

Sample Op Ed

Feel free to copy this text exactly as is and/or personalize it to be more effective in your community.

In 2019, 33,060 Michigan children were abused and/or neglected. Our county alone was the home of *(insert local KIDS COUNT data)* of those kids. Research confirms that a safe, stable, and nurturing setting is essential so that a child can reach his or her full potential and contribute to a thriving society. The Michigan Children's Trust Fund (CTF) supports the strengthening of families through prevention programming and education, direct services, and collaboration with our *(insert county)* County local council(s): *(insert organization name(s))*. The tremendous toll that abuse and/or neglect has on a child and his or her future and our community has been recognized. It's time that together, we Stand UP for Kids to prevent it abuse at grassroots level.

Your generous decision to contribute ANY portion of your Michigan State Income Tax Return dollars to CTF when completing **Line 22 of the MI-1040** and utilizing the **Michigan Charitable Contribution Form 4642** is a vital component in protecting our children. The money raised through CTF's Tax Initiative provides essential funding for strengthening children and families. Your donation not only helps prevent ALL forms of child maltreatment across the State of Michigan, but it also allows for the return of those dollars directly back to our local community through CTF grants. Here in *(insert county)* County, we can then develop programming that meets our specific needs.

Whether you file your 2019 taxes online or by traditional paper methods, your contribution to the Michigan Children's Trust Fund will make a positive difference in the lives of our children. If you hire a tax preparer, please communicate your desire to contribute. CTF can then match your investment with federal dollars they receive to stop child abuse and neglect.

It's a sobering notion that every year, thousands of our children are not treated in the way that they deserve. However, it's powerful to know that everyone has the opportunity to be a positive force of change in the life of a child. To make great childhoods happen for ALL individuals, you simply must be willing Stand UP for Kids!

