

"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



April is a Time for Awareness Child Abuse Prevention Month



April may have been *Child Abuse Prevention Month*, but the CAN Council's effort to raise awareness and help prevent child abuse and neglect is daily work. To kick-off April though, the CAN Council partnered with area child advocates, legislators, volunteers, and local supporters to plant pinwheels around the region.

The blue pinwheel is the national symbol of child abuse prevention, and the act of displaying just one or planting an entire pinwheel garden, represents a commitment to end child abuse and neglect throughout the community.

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A special thanks to the employees of the **Saginaw County Courthouse, Bay County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), Arenac County building,** and the **Community United Methodist Church** for hosting our *Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Offs* this year.



Each planted pinwheel is a reminder of the happy, safe childhood we're building for all children in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Preventing Child Abuse at the State Capital



On April 27th, CAN Council staff and volunteers joined with other children's rights advocates and legislators in Lansing for *Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Day*.

Hosted by the staff of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund, *Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Day* brings awareness to the issue of child abuse in our state and promotes programs which seek to prevent child maltreatment.

If you would like to join us for *Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Day* in 2018, contact Vera Harrison, CAPE Program Director, by e-mailing: vharrison@cancouncil.org.

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CAN Talk is a quarterly publication of the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region and is distributed as a complimentary service to supporters and other professionals of Bay and Saginaw counties.

PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

With summer upon us and the Great Lakes Bay Region alive with activity, we have completed our events honoring April's *Child Abuse Prevention Month* and the community's support was at an all-time high! You may have noticed the playful blue and silver pinwheels throughout Bay and Saginaw counties. In fact, we are so proud that you helped us plant over 8,000 symbols of a happy, healthy, and safe childhood that all children deserve!



As May moved along, we took on several exciting projects that are moving us closer to *"building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect"*! Here are just a couple of items you will read about in this newsletter:

- **Child Abuse Prevention Education:** Through our partnership with the Michigan Children's Trust Fund, we were awarded a grant to provide multiple classes of our *Make Parenting A Pleasure* evidence-based curriculum and partner with area organizations to meet the needs of our parents – such as YMCA (exercise/health), MSU Extension (nutrition), and so much more. Next, our Prevention Education Director, Vera Harrison, and her team were asked to coordinate the selection and distribution of parenting curriculum and materials that would be made available to ALL of the 72 local councils in the state of Michigan! This is a rare opportunity for all of the local councils to expand their resources and provide/expand parenting education and support! Way to go CAPE Team!
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA):** Although we are always recruiting CASA volunteers, we have had a special effort to attract new volunteers that will become the voice for our children in foster care due to abuse and/or neglect. If you have an idea or know of someone who may be interested in this critical program, please call Randy D. Roberts, CASA Program Director, at (989) 752-7226.

Each day, we all are working, together with you, to stop child abuse and neglect in our region. Will you consider what way you can play a role in *"building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect"*? One of us would be happy to talk with you whether you are interested in our Public Awareness, our annual *Golf Outing*, or becoming a valued volunteer – we couldn't do it without you!

With gratitude for YOU as part of our mission,

Suzanne Greenberg
President/CEO



Full Member of the National Children's Alliance
Accredited Member of the National CASA Association
Designated Council for the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) and United Way of Bay & Saginaw Counties

19TH ANNUAL

GOLF OUTING

Final year!

JOIN US MONDAY, JULY 17
Apple Mountain

Begin the day with breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

GOLFERS WILL ENJOY

- » 18 holes of golf
- » Lunch
- » Raffles
- » Continental breakfast
- » BBQ dinner
- » Games of chance
- » Prizes

Early bird registration: \$450/foursome (by May 31)
Standard registration: \$500/foursome (after May 31)

Entertain clients, reward employees and showcase your company (and amazing golf skills) at our 19th Annual Golf Outing, all while helping raise money to support our Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs).

For more information or to register, call CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region at (989) 752-7226, email Cindy Morley at cmorley@cancouncil.org or visit cancouncil.org.



Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

Auction

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region honored **Judy Zehnder Keller** as the *2017 Child Advocate of the Year*. With over 500 in attendance, this award was presented Thursday, February 23rd at Horizons Conference Center during the *24th Annual CAN Council Mardi Gras Auction*.



During her award acceptance, Judy stated, *"We have many people who work daily to fight child abuse and neglect. They are in the courts, on the streets, in the schools, homes and hospitals.*

Some are policemen, lawyers, friends, and child advocates, staff and all the volunteers that help the CAN Council. It takes special people to do this kind of work, this hard, emotional work. You are doing the work of angels."

For the 900+ children currently living in abusive homes throughout our region, the CAN Council provides strong advocates and dedicated professionals to help end the violence and neglect. CAN also offers supportive education to parents struggling with the day-to-day frustrations of raising children. CAN's *Mardi Gras Auction* is the Council's largest fundraiser and ensures continuation of these services through 2017.



Dine & Unwind



Guests at our resoundingly successful *14th Annual Dine & Unwind* (previously known as *Wines Around the World*) event

enjoyed fine food, wine, and company on April 28th at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel on Bay City's Riverfront**. **Fabiano Brothers, Inc.** expertly paired wines to complement specialties prepared by fourteen area restaurants, **US. Foods** provided the ingredients for the amazing offerings. A special thanks to **Catholic Federal Credit Union** who graciously returned as the event sponsor.



The record-breaking proceeds from the event fund the CAN Council's efforts to stop child abuse and neglect throughout Bay County. This year's *Dine & Unwind* featured a "Together We CAN" portion of the live auction that gives guests the opportunity to bid various amounts on a critical need of the CAN Council. Thank you to all in attendance who

contributed, which this year, helped to fund the *Safe Baby Program* needs in Bay County. The dedication and support of the *Dine & Unwind* committee, event sponsors, auction donors, volunteers, and each attendee ensure the CAN Council will reach even more children and professionals throughout the year! Thank you for your generous hearts!

Join us next year! Mark your calendars for the *15th Annual Dine & Unwind* event on Friday, April 20th, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.



Pinwheels for Prevention

Many businesses around the Great Lakes Bay Region helped spread the awareness of child abuse prevention during the month of April. A special thanks to **Johanne Luth** and **the Peters family** who sold pinwheels at their McDonald's locations in support of *Child Abuse Prevention Month*.

Whether folks are planting a garden of pinwheels or collecting items from our wish list and participating in *Fill-A-Van for CAN*, they are helping to move our mission forward.



The pinwheel is a national symbol of childhood happiness, and when you see a business displaying a garden of pinwheels, you know that they are participating in the awareness to stop child abuse and neglect.

While there are many businesses and organizations to thank, two student organizations went above and beyond assisting with our *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign this year. The **CAN Committee of St.**



Lorenz School in Frankenmuth, and students from Delta College, **Jenna Norman**, **Kristen Markusic**, and **Tracey Chism**; thank you all for helping to increase the awareness efforts of the CAN Council. Your work is helping to *"build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect"*.



Be one of the first to see special announcements, local events, and community happenings.

"Like" the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region on Facebook!



Kroger is committed to helping the community grow and prosper. Kroger Community Rewards makes fundraising easy, just shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card!

**Sign up today!
KrogerCommunityRewards.com;
Enter NPO #38461.**

CASA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Be someone a child can count on.

Start the application process to become a CASA for Bay or Saginaw County children.



Call Randy D. Roberts,
CASA Program Director,
(989) 752-7226.

Senate Bill Sponsored by Stamas

On Thursday, March 16th, Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 1021, which amends the Child Protection Law to include Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) among agencies who currently share information during the investigation of child abuse cases. Thank you, **Senator Jim Stamas**, for sponsoring this bill.



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Saginaw Mayor Dennis Browning proclaimed the week of April 2-8 as *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*, the first in the city of Saginaw. The **City of Saginaw Police Department** is making changes to become more victim-oriented with the help of a grant they received last Fall. The grant allowed for the department to hire a Victims Services Coordinator, who is an official employee of the CAN Council.

Bittersweet Goodbyes

Field instruction is a critical part for Saginaw Valley State University's Social Work Program. Senior-year students are required to spend 15-16 hours per week with professional social work supervision in an approved social service agency. Students apply the skills and knowledge learned in classroom-based courses to actual practice with assigned client systems. The CAN Council Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is fortunate to have had four engaging interns this year. We extend our congratulations and appreciation to **Kelsey Slagle, Johnnesha Groce, Shannon Bodette, and Jennifer Jarman**, for completing their field placement with the CAN Council.



As you shop on Amazon, log on using smile.amazon.com and a portion of your sale will be donated to the Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Council Great Lakes Bay Region.





Lift up
a child's voice.
A child's life.™

Help an abused
or neglected child at

cancouncil.org
(989) 752-7226



CASA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Be someone a child can count on.

Start the application process to become a
CASA for Bay or Saginaw County children.

Call the CASA Team today:

Bay County: (989) 671-1345
Saginaw County: (989) 752-7226

TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT, PLEASE CALL:

Children's Protective Services

(855) 444-3911

*Para reportar cualquier sospecha
de abuso o negligencia infantil,
llame al CPS (855) 444-3911.*

Critical Call to Action

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is working to stop child abuse and neglect here in your community through innovative programming, comprehensive services, and effective collaborations.

One program that helps the CAN Council achieve their mission of "building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect" is the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. CASAs volunteer their time to advocate for foster children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect. The CAN Council provides nationally-accredited training to CASA volunteers that are appointed by family court judges to serve as a voice for the child; providing support and solace to children who are entangled in the system.



CASAs are the children's lighthouse when they cannot see through the storm... their voice when they are lost in the fold... their source of stability during a confusing time that no child should ever have to endure.

Sound rewarding? It truly is. Consider becoming a CASA and making a difference in the life of a child who needs it most. Call us at (989) 752-7226 to learn more.

Make Parenting A Pleasure



Being a parent is one of the most difficult, challenging, and rewarding experiences that life offers. It is an awesome responsibility to raise a child who will become a healthy, well-functioning person to take his or her place in the next generation. The future of the world lies in the hands of people our children will become.

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region's *Make Parenting a Pleasure* is a collaborative parenting series focused on parents with children aged 0 – 8 years old. This enhanced, 16-week parenting series will give parents the tools to help their children succeed, and will also offer support to the parents who attend the course.

A new class will begin on Monday, June 5th and will be open to the first 12 parents who register; enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Your 16-week session will feature activities with community partners such as **Wildfire Credit Union, U Me Paint, Mid-Michigan Children's Museum, Department of Health and Human Services, Saginaw YMCA, Covenant HealthCare, and Michigan State Extension.** Weekly topics include nurturing, self-care, understanding stress, managing anger, communication and listening skills, child development, and alternatives in discipline.

To register for *Make Parenting a Pleasure*, or to find out additional details, please contact Vera Harrison, CAPE Program Director, at (989) 752-7226.



CAN-DO VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



In 2014, **Tamara Tucker** made a transition from parenting student to CAN Volunteer. The experience of attending our numerous parenting classes led Tamara to realize that she wanted to assist other parents in improving their relationships with their children. This is when she became a Parent Support Specialist, contracted by the CAN Council.

Tamara quickly became part of the CAN Council team, volunteering at many CAN Council events including the *Mardi Gras Auction, Dine & Unwind, and Ducky Derby & Family Fun Fest.*

The success Tamara has shown throughout the years, facilitating different parenting classes, has made her a clear choice when the time came to make an addition to the CAN Council team. From volunteer to employee, Tamara's dedication to CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is unmatched.

We are grateful for Tamara's passion for parenting and belief in strengthening our parents!

If you suspect child abuse,
call (855) 444-3911*

Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, don't delay – call 911.

*All calls to this Michigan Department of Human Services hotline are kept confidential.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Save-the-Date! 2017 CAN Council's Ducky Derby

Saturday, August 26th, 9-11am
Bigelow Park in Bay City



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