

"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



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

Ready to change a child's life?

CASA Highlights

Every abused or neglected child needs a caring, consistent adult to advocate for his or her well-being. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a volunteer who devotes time to advocate for foster children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect. The CASA is a source of stability and solace to children during a confusing time that no child should ever have to endure.

What Do CASA Volunteers Do?

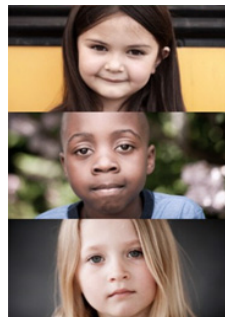
CASA volunteers listen first. Then they act. Volunteers get to know the child by talking with everyone in that child's life: parents and relatives, foster parents, teachers, medical professionals, attorneys, social workers, and others. They use the information they gather to inform judges and others of what the child needs and what will be the best permanent home for them.

Who Can Be a Volunteer?

You do not have to be a lawyer or a social worker to be a volunteer. We welcome people from all walks of life. We are simply looking for people who care about children and have common sense. As a volunteer, you will be thoroughly trained and well supported by professional staff to help you through each case.

What does it take to be a CASA?

National standards require that you must be 21 years of age, pass an extensive background check, have a high school diploma or GED, strong written and verbal communication skills, participate in a 40-hour pre-service training, and have the flexibility in your schedule to advocate for children you're assigned. The CAN Council provides this nationally-accredited training to CASA volunteers, who will then be appointed by a family court judge to serve as a voice for the child. It's most helpful to the child if you make weekly visits and stay with a case until it is closed (an average of 1.5 years).



Nobody longs for a safe and loving family more than a child in foster care. As a CASA volunteer, you are empowered by the courts to help make this dream a reality. You will not only bring positive change to the lives of these vulnerable children, but also their children and generations to come.

If you would like more information about becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact CASA Program Director, Randy D. Roberts, by calling: (989) 752-7226.

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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 in full swing, the CAN Council is expanding our outreach efforts, reviewing and updating our prevention programs, and continuing to recruit Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers! Our outreach efforts include community health and safety fairs, family fun fests, and so much more. In order to raise community awareness, it is critical for each and every one of us to share prevention information. From parents to professionals, children to adults, each one of us has an important role in stopping child abuse and neglect throughout our region.



We always welcome your participation – sign up to be a volunteer, call for more information about being a CASA, talk with your child's camp director to be sure the camp counselors are trained in the identification of abuse and neglect, or call to see how you can join one of our many committees.

Throughout all of our efforts, one thing remains certain: we truly are *building communities where children are free from abuse and neglect*. It's not just our mission statement; it's our daily work. Each day, we're empowering children, educating parents, and advocating for our most-vulnerable youth. We need dedicated people like you to truly create a community where our children are free from abuse and neglect.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with you, discuss an idea you have for preventing child abuse, or invite you to join our *Take A Stand for Children Society*. For more information, you can reach me by phone: (989) 752-7226 or by e-mail: sgreenberg@cancouncil.org.

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



Saturday, August 26
9-11 a.m.



Ducky Derby &
FAMILY FUN FEST

New location!

Bigelow Park • Evergreen Drive (north end of Middleground Island)
Bay City, MI 48708

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
Bay & Saginaw counties*

Win prizes!

- Grand prize: \$1,000 cash
- 2nd place: \$500 cash
- 3rd-10th place: Prizes vary

Adopt* your ducks!

- One Quack: \$5
- Six Quack: \$25
- Ducky Dozen: \$50
- Max Quack (25): \$100

Visit cancouncil.org 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

(989) 671-1345 • Bay County

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

Kids Arrive Safely

Safe transportation is a necessity for small children. Recognizing the need, the CAN Council was able to obtain the *Kids Arrive Safely* grant through the United Way of Bay County to help eligible families get age-appropriate car seats.

Kids Arrive Safely requires an assessment be completed on all referrals to determine a family's eligibility. To receive a car seat, the parent or caregiver must be within 133% of the Federal Poverty Level. Once approved, they will be given the date of the next installation day that they are required to attend. A \$10 co-pay per seat is required. If it is determined that the co-pay is a barrier to receiving the car seat, the fee is reduced or waived for the family. There is also a telephone survey conducted 30–60 days post-installation to ensure the parent is using the seat properly and to answer any questions they may have.



Leslie Eschenbacher, CAN Council's Prevention Education Coordinator, and now Child Passenger Safety Technician, will instruct the caregiver on how to install each car seat and provide applicable safety education. She shares, *"We want all children traveling safely. This one-on-one learning experience insures the caregiver leaves feeling confident that the child's seat is installed correctly, and that they feel comfortable reinstalling it on their own. Helping them to understand all they can do to prevent unintentional injuries in and around cars is one of the most important things to learn."*

If you know of a Bay County resident, who may benefit from this program, contact Leslie by phone: (989) 671-1345 or e-mail: leschenbacher@cancouncil.org.

Baby Academy

Parenting is tough stuff! In collaboration with **Covenant HealthCare, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, and Saginaw Public School District's Birth–5 Program**, the CAN Council's *5th Annual Baby Academy* offered a variety of helpful child-rearing resources all in one place. From products to services, over 70 participants were able to peruse vendor booths offering a variety of goods for children and families. A special thanks to the 23 community partner agencies that provided pertinent information and free baby-friendly items including 60 diapers per month, per child for each parent in attendance.



Attendees were able to take part in breakout sessions including Breastfeeding, Early Literacy, Five Protective Factors, Infant CPR, Nutrition/Food Demonstrations, Safe Sleep, Simply Dads, and Yoga. During these sessions, parents and family members received invaluable insight on parenting topics and information on how to be the best parent or caregiver possible.

Expectant parents and parents with babies up to 1 year old were invited to attend, as were grandparents and other key support persons. Childcare professionals were also encouraged to join the fun. **Dr. Erica Canales**, Assistant Program Director of CMU's Department of OB/GYN, was the keynote speaker focusing on their *CenteringPregnancy Program*.

The CAN Council extends its gratitude to **St. Mary's of Michigan Health Education Center** for hosting the event, as well as former board member **Karen Stiffler**, who secured the venue.

Sponsors who helped celebrate were **St. Mary's of Michigan, Great Lakes Bay Medical Centers, and Molina Healthcare**. Molina Healthcare held drawings for a car seat, Babies "R" Us gift cards, and baby hygiene items. Safe Kids Michigan also gave away a car seat.

The community's contribution made it possible for parents to learn about the numerous resources available throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region that they may not have previously known. The CAN Council can't thank you enough for your continued support and look forward to the *6th Annual Baby Academy* slated for next May!

Welcome, Brittany House!

The CAN Council is thrilled to announce that we have hired a new Victim Services Specialist, **Brittany House**. Brittany joins the CAN Council with years of experience in a variety of areas including case management, advocacy, PPO's, court assistance, law enforcement, and much more! In addition to her work history, Brittany has her Master's degree in Criminal Justice.

This position ties in many of Brittany's attributes as she will be spending the majority of her time at the Saginaw Police Department, fulfilling the ELERV (Enhanced Law Enforcement Response to Victims) grant. This grant has been awarded to just three police departments throughout the country from the **U.S. Department of Justice** in partnership with the **International Association for Chiefs of Police (IACP)**.



Brittany will work to enhance relationships with the community and network with local agencies. Her 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. Please join us in welcoming Brittany to the CAN Council team!

Par-Tee One Last Time

Beautiful summer breezes along the course at Apple Mountain Resort provided 27 teams with a great day of golfing on Monday, July 17th at the CAN Council's *19th Annual, and final, Golf Outing* to support our Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs).

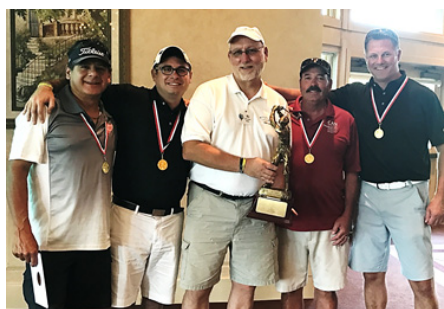
The CAN Council would like to thank the many teams that have participated in this event year after year. Your understanding is appreciated as we incorporate new family-focused events to benefit our programs and services throughout the year. Consider the *5th Annual Ducky Derby & Family Fun Fest* on Saturday, August 26th, where thousands of adopted ducks will be cast down the river from the docks of Bay City's Bigelow Park. Perhaps your family is more sports-oriented and would enjoy the CAN Council's *Superhero Hockey Night with the Saginaw Spirit* on Thursday, December 28th, an evening dedicated to awarding individuals who are making a positive impact on the lives of children throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.

We celebrate the folks who've earned their "bread and putter" over the years and during this final Outing. A special thank you to **Mike Stackhouse** for once again donating his time and photographing our golf teams. Thank you, **Lida Blue and Jacque Gilbert of Your Healthy Balance**, for providing relaxing chair massages, and **Apple Mountain Resort** for your continued hospitality. You've made the others "green with envy"!



Women's Team

Debbie Montgomery, Colleen Pennington,
Cathy Harris, & Sue Nelson



Men's Team & Overall Tournament Winners

Brent Goik, Shane Stikeleather,
John Suhan, & Vic Davila



Mixed Team

Jeremy Doan, Robin Doan,
Kae Pankow, & Dave Pankow

The Heart to Help

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they have the heart. With an incurable passion for children and their overall well-being, **Stephanie Helm, Kristy Klenke, and Amanda Tucker** were sworn-in to the Bay County Probate Court by **Probate Judge Jan A. Miner** on June 21st. These dedicated individuals directly help the children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect. Each of them has been assigned case(s) and will visit the associated children weekly, providing a consistent adult in their life, insuring their needs are met. The CASA will directly communicate to the foster care worker, the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) attorney, and ultimately the court, as to how the child is doing and can make recommendations on behalf of the child.

The CAN Council is so grateful for all of the CASA volunteers throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region; you all are true champions of the children we serve!



Bay County CASA Swearing-In
Probate Judge Jan A. Miner, Stephanie Helm,
Amanda Tucker, & Kristy Klenke



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

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



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

Help an abused
or neglected child at
cancouncil.org
(989) 752-7226



Saginaw Parade 365



Earlier this year, the CAN Council's staff, board, and supporters took part in a Facebook contest for a chance to win a 'rolling billboard' in the form of a STARS Transit Bus Wrap. On June 13th, the bus displaying our wrap paid the CAN Council staff a visit. Our thanks to all of the "likes," shares, and those who went above and beyond taking part in the multiple community challenges!

Thank you to **Isabella Bank**, the **Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce**, and the **Saginaw Transit**

Authority Regional Services (STARS) for sponsoring this contest. The CAN Council is also so appreciative to longtime partner, **AGP & Associates, Inc.**, for designing an eye-catching and inquisitive wrap to be paraded around Saginaw County for the next year.



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.

Gypsy Goddess Summer Festival

A two-day celebration of like-minded, peace-loving people was held with a common purpose of unity, wellness, enlightenment, and fun! Held on June 3rd and 4th at the Saginaw County Fairgrounds, this was the festival's third year. During the festival, a silent auction took place, and we are grateful to have received the proceeds from this auction, totaling nearly \$200.

Congratulations to the Happy Couples!

There are many ways to support our mission to "build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect". Recently, two newlywed couples supported us by donating monetary gifts from their nuptials to the CAN Council.

A special thank you to **Greg and Jeanne Causley**, who in lieu of gifts, asked for their guests to give to the CAN Council. Their continued commitment to the children in our communities helped to raise \$1,190, in their honor.

Lauren Stuart Herline has been volunteering with the CAN Council for over fifteen years, and continues to further our mission, even on her special day. **Justin and Lauren Stuart Herline** were wed on June 3rd and tried a new spin on the traditional Dollar Dance. The two kicked off the evening by auctioning off the first dances with the bride and groom, raising about \$300. All told, the Herline's were able to raise nearly \$700 for the CAN Council! Thank you so much, Mr. & Mrs. Herline!



Volunteer of the Year

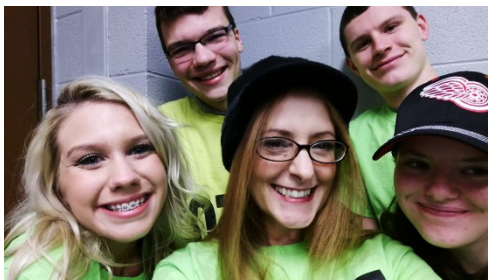


Mary Lou Case began volunteering with CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region seven years ago. Her first impression was made when hearing Suzanne Greenberg, CAN Council President/CEO, talk about CAN's mission and reason for existing.

Mary Lou and her family own W.L. Case & Company Funeral Homes, which previously led her to be more involved in state level boards concerned with grieving, death, and suicide prevention. Wanting to do more on a local level, and wanting to help families directly in her community, Mary Lou served six years as an active CAN Council board member. From being a vital committee member of CAN's annual Mardi Gras Auction, to helping plan fun craft activities for parenting classes, Mary Lou is constantly asking how she can help and continues to find ways to be a CAN-Do volunteer. We appreciate you so much, Mary Lou!

Volunteer Group of the Year

For nearly three years, **Delta College Honors Program Members** have been involved with the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region. They been a huge help in raising funds for CAN Council programs and services, as well as the Saginaw Spirit Community Foundation. They are an active group of students wanting to further CAN's mission by selling 50/50 tickets during the Saginaw Spirit hockey games, and were critical in recruiting volunteers for the *1st Annual Superhero Hockey Night with the Saginaw Spirit*. We couldn't, and wouldn't want to, do it without you!



CASA Volunteer of the Year



Audrey Stahle was sworn into the CAN Council's CASA program on April 25, 2011. Through her dedication, she has provided a voice for 18 children in the court system due to abuse or neglect. Audrey has advocated for children ranging in age from just 1 year old to 16 years old. As a CASA, Audrey served as the loyal, consistent adult in all of these children's lives, providing stability in what can otherwise be a hectic time in their lives. Congratulations, Audrey, for being CAN Council's *CASA Volunteer of the Year!*

CAN-DO VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

A full-time mother and committed CAN Council volunteer, **Tracy Douglas** has a passion for children and the community in which they grow and play. Having had the privilege to work with other agencies, and through completing her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Tracy felt the need to do more to help the youth in our community. *"Researching ways to get more engaged, I came across the CAN Council and immediately knew I had to get involved!"* Tracy has taken part in CAN Council fundraisers, community outreach events, and the annual Baby Academy. *"As a stay-at-home mom, I had the time and ambition to help. There is no better feeling than continuously connecting with members of our community, expanding the knowledge to others of what the CAN Council provides, and casting a light on the darkness that is child abuse and neglect."*



Tracy has since taken on new responsibility with CAN as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer. *"As an avid CASA, I feel empowered to be the voice for children who are in the court system due to abuse or neglect."* The CAN Council commends Tracy's tremendous effort and endless advocacy for the children in our community!

Thinking Outside of the Box

The CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region is pleased to work with many individuals and organizations who wish to think 'outside of the box' to raise in raising critical dollars to keep more and more children free from abuse and neglect. Some recent individual fundraisers include folks accepting monetary donations for the CAN Council in lieu of wedding gifts, giving to the CAN Council in honor of a friend's birthday, hosting a LuLaRoe Pop-Up, collecting back-to-school supplies to help CASA families, crafting blankets so that no child has to sleep without, pop can drives, penny wars, business jean days, stuffed animal collections, and many, many more!

If you have any suggestions on interesting ways to fundraise or awareness, we would love to hear from you!

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.



Legacy Giving

Did you know that you can put the CAN Council in your will or trust?

Planned giving is when a person decides to give at some future date, either a number of years from now or at death. A planned gift is a present decision to make a future gift, often evidenced by a legal document such as a will or trust.

Charitable gifts, either current or future, often have state/federal income tax, capital gains, and estate and gift benefits associated with them. To maximize these benefits, consulting with a legal/tax advisor is advised.

One of the easiest ways to implement planned giving is to incorporate language into your estate (will or trust) planning documents. An example of such language is: "I hereby give, devise and bequest [\$Dollars] to CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region, a non-profit organization located at 1311 N. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48602 (Federal Tax ID: 38-2480726), for its general use and purposes," (please request additional language for Bay County).

For additional tax-advantaged strategies for including the CAN Council in your wishes, contact your trusted tax advisor/attorney. If you would like to speak to someone about hosting an individual fundraiser or incorporating the CAN Council into your planned giving, please contact Abby L. Scherzer, Donor Relations Specialist, by e-mailing: ascherzer@cancouncil.org.



Donors April through June 2017

Advocates

The Avenue Hair Studio & Spa
Chemical Bank
Children's Trust Fund Conference
Jose Costilla
Al & Janice Doner
Alden & Vada Dow Family
Foundation
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Frankenmuth Jaycees
Molina Healthcare
Saginaw Spirit Foundation
Wirt Stone Dock

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Lauren & Justin Herline
Joan Norton
Chris Pahseen-Noble
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Gene Hamilton
James Hayes
Heritage High School's National
Honor Society
Kawkawlin Community Church
Robert Lipscomb
Linda McEvoy
Mercantile Bank of MI Jean Day
Allison Nicol
Larry Norton
Saginaw County Lawyers' Auxiliary
St. Elizabeth Parish of Reese
Carrie Thompson

Charles Tobias
Ashley Valderas
Dee Dee Wacksman
Tanya Walter
Wanigas Credit Union Jean Day
Ann Weidner
Matt & Sara Weidner
Mike & Lynnette Weidner
Sheila Wright
Fran Zuzula

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AmazonSmile
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Taylor Arvilla
Nina Blackburn
Cleo & Claudette Bray
Lindsay Craves
Jen Dore
Karen Foley Frahm
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Carole Grates
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Bridget Hefner
Jori Hodo
Linda Howard
JCPenney
Lisa Kieb
Marie Koch
Kroger
Scott Kuchar
Michael Lafore
Lexie Karas
Ryan Marra
Linda Matuzak
Caitlin McCoy
Sharrit McNally
Amanda Metzler
Mid-Michigan Waste Authority
Donovan Ortega
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Jennifer Shores
State of Michigan UIA
Allyson Steinley
David Szarenski
Mark Thompson
Ashley Valdiras
Susan Valley

Amanda Warczynski
YourCause c/o AT&T
Matt & Trisha Yurgaites

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Murphy & Greg Causley*

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Tom Daugherty*

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Bette Joe & Velma Schmerheim
Andrea Solomon
MiAysia Strong
Kim Tetmeyer
Daniel & Terri Villaire
*Honoring the forthcoming wedding
of Olivia Jimenez & Xavier Lawler*