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## Direct Service Program of the Month

### Canton Township Canton Leisure Services "Building Families through Youth"

Canton Township began providing services to at-risk youth in 2002 with the goal of keeping teens, ages 11-17, busy during after school hours. Due to financial constraints, the services offered were minimal and it quickly became clear that those who needed assistance were being underserved. Thanks to the financial stability CTF provided, the Building Families through Youth program was created in 2008 and has been well received in the Community. This program includes a two-pronged attack, dedicated to providing



recreational programs for youth ages 6-17 by focusing on 10 key protective factors. A partnership with our local Public Safety department allowed us to identify neighborhoods with higher crime rates, more calls for service, and lower income levels. A partnership with property managers allowed us to recruit participants on-site in their own neighborhood. **Continued on Page 2.**

## Kids Count Data Book Released



The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released the 2011 Kids Count Data Book. This annual resource provides state profiles of child well-being from all 50 states. This year the focus was on the effect of the recession on children. 31 Million U.S. kids live close to economic catastrophe (1-3 paychecks away). The report lists Michigan overall at #30, which is the same rank the state held last year. Visit the Data Book Homepage at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/databook/2011/> in order to download the report and/or create maps.

# Direct Service Program of the Month

## *Canton Township*

### *Canton Leisure Services “Building Families through Youth”*

The Canton Youth Connection was designed for elementary age youth. It includes time spent in a classroom setting, as well as outdoors, for a minimum of 4 hours per week in 6 different neighborhoods. The BLOCK Youth & Teen Center Outreach Program offers options for middle and high school age youth in those same neighborhoods. It provides transportation to the center every day after school and allows participants the opportunity to socialize in a supervised setting, as well as attend field trips, receive tutoring, and participate in youth voice.

In the past year, over 100 youth have participated in the Building Families through Youth program. The outcomes of the program are measured through the use of a pre and post test youth complete at the beginning and end of the school year.

Survey analysis identified significant improvement in all but two areas. A few of the highlights revealed the following results:

- 10% increase in Value on Achievement
- 18% increase in the Perception of Importance of Life Long Fitness
- 13% increase in the identifying Interested and Caring Adults
- 14% increase in the Ability to Work Out Conflicts
- 10% increase in Models of Conventional Behavior

While there are many success stories, one in particular stands out.

We have had the privilege of working with a high school student for the past 2 years. Her family relocated to the area from New York after the loss of her mother, which left her in the care of an older sibling. She began attending the BLOCK program as a freshman, hanging with the wrong crowd, and getting into trouble. Our services provided her with a positive outlet for her boredom, tutoring to raise her grades, and a voice in how the program was run. Now a junior, she is a role model for other participants, recruits other neighborhood teens to join, and volunteers her time to help carryout activities. Recently she was featured in a segment on WDIV Channel 4 News. In her words, “It helped me a lot by not getting into trouble, staying out of the drama that’s out here.” She plans on becoming a pediatrician and is working towards a college scholarship.

For more information please contact:

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Recreation Specialist  
Canton Leisure Services  
Ph: 734.398.5570  
Email: [spavlo@canton-mi.org](mailto:spavlo@canton-mi.org)

# Partner Events

## **Community Roof Sit**

St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council will hold their Community Roof-Sit 2011 from September 18-23, 2011. Chuck Santoni, WSAQ Radio, will spend six days atop the Birchwood Mall in support of child abuse prevention services. For more information call the council at 810-966-9911.

## **Children's Advocacy Center Fundraiser**

Gratiot County Child Protection Council will hold a fundraiser on August 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pine River Country Club in Alma. For more information call the council at 989-463-1422.

Gratiot County Child Protection Council will also hold their Back to School Event on August 24, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Youth for Christ, 2550 W. Cheesman Road in Alma. For more information contact Dan Carley at 989-875-8228.

## **CARE Night 2011**

The Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County will hold CARE Night 2011 (A benefit for CARE House) on Friday, September 30, 2011 at Neiman Marcus. For more information visit [www.carehouse.org](http://www.carehouse.org).

## Prevention Pilot Contracts to Be Continued in 2012

The Department of Human Services (DHS) informed CTF last week that the Prevention Pilots, which were launched late in FY 2010 and became fully operational in FY 2011, will be continued in FY 2012. As a result, \$5.9 million will be available to contract with the eleven Prevention Pilot contractors. The pilot projects will continue to serve families in the N.E. Detroit, Osborn area - Wayne County, the S.W. Detroit including Dearborn and Western Wayne County area - Wayne County, the Flint area - Genesee County, the Grand Rapids area - Kent County and the Pontiac area - Oakland County.

The Pilots are in place to address the need for timely, appropriate and high quality referral options for families that are investigated for possible child abuse or neglect, but are either not substantiated or substantiated at the low to moderate risk level as assessed by the DHS-CPS SWSS Risk Assessment (Category III or IV). Services are also available for families with no contact with Protective Services but have three or more risk factors that would warrant support through this project.

The DHS decision to continue this project was based on the high level of utilization of these services by Children's Protective Services Workers (CPS) and data that are pointing to some very promising outcomes. For example, in the 4th quarter of 2011, all contractors are projected to be operating at full capacity as a result of CPS and community referrals. Additionally, over 99% of the families participating were not re-referred to Children's Protective Services or removed from the home. More outcome data will be available once a full year of service delivery is completed.

The coming year services will be expanded to serve families who have adopted children who had been in the foster care system. There is a pressing need for Post Adoption Support Services (PASS).

CTF has managed this project and will continue to do so in the coming year. CTF is proud of this partnership with the Department of Human Services to lead an effort to make a difference for vulnerable Michigan children and families. For more information, contact Jeff Sadler, Prevention Pilot Manager at CTF.

# Fund Development/Communications

## Ella Louise Thelen Memorial

Almost \$500 has been received by the Michigan Children's Trust Fund as a designated memorial to Ella Louise Thelen of Lansing. Ms. Thelen, Age 52, died on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. A Lansing resident most of her life, Ella retired from General Motors after 16 years of service. Ella devoted her life to her family and friends, a very giving person who thought of others before herself. A loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend will be dearly missed by all that knew her. A complete obituary is available in an online guest book at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/ljsj/obituary.aspx?n=Ella-Thelen&pid=152797953>.

## Planned Giving

We are touched in addition to grateful to the family and friends that have selected the Children's Trust Fund during a time of loss and great sadness. It is truly a wonderful way to honor a loved one by leaving a legacy of hope for those who are most vulnerable – Michigan's children and families in need.

It is a simple process to select the Children's Trust Fund as the organization of your choice for a memorial fund. If you have any questions or would like to discuss CTF as a choice for a memorial fund, please contact Tricia Headley, CTF Fund Development Coordinator, at 517-241-7226 or email [headleyp@michigan.gov](mailto:headleyp@michigan.gov).

In addition to providing a letter of receipt and thank you to the contributor, we will also notify the family who has selected CTF for the charitable contribution. Donations of \$500 or more will also be listed in our CTF Biennial Report.



See us on



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