so they are useful throughout the year for parenting and family events.

Please order what you need. There will be NO postage charge to you. For more information, visit www.preventionnetwork.org or contact Luane Beaudry, Parenting Awareness Michigan Coordinator, at 800.968.4968 ext. 12 or pamcampaign@preventionnetwork.org.



Parenting Awareness
MICHIGAN

March
is

**PARENTING
AWARENESS
MONTH**

A Michigan campaign to
celebrate people raising children
and promote resources to help
with this important task.

Parenting
is for a
Lifetime

Reach Out and Read—Holiday Gift Ideas

Looking for that perfect gift for your co-workers, staff, vendors, friends, family...or yourself? Purchase Reach Out and Read Michigan branded products and benefit Michigan programs at the same time!

If you are looking for an inexpensive way to let people know about your involvement with Reach Out and Read Michigan, or to thank your volunteers, staff, or vendors, check out the CafePress.com webstore at <http://www.cafepress.com/RORMichigan>.

From mouse pads and mugs, to shirts and messenger bags, to infant onesies and wall clocks, or note cards and wall calendars, there is a full catalog of items! They are priced just above cost, and any profit helps to fund the programs of the Reach Out and Read Michigan Coalition.

Happy shopping!

LOCAL COUNCIL EGRAMS REPORTS

Thanks to all grantees that have completed their LC 2007-1, 4th quarter reports! Nearly 90 percent of all due reports have been approved. Of those remaining reports to be submitted and approved, please submit as soon as possible.

Emily is currently reviewing the LC 2007-2 application renewals. For those that require corrections, please make changes and resubmit as soon as possible. Approval will enable local councils to access the LC 2007-2 quarterly reports in EGrAMS, which will in turn facilitate first quarter payments.

DIRECT SERVICE REPORTS DUE

Thank you to direct service grantees that have submitted their client satisfaction results. For those grantees who have not submitted information, please email to Sylvia Brown Jones as soon as possible. This information, which was due to CTF by November 14, is important for federal grant reporting.

Special Grantee Offer on Kid Pins

CTF sells Kid Pins to the general public through its website for \$12.00 each. However, local councils and current grantees are given a special price of \$7.50 per pin, which is not available through the CTF website. The price is intended to help grantees with fundraising campaigns that may include selling kid pins. To order at the special grantee price, contact Alan Stokes at 517.241.7793 or email stokesa@michigan.gov with the quantity desired and date needed. Boy and girl pins are available. CTF can ship the kid pins and invoice grantees for the cost.



Introduction to Logic Model Builder

CTF will hold an introduction to the FRIENDS on-line logic model builder for local councils and direct service grantees. The introductory training will familiarize grantees with the logic model builder and provide an overview of the major components of the FRIENDS model. Attendees will learn how to download a logic model to Microsoft Word so that you can modify, reformat, or share it with others.

The introduction sessions will be held (via phone) on:

December 11, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(geared toward direct services)

December 11, 2008, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(geared toward local councils)

January 9, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
(geared toward local councils)

The call-in number for all trainings will be 877.336.1828 and access code 8088351. Please contact Sarah Davis at CTF with any questions.

2008 Satisfaction Survey Results

Thank you to all grantees who participated in the 2008 CTF Satisfaction Survey! Overall, 49 local councils and 30 direct service grantees responded to the survey—a 41 percent increase in responses from 2007. A snapshot of responses is as follows:

Local councils reported increased satisfaction with the local council designation process, with all of the following areas experiencing increases over 2007 levels:

- Ease of process
- Understand criteria
- Staff technical assistance helpful
- Payments received timely
- Agree with language

Councils also reported satisfaction with the hiring of a local council coordinator, with the lowest score related to “sufficient site visits.”

Direct service grantees reported steady improvement with the grant process, with all of the following areas experiencing increases over 2007 levels:

- Ease of navigation
- Easy to understand requirements
- Technical assistance is adequate
- Payments received timely

As with local councils, sufficient site visits scored the lowest. (Please note: CTF’s ability to conduct site visits for all grantees has been significantly impacted by budget and travel restrictions.)

Overall satisfaction with CTF’s communication (as reported by local councils and direct services combined) increased by approximately 20 percent over 2007. There was also a slight increase in “CTF is a voice for prevention” and a slight decrease in “funds effective programs.” While satisfaction with the EGrAMS technical assistance provided by CTF staff improved by over 30 percent, the ease of the system was still rated low.

The most identified administrative needs (by ranking) were as follows:

1. EGrAMS
2. Data Collection
3. Fundraising/Identifying Funding Streams
4. Program Evaluation
5. Best Practices

The most identified programmatic needs (by ranking) were as follows:

1. Psycho-Social Well-Being of Children
1. Special Issues (Substance Abuse, Trauma and Loss, Managing Stress)
2. Psycho-Social Well-Being of Parents and Caregivers
3. Families with Multiple Risk Factors
4. Identification of Risk Factors
5. Stages of Parenting

CTF will take the strengths, weaknesses, and needs of all grantees into consideration when planning for 2009 activities. Thank you for participating in this important process!

January EGrAMS Trainings

CTF plans to offer technical assistance sessions for grantees in January. These sessions will walk through the three quarterly EGrAMS reports, including the updated program register. CTF also plans to hold trainings in early 2009 assist grantees with local council renewal applications, logic models, and other technical assistance issues that may arise. We are in the planning stages of these additional trainings, and will have more information after the December Local Council Work Group meeting.

For local councils, EGrAMS technical assistance sessions will be held (via phone) on:
January 8, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (directly following Local Council Work Group)
January 13, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For direct service grantees, EGrAMS technical assistance sessions will be held (via phone) on:
January 14, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
January 14, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The call-in number for all trainings will be 877.336.1828 and access code 8088351.

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS December 5th Barb Shaffer Visits Lansing

Barb Shaffer, the Interim Senior Director of Chapter Services for Prevent Child Abuse America, will meet with some CTF Board Members on Friday, December 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in The State Room of the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Michigan. The public is invited. Please contact the CTF office if you plan to attend.

December 8th Special Board Meeting

A board meeting to discuss the CTF Executive Director position will be held on Monday, December 8, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at DTE Energy, 101 S. Washington Square, Ste. 700, Lansing, MI 48933. The agenda will include a public comment session, followed by board discussion and potential action.

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