January 2019 VOL. 31 NO. 1



"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



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

## New Year, Same Mission

As the new year begins, the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region will kick-off its' 40th year of stopping child abuse and neglect throughout the region! Over the next few months, you will notice a simple, yet exciting logo change reflecting the CAN Council's commitment to continue to strengthen and expand critical programs and services.

This issue is filled with highlights of CAN's last quarter of 2018 and announcements of exciting things to come! Here are just a few things from 2018:

**Expansion of the Make Parenting A Pleasure Program.** The CAN Council was able to have six new facilitators trained by national trainers so that new classes can be offered at various locations, ultimately increasing the number of people who are "making parenting a pleasure" right here in the Great Lakes Bay Region!



- **Transition of CASA Leadership.** Emily Yeager has taken the reigns as the CAN Council's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Director just as the National CASA Association re-application process begins. Already hard at work, the CASA Team has also facilitated a training class and swore-in nine new CASA volunteers!
- **Continuation of Victim Services.** The CAN Council and the Saginaw Police Department received an extension of the ELERV (Enhanced Law Enforcement Response to Victims) grant, ensuring that victims continue to receive all-encompassing services and support. More about this on page 5!

Finally, after nearly 25 years leading the CAN Council, Suzanne Greenberg will be leaving to assume a new position as the Executive Director of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund. Her new role will include the oversight of 83 counties via 73 local councils including your veryown CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region. Suzanne will be with CAN through the month of February. Watch your e-mail for an invitation to an open house slated for March, so that you can wish her well as she begins this next chapter in the fight to stop child abuse and neglect!



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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 you may or may not have heard, I will be leaving the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region as of February 28th. While this news is difficult to share, I am thrilled to tell you that I have been selected as the next Executive Director of the Michigan Children's Trust Fund (CTF). It is truly the next step in my life's work to stop child abuse and neglect! CTF's mission is to serve as a voice for Michigan's children and families and promote



their health, safety, and welfare by funding effective local programs and services that prevent child abuse and neglect.

It is important for you to know that the CAN Council Board of Directors and dedicated professional staff will continue their daily commitment to stopping child abuse and neglect! Your CAN Council Board of Directors has already done their due diligence and have begun the search for our new CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region leader!

Our communities are blessed to have nationally-accredited Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), as well as a variety of evidence-based Child Abuse Prevention Education programs including parenting education and support! These award-winning programs and the services they provide will maintain their level of excellence. Your next President/CEO will work with you to continue to meet the needs of our children and families, and create a future where children are free from abuse and neglect.

The CAN Council's 26th annual *Mardi Gras Auction* is Thursday, February 28th at Horizons Conference Center. This will be my final day as part of the CAN team, and would love to see you! Please visit our website: cancouncil.org/mardi-gras-auction, for more information.

With the best interest of children in mind,

Suzanne Greenberg President/CEO



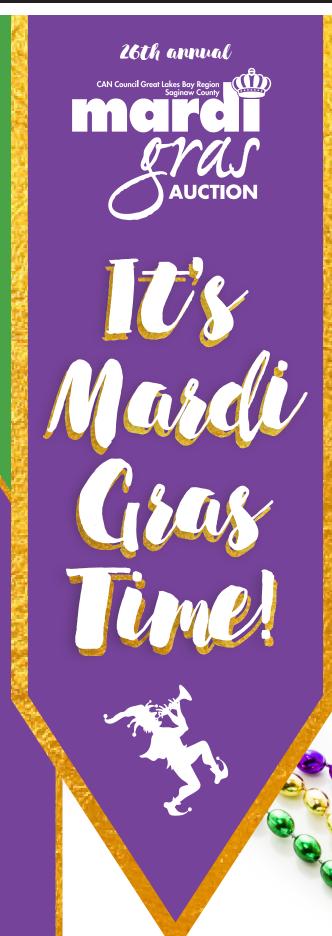




Full Member of the National Children's Alliance Accredited Member of the National CASA Association Designated Council for the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) and United Way of Bay & Saginaw Counties

**Prevent Child Abuse** 

America



## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Horizons Conference Center Saginaw

- ♦ Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- Strolling dinner begins at 6 p.m.
- ♦ Fabulous auction items
- Raffles



#### HONORING THE 2019 CHILD ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Wayne C. Maier, CEO Maier & Associates Financial Group, Inc.

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

\*Purchase 10 tickets by February 8 and get a reserved table.

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Together we **CAN** stop child abuse and neglect.



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## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## The Brain Game Brings No Fowl Play

There's no question that this was the best year of *The Brain Game*, the CAN Council's annual trivia night at Frankenmuth's **Bavarian Inn Lodge**, taking place October 24th. After some "brain food" (Frankenmuth's famous chicken dinner), the competition was fierce amongst 36 clever teams who all sought after The Brain Game Cup.



George's Geniuses

**1st Place Winners** 

"George's Geniuses" lived up to their name and took first place while "The Pros from Dover" came in a close second. Our 3rd place winners shared the fame

shared the fam with a three-way tie between "E=MC Hammer," "Red Hot Trivia Peppers," and "Yeo & Yeo".

Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to all of the teams for another exciting competition!

Win or lose, the teams, along with the generous sponsors, raised critical funding to provide Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers for our region's most vulnerable children.



Benny & The Jets "Best Dressed" Team

## Spirited Superheroes Celebrate Children

The CAN Council along with **Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants** hosted its' 3rd annual *Superhero Hockey Night with Saginaw Spirit* on

December 1st. Hundreds of children dressed as superheroes cheered on the Saginaw Spirit, got their photos taken with numerous superheroes, and formed the longest Superhero Parade to date across the ice at intermission.



**Katie Wood** was recognized as CAN Council's local child advocacy superhero for her outstanding efforts in protecting and advocating for at-risk children in her position as School Secretary at Omni High School.

This family-fun night would not have been possible without our event sponsors including **Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants, Garber Management Group, MyMember Insurance Agency,** 



Duperon, the Rotary Club of Saginaw Valley, Molina Healthcare, and the Thomas Township Firefighters Association.

## **Holiday Heroes Make Magic**

While some said the Christmas spirit set in too early, the CAN Council welcomed eager donors that began calling as early as September to adopt families in need for the holiday. Children who may not have had a single gift to open on Christmas morning began making out lists filled with their holiday wishes. Granting



those wishes were local radio stations, Heritage High School's National Honor Society and pom squad students, staff groups who featured a giving tree in their offices, big-hearted families, and even a local elementary school student who hosted a drive that packed the hallways of the CAN Council with generous gifts and personal care items for children and families in need.

The true meaning of Christmas helped spread holiday magic across Bay, Saginaw, and Arenac counties, helping over 72 adults and 170 children.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CAC

## **Meet & Greet for CAC Professionals**

On Tuesday, October 30th, the CAN Council's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in Bay County hosted a Meet & Greet. Professionals from local law enforcement agencies, the Bay County Prosecutor's Office, the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), the Bay Area Women's Center, and other critical organizations were invited to join Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) members to learn more about the services that are offered through the CAC. The CAN Council's CAC staff members were available to answer questions and address any concerns about the program.

A special thanks to all who attended. The CAN Council values your commitment in sharing the incredible responsibility to protect child victims and for sharing our belief that the abuse and neglect of children is unacceptable. Together, we truly are building a community where children can live the healthy, happy, full life they deserve.





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.

## We've made it easy! See our Amazon Wish List here: http://a.co/hD0Cbgd.

## **Another Year for Victim Services**

The end of 2018 brought good news to Saginaw County victims. The International Association of Chiefs of Police informed the CAN Council and the Saginaw Police Department that funding for the Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims (ELERV) program would be extended for another year. This additional funding will be used to fund the Victim Services Unit, provide further department-wide training on topics such as vicarious trauma, officer safety and wellness, and community-capacity building, as well as developing a sustainment plan. This plan will ensure that victims continue to receive all-encompassing services and support.

The Saginaw Police Department has recently ventured out into the world of social media, creating a Twitter (@ SaginawPD) and Instagram (SaginawPoliceDepartment) account. Both media sites will have current crime and safety updates, community awareness, and photos of SPD officers patrolling and interacting with the community. These sites are not monitored 24/7, but the public can contact the SPD via these sites, if needed.

Stay connected with the latest crime and safety updates, as well as community happenings by connecting with the **Saginaw Police Department**:

- 🍠 @SaginawPD
- SaginawPoliceDepartment

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CASA

## **Powerful Advocates**

Congratulations to our 9 new Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers! **Kathleen Basner**, **Libby Cook**, **Amy Dwyer**, **Amy Ford**, **Timothy Grueber**, **Robin Wenzel**, **Donald Wilson II**, **Anne Wininger**, and **Tina Zapata** have completed 35 hours of intensive training to become advocates for our region's abused and neglected youth. It's a role that takes great dedication to protecting children and securing safe, loving, and permanent homes for each of them. CASA volunteers often juggle their advocacy work with full-time jobs, family, and other volunteer commitments. It's truly a labor of love, and the CAN Council applauds the tremendous commitment these nine new volunteers, along with our 25 current CASA volunteers, have taken on.

Thank you to **Judge Jan Miner** of Bay County and **Judge Barbara Meter** of Saginaw County for hosting our swearing-in ceremonies in your courtrooms and sharing your appreciation for the work of our CASA volunteers! We're grateful for your ongoing support!



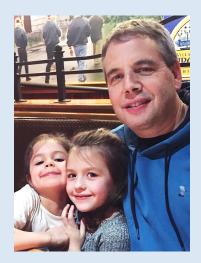
Bay County Swearing-In Ceremony: Libby Cook, Robin Wenzel, Tim Grueber, Judge Jan Miner, Tina Zapata, & Amy Dwyer



Saginaw County Swearing-In Ceremony: Katherine Griffiths, Tina Zapata, Robin Wenzel, Amy Ford, Donald Wilson II, Judge Barbara Meter, Timothy Grueber, Amy Dwyer, Libby Cook, Anne Wininger, & Emily Yeager

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## I AM FOR THE CHILD



"It seems that everyday there is a new story about a child being abused or neglected. It has always been difficult for me to hear on TV or read in the news about a helpless child who has no control over the situation or conditions that they live in. It got to the point where I would just stop paying attention to these stories because it was just too hard to hear. One day I realized that by ignoring the problem, I was really just contributing to it, and I certainly wasn't doing anything to help it. I started to look for ways to get involved.

"While driving past the CAN Council, I read a message on their sign encouraging people to volunteer. I went home, checked out the website, and after discussing it with my family, I had decided to sign up for the CASA training. Today, I am a sworn-in CASA volunteer and it feels great to be a part of such an important cause. I know there is a child out there that needs my help, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be there in some capacity."

> Donald Wilson II Dedicated CASA Volunteer

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CAPE

## **Covenant Childbirth Education Hosting Free Monthly Grandparent & Caregiver Safety Classes**

Most of us have heard the saying, "When I was young, we did things this way and we turned out just fine." As more research is done, standards and habits to keeping infants and children safe often evolve from generation to generation. That's why **Covenant HealthCare** is offering free trainings for grandparents and caregivers that will be hosted at the CAN Council. These trainings will cover such things as how to keep babies safe, safe sleep environments, how to baby-proof your home, how to prepare for emergencies, and squashing myths in raising children.

For dates and times, or for more information on these helpful classes, please contact Heidi Churchfield by calling: (989) 583-4503 e-mailing: hchurchfield@chs-mi.com. "We want to squash some of the myths and teach grandparents and caregivers what the latest research is telling us," says **Heidi Churchfield**, Childbirth Education Coordinator and Community Liaison with Covenant HealthCare. "It comes down to making the caregivers confident in caring for their loved

ones and supporting a safe environment for our community's children." Thank you, Heidi and Covenant HealthCare for offering this opportunity!

## **Spanking: Corporal Punishment**

American Academy of Pediatrics



In December 2018, the **American Academy of Pediatrics** released a statement confirming that spanking harms children. In an updated statement on corporal punishment (the use of spanking as a disciplinary tool), the AAP points to mounting evidence that supports its call to ban physical discipline.

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### What effects does Corporal Punishment have on children?

- Corporal Punishment and verbal abuse may cause a child to be fearful in the short term, but does not improve behavior over the long term. It can also lead to more aggressive behaviors in the child, according to the AAP. In one study, young children who were spanked more than twice a month at age 3 were more aggressive at age 5. Those same children at age 9 still exhibited negative behaviors and lower receptive vocabulary scores, according to research.
- *"There's no benefit to spanking,"* said Robert D. Sege, MD, PhD, and a past member of AAP Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. *"We know that children grow and develop better with positive role modeling and by having healthy limits."*

The critical information on this page has been made available by the **American Academy of Pediatrics** (**AAP**), an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

Check out all that our friends at **AAP** are up to by visiting: www.aap.org/.

#### How do we break the cycle?

The CAN Council offers a variety of parent support programs at no cost. If you are interested in learning more about Michigan's spanking-related laws and their consequence, nonviolent approach to disciplining children, or how to develop healthier relationships between parent and child, consider attending one of the following:

- Alternatives in Discipline (1-2 hours): Discusses the Michigan Law concerning spanking while exploring appropriate discipline techniques that fit a family's needs. Also discusses building a healthy relationship between parent and child.
- Surviving the Picky Eater (1-2 hours): Discussion-based workshop that allows parents to become familiar with a variety of different techniques to use while grocery shopping, preparing meals, and sitting down to enjoy dinnertime in a household full of PICKY EATERS!
- Loving Language (1-2 hours): Participants will understand and encourage language development for their children through one-on-one reading, vocal inflection, and respectful conversation practices.

### VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

## CAN-DO VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



Inheriting such traits as working hard, volunteering, and sharing joy with others, **Amy Dwyer** realizes the importance of giving back. About 10 years ago, Amy first read about the CASA program and put it on her "someday list". Amy recently had decided it was the right time for her to make the CASA training a priority and has since completed her training and is swornin as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

Outside of being a CASA, Amy has also attended Saginaw's Friday Night Live as a CANbassador and selling 50/50 tickets at the Saginaw Spirit hockey games. *"There are so many more ways to serve through the* CAN Council," said Amy, "and I am looking forward to the experience and adventure."

Amy and her husband, Dan, have two children, a son-in-law, and a grandson on the way. Amy is a pharmacist, has served on the Swan Valley Board of Education, and was a Girl Scout Leader. She is a member of Holy Spirit Parish, where she has been a catechist for high school students. Amy is also involved in special religious education through the Diocese of Saginaw.

Thank you, Amy, for your commitment to our mission!

## Meet the New CAN-Do Kid

Introducing **Katie Bell**, the CAN Council's new Volunteer Coordinator. You may have seen her flying around as Wonder Woman at Superhero Hockey Night or spreading holiday cheer as Sparkle McJingles the Elf at the CASA Holiday Party. Katie has only been on the team for three months, but already has brought so much energy and passion to the organization.

Outside of the CAN Council, Katie is an MBA student at Northwood University and member of the Young Professional Network, Girls on the Run Head Coach, and a volunteer at the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum. When Katie finds herself with free time, she enjoys backpacking northern Michigan with her fiancé Eric and dog Sadie.





"We all have our unique traits, talents, and passion that special something inside that only we have and only we can give. As the Volunteer Coordinator at the CAN Council, I am overjoyed that I get to work with many of you and experience those special talents firsthand," said Katie. "Whether you have an eye for photography, hands for maintenance, or passion for community engagement, the contribution you give is valued and helps bring our mission of building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect to fruition."

Welcome to the CAN Council team, Katie!

## Saginaw Spirit Hockey 50/50 Ticket Sellers Needed

The CAN Council is looking for volunteers to help sell 50/50 tickets at three Saginaw Spirit hockey games. The CAN Council will need 12 volunteers per game, so please consider inviting a friend or spouse, or children over 6 years old to help sell as a group. It's a lot of fun and you don't need to be an expert ticket seller. You just have to have the willingness to ask and yell, "50/50 ticket proceeds benefit the Child Abuse and Neglect Council!"

Proceeds benefit the CAN Council and the Saginaw Spirit Foundation.

**Sign-up today!** Contact Katie Bell, Volunteer Coordinator, by e-mail: kbell@cancouncil.org or phone: (989) 752-7226. **We need you!** Help sell 50/50 tickets during the following Saginaw Spirit hockey games:

Saturday, 02/16/2019; 5:30pm – 9pm Sunday, 03/03/2019; 4pm – 8pm Saturday, 03/16/2019; 5:30pm – 9pm

Interested in joining our mission? For more volunteering opportunities, please visit: cancouncil.org/volunteer.

#### DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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