



Children's Trust Fund
Protecting Michigan's Children



CTF NEWS BRIEF

July 2016

Children's Trust Fund Specialty License Plate!

We are pleased to announce that 2016 marks the 15th anniversary of CTF's specialty license plate. During this time, 2.5 million has been raised to support child abuse prevention programs throughout the State of Michigan.



CTF is the only statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Established in 1982, CTF currently funds 22 direct service prevention programs and 73 local child abuse and neglect prevention councils serving all of Michigan's 83 counties. Research is clear that families thrive in communities with a robust commitment to protective factors that support parental resilience, strengthen social connections, attend to concrete support in times of need, improve knowledge of parenting and child development, and assure social and emotional competence of children. Building these family strengths is core to the work of the CTF.

Since its creation, CTF has raised over \$70 million and provided support to over 7 million children and families. Part of that money came from the sale of CTF's specialty license plates. You can order a CTF plate from the Secretary of State any time of the year at www.michigan.gov/sos. The specialty plate sells for \$35; \$25 of which goes to CTF to help fight child abuse and neglect. Once you purchase a plate, an annual \$10 fee (as part of your license plate renewal) provides ongoing support of the work of the CTF. All contributions are tax deductible.



By purchasing a CTF specialty plate you will be helping share the word with friends, family and neighbors, that you endorse supporting Michigan children and families.

For more information about the Children's Trust Fund, please visit www.michigan.gov/ctf or call 1-800-CHILDREN.

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Direct Service Grant of the Month Bethany Christian Services – Safe Families for Children Program

The Safe Families for Children program reframes how families are supported during a crisis by mobilizing a network of screened and trained volunteers to bolster parent resilience, alleviate family isolation, and promote protective factors in resource-limited families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

HIGHLIGHTS

70%

Of participants completing the program experienced an increase in 2 or more protective factors.

98%

Of participants were very satisfied with program.

100%

Yearly program outcomes nearly doubled expectations. 1161 respite days, and 783 parent mentor hours were delivered by trained volunteers that benefited 85 at-risk children in Ottawa County.

100%

Of families could identify a new support resource.

Safe Families for Children
100 Pine Street, Suite 395
Zeeland MI 49464



[Safe Families for Children](http://www.safe-families.org)

1-855-273-7233

www.safe-families.org or www.bethany.org



I am so grateful for Bethany's Safe Families for Children program, and the family who helped me keep Josh safe.
- Michelle



Marisabel and Solveig were linked with Maria and her family through the program.

Nicole's Story

When I met Nicole, she was overwhelmed, and justifiably mistrustful of people given some hard life experiences. She had just been told that she'd probably never be able to keep a job or find stable housing, so when she called us she was at a very low point in her life.

Safe Families was able to connect Nicole's family with a parent mentor and a respite care provider to help her family through the crisis. After several months of stable work, and savings, Nicole was able to move into her new home just before Christmas. Nicole now advocates for the program to her friends, and continues to stay in contact with the volunteers that first helped her along her journey.

Safe Families is thankful for the Children's Trust Fund Grant, which allows us to mobilize, screen and equip volunteers to wrap around resource-limited families in crisis, such as Nicole's, to reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect. Nicole's girls are just two faces representing the 29% increase of children living in poverty in Ottawa County today (*according to Kids Count Data Center*), and just one of many families where protective factors have increased due to program involvement.

Laura Driscoll, Program Coordinator
ldriscoll@bethany.org



Regional Meetings

CTF's annual summer regional meetings have begun. On June 28, 2016, we had our first meeting in Ann Arbor. In late August we will finish with two meetings in the Upper Peninsula. These high energy meetings are always enjoyable and fun, affording Local Councils and CTF a great opportunity to learn from each other, and a reaffirmation of our dedication to the child abuse and neglect prevention work we do for the children and families of Michigan.

Councils are using the time together to explore several important topics related to continuous quality improvement. Throughout the day, priority is given to having attendees collaborate and learn from each other. Attendees leave the session with practical ideas, tools and work plans which they may then take back to share with their council leadership and peers. This year, there are small group discussions and report-outs on ways to put the Protective Factors in practice; assessing and developing a cultural competency enhancement plan for an area of particular interest; and strengthening board development, by evaluating options and creating action plans. An added feature this year is our Prevention Child Abuse America (PCAA) co-chapter, Michigan's Children leads a discussion on child advocacy priorities for councils.

Local Councils are welcome and encouraged to bring others from their councils to the regional meetings. CTF provides a continental breakfast and full lunch, and lots of chocolate for the afternoon. CTF is appreciative of and thanks the following hosting councils for their hard work and efforts in helping to assure a successful day. They include; the Washtenaw, Newaygo, Branch, Otsego, Saginaw, Luce and, Marquette/Alger Counties.

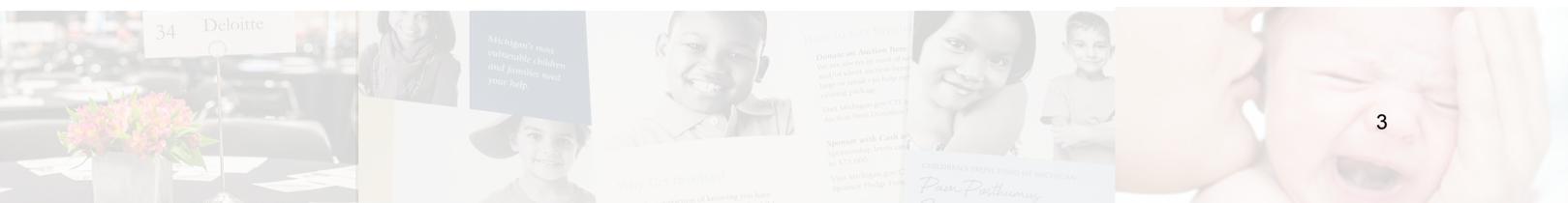
Please contact Emily (wachsbergere@michigan.gov) with any questions about the 6 remaining meetings. The meetings take place from 9am – 4pm ET (except in the Western Upper Peninsula when they'll start at 10am ET/9am CT).

See below for further information about the remaining meetings:

- West – Wednesday, July 13th at 1268 East Newell, White Cloud, MI 49349.
- Southwest – Thursday, July 14th at 370 East Chicago St., Coldwater, 49036.
- Northern Lower Peninsula – Tuesday, August 2nd at DHHS, 931 S. Otsego Ave, Gaylord, MI 49735.
- East – Wednesday, August 3rd at 1311 North Michigan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602.
- Eastern Upper Peninsula – Tuesday, August 23rd at the Village Inn of Newberry 7552 M 123 Newberry, MI 49868.
- Western Upper Peninsula – Wednesday, August 24th at RESA, 321 East Ohio Street, Marquette, MI 49855.

FRIENDS National Resource Center Launches New Website

FRIENDS National Resource Center has launched their newly designed website. You can visit them at the same address, www.friendsnrc.org. The new homepage features bold pictures, bright colors, and an uncluttered design. The new site is designed to be easier to navigate and more user-friendly.





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