

"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



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

Fostering Futures

Supporting Youth Transitions into Adulthood

A CASA is a selfless volunteer who devotes their time to representing the best interest of children placed into the foster care system due to abuse and neglect. These volunteers are appointed by a judge to advocate for a child, assuring that their voices don't get lost in the overwhelming legal and social service system. For many children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult in their lives.

Established in 2002, Saginaw County's CASA program was the first in the state of Michigan to be accredited by the **National CASA Association**. By 2015, the program expanded into Bay County. According to the National CASA Association, *"Independent research has demonstrated that children with a CASA volunteer are substantially less likely to spend time in long-term foster care and less likely to re-enter care."* To date, Saginaw and Bay Counties have served nearly 1,100 children.



The CASA Program has continually grown under the leadership of CASA Program Director, **Randy D. Roberts**, and is now able to bring the *Fostering Futures* program to our region thanks to a grant approved through the National CASA Association for Youth Advocacy. Geared toward older youth, those that will be aging out of the foster care system, or that will be emancipated, this program will provide CASA volunteers with specialized training in assisting those transitioning into adulthood. From registering for vocational school or applying for scholarships, to learning independence, our CASA volunteers will be there for these young adults so that they don't fall through the cracks!

For many adolescents, especially those in the foster care system, these transitional years can be tough. With the tremendous support from the National CASA Association, the CAN Council's CASA program will now be able to help our youth navigate through this critical period in their lives.

**You have the opportunity to make a
lifelong difference. Read more in Page 8!**

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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 summer began, your CAN Council took the time to celebrate our accomplishments for 2015 and look ahead to 2016-2017. The culmination of our year is our *Annual Meeting* which we were able to hold in our new Prevention Education Center this year! Our board and staff gathered to review the strategic plan including our progress and achievements for each of the priorities, goals, and objectives that move our mission forward daily.



Today, our programs are on track to meet and exceed our goals for 2016. With the expansion of our medical team in the Children's Advocacy Center, the growth of our CASA program into Bay County, and our parenting support programming reaching across the region, our vision for the our children and families is on track. It wouldn't be possible without each one of you: our volunteers, supporters, board of directors, and staff!



As we grow in response to our community's needs, we are blessed with a board of passionate leaders led by our new Board Chair for 2016-2018, **Dr. Kimberly Prime**. Kim brings her decades of administration, education, and tremendous sense of humor to lead the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region.

We also welcome our new Administrative Assistant in Saginaw County, **Steffanie Good**. Steffanie's background in office management and "CAN Do" attitude make her a great addition to the CAN Team!



Until next time, enjoy your last weeks of summer and consider joining us at the *Ducky Derby & Family Fun Fest* (more info on Page 3).

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



Saturday, August 27 • 9-11 a.m.

Castaways • 3940 Boy Scout Road, Bay City

FREE family fun!

Bounce house & other inflatables

Many games & prizes

Face painting

Lots of children's activities

Ducky Derby rubber duck race

Ducky Derby fundraiser
*benefiting Child Abuse Prevention
Education (CAPE) programs in
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Win prizes!

- Grand prize: \$1,000 cash
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Adopt* your ducks!

- One Quack: \$5
- Six Quack: \$25
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Visit cancouncil.org/event-registration
to adopt your ducks today!

Adopting a duck refers to purchasing a chance to win.
1 duck = 1 entry. Rubber ducks will not be distributed
to adopters.

For more information, call:

(989) 752-7226 • Saginaw County

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CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is building communities
where children are free from abuse and neglect.

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Spelling for Literacy

The 11th Annual Altrusa International Spelling Bee for Literacy was held on Wednesday, May 4th, 2016 at Horizons Conference Center. The CAN Council was one of thirteen community teams who competed in an Adult Spelling Bee which was coordinated by the **Rotary Club of Saginaw**. Proceeds from this event benefit literacy programs in Saginaw County.

The CAN Council team was represented by President/CEO **Suzanne Greenberg**, former Administrative Assistant **Lindsay Rivard**, and CAN Council's Board Chair, **Dr. Kimberly Prime**. Although the CAN team did not win, fellow staff members enjoyed cheering for the team throughout the competition. The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is proud to participate with the community in events like this that support critical needs of our community members. Thank you to our sponsor, **United Financial Credit Union**, for underwriting this fun event for our CAN Team!



Cases for CASA Kids

A big thank you to our partners at **Saginaw Medical Federal Credit Union** for collecting cases for CASA during the month of April; 203 suitcases and bags, and over \$300 were collected to support the children who benefit from the CAN Council's CASA Program.



YMCA of Saginaw's Charity of the Month

It's an honor to work with fellow community partners to help our region. The **YMCA of Saginaw** has been a great friend of the CAN Council for many years, and were given the opportunity to be their *May Charity of the Month*. Throughout May, YMCA members were encouraged to donate items to the CAN Council. During this time, a special discounted rate was given to new members bringing in items from the CAN Council wish list. A special thank you to **Doug Temple** and **Raquel Cecelia** for delivering the many items that are continuously needed to enable the CAN Council to serve the children and families in need.



Gorgeous Day for Golf

Twenty-six teams, including many father-son foursomes, arrived at **Apple Mountain Resort** on July 18th for the *CAN Council's 18th Annual Golf Outing*. Taking home the coveted travelling trophy was the team of **Pat Doolan, Marty Doolan, Garrett Geisenhaver, and Marvin Jenkins**; the trophy will be on display for the next year at **Gaertner's Greenhouse** located at 1958 Brockway Street in Saginaw. **SAMSA** hosted a dinner following the golf outing. Together, our sponsors and golfers were able to raise over \$20,000 to benefit our Children's Advocacy Centers in both Bay and Saginaw Counties. A special thanks to our planning committee, led by **Connie Downing, Delores Gale, Dave Kerns, Pam Lake, Al Satkowiak, Mike Stackhouse, and Doug Temple**.



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

NEW CAN Council CAC in Arenac County

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) received a *National Children's Alliance (NCA) Program Development Grant* to broaden services for children and families in Arenac County. In accordance with the CAN Council's strategic plan, this grant is critical in fulfilling the goal of expanding programs and services to surrounding counties.

The CAN Council has been meeting with several organizations in Arenac County over the past year to determine the needs for the community. After a great deal of research and investigation, it was determined that providing forensic interviews, advocacy services, as well as Multiple Disciplinary Team and case review meetings in Arenac County would be a great service to the victims, caretakers, and professionals involved with abuse and neglect cases.

Plans for providing this satellite program are being finalized with **Reverend James Payne** of the **Community United Methodist Church** in Standish. The CAC team, consisting of a forensic interviewer, care coordinator, and program director, will travel to Standish regularly with a portable recording system to complete forensic interviews in a child-friendly environment as well as to provide crisis counseling and follow-up services for the victim and their families.

It's been very difficult for families in need of services to travel to Bay County, where the nearest CAC is located due to the lack of transportation in the rural community. This new location will be convenient for the families as well as the professionals involved with cases in their community. Thank you to our board member and **Bay County DHHS Section Manager Mark Jordan** for connecting us with his church, as well as **Arenac DHHS Assistant Director Brian Millikin**, **Prosecutor Curt Broughton**, **DHHS Supervisor Matt Engster**, **Sheriff James Mosciski**, and **Rachel Vallad of the Arenac County Sheriff Department** who are joining us to make this transition happen!



Cynthia K. Morley, CAC Program Director, **Brittany Nonamaker**, CAC Care Coordinator, & **Morgan Candela**, CAC Forensic Interviewer & Case Coordinator, spend time in Standish finalizing what's needed to help conduct CAC interviews in Arenac County.



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2016 NCA Leadership Conference



The *National Children's Alliance (NCA) Project Development Grant* requires that a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) member attend the *2016 NCA Leadership Training* in Washington D.C. This conference aims to provide continuing education, networking opportunities, and exposure to innovative programs and ideas for CAC leaders.

This year's training took place June 5th through June 8th and CAN Council's own CAC Program Director, **Cynthia K. Morley**, was one of 500 in attendance. Some highlights from the conference include various keynote addresses on a variety of child abuse and neglect issues, break-out sessions for professional development, a meeting with **Congressmen John Moolenaar** and **Dan Kildee**, and networking with other Michigan and national CAC directors.



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A Cause with a First and Last Name

A *Court Appointed Special Advocate* is often the only constant adult in the lives of the foster kids that they serve. They are 'For The Children'; a CASA is the voice that they need when no one else can 'hear' them. CASA volunteers are ordinary people doing extraordinary work.

CASAs are needed to fulfill our mission. So far this year, eleven new CASA volunteers have been trained and appointed including **Deborah Bowen, Rebecca DeWard, Tracy Douglas, Katherine Griffiths, Marie Hengesbach, Traci Koski, Julie Leggett, Kendra Patocki, Yolanda Reynolds, Pam Pawlick, and John Johnson**. Without your dedication to our youth, their voices would be lost.



If you would like to learn more about what it takes to be a CASA, please visit our website cancouncil.org, or call one of our offices. The next CASA training will start in October 2016.

The Starfish (adapted from "The Star Thrower" by Loren Eisely)

One day, a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a figure in the distance. As he got closer, he realized the figure was that of a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "*What are you doing?*" The boy replied, "*Throwing a starfish into the ocean. The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die.*"

"Son," the man said, "*don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't possibly make a difference!*"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "*I made a difference for that one.*"



RECENTLY FEATURED!

Learn more about the CAN Council's CASA Program Director, Randy D. Roberts, who was recently featured in the July edition of the Michigan CASA Association's newsletter.

See "Michigan CASA" on Facebook!

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 Katherine Griffiths,
CASA Supervisor,
at (989) 671-1345.

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.



Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

August 2016

Help protect our children and strengthen families! The CAN Council depends on your volunteer support to build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect. Please consider representing the CAN Council at the following events:

Date: Friday, August 12, 2016

Time: 9am-3pm, Shifts Available

Event: Healthy Delivery Health Roundup Fair

Location: David R. Gamez Community Health Center

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Time: 11am-3pm, Shifts Available

Event: Samaritans' Saginaw Health Fair

Location: Neighborhood House, Saginaw

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Saturday, August 20, 2016

Time: 9am-5pm

Event: First Ward's Old Timers Children's Celebration

Location: First Ward Community Center, Saginaw

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Time: 1pm-5pm, Shifts Available

Event: Peer Recovery Alliance 360 Day In The Park

Location: Bay City State Park Recreation Area,
Pavilions 4 & 5

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Saturday, August 13, 2016

Time: 11am-2pm, Shifts Available

Event: Burlington Coat Factory's Safety Day

Location: Burlington's Saginaw Store Location

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Time: 3pm-7pm

Event: Saginaw Parks & Recreations Children's Fun Day

Location: W.H. Haithco Recreation Area, Saginaw

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Time: 1pm-4pm, Shifts Available

Event: Impact Saginaw Family Fun Day

Location: FirstMerit Bank Event Park, Saginaw

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts

Date: Saturday, August 27, 2016

Time: 12pm-4pm, Shifts Available

Event: Victorious Believers Back-to-School Event

Location: Victorious Believers Ministries, Outer Dr.,
Saginaw

Help: Children's Activity, Provide Handouts



Date: Saturday, August 27, 2016

Time: 8am-11am

Event: CAN Council's Annual Ducky Derby & Family Fun Fest

Location: Castaways, Bay City

Help: Variety of Fun Volunteer Positions Available

Sign-up now! To participate in any of these events, please contact Jason L. Appleby, Volunteer Coordinator, at (989) 752-7226 or jappleby@cancouncil.org. Thank you for your commitment!

Keeping Your Child Safe from Bullies on the Bus

Unfortunately, the school bus is the perfect environment for bullying, and often, drivers have no knowledge of the incident. Drivers must remain focused on traffic for everyone's safety. The bus engine is loud, which means that people in one part of the bus can't hear what is being said in another part of the bus. Ensuring a safe ride is a shared responsibility among the children, the school, and the bus company. What can, and should, your child do if she is being bullied or is a witness to bullying?

What a Child CAN Do

Tell someone. Convey to kids the difference between 'tattling,' which is when someone is trying to get someone in trouble and 'reporting,' which is when someone is trying to get someone out of trouble. Let your child know their voice is being heard. Take time to listen. When your child says that they're being bullied or that there's a bully on the bus, listen. Your child has the right to not be harmed or touched, and also to help others who are being bullied.

Communicate zero tolerance for bullying. This should be communicated clearly to your child, within the school and on the bus. To ensure that this message gets through to all students who ride the bus, **Student Transportation Inc.**, visibly posts clear anti-bullying rules on their buses, with statements such as, "Students on this bus do not tolerate bullying," "We will not bully others," and "We will tell bus drivers if someone is getting bullied."

Have strength in numbers. There are usually more children on the bus desiring a peaceful ride home and not making trouble than there are bullies. Use this to your child's advantage. We need more kids willing to step in and say, "This is not right," or "If you love yourself and won't allow yourself to be hurt, then you won't allow another person to be hurt."

What a Parent CAN Do

Start a paper trail. Get the name of the bully and make sure that an incident report is filed with the bus driver/director of transportation and the school director. Check with your school district regarding its policies on bullying and bus discipline.

Go up the chain of command. The most effective way to communicate with school administrators is to send a letter or email simultaneously to different people who can help with the situation: the IEP case manager, the lead teacher, the social worker, and the principal. When everyone gets the same information at the same time, they can respond as a team. Bullying on the bus is outside the responsibility of classroom teachers, so the next step is to write to the director of transportation, the director of special education, and the district superintendent.

Get a bus buddy. Ask your child's teacher to identify friends who can sit with your child on the bus. Request a parapro or camera on the bus if parent volunteers are not allowed to ride the bus as monitors.

Educate the students. Ask the school administration and PTA to offer anti-bullying programs, positive behavior support, peer-to-peer support, and inclusion-based activities for all students.

Round up volunteers. You can work with the school's PTA to get parent volunteers at every bus stop on your route to check on the safety of the students.

If necessary, go to the hospital. If a child is showing signs of physical or sexual assault, seek medical care immediately, have the medical staff photograph the injuries, and file a police report. Photographs taken at home may be rejected by the school district's disciplinary team. If you know the name of the attacker, consider requesting an order of protection for your child at the time you file the police report. Many parents decline medical care or documentation for their children to avoid further trauma, but without this evidence the school's disciplinary team may be unable or unwilling to take action. Physical evidence and a signed letter from a physician are essential. Having a plan of action before the bullying starts can reduce a parent's counterproductive reactions and solve the problem quickly and efficiently.

Source: School/Families.com, Help Your Child Handle School Bus Bullies, Kathy Shiels Tully and www.friendshipcircle.org/blog, Keep Your Special Needs Child Safe From Bullies on the Bus, Karen Wang.

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A Tribute to All the Dedicated CASAs



Bus Stop Safety

What to Watch For

- Look for any suspicious vehicle or person hanging around the bus stop.
- If a child feels concerned for their safety, they should always tell their parents and the bus driver of any such concern.
- If approached on the way to or from the bus stop or at the bus stop, tell your parents, the bus driver and school officials.

What to Do

- Parents should ensure that if possible, an adult waits with children at school bus stops (not always possible with one-parent families or where both parents work), but something could be worked out with all parents of children at the bus stop to be there on a rotating basis.
- Have your children use the buddy system when possible.
- Know the path your child takes to and from home to the school bus stop.
- Tell your children to avoid short cuts through woods, alleys, parks, or other areas where they could be alone.
- Identify safe houses along the way that your child could run to or into for help if needed.
- Insure your child does not have his or her name on a backpack, etc., as this would enable a potential abductor to call out to the child by name.
- Write down the license number of any suspicious vehicle and provide it to school and law enforcement officials.
- Stand away from any vehicle that stops near the bus stop and do not allow yourself to come close to or enter the vehicle of someone you don't want to.
- Run from anyone displaying a weapon. Do this while throwing books, yelling and making as much noise as you can. Under no circumstances go with an abductor. Kick, bite, and no matter what the threat, do not go along with your kidnapper. Once he takes you away, your chances of survival greatly diminish.

Source: How To Protect Kids From Predator, Kidnapper, Clint Van Zandt, TODAY.

Annual Meeting Welcomes New Board, Thanks Outgoing

At our recent Annual Meeting, the CAN Council welcomed several new board members: **LeeAnn Chadwick, RN**, of Covenant HealthCare, **Beth Handley-McMall** of FirstMerit Bank, and **Mary Kreider, CPA**, of Yeo & Yeo CPAs & Business Consultants. We also thanked our board members who have fulfilled their board terms and are leaving our board: **Jane Anderson, Thomas A. Braley, Mary Lou Case, Connie Downing, Linda McGee, and Drewe L. Robinson**; you will all be missed!

As the board and staff celebrated 2015, we also applauded the leadership of **Janice Doner** who had served on the Bay County Board for over a decade prior to our merging and had continued to represent the courts, concluding her service as our Board Chair over the last year. Our heartfelt gratitude to you, Janice, for your years of service, and we welcome **Dr. Kimberly Prime** as our new Board Chair for 2016-2018.

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is always looking for individuals with passion for our mission who are interested in volunteering and sharing their leadership on our team. *If you are interested, please send an email to Suzanne Greenberg at sgreenberg@cancouncil.org for an application.*

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Tammy & David Bernier
In Memory of Miles Courtright

Gail Schnurstein
In Memory of Dr. Gerald Schnurstein

**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.**

**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.



**Preventing child abuse is far from trivial.
The Brain Game is Tuesday, October 25th!**