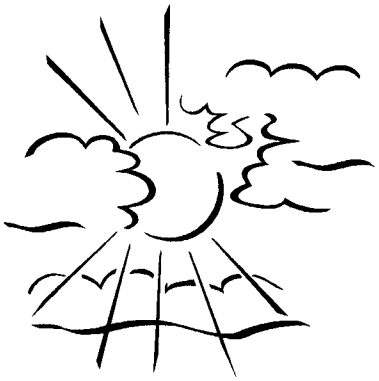
Department of Human Services

Prepared by the DHS Office of Communications (517) 373-7394



*Important story at this spot

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Wednesday, August 3, 2005

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LSJ

Teach youth about family

We must do more to warn about effects of single parenthood

I first heard the numbers from sociologist Andrew Billingsley: In 1890, 80 percent of black American households were headed by husbands and wives. That's just 25 years after the end of the Civil War.

WILLIAM RASPBERRY

In 1900, the percentage was mostly unchanged, and so it remained — between the high 70s and the low 80s — for 1910, 1920, 1930, for every decennial Census report until 1970, when it was down to 64.

For the 2000 census, the percentage of black families headed by married couples was 38. The only good news is that it was also 38 percent in 1990, suggesting that the trend may have stopped getting worse.

Now consider this: Fatherless families are America's single largest source of poverty. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's "Kids Count" once reported that Americans who failed to complete high school, get married and reach age 20 before having their first child were nearly 10 times as likely to live in poverty as those who did these three things.

Poverty, it goes without saying, is associated with poorer academic outcomes which, in turn, are associated with poorer job prospects. That means, among other things, reduced ability to choose neighborhoods in which to bring children up in safety. Non-marriage has consequences.

Two things need to be said: The phenomenon obviously does not apply to all black families, nor is it *restricted* to black families. An impressive number of African-Americans are succeeding beyond what earlier generations could even imagine (though I suspect that a disproportionate percentage of those outstanding successes are from two-parent families).

There's nothing inherently racial about the trend, of course. The 2000 census showed only 69 percent of all American children were born into two-parent households — 65 percent for Hispanics and 77 percent for whites.

Further, fatherlessness does not affect all people equally. Whenever I address the topic, I am certain to hear from some people who want me to know that they were raised by a single mother and managed to turn out quite well, thank you. There are children who are, for unexplained reasons, unusually resilient and self-motivated, and there are single-mothers whose skill and discipline are so heroic that their children are virtually driven to succeed.

But acknowledging that "Peg Leg" Bates was a helluva tap dancer shouldn't obscure the fact that dancers are generally better off with the full complement of nether limbs.

So am I urging all single mothers to grab the nearest adult male and haul him off to the altar?

Of course not. As Mary Frances Berry, then chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, once told me: "If all the single mothers in poor communities married single men in those same communities, and the men all moved in, the only effect would be to increase by one the number of disabled people in each household."

She was right, of course. But while marriage may not be a cure for poverty, it does turn out to be a fairly reliable *preventative*. Isn't it worthwhile to spend more time and resources helping young people to understand the economic implications of single parenthood *before* they become single parents?

Wouldn't it make sense to rethink our relatively recent easy acceptance of out-of-wedlock parenting?

What do you think? Write William Raspberry, Washington Post Writer's Group, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20071.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2005

Contact: Heidi Hansen

517-335-6397

Governor Granholm Calls for Extradition of Texas Man for Unpaid Child Support

LANSING - Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today announced that she has initiated proceedings to extradite a Texas man charged with failing to pay more than $170,000 in child support, a felony crime punishable by four years in prison.

Michael James Runkel of Tyler, Texas, was arrested by law enforcement officials in Smith County, Texas in June. In December 1982, Runkel was ordered by the Mason County Circuit Court in Michigan to pay $183 per week for the support of his minor children, but has failed to comply. As of December 2004 his unpaid child support obligations totaled $171,854.56.

"Mr. Runkel has failed to meet his responsibility to support his children, and that has consequences," Granholm said. "The state of Michigan will use all of the tools at its disposal to ensure that parents provide for their children."

Upon return to Michigan, Runkel will face prosecution. In Michigan, non-support of a child is a felony punishable by up to four years in prison and/or a $2,000 fine. Since taking office, Governor Granholm has requested the return, through the extradition process, of more than 100 parents who have failed to support their children as ordered by courts in Michigan.

Under the Uniform Criminal Extradition Act, the power to demand extradition of a fugitive who has fled from justice in Michigan and taken refuge in another state is vested in the governor. After receiving extradition documents, Texas officials can issue a warrant delivering the fugitive into the custody of Michigan authorities.

To encourage parents to pay their past due child support, the state is offering an amnesty period beginning October 1, 2005. Under the new law, parents who owe past due child support in Michigan will have a 90-day window to avoid state criminal and civil enforcement penalties. Penalties that have already been initiated will be waived with the exception of felony

prosecutions or in circumstances where a delinquent parent has already been arrested due to failure or refusal to pay past due child support.

The amnesty program does not affect current support obligations. The amnesty program was established by Public Act 584 of 2004 and sponsored by Rep. Alexander Lipsey.

For more information regarding the amnesty program, parents can contact their local Friend of the Court office, call 1-866-540-0008, or visit www.michigan.gov/dhs and click on "Child Support."

Multi-front effort best for collecting child support Livingston County makes some headway

Ann Arbor News

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

The problem of parents not paying child support is greater than Livingston County Prosecuting Attorney David Morse's office alone can solve. But his office has made a dent, with a program that netted $56,000 in back child support payments last year, and which Morse is activating again this year.

Parents who are significantly delinquent, owing at least $5,000 or more in back payments, get letters from Morse's office threatening felony prosecution and possible prison sentences if they don't make arrangements to settle. Last year, after waiting up to 60 days, Morse filed charges against 20 parents who'd made no effort to respond. Twelve of them have been convicted, with four being sent to prison, another four to jail and four on probation. Another five have warrants outstanding.

Morse knows he's up against it. In Livingston County alone, delinquent parents owe more than $1.6 million to their children. Nevertheless, to make serious inroads against the problem, a multi-front effort, including pursuits like Morse's, is needed.

Michigan has had one of the worst records on deadbeat parents in the country. Records for 2003 show 650,000 children not receiving the financial support due them, and 400,000 of them not getting a cent. Some $7 billion was owed.

State Attorney General Mike Cox has made cracking down on delinquent parents a priority, creating a child support division charged with increasing collections. It pursues them in part by getting liens placed on delinquent parents' property and by garnishing their wages.

To comply with a federal mandate, counties also have had to come online with a child support computer system that automatically reports deadbeat parents to credit bureaus and suspends drivers' licenses. The failure in previous years to hook up to the system cost the state millions in penalties.

But locally driven and renewable efforts like Morse's are needed to complement state and federal programs, which not so long ago often allowed derelict parents to fall through them with the ease of water through a colander.

Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney Brian Mackie says he will talk with Morse about his strategy. "Maybe we should get to that," he said about sending notices to deadbeat parents.

But Mackie added that collections are difficult. About 77 percent of parents without custody of their kids in Michigan report less than $10,000 in earnings, he says. And in Washtenaw County, burdened with an overcrowded jail, he says prosecuting and convicting parents for failing to make child care payments may result in them not serving time.

Local hurdles nevertheless mustn't stand in the way of aggressive dragnets of delinquent parents. Tens of thousands of their children desperately need their financial support. Efforts like Morse's, together with those under way in Cox's office, are needed if authorities are to make progress in collaring the problem.

Battle Creek Enquirer

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

EDITORIAL

Many uninsured kids eligible for programs

Approximately 8.4 million children in the United States are without health insurance, according to federal statistics. That means their parents are likely to put off seeking medical treatment for them when they are ill because of the expense involved. According to a report released this week by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, about one-third of those uninsured kids went without medical care for an entire year.

But what makes the situation especially frustrating is that an estimated 70 percent of uninsured children are eligible to receive either free or low-cost health coverage under Medicaid or various programs set up by states, such as the MIChild program in Michigan. For just a few dollars a month, many working families who cannot get insurance through their employers can insure their children through MIChild.

It is a modest investment that can help insure health care for children and prevent huge medical bills for families.

Parents who are eligible for such assistance need to take advantage of it and protect their children's health. As a society, we must promote greater awareness of available resources and let people know how they can get help.

To that end, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has established a hot line at 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669) to help parents. In Michigan, the hot line will connect you to the MIChild program to begin the process of enrolling your children in the program.

Health care providers in our community, including the Calhoun County Health Department, Regional Health Alliance and others, have worked hard to make health care available for all of our children. It is dependent upon us, as parents, to make sure that our families are protected. If you do not have health insurance, you need to determine if you are eligible to enroll your children in a program such as MIChild. Calling the hot line can be a first step.

In recent years, the government has initiated efforts that have helped reduce the number of uninsured children in the United States by about 2 million since 1998. That translates into a nationwide percentage of 10 percent of all U.S. children being uninsured in 2003, compared to 13 percent in 1998. Michigan does better than the national average, with about 6.4 percent of the state's children uninsured in 2003.

But that still is too many children going without coverage, especially when resources are available to help them. In conjunction with this week's report, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is launching a "Covering Kids & Families" campaign to get more children enrolled in available programs. It is one of the most important responsibilities that parents have.

Originally published August 3, 2005

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

Special Letter

Support programs help young ex-offenders

Nathaniel Abraham took an innocent life. As a result, he has spent half of his life in detention ("Rehabilitated or not, young killer will go free," July 24). While Abraham will have paid his debt to society in January 2007, and once again be free, he still will have to live up to the requirements of our society that he never commit another crime. While he owes that much to society, we also owe Abraham a fair shot at becoming a productive member of the community.

For any individual who has been incarcerated for a length of time, particularly at such a young age, it is unrealistic to expect him or her to simply reenter society successfully. From my years of experience in law enforcement and juvenile justice, I know we need tough programs proven to prevent these individuals from repeating their mistakes.

Young ex-offenders need access to structure, discipline and support programs that have been proven to reduce repeat crime. One such approach is called multidimensional treatment foster care. It works individually with youths to change their behavior and break the negative peer connections that lead to crime, with parents to equip them to better manage their children's behavior, and with schools and community services to move young men and women back into classrooms. Compared with youth in residential group homes, after 12 months youth in this support program had significantly less hard drug use, half as many arrests and spent 60 percent fewer days in jail.

Unfortunately, this crime reduction program is scarcely available. The bipartisan Second Chance Act of 2005, now being considered by Congress, would give Michigan and other states the resources to stop repeat crime dead in its tracks.

I believe, as do the more than 2,500 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors who are members of the anti-crime group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, that it is shortsighted to not make these resources available, particularly to young ex-offenders, such as Nathaniel Abraham.

Warren C. Evans

Wayne County Sheriff

Detroit

County says `no,' `no' to jail plans

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

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The margin was narrower than three years ago, but Kalamazoo County voters on Tuesday rejected the latest plan for overhauling the county's criminal-justice system.

Fifty-five percent of voters turned down Proposal 1, which sought $91.5 million in property taxes to expand the county jail and build a new juvenile home. The final vote tally was 16,666-13,551.

Proposal 2, which sought 1.5 mills to staff a larger jail and for crime-prevention and inmate-rehabilitation programs, lost by a bigger margin, 18,211-12,032, with 60 percent of voters rejecting the 20-year tax hike.

Both proposals were approved by voters in the city of Kalamazoo, and Proposal 1 was backed by residents in the city of Parchment and narrowly approved in Oshtemo and Kalamazoo townships.

About 18 percent of the county's voters participated in Tuesday's election.

``I voted `no' because they had it all lumped together," said James Wysinger, 60, who voted at Kalamazoo's Mount Zion Baptist Church.

``Some of it would have been OK. I would have voted for the juvenile home."

Wysinger said the cost, about $102 annually for the average homeowner had both proposals been approved, was too much in the midst of hard economic times.

``That's quite a lot of money to ask for with times as hard as they are now," said Wysinger, who is retired. ``Jobs are leaving and not coming back."

But other voters, like Darlene Blume, 46, of Texas Township, voted for both proposals largely out of concern that too many people are getting early releases from jail because of overcrowding.

``It's definitely needed," said Blume. ``You see too many people walking the streets who shouldn't be walking the streets."

CONTINUED

County says `no,' `no' to jail plans

The vote outcome was disappointing for county officials who believed that at least the proposal to expand the jail and build a new juvenile home would be approved. The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners spent months crafting the ballot proposals, trying to address concerns that led to the defeat of two similar proposals in 2002, which were rejected by 60 percent of voters and lost in every municipality in the county. Hoping to attract more support, the board considerably pared the plans for new construction and added funding for prevention and rehabilitation programs.

``I think it's premature to speculate on why they said no," said Sheriff Michael Anderson, who gathered with other county officials Tuesday night to hear the vote results.

``You can come up with a single response, `It's too much,'" said Anderson. ``It may be they didn't like the way it was packaged. Our challenge is to find out what the community was telling us with their `no' votes."

Anderson said the early releases from the jail will continue, and 40 more inmates will be released this Friday.

County Board Chairman Bob Brink said he expects the board to discuss its next move at a meeting tonight. He said commissioners might be hard-pressed to bring the matter back to voters in November and that the effort might be too much to coordinate.

``You have a 90-day campaign and you also have to rejuvenate people who worked so hard every day and every night for four months," Brink said.

Dan McGlinn, county board vice chairman, said the county needs a survey to find out why voters turned down the requests.

``We need to get into the numbers and understand what the voters are telling us," McGlinn said. ``Is there any aspect of these proposals that voters will accept?

``I don't think it was a problem of not getting the message out," McGlinn said. ``I think voters understand the proposals and they didn't support them. I just don't know why."

McGlinn said the county board would have to decide whether it should come back in the future with separate ballot requests for different aspects of the plan.

Ray Wilson, a founding member of the Kalamazoo County Taxpayers Association, which took a neutral stance on Proposal 1 but opposed Proposal 2, said separate ballot questions was a good idea. He also said the county should look for ways other than tax increases to address the county's criminal-justice problems.

``I think the voters sent a clear message they think the county has got to get leaner," Wilson said. ``County leaders have to take a hard look at the budget and eliminate items that have nothing to do with core function of government."

The Rev. Jerry McNeely, president of the Metropolitan Kalamazoo Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, suggested county officials look at best practices offered by the state when it comes to jail operations.

McNeely, who led his organization's opposition to the ballot proposals, said too many inmates sit in jail awaiting trial and that it takes too long for justice to be administered. He said county officials also need to look at the type of offenses inmates are serving time for in the county jail.

More county resources should be directed toward combating the root of crime -- poverty -- McNeely said. Additional funding for economic development and better community-based education programs for poor residents would help reduce crime levels, he said.
``We are willing to come to the table to help," McNeely said.

Rethink jail, juvenile home plans

Kalamazoo Gazette

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

Some voters complained that Kalamazoo County government has to live within its means and quit asking voters for more money to solve problems.

Some believe that jail inmates should live in nothing but cramped, inadequate quarters. Some quarreled with the tax increase to pay for programs.

We quibbled with many aspects of the two tax increase requests on Tuesday's ballot as well. It gave voters too few options. It was bloated.

But the needs they were intended to address are real and getting worse by the year.

Unfortunately, voters either didn't see the need or, in these difficult economic times, felt they couldn't afford to resolve them this way and defeated both proposals.

So now it's back to the drawing board -- and, eventually, another criminal justice property tax increase request.

As the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners sit down and figure out what to do next, we would recommend the following:

Divide any millage requests for construction into two proposals, one for the juvenile home, which is in urgent need of replacing, and one for the jail. The last two times the county asked to increase property taxes, they rolled the juvenile home and jail into one proposal. County commissioners may have been hoping they'd have a better shot at getting money for a new jail by linking it to the proposal to replace the juvenile home. Unfortunately, now the county has money for neither.

Scale back the size of any new jail -- or be content to add on to the existing jail. It would save on the number of additional staff that would be needed if the request were to be approved by voters.

Reduce the number of programs. Programs for inmates during incarceration, including those that address mental health and substance abuse problems, illiteracy and lack of job skills, as well as those that increase released inmates' successful re-entry into society, are a must. But the long list of social programs that would have been funded by the millage request included many that had only a tenuous link to criminal justice.

The needs of the criminal justice system are real. County officials have been clear on that point. The voters have said they couldn't handle the proposals as crafted. That is clear as well. Now county officials must listen to voters' wishes and come back with alternatives that will be acceptable to all. We urge them to do so as soon as possible.

Neighbor: Girl 'didn't look like she was dying'

Wednesday, August 03, 2005
By Ken Kolker
The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- The screams from 2-year-old Aiyana Cisneros were loud enough to frighten a neighbor, who said she had offered hours earlier to take the sick girl to the hospital.
The neighbor said she rushed into the little girl's house and found Aiyana in the bathtub, surrounded by her mother and her mother's boyfriend, who were giving her a bath.
Aiyana, who appeared to be feeling better, looked up at her mom.

"I love you, Mama," the neighbor recalled her saying.

The next morning, on July 19, Aiyana was found dead in her mother's Northeast Side home, the victim of a homicide.

Aiyana's death certificate shows she was injured two days before she died, suffering "multiple blunt force" blows to her chest and abdomen. The blows led to internal bleeding, according to police, who said they are investigating whether a hospital or doctor visit could have saved her life.

"There have been discussions about that," said Grand Rapids Police Capt. Jeff Hertel.
Detectives have interviewed the mother, Samantha Winkler, 20, and her 20-year-old boyfriend but have not sought charges in the death, Hertel said.

"We're trying to get some pieces into place," including the results of laboratory tests on evidence, Hertel said.

The mother and her boyfriend moved out of the home, at 427 Curtis St. NE, the day after the death, neighbors said.

The mother's attorney, Gerald Lykins, refused to discuss events leading up to the death, but said she is cooperating with detectives.

"This is a person who is definitely grieving, enduring a significant level of grief," Lykins said.
"Samantha's whole family is grieving this loss."

Neighbor Mariah Morris, 27, a mother of two, said she had known Winkler for about two months.
Aiyana, her mother and the boyfriend lived in the front apartment of the home. Morris lives in the rear apartment.

Winkler "babied the heck out of" her daughter, Morris said. "If (Aiyana) was whining, she was right there. It was like they were attached."

Police said they had investigated a complaint of possible abuse several weeks before the death after emergency room doctors found a bruise near the girl's pelvis. The girl was returned to her mother after police and protective services workers found no evidence of abuse, police said.

Morris said she never saw or heard violence from Winkler's home. She said she trusted Winkler and her boyfriend enough to leave her 13-month-old son with them.

Morris said she was visiting Winkler's home at 6:30 p.m. July 18 -- the day before the death -- when she noticed that Aiyana looked ill. She was "groggy" in her high chair. "She kind of looked spacey," she said. "She just looked sick, flu-like." Her forehead felt warm, she said.
She said she offered repeatedly to drive Aiyana and her mother to the hospital since Winkler didn't have a car.
"She said, 'I think she's OK. If she can keep this yogurt down, she'll be OK.' You can't make someone take their kid in."

About four hours later, Morris rushed into the home after hearing Aiyana screaming, she said. Her mother, who was giving the girl a bath, told her Aiyana was feeling better, she said. Morris said she asked again if Winkler needed a ride to the hospital, but she declined the offer.
Aiyana's stepmother, Angie Cisneros, said she got a call the same day from Winkler. Aiyana sometimes stayed with her father, Hector Cisneros, and her stepmother.

"She told us Aiyana was moping around, didn't feel good," Cisneros said. "She said if she didn't feel better the next day, she would bring her in."

Before 10 a.m. the next day, the neighbor said she got a call from Winkler.
Aiyana wasn't breathing, and blood was coming from her mouth and nose, the mother told Morris. The mother told police she found her baby in an upstairs bedroom.

Aiyana was alone on the couch when Morris found her, she said. She wasn't breathing, had no pulse and her lips were blue, Morris said. Morris said she called 911 while a friend gave the girl CPR. Police said the mother and boyfriend were home at the time.

Morris said she often wonders is she could have done more to help Aiyana. "Could I have made her take her in? She looked sick to me, flu-like sick, but she didn't look like she was dying."

August 3, 2005

Man enters sex plea

Jarvis still faces charges in other counties

By IAN C. STOREY
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY - A Manton man admitted he tried to kidnap a former foster child to have sexual contact with her in Grand Traverse County.

Dennis Jarvis, 34, pleaded guilty to one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct - a 15-year felony - and felony child enticement in 13th Circuit Court.

In exchange, Grand Traverse County prosecutors will dismiss one count of kidnapping and five other counts of third-degree CSC when Jarvis is sentenced.

Attorney Gerald Chefalo said the original kidnapping charge was the "driving force" behind Jarvis' acceptance of the plea deal.

"(Jarvis) accepted the plea (in Grand Traverse) because we felt the child enticement charge was something he had admitted he had done," he said. "He had gotten a call from the former foster child and she had told him she was running away and needed help and she was going to kill herself.

"He felt that if he violated her trust, if he told anyone about this, she would run away and hurt herself and he made the decision to help her," he said.

Jarvis was arrested March 31 after Benzie County authorities received a tip about a possible abduction attempt of the 13-year-old girl in Lake Ann.

Police said Jarvis was spotted picking up the teen in his vehicle by a police surveillance team at the scene before allegedly taking her to a wooded area, where he was arrested.

Prosecutor Anthony Cicchelli charged Jarvis with kidnapping and soliciting and contributing to the delinquency of a minor in March, but Chefalo said the charges there were dismissed "without prejudice."

Cicchelli filed a motion in May to dismiss the Benzie charges, arguing Jarvis was already facing "multiple felonies" in both Grand Traverse and Wexford counties, and was a resident of the latter.

Jarvis is still facing nine counts of criminal sexual conduct in Wexford County for alleged incidents with the girl between March and August 2004.

Arraigned in April, Jarvis' bond in Wexford was set at $200,000.

"I do have hopes there will be something worked out in this case," said Chefalo of the Wexford charges. "We look forward to continued discussions with Wexford County."

Kids need survival skills to stay safe

Experts say parents should rethink warnings about strangers, focus on how to avoid situations.

By David Crary / Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Against a backdrop of highly publicized child abductions, some experts are urging parents to abandon the time-honored warning of "Don't talk to strangers" and instead work creatively with their children on a variety of skills for being safe but not scared.

"Our message is that children should recognize and avoid certain situations, rather than certain people," said Nancy McBride of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Federal statistics indicate there is no upsurge in child abductions and disappearances, though such cases often gain widespread attention, fueling anxiety among parents and others. Florida lawmakers, for instance, toughened that state's child-sex laws this spring after the separate abductions and slayings of two girls.

For parents, one of the groups trying to channel the anxiety into constructive child safety approaches is the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, founded by a Minnesota couple whose 11-year-son was abducted in 1989 and has not been seen since.

The foundation's executive director, Nancy Sabin, said the "stranger-danger" mantra "is far overrated" because most abductors and abusers are known to the parent or child.

"More than 80 percent of the time, the abductor is someone in the neighborhood," she said. "The myth is that it's a guy in a trench coat unknown to the child, but in fact it's rarely a total stranger. ... Most people who are going to help a kid are strangers."

Sabin advised parents to practice "what if" scenarios with their children to give them experience making decisions that might help them escape danger. What would the child do if suddenly separated from a parent at a mall? How would the child respond if, while playing games in a video arcade, an adult man approaches?

"Make it nonthreatening," Sabin said. "You don't want to make a child afraid. If any of us are afraid, you can't think clearly."

McBride said children should be tutored to identify adults, even if they're strangers, who might be able to help them -- a sales clerk, for example, or virtually any mother with children of her own. Blanket fear of unfamiliar adults might actually be harmful, McBride said, citing the recent case of Brennan Hawkins, the 11-year-old boy lost in Utah's Uinta Mountains who hid from rescue workers because they were strangers.

McBride said children should be taught to extricate themselves as swiftly as possible from a situation that frightens or discomforts them, even if that entails brusque behavior.

"That's going to be tough for some parents," she said. "You're giving your children permission to be impolite if their safety is at stake."

The extent to which a child should physically resist -- yelling, biting, kicking -- may depend on circumstances, experts say. Sabin said such tactics could enable a child to escape -- a Utah girl last week struck her abductor, and he ultimately released her -- or could backfire if attempted in an isolated area where the abductor had no fear of being noticed.

John Mould, a special-education teacher who has raised six children in Ambler, Pa., said he's impressed upon them that resistance might be the best option.

Mould and his wife have gone through a process of granting each child increasing independence, accompanied by precautions.

"We let them know when we turn things over to them," he said. "Now that you can do this by yourself, here are the rules you should follow."

Tips for parents

- Know where each of your children is at all times. Know your children's friends and be clear with your children about places and homes they may visit.
- During an outing to a mall or park, have your children practice using pay telephones, going to the restroom with a friend, locating adults who can help if needed.
- The "stranger-danger" message is not effective, as danger to children is much greater from someone you or they know than from a

stranger.

• Notice when anyone shows one or all of your children a great deal of attention or begins giving them gifts. Ask your child why the person is acting this way.

• Teach your children they have the right to say no to any unwelcome, uncomfortable or confusing touch or actions by others. If avoidance is not an option, children should be taught to kick, scream and resist.

• Screen baby sitters and caregivers.

Source: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

News Release

Contact: Stepheni Schlinker (517) 373-7394

Wayne County DHS Announces New Approach to Foster Care
"Family to Family" Keeps Foster Care Kids in their Schools and Communities

August 3, 2005

DETROIT – For many years, foster children in Michigan were often placed outside of their own communities and moved multiple times while in care. There is substantial research indicating that children in foster care who have frequent contact with their birth parents, remain in their schools, and continue their existing friendship and family networks, have a higher rate of successful reunification with their birth parents.

"Children are our most precious resource," Governor Jennifer M. Granholm said. "It is critical that we work together to do everything we can not only to ensure the safety of our children, but also to provide them with a stable environment in which they are surrounded by adults who care about them and will help them learn and grow."

That is why the Michigan Department of Human Services is working to implement a child welfare reform initiative called Family to Family in every county in the state. The goal of Family to Family is to place children who must be removed from their families with one permanent and stable family in the child's own community until reunification with birth families can occur or until the child is released for adoption.

The Family to Family initiative has already been successfully implemented in several counties across the state, including Wayne County. Family to Family is a partnership between the local Department of Human Services and the community to reduce disruption in the lives of at-risk children. This approach ensures that birth parents, foster parents and community representatives are involved in the decision-making process concerning the placement and service needs of at-risk children.

In an effort to help Wayne County residents better understand the Family to Family initiative, the Wayne County Department of Human Services is hosting a community forum media event on August 3 at 10:30 a.m. at Wayne County Community College – Eastern Campus, 5901 Conner, in Detroit.

This event will feature a parent who was involved in the child welfare system and was successfully reunified with her children and former foster children speaking about their experience with the child welfare system. Additionally, several Wayne County community human service agencies will be present with information about the services they provide.

-MORE-

"When children are placed in foster care they often do not understand what has happened and why they cannot live with their parents," Marianne Udow, Michigan Department of Human Services director, said. "When we ask children where they want to be, no matter how dysfunctional their familiy is, the children overwhelmingly say they want to live with their family. With the Family to Family approach we are able to keep kids in their own neighborhoods and communities by placing them with extended family or kin. The less disruption children encounter, the easier it will be for them to succeed in school and in life."

The Family to Family model protects children by:

- ❒ Increasing family involvement and investment in developing safety and service plans for their children.
- ❒ Utilizing extended family, kin and community-based resources to support the family and monitor the safety of the children.
- ❒ Providing better information to DHS staff to ensure that all safety issues are addressed and back-up plans are available.
- ❒ Keeping the children in the community, their school and with siblings who know what is "normal" for the child and will be alert to any changes that may signal problems.
- ❒ Greater use of individualized services to meet the unique needs of a particular family.

For more information about the Family to Family initiative, visit the Michigan Department of Human Services Web site at www.michigan.gov/dhs.

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More minorities are in foster care; Michigan asks why

Meetings over the past year have been trying to come up with ways to reduce the numbers.

By Amy F. Bailey / Associated Press
August 3, 2005
Detroit News

LANSING -- It took Barbara Trickey nearly a year of fighting and thousands of dollars in attorney fees to get her young grandsons out of foster care.

Malek and Malcolm Evans spent 10 months in two foster homes 3 1/2 years ago after their mother left the youngest, Malcolm, in the car overnight in the middle of winter when he was 5. The boys have lived with their grandmother since October 2002.

"I had to get an attorney to get my grandchildren out," Trickey, an elementary school art teacher, told a state task force.

The 40-member panel is trying to find out why black children such as Malek and Malcolm Evans account for only 17.5 percent of Michigan's 2.6 million children overall but make up 51.9 percent of children in the state's foster care system.

According to a report by the state Department of Human Services, nearly 10,300 of the 19,800 children in foster care in May were black. Black children enter the foster care system at a higher rate, stay in the system longer and are reunited with their families less often than others, the report said.

Last week's hearing at Lansing Community College was one of several held across the state in the last year to help the task force come up with ways to reduce the number of minority children in the system.

Donna Budnick, a specialist on American Indian affairs for the state Department of Civil Rights, said caseworkers are more likely to remove children from the home of a minority family than offer services or direct them to programs to help them get back on their feet.

"This system punishes you if you are a minority," Budnick told the task force, which met jointly with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

The racial disparity in Michigan's foster care is not unique.

Two-thirds of the children in foster care across the country are black or Hispanic, according to a report released in June by Florida researcher Lance Carroll II.

Foster children in large cities also are usually minorities, in part because those cities have large minority populations. Ninety-five percent of children in Chicago's child welfare system are minorities while 90 percent in New York's system in 1997 were minorities, Carroll's research showed.

Bill Long, an attorney and the former head of the Lansing-based Michigan Federation for Children and Families, said the high number of minorities in the foster care system is caused by higher rates of poverty, school expulsions, inadequate housing and limited options for child care in those communities.

He encouraged the task force to require counties with a big gap between minority and white foster children to reach out to minority communities and to use the policies that have been successful in counties where the number of white and minority foster children are more closely balanced.

Police: Sex Offender Working For School District

Authorities Arrest Man After He Applied For Concealed Weapons Permit

POSTED: 2:41 pm EDT August 2, 2005

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. -- Police said a man convicted of criminal sexual conduct in Macomb County was working for a school district in Charlevoix for the past four years.
Arthur Kirk worked under a fake name as a federal contract employee for the Charlevoix-Emmet School District, according to police.
Police arrested the 70-year-old after he applied for a concealed weapons permit. His fingerprints revealed that his real name was Arthur Heilberg Kirkeby, who served prison time for sex crimes.
Kirkeby was sentenced in June 1981 for first-degree criminal sexual conduct in Macomb County.
He was released from prison in October 1986, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections Web site.
Kirkeby was also charged with two counts of criminal sexual conduct in 1967.
Two of Kirkeby's three convictions involve children, according to police.
The Charlevoix County prosecutor has issued a warrant charging Kirkeby with possession of a firearm by a felon, giving a false statement on a concealed pistol permit application and habitual offender fourth offense.
His arraignment was postponed on Tuesday morning and he was released after posting $10,000 bond, according to Local 4 reports.
Kirkeby could face the possibility of life in prison if convicted, according to the station's reports.
The assistant superintendent of Charlevoix-Emmet schools said the district has changed its policy and now requires all full-time and contract employees to be fingerprinted.

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Learning briefs

D N
8/3

FOWLERVILLE

Grant requested to aid kids, families

Officials at the Livingston Educational Service Agency recently approved the submission of a grant application on behalf of the Fowlerville Community Schools and the Brighton Area Schools districts. The organization is looking to receive $69,300 from the Michigan Department of Education's Michigan School Readiness Project from the grant. The grant would provide child development services to 21 low-income 4-year-old children and their families from Oct. 1 through Sept. 20, 2006.

01-268479.htmPrevious Story B01-267891.htmNext Story

Wednesday, August 3, 2005

Have a question? Dial 211 for the answer

The United Way plans to launch a free hot line with bilingual service by the end of this year.

By Kim Kozlowski / The Detroit News

Need to find child care services? How about a crisis intervention program? Maybe you want to volunteer your time or find where you can donate household items?

Metro Detroit residents will soon be able to get these questions answered and more with a simple telephone call.

The number: 211.

Expected to be launched at the end of the year by United Way for Southeastern Michigan and a few local nonprofit groups, the free help line will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and feature bilingual services.

When it's up and running, it will add Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties to a growing number of areas across the country with the hot line that connects residents with social services, opportunities in the community and even public health and preparedness information in a time of crisis.

211 hotline

- A free call center that will connect residents with a variety of services will be launched in December in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.
- The number will be easy to remember: 211.
- The number will offer live help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even on holidays.
- The Kresge Foundation awarded a $1.7 million grant to help launch and operate it, but $2.5 million more needs to be raised.

"There was a study done that showed it took between 6-7 calls that a person had to make before reaching the right agency," said El Cabrel Lee, director of the 211 call center for United Way. "If you can imagine, a lot of them probably gave up ... This will provide an easy method of accessing services."

Kimberly Anderson, a veterinarian at Beech Road Animal Hospital in Redford, imagines the 211 hot line could offer advice for everything from finding social services to help in locating lost pets.

"There are so many services that people need," Anderson said.

The local 211 line got a boost this week when The Kresge Foundation awarded it a $1.7 million grant, increasing the amount raised to $5.3 million.

But there's a catch to the grant: United Way must raise an additional $2.5 million in private and public funding to cover the start-up and operational costs for the next three years.

Lee thinks it is going to be a challenge but is sure it can be done.

"There is going to be greater access to existing resources," he said.

You can reach Kim Kozlowski at (313) 222-2024 or kkozlowski@detnews.com.

County's new 211 service provides critical help in emergencies

Wednesday, August 03, 2005

By Teresa Taylor Williams CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

"I'm pregnant and alone. Do you know of any services that can help me?"
"I just lost my job. Where can I get job training?"
"Are any beaches closed today?"
"Where can I get a flu shot?"
Those were among 7,560 requests for help phoned into the Community Access Line of the Lakeshore (CALL) in 2004.
On Monday, the telephone referral service that formerly was accessed with a seven-digit number simply became 211.
By dialing those three digits, Muskegon County residents can at any time of day or night access an operator who will assist them in locating the help they are seeking from a database of nearly 1,000 community services.
"It's a community success story. We invested in it, it's here and Muskegon's gotta celebrate," said Maggie Jensen, marketing and public relations director for CALL-211.
Jensen and CALL-211 volunteer Phil Stoffan announced the 211 service to the Muskegon County Board of Commissioners Tuesday.
"We've turned a big corner, and CALL-211 is now operational," said Stoffan, who is a local attorney. "Our community needs access to this information and they need it in a smooth and useful way."
The 211 service provides critical help in emergencies, such as emergency shelters and evacuation routes during natural and man-made disasters, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is multilingual and confidential.
The United Way of Muskegon County has led the effort the past two years to establish the line, requesting federal funding and aiming for accreditation from the Michigan Alliance of Information and Referral Systems.
The help line was established to help eliminate duplication of referral services human service agencies had been providing. Now, 200 agencies within the county enter information about 920 services into the 211 database that is maintained and operated by Senior Resources. Officials say the 211 service reduces the amount of information and referrals that agencies -- many of which operate with limited resources -- are providing, allowing them to concentrate more on the services they offer.
The service costs $240,000 annually to operate, which is made possible through grants and contributions from various community agencies and organizations. Roughly 30 percent comes from federal funding, 17 percent comes from the United Way, and 12 percent is from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County.
The operators, or "information and referral call specialists," are employees of Senior Resources.
Ottawa County has had a 211 service since 2003. But officials announced last week it needs $60,000 to continue operating next year. It processed an average of 2,854 calls last year.

Ottawa officials are considering joining a regional 211 service that would cover West Michigan, from South Haven to the Mackinac Bridge. Muskegon's 211 organizers are involved in those talks, and the regional effort is currently dependent on state funding, officials said.

New GREAT protocol to improve services

by Erica Goff
Herald Staff Writer

Unfavorable circumstances involving an increase in case numbers and a decrease in funding have caused agencies in the Gratiot Resource Energy Assistance Team to develop a new protocol to improve customer convenience and save money.

Jan Baszler, director of the Department of Human Services for Gratiot and Clinton counties, said participating agencies felt the need for a more coordinated effort within the system because of the centralization of the State Emergency Relief Program, which has strict eligibility requirements.

"It is important to maximize money locally and make sure those who are eligible are aware of what assistance is available," she said.

The idea behind the revised protocol is to maximize access to state money and use other local agency services for individuals who are not eligible for state aid. The system can get confusing and better communication and shared client information among various assistance agencies will help "save local dollars and maximize use of federal and state aid," Beszler said.

"We also want to make the process easier for our clients by decreasing the amount of running around they have to do," she explained.

The new protocol requires participating agencies to refer customers according to the GREAT referral process grid. A common release of information form allows each agency to share customer data and fax service applications to appropriate agencies.

Customers can then wait for the reply from that agency to find out if they are eligible for assistance. If a client is not approved the agencies can collaborate to find what services they are eligible for and where to turn next.

"We are trying to think smarter about how to do this and how to best serve our customers," Baszler said.

In addition to maximizing local resources and reducing client travel, the protocol is designed to avoid duplication of services and identify appropriate resources to avoid future emergency energy needs. This is achieved by looking ahead, Baszler said.

"We wanted to make a countywide commitment. We assess the needs of customers by asking questions like, 'Do you need employment assistance? Do you need your house weatherized?' We are helping them plan for the future," she said.

Baszler said the protocol "took a while to get up and running" but is currently in use and seems to be going smoothly and has received positive feedback from DHS employees who have used the system.

Under the new protocol, changes in available resources or eligibility information will be immediately conveyed to the Gratiot Collaborative Council prevention coordinator, who will then distribute it to all GREAT members. These agencies are required to update their resource availability on a regular basis.

The agencies have instructions for where to refer clients with specific needs. For example, customers needing assistance with employment and training are referred to the Michigan Works Service Center in Alma.

Members of GREAT are: Department of Human Services, Salvation Army, Eight-Cap, Women's Aid Service, Gratiot County Commission on Aging; Gratiot Emergency Housing; Michigan State University Extension, American Red Cross, United Way of Gratiot County and Helping Hands.

"We want to spread available money to as many customers as possible, and I think this can help," Baszler said.

Ithaca High School

Ithaca Middle School and High School have released the second semester honor roll. The following students were named:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

7TH GRADE

Academic Distinction (3.6 – 4.0)

Christopher Anderson, Logan Beard, Kaylee Becker, Paige Beracy, Albert Betancourt, Elizabeth Brown*, Matthew Bunting*, Cameron Burch*, Jordan Capen, Michiah Capen*, Sartaj Dhillon*, Caleb Dickman.

Amanda Fisher*, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Kaitlyn Gibson*, Emalene Hamilton, Tyler Harless, Brittni Harless, Craig Kommel, Lauryn Lehman*, Katelyn Longanbach*, Taylor Luneack, Candace MacDonald, Kasandra McVeigh*.

Taylor Mills*, Brooklyn Misenhelder, Jordan Most*, Stephen Murdock, Alex Oosterhoff, Samuel Prikasky, Grant Reeves*, Kayla Sklener*, Kayley Sopel*, Trevor Stewart*, Hank Vanderploeg* and Victoria Waldron*.

Honor Roll (3.0-3.59)

Jamie Anderson, Joshua Carullo, Wyatt Chaffin, Kylee Gritzmaker, Corrie Hansen, Christopher Helwig, Aleasha Jellison, Amanda Johnson, Elizabeth MacDonald, Conner Marks, Blake Miniard, Joshua Page.

Haylee Price, Eric Reyes, Ethan Silvers, Angie Smith, Dustin Snyder, Creed Stapleton, Emily Strait, Rebecca Thompson, Thaddaeous Todosciuk, Aden Villalobos, Jessica Watson and Darin Wideman.

8TH GRADE

Academic Distinction

Graden Barnes*, Timothy Baxter, Samantha Castillo*, Hayleigh Cooper, Shelby Corrigan, Megan Dwyer, Alysen Glowney, Foua Hang, Alison Jerome*, Troy Johnson*, Samantha Kosek, Charli Langlois.

Christopher Lyon, Stephanie Moon, Kari Pihl, Kellie Presbrey, Frank Richards, Zachary Robbennolt*, Michael Thelen*, Jamie Ward and Tyler Zuker*.

Honor Roll

Elizabeth Andrews, Jared Bates, Caleb Chase, Kyle Coblentz, Tyler DeVuyst, Christopher Earl, Ashley Gallahan, Cody Iler, Marcy Jerome, Crystal Kimball, Dakota Kosek, Alex Kozitzki, Jenifer Kremsreiter, Joshua Macha, Miniard and Kelsey Shaw.

HIGH SCHOOL

9TH GRADE

Academic Distinction

Trenton Barnes*, Conrad Bove Burgess, Allison Carley, Halley Jarred Cline, Tonya Deitrich, Draper, Sarah Elenbaas, Mich patrick*, Austin Kimmel*, Lamey*.

Jordan Marks, Tayler McCro Melow, Alyse Miles, Kyle O William Ringle, Eric Skriba, Ashl Jessica Stewart, Kelli Thompson Thum, Aaron Wendzel* and Whaley.

Honor Roll

Jennifer Allen, Emilee Anna Augustine, Eric Campau, Jacc Amanda DeRosia, Justin Fritz, Harger, Christopher Hull, April Curtis Huntoon, Rachael Leny.

Erin Longanbach, Joshua Brandi Melow, Drew Moomey Osborne, Adam Packer, Rachel Ashleigh Rolph, Jacob Sigafoos Smith, Wendy Smith, Greg Stra don Walker and Megan Ward.

10TH GRADE

Academic Distinction

Alexa Allen*, Megan Camer Campau, Sara Hirschman*, Jerome, Blake Loomis, Adam M Skinner, Kelsey Sopel, Alexande Cortnie Thompson and Anthon ploeg.

Honor Roll

Gregory Allen, Tiffany Burn Garza, Megan Geyer, Brian He Daryl Johnson, Nicole Kleinbr Levin, Casey Mills, Latisha Mi Corrina Munro, Ryan Nevins.

Benjamin Rayburn, Jonathan Morgan Ruthig, Roger Ryder Shaw, Bradley Shoen, Amy Shaelee Walker, Jacob Watso Weber and Samantha Young.

11TH GRADE

Academic Distinction

Bryant Barnes*, Angela Bates Butcher, Ellie Duflo, Luke Frake Geisenhaver*, Holly Goodhall*,

Glen's
"THE BISTRO ON

Published August 3, 2005

Ingham Co. has $300K for rehab loans
Low-, moderate-income earners can apply for help for big housing repairs

By Sally Trout
Lansing State Journal

Ingham County has $300,000 in fix-uIp money available to homeowners in low- to moderate-income brackets.
Money from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority is distributed to homeowners as no-interest loans by the Ingham County Housing Commission.
Income ranges start with a single person earning $36,200 or less a year, to a family of six earning no more than $59,950.
Most homeowners are expected to make a cash match ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent of loan value.
Lansing Township resident Carolyn Smith, 36, budgeted to replace windows in her one- story brick home this summer. With a home improvement loan, she also will get a new roof, screen doors and carpeting in three bedrooms.
"This is just a great program," Smith said. "I'm getting all this work done for just the price of windows and the remaining costs will be paid back when my home is sold or I die."
Smith, a single mom with a son in college, works full time, but budgets carefully.
"Other homeowners in my situation should look into this program," she said.
City of Lansing and East Lansing residents have their own loan programs and do not qualify for the county's.
Bruce Johnston, county housing commission executive director, said homeowners must re-apply annually for the grants.
Johnston said it's likely 15 homes can be fixed.
"We look carefully at all applicants and there are times we tear a home down to the studs and start over," he said. "First priority goes to emergencies, like water, sewer and heating problems."
The house fix-up money became available June 1, along with $200,000 more for apartment rehabilitation in downtown Mason.
This is the second, two-year grant Mason has received for apartment work. Ten of 50 rental units have been rehabbed so far.
Apartment owners apply for the grants, put up 25 percent of the costs and agree to rent some apartments to low-income tenants for specified rental rates.
Loans are forgiven if landlords meet the requirements and maintain the units for five years.
"This is a program that really works," said Phillip Birdsall, Mason's Downtown Development Authority executive director. "It generates income for building owners so they can maintain their units and provides livable, safe and affordable housing - more people living downtown make for a more vibrant downtown."

Contact Sally Trout at 377-1040 or strout@lsj.com.

To qualify

Ingham County homeowners must meet certain requirements before they receive a government loan or grant. Here are some of the specifics:

• Income: Ranges from $36,200 for a single person to $59,950 for a family of six.

• Cost: Zero-interest loans for low- to moderate-income families.

• Repayment: Loans do not have to be repaid unless borrower sells, refinances or moves.

• To apply: Contact Ingham Housing Commission, 349-1643 or hcjohnston@ingham.org

Income guidelines

To qualify for a no-interest loan, Ingham County households must fall into the following income brackets:

• Single: $36,200 or less

• 2 Person: $41,350 or less

• 3 Person: $46,500 or less

• 4 Person: $51,700 or less

• 5 Person: $55,800 or less

• 6 Person: $59,950 or less

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Agency to conduct clothing drive Aug. 25

by Erica Goff
Herald Staff Writer

Shopping for school clothes is a tradition for many families as the summer nears its end, but it can be a dreaded occasion or impossible idea for families facing financial difficulties.

A project developed by the Department of Human Services last year will return this August that can make the search for "new" school clothes available to everyone.

DHS is working with other local service agencies to sponsor a clothing drive, which will be held in the gymnasium of the Gratiot Community Mental Health building in Alma on Aug. 25. The event premiered last year and provided clothing to 80 area families, which included 225 children.

"It was a huge success last year. We had a wonderful turnout," said Jan Baszler, director of the Gratiot and Clinton DHS offices.

During last summer's event, a comment from one child exemplified the reason the drive is offered, she added.

"One child said, 'This is the first time I've gotten to go school shopping in years.' That is what it is all about right there," Baszler explained.

The main event coordinator is Dan Carley, community resource coordinator at DHS. More information is available by contacting him at 875-8228.

Volunteers from DHS, CMH, county courthouse, and other agencies spend the day prior to the drive sorting donated clothing and putting it on racks. Baszler said there was plenty of clothing donated last year, and volunteers sort out "anything that isn't nice enough to give away" such as ripped or worn clothing.

She said they received some "very nice stuff" last year.

On the day of the drive, anyone with children can come in and find what they need. No referrals or forms are required; DHS simply writes down the name of the family and the number of children for their own records. Everything is free, and dressing rooms are provided to add to the "shopping" experience.

Baszler encouraged families to bring their children along to let them pick out things they like.

The drive provides a way to recycle nearly-new clothing.

"A lot of times kids hardly wear clothes for more than a year. I tell my girls they have to clean out their closets to get rid of the things they don't wear, and this is a perfect place for it to go," Baszler said.

Leftover clothing was donated to Good Will last year after the drive, which lasted throughout the day.. Evening hours will be added this year to make the drive available to families with working parents.

Drop-off sites for clothing donations will be arranged throughout the area. The DHS office and CMH will be drop-off sites, and others will be announced as the event approaches.

Individuals wishing to contribute who don't have children or children's clothing to give are encouraged to donate new packs of underwear or socks, or money to purchase them.

Baszler said DHS plans to give away a pack of underwear or socks to every child who receives clothing from the drive. She said the Social Services board donated $500 toward this expense as well.

Another benefit of the event is that there is no overhead for DHS because all of the work is done by volunteers.

New 'family

Alpaca Family Farms, located near Ashley and Rogers, enjoyed the addition of two new alpaca babi Eve (white) were added to the group of nine animals ing their second year of alpaca farming. The animals about 335-355 days. The average size of a new-born

Grange raising mon

The members of Gratiot Grange are working to raise funds for the "Words for Thirds" Dictionary Project where a dictionary will be given to each third grade student in the county this fall.

Funds were collected last fall to give to the students at Ashley, Breckenridge and Alma schools and hopefully this fall the project can grow to include all schools in the county.

There were more than 100,000 dictionaries presented to third grade students across the nation this past year by Grange members.

A yard sale to raise funds is planned for July home of Mike Strouse, 110 N. Star. All proceed project.

Medical

Gratiot Medic ing a Cardiopuln tion (CPR) clas Aug. 17 at 7 p.m

Three differ will be offered:

- Healthcare CPR and chokin dren and infants.

Red Cross schedules blood drives

The American Red Cross Mid-Michigan chapter Gratiot Service Center has scheduled the following blood drives.

The location, dates and times

- Wednesday, Aug. 17, noon to 6 p.m., ZCBJ Hall, 401 E. Main St., Bannister.
- Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Masonic Pathways, 1200

HAPPY 150TH GR

FIELD OF MEMBERSHIP

Agency receives additional $89,253 for training program

Adrian Daily Telegram

Tuesday, August 2, 2005 10:49 AM EDT

South Central Michigan Works receives money for the Incumbent Worker Program.

From staff reports

LANSING - An additional $89,253 has been allocated to South Central Michigan Works to help administer the Incumbent Worker Program. The IWP is a training program designed to upgrade the skills of participants in order to encourage promotion and avert layoffs among Michigan laborers.

"If Michigan is going to stay competitive in a global market, we need to equip our workforce with the necessary tools," Rep. Dudley Spade, D-Tipton, said in a news release. "This funding will go directly into training our existing workforce with the skills that business is demanding. In doing this we not only help secure the jobs we have now, we also encourage promotion, which creates entry level jobs for new workers."

Spade noted that this funding is part of $3 million allocated to enhance the Incumbent Worker Programs at Michigan Works locations throughout the state. Funded by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the IWP is coupled with other DLEG-funded employment programs such as Work First and the Workforce Investment Act to see that Michigan workers fill any vacancies created.

"This funding is even more critical now that the unemployment rate has started to improve," Spade said. "We need to work even harder now to maintain jobs and bring new ones to Michigan."

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Wednesday, August 03, 2005

Editor's note:Unedited lists of private schools and social services were inadvertently included in the This is Home section of the Aug. 1 edition of the Citizen Patriot. Below are the updated versions of those lists.

Social Services

Catholic Charities, 407 S. Mechanic St., 784-1361; 1522 Joy Ave., 782-2551. Provides individual, family and group counseling; fees based on income. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) offers volunteer service opportunities for people 50 or older in nearly 100 agencies throughout the county; call 782-4616. Respite Care-Jackson County provides short-term relief for family caregivers of frail elderly; call 782-3878.

Community Action Agency, 1214 Greenwood Ave., 784-4800. Marsha Kreucher, CEO. Provides housing programs which include weatherization, housing development, housing assistance and counseling, and homeless prevention and emergency shelter programs; education programs including Head Start, Early Head Start, Infant Mental Health, School Readiness (FRIENDS), Learning Partners Adult Literacy, and a Fatherhood Project; community development programs which include dispute resolution, income-tax assistance, safe water and individual development account programs and Project Good Start; as well as other emergency services.

Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan, 617 N. Mechanic St., 787-0570. President and CEO Larry Jones. Removes barriers to employment through job training and job placement. The agency operates thrift stores at 617 W. Mechanic St. and 955 W. Argyle St. in Jackson, and 121 E. Erie St. in Albion.

Grace Haven Center, 1040 Francis St., 782-2980. Billie Oliver, director. A 30-day shelter for homeless men, women and children.

Jackson County Department of Human Services, 301 E. Louis Glick Highway, 780-7400. Director Tanda Reynolds. Offers a variety of social services, including welfare, food stamps and protective services for adults and children.

Love Inc. of Jackson County, 782-9766. Clearing house for churches that help people with emergencies.

St. Vincent de Paul Society, operates two stores: 1509 E. Michigan Ave., 784-0609; and 1812 Spring Arbor Road, 784-0721. Helps with furniture, clothing, household items and appliances.

Salvation Army, 806 E. Pearl St., 782-7185. Captains George and Sharon Gibbons. Operates a free community food pantry, referral services and will help pay utility bills and rent when funds are available.

CONTINUED

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Private schools
Jackson Christian Schools: High School, 4200 Lowe Road, Principal Michael Bracy, 783-2658, grades 6-12. Elementary School, 801 Halstead Blvd., Principal Joe Delinski, 784-6161, pre-K-grade 5.
Jackson Catholic Middle School, 915 Cooper St., Principal Ronald Niedzwiecki, 784-3385, grades 7-8.
Jackson Seventh Day Adventist, 3600 County Farm Road, Principal Ryan Hill, 787-1280, grades 1-8.
Lumen Christi High School, 3483 Spring Arbor Road, Principal Rev. Thomas W. Rieden, 787-0630, grades 9-12.
North Sharon Christian School, 17999 Washburne Road, Grass Lake, Principal Rachel Lantis, (734) 475-9797, pre-K-grade 12.
Our Lady of Fatima, 911 Napoleon Road, Michigan Center, Principal Joann Kozlowicz, 764-2563, preschool-grade 6.
Queen of the Miraculous Medal, 811 S. Wisner St., Principal Matthew Vokoun, 782-2664, K-6.
St. John, 405 E. North St., Principal William Devine, 784-1714, K-6.
St. Mary Star of the Sea, 116 E. Wesley St., Principal Julia Hurlburt, 784-8811, pre-K-6.
Trinity Lutheran, 4900 McCain Road, Principal Thomas Wrege, 750-2105, preschool-8.