

"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



what's inside...

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

Welcome to 2017

CAN Council's New Year Resolutions

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region experienced tremendous growth and expansions of our programs during the 2016 year. We are now better equipped and have more opportunities to advocate, intervene, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Some highlights from 2016 include:

- **Expansion of CAC to Arenac County:** Located at the Community United Methodist Church in Standish, we are now able to provide Arenac County with the critical services needed for those children who have become victims of abuse and neglect.
- **Implementation of the CASA Fostering Futures program:** *Fostering Futures* is part of our Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program that focuses on assisting children aged 14-21 as they prepare to 'age out' of the foster care system.
- **Expansion of CAPE programs, offering new parenting series through community collaborations:** Partnered with Bay-Arenac ISD to offer a new evidenced-based parenting series, *"Make Parenting A Pleasure"*.

During the last quarter of 2016, the CAN Council staff also saw an expansion. The CAN Council assisted the City of Saginaw Police Department with the implementation of a new position, a Victim Services Coordinator. Our own **Tammie Filipiak** was given this opportunity and has transferred her office to the Police Department.

With Tammie joining the Police Department, our former CAPE Prevention Education Coordinator, **Haylie Oldenburg**, moved into the vacant CAC Case Coordinator position and we hired a new CAPE Prevention Education Coordinator, **Megan McCoy**. During this time of internal changes, CAN was able to add **Vickie Stuart** to the staff to serve as an occasional CAC Forensic Interviewer. Vickie has received formal training, and we are excited to have her join our team.

Each of these changes enables the CAN Council Team to better respond to the needs of our community's children and families.

2017 Child Advocate of the Year Announced!
See Page 4.

2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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www.cancouncil.org

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 2017 begins, the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is excited to share news that we believe will move our mission forward, "building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect". Each of these projects has been in the planning phase and will begin in 2017:

Website Redesigned: In February, our year-long effort to redesign our website will be completed. The site, www.cancouncil.org, will include increased accessibility to relevant information, testimonials, volunteer opportunities, programming, and more. Watch for the announcement in the next couple of weeks!

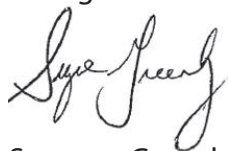
Make Parenting A Pleasure: In the fall of 2016, our team applied to the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) for the ability to serve at-risk, highly-stressed families so that they can successfully keep their family together while improving their parenting and the lives of their children. This demonstration project will happen in 2017!

CAC Medical Program: In 2017, the standards for our Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) will now recommend that all children who receive a forensic interview be offered a medical exam. Having this requirement in our national standards required the recruitment and selection of a new Medical Director, as well as a team of SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) nurses and practitioners, led by Pediatric SANE Nurse, **Tammie Gillespie**.

During this year, our Public Awareness Team and Board of Directors have chosen to focus on our growing Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. The CASA program requires volunteers to improve our response to the needs of children. Please call us to discover the ways you can connect and begin training to become a CASA in 2017 – we need you!

To each one of you who are already involved with our team, thank you. Your tremendous commitment to our mission and critical work is recognized – we couldn't do it (and wouldn't want to) without you! Your generosity has enabled us to end 2016 and start the new year ready to begin the recruitment, orientation, and retention of our volunteer team.

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

24th annual
CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region
Lapeer County
mardi
gras
AUCTION

*It's
Mardi
Gras
Time!*



FEBRUARY 23

5:30 – 10 p.m.

**Horizons
Conference Center
Saginaw**



TICKETS
\$75
PER
PERSON*

Hors d'oeuvres
available at 5:30 p.m.

Plated dinner served
at 6:40 p.m.

Fabulous auction items
Raffles

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

*Purchase 10 tickets by February 10 and
get a reserved table.

MEDIA SPONSOR:



WNEM TV-5



Judy Zehnder Keller Named 2017 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 this year's *24th Annual Mardi Gras Auction*, the CAN Council will honor **Judy Zehnder Keller** as the *2017 Child Advocate of the Year*.



Judy Zehnder Keller is the President and Owner of the **Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center** in Frankenmuth, which she designed and built in 1986. Now in its fourth generation of active management, the Bavarian Inn Corporation is something Judy has been a part of since childhood.

Judy is married to Don Keller and resides in Frankenmuth. They have three grown children and four grandchildren. She is a passionate and committed advocate for the well-being of children. Daily, Judy is involved in making sure the needs of her family and staff are met.

Currently the Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center has 360 guest rooms, meeting and banquet space for up to 500 guests, four indoor pools, two water slides, three whirlpools, an indoor 18-hole mini golf, expansive Family Fun Center with over 150 arcade games and redemption area, weekly Sunday Brunch in the poolside courtyard, two restaurants, lounges, gift shops, tennis courts, exercise facilities, and is adjacent to the Heritage Park and running trails.

When asked about her profession, Judy proudly said, *"I fry chicken and make beds for a living"*.

Judy has been a longtime supporter of the CAN Council and the mission to *"build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect"*. She takes the CAN Council's mission seriously and does her part by ensuring that the people in her community, Frankenmuth and the Bavarian Inn Lodge, are places where children are free from abuse and neglect.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 23rd, for the CAN Council's *24th Annual Mardi Gras Auction* and join us in honoring Judy Zehnder Keller as our *2017 Child Advocate of the Year*!



Space is limited! Purchase your tickets at: cancouncil.org/event-registration today!



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

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



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

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.



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CAN COUNCIL
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through the *Network for Good*.**

**Proceeds benefit the
CAN Council.**

Holiday Magic

A special thanks to everyone who helped make this holiday the most wonderful time of the year for 54 families including 26 adults and 129 children:

**The Avenue Hair Studio & Spa
BACF Elizabeth J. Husband Fund
Book Warehouse
CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region staff
CWA at AT&T
Danelle Leppek of Dani's Little Bake Shop
Rick DeBats
Delta College students
Dow Bay Area Family YMCA
Duperon Corporation
Every Child Can!
Kent & Laura Greenfelder and mother, Judy
Heritage High School
Just For Kids Foundation
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Saginaw Bay Yacht Club
Carrie Strohkirch
Stuff the Trailer Toy Drive
Tina & Kaitlyn Szarenski
United Financial Credit Union
United Methodist Church
YMCA Togetherhood Committee**



CAN Council's Presence at Saginaw Police Department



The **Saginaw Police Department** has been working on a grant process for nearly two years to secure a new position, Victim Services Coordinator. The grant, ELERV (Enhanced Law Enforcement Response to Victims), has been awarded to three police departments throughout the country from the **U.S. Department of Justice** in partnership with the **International Association for Chiefs of Police (IACP)** and Saginaw is one of these recipients.

Tammie Filipiak of the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is working with the Saginaw Police Department as the new Victim Services Coordinator. With Tammie in this newly-established position, she works to enhance relationships with the community and network with local agencies. Tammie's duties include contacting victims or their family members within 24-48 hours after an initial incident, reviewing their case, and advocating for them by providing information on the next steps including what resources and services are available to them.

The Michigan Children's Trust Fund Reinvests All Increases in Tax Check-off Contributions to Communities of Origin

Every child deserves our protection.

Children of Veterans Tuition Grant Program.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Trust Fund - Preventing Child Abuse in Michigan.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10
Scouts of Michigan Fund.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/>

Critical Call to Action

A CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer holds a position with a life-impacting outcome. CASA volunteers work with a child or family of children who are under jurisdiction of the court in foster care. The CASA serves as the child's voice throughout the process, helping the child in a variety of ways.

The *40th CASA Swearing-In* took place on November 15th with the **Honorable Barbara L. Meter**, Saginaw County Probate Court Judge welcoming five new Saginaw County CASAs volunteers. The **Honorable John C. Keuvelaar**, Bay County Probate Court Judge, also swore in three new CASA volunteers on November 18th to the CAN Council's Bay County CASA program.



Saginaw County Swearing-In

Betty Johnson, Patricia Ford, Kelly Myers, Otissteen Blair-Brown, Katherine Griffiths, Randy D. Roberts, Carrie Strohkich, Mary Lois Jackson, & Hon. Barbara L. Meter



Bay County Swearing-In

Katherine Griffiths, Carrie Strohkirch, Kelly Myers, Hon. John C. Keuvelaar, Erica Wedberg, & Randy D. Roberts.

The need for volunteers is still great. Would you consider volunteering to be a CASA? To answer this critical call, to be one who 'speaks for the child,' please call Randy D. Roberts, CASA Program Director, at (989) 752-7226.

CASAs Receive Continuing Education

In November, our CASA team, along with a few current CASA volunteers, attended the *2016 Michigan CASA Annual Conference* in Lansing. They received continuing education during a variety of diverse seminar sessions. These volunteers are serving a critical need for children who are under the jurisdiction of the court in foster care; they serve as the voice for these children.



Photographed: **Becky DeWaard, Randy D. Roberts, Kendra Patocki, Carrie Strohkirch, & Katherine Griffiths**

Make Parenting A Pleasure

Being a parent is one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs one will ever have. It's often said that babies should come with an instruction manual! Without instructions given at birth, every caregiver develops their own style of parenting. The CAN Council, in collaboration with the **Bay County Great Start Collaborative**, is excited about offering parents the opportunity to share tips that they find work for them as well as to learn from others with the *Make Parenting A Pleasure* series.



This program is a starting point – where parents can learn more about their parenting styles, options for guiding their children, and gain greater confidence in themselves as parents and individuals. The purpose of the program is to:

- Encourage participants to take a closer look at their lives and the ways they relate to their children;
- Discover a broader range of positive and effective parenting as well as coping alternatives;
- Develop a social support network with other parents.

Being embedded with protective factors, parents involved in *Make Parenting A Pleasure* will learn the importance of taking care of themselves so that they can better care for their children. They will learn:

- Practical stress management and communication skills;
- How to gain a greater understanding of their child;
- Effective parenting skills and positive approaches to discipline.

Make Parenting a Pleasure is a 12-week, evidence-based program for parents of children 0 – 8 years old. Each session lasts two hours, and participants will be provided a meal and a weekly incentive for attending.

For more information about all of our evidence-based parenting series, contact Vera Harrison at (989) 752-7226.

CAN-DO VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



Jill Neperud has been a loyal CAN Council volunteer since 2013 and is currently serving as a Co-Chairperson, along with volunteer, Susan Wachowiak for the *CAN Council's 24th Annual Mardi Gras Auction*.

Jill has volunteered for events, been a member on the Fund Development Committee, as well as serving on Acquisitions Committees. Not only does she volunteer with the CAN Council, she also raises hundreds of dollars each year by hosting jewelry parties (currently an associate with the Grace & Heart line) that allows CAN to have beautiful jewelry in their silent auctions.

Jill is also a realtor with the Mark G Group of Century 21 Signature Realty and works as a leasing agent for the beautiful Bancroft Apartments. Thank you, Jill, for finding the time for the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region with your busy schedule!

Brainiacs Raise Money for CASA

On October 25th, 26 teams participated in the CAN Council's *The Brain Game*, an evening full of challenging trivia held at the **Bavarian Inn Lodge & Conference Center**.

Thank you to the sponsors that helped raise critical funding for the CAN Council's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program:

Einstein Level: Emil Rummel Insurance Agency, Bavarian Inn Lodge; **Genius Level:** Wildfire Credit Union; **Smarty Pants Level:** Mike Young Buick GMC, Prost Wine Bar & Charcuterie, Rau's Country Store, Tri-Star Trust Bank; **Quick Wit Level:** Fenton Home Furniture, Frankenmuth Credit Union, Dr. Daryle Mahnke, DDS, and Star of the West Milling Company.

A special thanks to **St. Mary's of Michigan's Field Neurosciences Institute** for 'brain' erasers and the giant inflatable brain, **PepsiCo** for providing soft drinks, and **Carrie Keeley** for creating t-shirts for the CAN Team.



Frankenmuth Jaycees, 2nd Place



George's Geniuses, 1st Place



Perspicacious Partners, 3rd Place

Superhero Success



The first annual CAN Council *Superhero Hockey Night*, presented by **Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants**, took place on Saturday, January 14th. The arena was filled with excitement as every child in attendance donned a superhero cape made especially for this night. The excitement was even felt on the ice as the Saginaw Spirit players wore a notable Superhero game jersey to commemorate this extraordinary themed game.

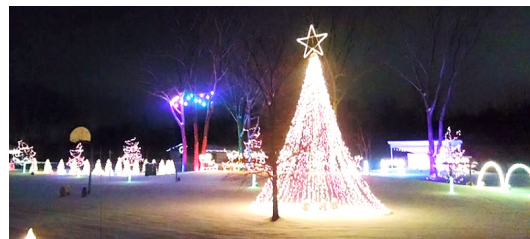


Special thanks to the **Saginaw Spirit Foundation**, the **Yeo Family Foundation**, **Yeo & Yeo staff**, **Garber Management Group**, **United Financial Credit Union**, **Thomas Township Firefighters Association**, **Zentx Media Group**, and **Alex Mixter** for helping make this evening truly heroic!

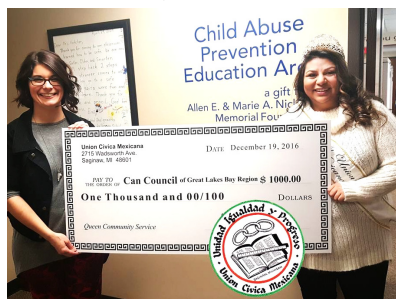
Photographed to left: **CAN Council Board Chair, Kimberly A. Prime** and her granddaughter present the **2017 Superhero of the Year** award to the **Shepard Family (Gary, Laura, Gibby, Graham, Morgan, & Makenzie) of Freeland**. This award is given to individuals who have made a difference in the lives of children in Saginaw and Bay Counties.

The Shepard's Light Up Tittabawassee

Over 100,000 twinkling lights illuminated the **Tittabawassee Township Park** from December 1st through January 1st. *The Freeland Lights Show* is an annual show of Christmas lights set to sounds of the season. New displays to the show this year even included LED lighted trees! The show's creators and designers **Gary and Laura Shepard**, raised over \$10,000 from this year's show for the CAN Council and the Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity.



Community Contributions



La Union Civica Mexicana held their *Queen's Patito Run* on Friday, November 18th. This fundraiser, selling authentic Mexican cuisine, helped to fund the CAN Council in the amount of \$1,000.

Thank you to La Union Civica Queen, **Eusevia Ramirez**, and La Union Civica Mexicana.

Bay Area Community Foundation's Arenac Community Fund awarded \$750 toward the expansion of our CAC services into Arenac County. These funds help to provide the children of Arenac County a safe, child-friendly space for forensic interviews to take place. BACF also awarded \$6,000 for the CAN Council's infant simulators to be used in the *Safe Baby* program.



CAN Staff Truly Appreciates Your Dedication & Support



Top Row: Katherine, Samantha, Leslie, Suzanne, Cindy, Haylie, Megan, & Jason
Middle Row: Tammie, Vera, Brittany, Morgan, Randy, Delores, & Carrie
Bottom Row: Steffanie, Abby, Lexie, & Catherine
Not Pictured: Barb, Laura, Vickie, & Whitney

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Beverly Spence

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Yeo Family Foundation
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 Sue Skully
 Mary Beth Smith
 Galvan & Janet Smith
 Richard & Vivian Smith
 Casey Stoney
 Paul Tokar
 Domina Vasquez
 Dee Dee Wacksman
 Tania Walter
 Wanigas Jean Day

Honorariums

United Financial Credit Union
Honoring David & Tammy Bernier

Tammy & David Bernier
*Honoring grandchildren Grace,
 Claire, & Charlie Bernier; Ella &
 Ryan Curling; Olivia & Penelope
 Bernier; Miles & Sophia Courtright*

Fabiano Brothers, Inc. Employees
Honoring the Fabiano Family

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 Frank & Dorothy Dawe
 Michael Fjerstadt
 Norm & Sue Fjerstad
 Delores & Bruce Gale
 Suzanne & Alan Greenberg
 James & Gena McGillis
 Jennifer Rossi
 Ron & Nancy Salvner
*Honoring the Memory of Susan
 Fjerstadt*

Joe & Angela Garner
*Honoring their daughter, Elizabeth's
 birthday*

Birthday Guests
 Katrina Casarez
 Damon & Trisha Duran
 Glen & Marilyn Garner
 Rod & Leanne Iamurri
 Marcelette & Robert Kennedy
 Peter & Kari Shaheen
 Sara Witgen & William Massey, II
*Honoring Elizabeth Garner's
 birthday*

Graczyk-Dijak Financial Group
Honoring their clients' birthdays

All the Hendrickson kids
*Honoring Gus H. & JaRita
 Hendrickson*

Anne Hasbach
*Honoring the memory of Gerald
 Hasbach*

Pam & Ross Lake
*Honoring the memory of Tom,
 Jeanette, & Sue Krupp*

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Honoring Jeanne Murphy's birthday

Brenda Rozek
*Honoring Deirdre Waters & Scott
 Rozek*

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David & Ann Hoffman
In memory of Karen Bader

Alexa Matthews
In memory of Scotty Carbone

Alexa Matthews
In memory of Bob Clark

ASCME Local 1918
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 James & Bonnie Hendrickson
 Grandchildren of Mary Fran McKay
 Ray McKay
 Edwin & Carol Metiva
 Joanna Mitzel
 Samantha Schwerin Family
In memory of Mary Fran McKay

Alexa Matthews
In memory of LeeRoy Taylor