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## New State of Michigan Heirloom Birth Certificate

An award ceremony for three winning designs for the State of Michigan's Heirloom Birth Certificate took place on July 11, 2012, at the Speaker's Library at the Capitol Building in Lansing. The ceremony was hosted by the Children's Trust Fund and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). A statewide art design competition was launched in 2011. Members of the Heirloom Birth Certificate Committee reviewed 118 entries and chose three designs. The three winning artists are Scott Magneson of Port Huron; Champagne Stoner of Grand Rapids; and Mary Hoffman of Harbor Springs. During the ceremony, each artist was presented with a \$750 cash prize and had an opportunity to speak about the inspiration behind their designs.

Legislation for the heirloom birth certificates was passed into law on May 18, 2011, and honors the legacy of the late Pam Posthumous. Pam served on the CTF Board of Directors and was a true champion for the health and welfare of Michigan's children.

For more information about the State of Michigan's Heirloom Birth Certificate, please contact MDCH at (517) 335-8666 or [www.michigan.gov/heirloom](http://www.michigan.gov/heirloom). Half of all proceeds raised from the sale of heirloom birth certificates will go to the Children's Trust Fund to support efforts in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.



Pictured (left to right): Michael Foley, Mary Hoffman, Scott Magneson, Champagne Stoner, Alethia Carr, Glenn Copeland

## Local Councils - Regional Meetings

I recently completed seven Local Council (LC) regional meetings throughout Michigan. Over 74 individuals, representing 55 Michigan LCs, attended these meetings. In chronological order those meetings took place in Ann Arbor, Stanton, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Gaylord, Newberry and Marquette. Each meeting began within an atmosphere of collaboration and high energy. The information shared at each meeting was thoughtful and dynamic. The day's agenda was based upon previous Local Council feedback.

The first part of the day (after introductions) was devoted to discussing successes and challenges around fundraising. The group activity was to work collaboratively to plan a fundraising endeavor (either fictitious or real) using a specific project management model. The model offered a comprehensive way of planning any fundraising activity, whether a banquet, grant proposal or pinwheel sales opportunity.

The second agenda topic addressed reporting. This was more than a didactic module on how to complete reports. Attendees had an opportunity to offer their constructive feedback regarding the reporting content and process. CTF will take the feedback and use it moving forward, for updating and improving reporting requirements and processes.

After lunch the Local Councils participated in a Peer Sharing activity. The idea behind the Peer Sharing process is to enable LCs a chance to share and support each other as they make quality improvements within their council. Peer sharing is an opportunity for a program to learn and share ideas and strategies with a program that provides similar services. Using the FRIENDS Peer Review in CBCAP© questionnaire as a basic model, discussion questions regarding board development were specifically reworded for applicability to the Local Councils.

The final part of the day was an energetic discussion about Safe Sleep. As a member of a state Interagency Safe Sleep Committee—a group charged to strategically address the issue of infant unsafe sleep practices that continue to take 100-130 Michigan lives each year—I had shared that many CTF Local Councils were already engaged and committed to Safe Sleep programming. The Safe Sleep Interagency Committee expressed interest in obtaining CTF Local Council input. The councils appreciated this opportunity to be a voice for children and families at the state level. The discussion at each meeting centered around three areas: current programming, future programming and messaging recommendations. All responses were themed and commentary within each theme was weighted. The councils' feedback was presented to the State Interagency Safe Sleep Committee at its October 2 meeting.

The following LCs are thanked for hosting this year's regional meetings: The Washtenaw Council for Children; Montcalm County – We Care for Kids Council; Kalamazoo CAN Council; CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region of Saginaw County; Otsego County Child Welfare Alliance; Luce County Child Protection Council; and Marquette/Alger CAN Council. Their contributions to helping make each meeting a success were greatly appreciated. It was a thrill to be part of these meetings for the third consecutive year. Traveling to each part of the state where Local Councils do their prevention work is inspiring and reminds me of the honor and privilege it is to work with so many dedicated people who are making a significant impact in their respective communities. --*Emily Schuster-Wachsberger*

## October is National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The Children's Trust Fund encourages all young people and adults to work toward the common goal of ending bullying.

According to Wikipedia, "National Bullying Prevention Month is a campaign in the United States founded in 2006 by PACER's National Center for Bullying Prevention. The campaign is held during the month of October and unites communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention."

For more information on Bullying Prevention Month, visit the Pacer website at <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/>.

# Direct Service Grants

*Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future. ~ John F. Kennedy*

*Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression. ~ Dr. Haim Ginott*

## Acknowledgments

- Thanks to all DS grantees for having a 100% performance rate of turning in their FY 2012 year-end estimated, expenditure obligations. Outstanding!

## DS Year-end Reporting Update

- During the September DS Work Group teleconference, the 4th Quarter Progress Reports for the Program Register and Work Plan were extended to November 15, 2012. This extension is to accommodate the request for a year-end summary of the Work Plan.

## Direct Service FY 2013 Request for Proposals Update

- The FY 2013 grant cycle will begin on April 1, 2013 (6-month grant cycle). FY 2014 – FY 2016 will be full-year grants.
- The grant application deadline is October 17, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. CTF has strongly encouraged all interested applicants to immediately notify their respective CTF Local Council of their intent to apply. The councils provide technical assistance and application endorsement.
- The rating process will end on November 9. Award announcements will be made by the end of the year.

## Oct 22-23, 2012 CAN/CTF Conference

Some wonderful workshops will be offered at this year's conference. I am looking forward to seeing you at the conference

- All current FY 2013 DS grantees have registered at least one representative from their program for the conference.
- Three FY 2010 DS grantees have graciously agreed to panel a discussion, during the Peer Session, about their experiences as CTF DS grantees.
  - o Dr. Carol Burrell-Jackson – Power Inc (Washtenaw)
  - o Susan Love – West Midland Family Center (Midland)
  - o Polly Mallory – Family Resource Livingston (Livingston)

--Sylvia Brown Jones

## 31st Annual U of M Child Abuse and Neglect Conference

On October 22-23, 2012, the University of Michigan and the Children's Trust Fund will co-sponsor the 31st Annual U of M Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. The conference will be held at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan. Keynote speakers include Patricia Stanislaski who will speak on the topic of Child Abuse Prevention and Kent Hymel, MD who will speak on the topic of fractures. In addition, 35 workshops will be conducted on topics related to the prevention, treatment and assessment of child abuse and neglect. The annual CTF Direct Service and Local Council peer sessions will be held on October 22.

## Groundbreaking Michigan ACE Study

The Children's Trust Fund is taking a lead role in commissioning the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study for Michigan. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has worked with the lead researchers, Dr. Robert F. Anda and Dr. Vincent J. Felitti, to build on their seminal research so that state-specific analysis can assess the impact of ACE on adult well-being. The data will be captured by including the CDC's questions on ACE in Michigan's next Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. There will be much to learn from this analysis and CTF is looking forward to working with our partners to tell the story of Adverse Childhood Experiences and their impact on Michigan's citizenry.

In recent years, we have learned a great deal about the importance of childhood experiences to lifelong well-being. Early experiences have a broader and more profound impact than most of us would ever guess. Everyday interactions and experiences in infancy and childhood greatly influence the architecture of our developing brains and our subsequent emotional, cognitive, social and neurobiological functioning. In short, these early experiences affect the way we view ourselves and our world, the way we learn, how we cope with life's stressors, and how we form relationships throughout our lives. Positive experiences in childhood are critical to a healthy and productive adulthood. Conversely, negative experiences can lead to poorer mental and physical health, poorer school and work success and lower socioeconomic status in adulthood.

The cost of the Michigan study and analysis is being made possible by the generous support of the Great Lakes Capital Fund, Casey Family Programs, and the Department of Community Health. This collaborative support will cover both the costs of the analysis in Michigan as well as the costs for developing educational materials upon completion of the study. Initial study results are anticipated for mid-year in 2013.

## Leadership Academy

On August 14th Emily Schuster-Wachsberger, CTF Local Council Coordinator, graduated from the DHS Leadership Academy (LA). She graduated with honors and was 1 of only 7 students in a class of 23 to achieve a perfect program score. Emily completed the program while continuing to fulfill her other job responsibilities.

During the 2.5 years Emily attended Leadership Academy, she had an opportunity to combine classroom learning with practical experiences to advance her leadership skills. Class sessions included topics such as Essentials of Leadership, Leading Innovation, Leading Change, Crucial Conversations and others.

The practical experience requirement included the completion of two leadership learning projects. The first one directly benefitted CTF when, in 2011, she greatly expanded the scope of the Prevention Awareness Day (PrAD) event during Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month. Her leadership of this effort resulted in doubling event attendance, gaining sponsorships, enhancing the entertainment programming and adding a Legislative Education Day component. For the second project Emily was teamed with fellow LA candidates to assist DHS in the development of a draft protocol for Child Sex Trafficking. In addition to attending meetings and doing research, Emily wrote a portion of both the draft project protocol language and final report. With her team, the project concluded with an informational presentation to DHS Executive staff, including Director Maura Corrigan, Deputy Director Duane Berger and others.

Congratulations Emily on this worthy accomplishment! With Emily's graduation, and with Sylvia Brown-Jones being an earlier graduate, CTF is proud to have two Leadership Academy alumni with enhanced skills and expertise to serve Michigan's prevention community.

## CTF Board Member Addresses Child Sexual Abuse

Shelley A. Kester, a member of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund Board of Directors, has written an article titled *Shining a Light to Improve the Way We Respond to Sexually Abused Children* that was published by NALS (the association for legal professionals) in September. In the piece she connects ways that Children's Advocacy Centers and professional resources can improve how society responds to allegations of child sexual abuse. The complete article can be accessed at <http://www.nals.org/?p=7536>. Shelley A. Kester is a family law attorney and co-founding member of Wilson Kester, PLLC, located in Traverse City, Michigan.



**Children's Trust Fund**  
*Protecting Michigan's Children*



### CTF Social Media Pages



See us on



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## CTF Staff News

Sarah Davis, Senior Program Development Coordinator, was awarded her Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Western Michigan University in August 2012. Her concentration was in Nonprofit Administration and Leadership. Throughout her graduate work, Sarah received several MPA Scholar Awards, including Nonprofit Governance Award, Best Research Proposal Award, and Best Project Paper Award. This spring, Sarah conducted original, analytical research on voluntarism within a mid-Michigan dog rescue organization. The research is intended to help dog rescue organizations strengthen recruitment and retention of foster volunteers and, in turn, rescue more homeless dogs. Congratulations Sarah on earning your graduate degree!