

"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



**2016
Child Advocate of the Year
Announced!**

See page 7.

what's inside...

- 2** President's Point of View
- 3** Mardi Gras Auction
- 4** CASA Volunteers
- 5** Helping Hands
- 7** Child Advocate of the Year
- 8** Program Highlights
- 9** Event Highlights
- 10** Upcoming Events
- 11** Wines Around the World



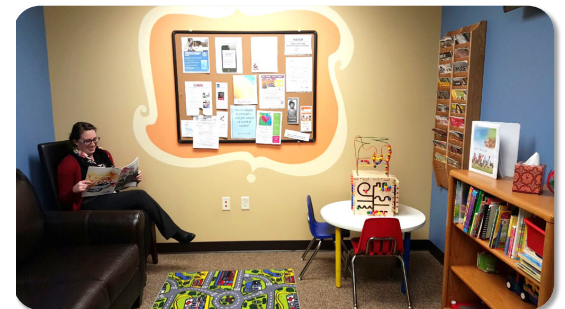
***"We are building communities
where children are
free from abuse and neglect."***

Larger Building, Greater Impact

We've called our new Saginaw headquarters home for a matter of months, and we're already doing what we've never been able to do:

- Conduct two forensic interviews of abused children simultaneously,
- Support and educate struggling parents, and
- Ensure privacy and safety for each family, parent, and child that visits the CAN Council.

And the possibilities for our building are just unfolding. Inside this edition of *CAN Talk*, you'll learn about our new partnership with **CMU Medical School**. Beginning this year, our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and the Medical School will use our medical observation room to train residents on forensic evidence collection for child abuse survivors. There's also dedicated space for our growing legislative advocacy efforts and room for our investigative partners, including **law enforcement** and **Department of Health and Human Services**, to colocate. Our full basement with elevator access provides plenty of room for future projects and collaborations.



Our capacity to meet the needs of our region's children and families is now greater than ever – and we have you to thank! Stay connected with the CAN Council to learn all the ways we, with your generosity, build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect. Visit our website at cancouncil.org,

Like our Facebook page, or purchase your ticket for our Mardi Gras Auction or Wines Around the World!



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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

As 2016 begins, I'm excited for the New Year! From expanding our current, proven programs to introducing new services, the days ahead are filled with possibilities! Stopping child abuse and neglect will be our top priority as we continue serving the children and families of our region.

Take a few moments to read this edition of *CAN Talk* and see what's ahead for the CAN Council:



- Development of our Saginaw medical program in cooperation with the **CMU Medical School**. The result will be a strengthened child abuse response team of doctors and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) along with internships and workshops for medical residents and students. Ultimately, abuse victims will receive a more coordinated and comprehensive response for their injuries.
- Further expansion of our CASA program into Bay County with the addition of our new CASA Supervisor, **Katherine Griffiths**. More abused children in the court system will have a volunteer advocate to ensure they don't "fall through the cracks".
- Growth of our *Safe Baby* program in Bay County high schools. *Once we secure funding for nine additional simulators, an entire class will be able to take the babies home for a weekend!*

Exciting changes are in store for our fundraisers as well as our services! I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to attend:

- February 25, 2016 — Our *23rd Annual Mardi Gras Auction* will be held at Horizons Conference Center, where guests will enjoy a plated dinner, a condensed program prior to the live auction, and new Mardi Gras festivities.
- April 8, 2016 — Our *13th Annual Wines Around the World* event will once again be held at Bay City's DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, this year on a Friday evening!

Whether it is through your collaboration with our expanded programming or your support of our critical fundraising efforts, YOU CAN and DO make a huge difference in the outcomes we achieve!

Thank you for always putting your money where your heart is,

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 Saginaw & Bay Counties

It's MARDI GRAS time!

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL



SAVE THE DATE



FEBRUARY 25, 2016
5:30 – 10 P.M.

**HORIZONS
CONFERENCE CENTER**
SAGINAW

**HORS D'OEUVRES
AVAILABLE AT 5:30 P.M.**

**NEW: PLATED DINNER
SERVED AT 6:40 P.M.**

**FABULOUS AUCTION
ITEMS**

RAFFLES

For more information or to purchase tickets:
Call the CAN Council at (989) 752-7226 or visit cancouncil.org

Event Sponsor:



Media Sponsor:



*PURCHASE 10 TICKETS BY FEBRUARY 12, 2016, AND GET A RESERVED TABLE.

Court Appointed Special Advocates: Volunteers Children Can Count On

I'm the mom of a toddler, and I have a full-time job. I often find myself answering the question, "Why be a CASA when you have such little free time?" In each case a CASA has, there are moments that show you why.

On one case I was assigned to, the foster care worker was switched three times. The two siblings, both under the age of 3, had been separated and put back together, changing foster homes three times until they were ultimately adopted. These moves brought about a change of counselors and two changes of daycare providers. The children also experienced inconsistent visits with their parents. **One thing; however, remained the same throughout the case, and that was me, the CASA.**

As their CASA, I saw them 1-2 times a week, observing visits with their parents, attending counseling sessions, and visiting them at their foster homes. The younger sibling is a girl who at the beginning of the case was more comfortable around males than females. She was just learning to talk, but would not say much, if anything at all, around females. Toward the end of the case, which lasted over a year, I went to visit both siblings at their foster, soon-to-be adoptive, home. When I walked in the door, the little girl came running up to me with arms wide open, excited to see me and screaming my name. **This was the moment when I knew I made a difference in her life and served my purpose as the CASA on her case.** Not just because of my court reports and work with each foster care worker and foster parent was instrumental in the termination trial, but because **I created a trusting bond with a little girl, as well as her brother, whose lives had been a whirlwind from the beginning.**

Close to a year has gone by since that case closed, and I recently ran into the children with their "forever family" at an event. Without missing a beat, the little boy, now 5, and girl, now 4, came up to me and gave me a big hug. It's moments like these – or when I see a happy, healthy toddler now in a loving family, and remember when I was the CASA for that child, then a starving baby a week away from possible death – that make all the work, reports, court hearings, visits, and missed free time worth every second of being a CASA volunteer. **While there isn't monetary compensation for time spent as a CASA, the lasting impression that these children leave on your life and that you leave on theirs is more rewarding than anything else.**



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,
at (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.

Santa is Real!

Friends of the CAN Council have often looked for ways to directly support our children and families at Christmastime. Many of the families we serve struggle to meet their daily needs. For them, making the holidays special is a luxury they can't afford.

Our region came together this year to fulfill the holiday wishes of 17 families supported by CAN Council services. That's 24 adults and 43 children! Thank you to each of our generous and caring donors who truly embodied the spirit of Christmas for our families: **AT&T-CWA 4108 Community, Book Warehouse, the Candela Family, Catholic Federal Credit Union, the Culver Family, Delta College, the Garber Family, Heritage High School National Honor Society, Dee Howe, Kehres Chiropractic, Public Libraries of Bay County, Self-Serve Lumber, St. Lorenz School, The Willows Salon & Spa, and the Wuerfel Family.**



CAN COUNCIL
GREAT LAKES BAY REGION
Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

☆
You made
holiday
magic!

Santa was definitely working hard for the CAN Council in December! Through the work of his special elves - **Delta College, Department of Health & Human Services, Moe & Shirley Erskine, Junior League of Saginaw Valley, and the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum** - 200 children in the system due to abuse or neglect got to celebrate Christmas during a special after-hours party at the Children's Museum. The children visited with Santa (also known as **Kent Greenfelder**), and received a stocking of practical as well as fun gifts, a handmade blanket, stuffed animal, and books. **Frankenmuth Credit Union Foundation for Our Communities** provided brand new coats, boots, and other winter necessities for each of our CASA children! Each child also got to select a handcrafted, solid wood treasure box, car, train set, or truck.

Thank you for bringing much needed joy and a sense of normalcy to our families and children!

Record-Setting Year for Freeland Lights

Visiting the Freeland Lights display each December is simply a must-do. Since it began in 2006 with “just” 33,000 bulbs, 70,000 animated lights have been added to the show, synchronized to an eclectic mix of holiday music. Until 2013, the show was at the home of its designer, **Gary Shepard**. For the second year, Tittabawassee Township Park has welcomed the expanding show, offering superb viewing and ample parking. Over \$10,000 was raised by spectators this December for the CAN Council and the Saginaw-



Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity. Gary and his wife, **Laura**, spend untold hours choreographing the show each year. Their efforts have brought in \$54,500 since they began collecting donations in 2008!

A project of this undertaking required great support and coordination from **Tittabawassee Township**, the **Parks Committee**, and the **Freeland Police Department**. The CAN Council and the Habitat for Humanity supplied dozens of volunteers to help set-up the display and take it down. Thank you for braving the cold, wind, and ice to help create such a spectacular show and support the children and families we serve!

Big thanks to the many *Helping Hands* who found creative ways to support the CAN Council:

Art Sample Home - Discount Fundraiser
 Carrollton National Junior Honor Society - Pop Can Drive
 Duperon Corporation - Holiday Gift
 Susan Fjerstad - Stroll Charity Event
 Garber Management Group - Jean Day
 Graczyk-Dijak Financial Group - Client Birthday Honorarium
 Isabella Bank - Community Counts
 Keller Williams - Art at the Bancroft
 McDonald's - Pinwheel Sales
 Mid-Michigan Waste Authority - Holiday Light Recycling Drive
 Nexteer Automotive - Golf Outing Proceeds
 Nikki's Daycare - Lemonade Stand Proceeds
 Simply Charmed - Jewelry Sales
 United Way - Campaign Donors
 Women Helping Women



Carrollton National Junior Honor Society members present **Emily Yeager**, CAN Council's Donor Relations Manager, with a jumbo “check” of their pop can collection proceeds.



Kim Ohland and **Susan Thorpe** of Garber Management Group present **Suzanne Greenberg**, CAN Council's President/CEO, with contributions from the company Jean Day.

Chip Hendrick Named 2016 Child Advocate of the Year



Since 2000, the CAN Council's *Child Advocate of the Year Award* has annually honored an outstanding individual or group for being extraordinarily committed to making the Great Lakes Bay Region a better place for children. At our Mardi Gras Auction on February 25th, the CAN Council will honor **Mr. Chip Hendrick** as our 2016 *Child Advocate of the Year*.

Chip is the President of R.C. Hendrick & Son, Inc., the longest running construction company in the State of Michigan and one of the oldest in the United States. Chip is heavily invested in the Saginaw community. He is a graduate of the Great Lakes Bay Region Leadership Institute and a Board Member of the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, St. Francis Home, St. Mary's of Michigan Foundation, and the Saginaw County Historical Society. He is a Past President of the Saginaw Country Club, Valley Parochial League, and St. Stephen Athletic Association.

In 2012, Chip was introduced to the CAN Council's need for a larger facility, and he quickly became a trusted advisor for our capital project. Prior to breaking ground for our new building, he led the efforts to seek in-kind contributions from subcontractors and vendors to minimize construction costs. He leveraged his relationships with the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity and local union leadership to coordinate volunteer labor and talent for the project. Ultimately, he ensured the CAN Council expansion would serve the needs of our most-vulnerable children and families for generations to come.

Please mark your calendars and join us at our *Mardi Gras Auction* on Thursday, February 25th when we will recognize Chip as this year's outstanding child advocate! Purchase your ticket to our Mardi Gras at cancouncil.org/event-registration today!



Use GoodSearch as your search engine
and purchase goods through the
Network for Good.
Proceeds benefit the CAN Council.

Donors July through December 2015

Advocates

Richard Barton Law Memorial Fund
Bank of America - employee match
Tammy Bernier
Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
Thomas A. & Stephanie A. Braley
The Alden & Vada Dow Family Foundations
Connie Downing
Duperon Corporation
Donald & Carol Gaertner
Frankenmuth Credit Union
General Motors Foundation
Glastender
Margaret Guzzardo
Doug & Sandy Iles
Isabella Bank
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan
United Financial Credit Union

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Priscilla Baumann
Steve Beach
Shirley Bidwell
Mark & Monica Bolger
David Brennan
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Guild
Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland
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Michael Hanley
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Kroeger Harper
Nancy Haskin
Barbara & Marvin Hauck

New Safe Babies

Due to the age of our infant simulators, our entire fleet of "babies" must be replaced. The CAN Council uses the simulators to educate high school students about preventable child deaths (SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) and give them a real-life experience of caring for a baby over a weekend.

New simulators were recently sponsored by the **Optimist Club** and **The Dow Corning Donor Advised Fund**, which also purchased the first nine simulators for our new *Bay County Safe Baby* program.



The CAN Council still needs to replace 63 simulators to ensure availability of the program for every school in our region. Learn more about the opportunity to sponsor a *Safe Baby* by calling Delores Gale at (989) 752-7226.

CAN Council to Collaborate with CMU College of Medicine

The CAN Council has reached out to the CMU College of Medicine at Covenant HealthCare to develop and grow our medical services for the children we serve in Saginaw County. **Dr. Mary Jo Wagner, Dr. Steven Vance,** and the **CMU medical administrative team** are leading the discussions to explore opportunities for this collaboration.



Our early goals are to provide CMU professionals and medical residents a valuable educational experience as they learn about and contribute to our Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) medical examinations. Residents will observe the work of

our Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), professors will offer their expertise to the medical exams, and all will learn the importance of medical hearsay when testifying in the court system.

We welcome the CMU College of Medicine to our team! Thank you for ensuring our children will receive the best of care!

The Brain Game

George's Geniuses once again walked away winners of *The Brain Game*, the CAN Council's annual trivia competition. **Bavarian Inn Lodge** hosted the Geniuses and 27 competing teams October 27th. The evening's questions challenged the buffest of trivia buffs and secured critical funding for our CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program. CASAs are highly trained volunteers serving as the voice for children who are in the system due to abuse or neglect.



George's Geniuses puzzle through the night's trivia.

Thank you to our super sharp event sponsors: **Bavarian Inn Lodge, Thomas A. Braley, Duperon Corporation, Emil Rummel Agency, Frankenmuth Insurance, Garber Automotive Group, Tri-Star Trust Bank, Wildfire Credit Union, and Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants**, as well as the evening's entertaining emcee, **Barb Sheltraw**, and **the Delta**

College Photography Club for capturing the brainiacs in action. *The Brain Game* planning committee, including **Rich Beyers, Barb Hauck, Karen Stiffler, David and Susan Wachowiak**, and the evening's volunteers, **Jane Anderson, Marvin Hauck, Donna Lynn Holland, Cheryl Longtain, Patricia Teague, John Timm**, and **Alexis Wilson**, ensured a fun night for all!



Stay tuned for the exciting changes planned for our 2016 trivia contest!



AGP & Associates, Inc. wins the costume contest yet again!

Independent Bank employees invest their evening for CASA.



Enid Hausding
Delores & Roger Heinrich
Hewlett Packard – employee match
Honeywell – employee match
Anne Hosbach
Kimberly Johnson
Shawna Jones
Deborah Kerr
Raymond & Sandra Kinney
Edwin & Jean Kulka
Catherine Laatsch
Sally Lange
Linda Sue Maher
James & Carol Major
Jeff McCulloch
Sherman & Ruth Ann McMahon
Ellen Meyer
Catherine Miles
Linda Morley
Richard & Mary Moskal
Nikki's Daycare
Oakland Orthopedic
Shirley Pankow
Timothy & Linda Perry
Roger & Janet Pickering
Hilda Ponichtera
Bruce & Elizabeth Raabe
Patricia Rehmann
James & Linda Ross
Kimberly Royal
James & Brenda Rozek
Laverne & Doris Ruttenbar
Allen Satkowiak
Jennifer Schindler
Kristine Seeburger
Diane Seidel
Sue Skulley
David Sweterlitsch
Cecilia Syktich
Tina Szarenski
Dr. David R. Wallace & Heidi Bolger
Verna Zemanek
James Zielke

Honorariums

Sue MacPhail Packer
Honoring David Bernier's Birthday

United Financial Credit Union
Honoring David & Tammy Bernier

Tammy & Kenneth Blanchard
Honoring Tammy Bernier & Terry Duperon

Tammy Bernier
Honoring CAN Council Staff

Joseph & Angela Garner
Honoring their daughter, Elizabeth

Robert & Janet Alderton
Geoff Beyersdorf
Gary & Debra Campbell
Lorie Chamers
Tamara Davis
Dorothy & Frank Dawe
Michael Fjerstad
Bruce & Delores Gale
Ricardo & Diane Gallegos
Alan & Suzanne Greenberg
John & Sue Nelson
Leo & Dawn Ohlendorf
Holly Reinke
Vickie Stuart
Lori Tucker
Scott & Brenda Wilson
Honoring the Memory of Susan Fjerstad

Virley Herbolzheimer
Honoring Royce & Jenae Herbolzheimer and their grandson, A.J.

■ UPCOMING EVENTS

Hausbeck Employees
Honoring Tim, Joe, & John Hausbeck

Dr. Michael Wolohan
Honoring Operating & Nursing Staff

Subway Employees
Honoring Curt & Monique Sarles

Carie Terrill
Honoring Bartley Terrill's Birthday

Jennifer Schlinter
Honoring Debbie Weadock

Memorials

David & Tammy Bernier
Pam & Ross Lake
Kae & Dave Pankow
In Memory of Rita Bernier

Kae & Dave Pankow
In Memory of Zohreh Bozorgmehri

Jeanne Murphy
In Memory of Adele Brogger

Co-workers of Lori Jean Denter
Ramon & Christina Gutierrez
Nancy Johnson & Co-workers
Linda & Gregory Schneider
In Memory of Lori Jean Denter

Anne Hosbach
In Memory of Gerald Hosbach

Kae & Dave Pankow
In Memory of Mary Jane Hurles

Virginia Collins
In Memory of Jackie Klein

Pam & Ross Lake
In Memory of Thomas, Jeanette, & Susan Krupp

Kae & Dave Pankow
In Memory of Robert Litzenberger

Kae & Dave Pankow
In Memory of Judie Maurer

Ramon & Christina Gutierrez
In Memory of Concepcion 'Sam' Olvera

The Hozeska Family
Cari & Ken Krabill
Jacki Schroeder
Cathy Teter
Greg Teter
In Memory of Lois L. Sutfin

**Your contribution to the
CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region
ensures we meet the needs
of abused and at-risk
children throughout Bay
and Saginaw counties.**

**Thank you for generously
supporting our efforts to save
our most-vulnerable children
and to strengthen families.**

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Join us in honoring *Child Abuse Prevention Month* this April. The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region, alongside **Prevent Child Abuse America**, plans many pinwheel-planting events to bring awareness to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The pinwheel represents the happy, healthy, full life all children deserve.

Plant a pinwheel!



Bay County Kick-Off

Friday, April 1st, 2016 at 11:30am

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

1399 W. Center Rd., Essexville, MI 48732

A 15-minute program will include a prayer for children after guests plant pinwheels in flower beds.

Saginaw County Kick-Off

Tuesday, April 5th, 2016 at 12:00pm

CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region - Saginaw County

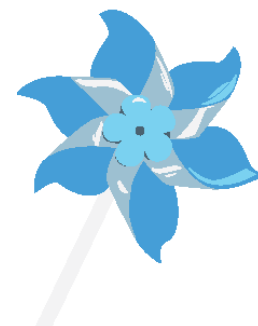
1311 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602

A 30-minute program will include a prayer for children after guests plant pinwheels in flower beds.

Be a community garden site! Call either CAN Council office to reserve pinwheels for a garden at your office, school, or church!

Get on the bus for Prevention Awareness Day! Join fellow CAN Council supporters in Lansing on Tuesday, April 19th for *Prevention Awareness Day*. Show your support for child abuse prevention programs during the day's rally and procession in downtown Lansing. Later, plant a pinwheel, the national symbol of child abuse prevention, in the lawn of the State Capitol Building.

Bus transportation for CAN Council supporters is available free-of-charge! The bus departs the CAN Council at 8:30am and will return at approximately 4:30pm. Lunch will be provided for you at the event. Reserve your seat by calling the CAN Council at (989) 752-7226.





FEATURING 40 WINES TO TASTE, PLUS ...

BOURBON TASTING | BEER SAMPLES | LIVE+ Silent AUCTIONS | 50/50+ WINE RAFFLES

Our **13TH ANNUAL**

Wines Around the World event will bring together area restaurants to showcase their specialties and match an appropriate wine with the food.

Proceeds benefit CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region's programs and services in Bay County.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016
5:30 to 9 p.m.
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL
BAY CITY - RIVERFRONT

TICKETS: \$60 per person

Reserve a table by
 purchasing 10 tickets

EVENT SPONSOR:



Together we CAN help build strong and resilient.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call CAN Council
 Great Lakes Bay Region – Bay County at (989) 671-1345 or visit cancouncil.org.

Creative services donated by AGP & Associates, Inc.