

"Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect"



Preserving the Wonder of Childhood

In 2017, for the first time ever, we received a three year grant from the Children's Trust Fund to conduct a collaborative parenting support and education program whose focus is to prevent child abuse and neglect. With years of planning and tireless dedication of our prevention team, we have made what was once a vision – a reality.

Make Parenting A Pleasure (MPAP) is a program currently being provided in Saginaw, Bay, and Arenac Counties. MPAP is a 12-week, evidence-based parenting curriculum which we enhance based on our parent's needs. Each program may last up to 16 weeks as we add requested components. For example, some of our parents speak of needing financial literacy education so we partner with local financial institutions to provide this during one week. The following week, we may partner with a local nutrition expert to teach our parents about good nutrition and how to cook healthy meals on a budget. The bottom line is that we were awarded this grant in partnership with local businesses and non-profits to provide the best possible program for our community's parents.



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This enhanced parenting program has proven to be a success as illustrated by the fact that the national average for retention in parenting education classes is approximately 50%. In the last four years, our average retention has been 87%! With the expansion of this program to Bay and Arenac Counties, we have secured

additional funding to train additional facilitators. For more information, call one of our offices.

See all of the ways your investment of time and talent has made a difference! Check out our complete 2017 Annual Report by visiting: <https://bit.ly/2JRdJcj>.

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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

Summer has returned which means more sunshine, more time with our families, and more time outside to enjoy our beautiful communities. For me, it is a time when walking outside doesn't require a coat and allows for sandals with more social gatherings to enjoy friends and family! It is also exciting to walk throughout our communities and enjoy our farmer's markets, waterfronts, parks, and don't forget the playgrounds!



In this edition of CAN Talk, we will highlight some of our accomplishments in our 2017 Annual Report (<https://bit.ly/2JRdJcj>). As noted on the cover, our parenting education and support programming is growing tremendously and will continue to do so in order to meet the needs of our children and families. I am always asked, why is it that we need a license to fish, license for quality child care, but no licensure, certification, education, or supports in place for the most important job you will ever have! As you turn the pages of the Annual Report, you will meet **Clarence** and **Tyesha**. These were two of our parents who have worked hard to expand their parenting toolbox and invest the time to be the best parent possible! Please take time to look through the report to see all that has been accomplished with your support!

In 2018, we have started and expanded many aspects of our programming including an Advocacy Team consisting of former legislators, experienced public affairs professionals, survivors, and child advocates. We are working to distill the mountains of information about child welfare-related legislation and policies that you need to know about as they affect all of our children. More to come on this in the near future!

There are dozens of ways you can get involved to improve the life of a child – will you take a moment to speak up for a child or volunteer to assist us in our mission to “build communities where children are free from abuse and neglect”?

With the best interest of children always 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



Event Sponsor



Saturday, August 25
10 a.m. to noon



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

FREE family fun!

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) 671-1345

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

Creative services donated by AGP & Associates, Inc.

Pinwheels for Prevention

CAN Council staff were joined by volunteers and children's advocates as April's *Child Abuse Prevention Month* kicked-off with pinwheel plantings at the **Saginaw County Courthouse** and **Bay County Department of Health & Human Services**. Each pinwheel reminds us of the happy, safe childhood we're building for every kiddo in our region. Thank you to all who braved the chilly, windy weather to make such a powerful statement to our communities!



Prevention Awareness Day in Lansing

CAN Council representatives were joined at the Capitol by hundreds of children's rights advocates and legislators during the annual Prevention Awareness Day hosted by the **Children's Trust Fund**. The event brings awareness to the issue of child abuse in Michigan and promotes programs seeking to prevent child maltreatment.

Thank you to all the supporters who find it in their hearts to give what they're able and help each day to protect our most vulnerable youth. The CAN Council looks forward to organizing another bus full of friends to travel together to the *2019 Prevention Awareness Day*! Please email Vera Harrison, CAPE Program Director, at: vharrison@cancouncil.org, if you'd like to join us.



St. Lorenz Lutheran School's Eighth Graders Moving On

Since second grade, Caris Cancelli has been leading her classmates in helping the CAN Council share their mission through impacting the lives of children who have been abused. Through their first "Fill A Tub with Grub" project to the most recent "Pinwheels for Prevention" campaign including increasing their impact through committees, this group of young students has truly made a difference!

Congratulations to all of you who have served on the St. Lorenz CAN Committee, have supported their projects by buying pinwheels or bringing in needed items, or contributing to their fundraising efforts, THANK YOU! The CAN Council wishes you all the best as you prepare for high school this summer and hope to reconnect with you as you get involved in your high school!

Parenting Programs Expanding

After four years of working together with local donors and foundations, we have been granted a variety of funding in order to consistently offer our evidence-based "*Make Parenting A Pleasure*" series! The great news is that we will be offering this proven curriculum to our parents in Bay, Saginaw, and Arenac Counties!

A \$10,000 grant was graciously made possible by the following funds administered by the **Saginaw Community Foundation: FORCE Youth Fund, YWCA Fund for Women & Children**, and the **Carl Werth, Sr. & Ruth Werth Memorial Fund**. The **Civic League of Bay County Advisory Endowment Fund** and the **BACF Human Services Fund** at **Bay Area Community Foundation** also provided a \$4,462 grant.



We appreciate the foundations and organizations that believe in the power of educating and supporting our parents in order to create the best possible chance of a happy, healthy, and safe childhood for all of our children. The CAN Council is so grateful to move closer to our vision of "*empowering communities through innovative programming, comprehensive services, and effective collaborations enriching generations to come!*"

Dine & Unwind with a Cause in Mind

Dow Chemical Employees' Credit Union presented the CAN Council's 15th Annual *Dine & Unwind*, formerly *Wines Around the World*, to hundreds of guests who enjoyed a variety of fine food, along with samples of expertly-paired wine, beers, and bourbon throughout the evening. The event was graciously held at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel** on Bay City's Riverfront on April 20th.

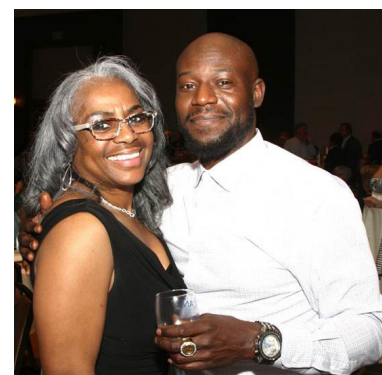
Chefs from 12 of the region's most reputable restaurants including **Apple Mountain, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Fusion 1 Café, Gatsby's Seafood & Steakhouse, The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe, Ideal Party Store & Shamrock Dairy Bar, Latitude 43 Grill & Bar, Old City Hall Restaurant, Oppermann's Cork 'N' Ale, Saginaw Country Club, US Foods,** and **VNO Wine Warehouse & New Age Restaurant** prepared special menus for the evening's tastings with such things as passion fruit BBQ pork, assorted sushi, beef tenderloin, ahi tuna crisp, a special ice cream sundae bar, and more!

Proceeds from the event fund our Bay County efforts to stop child abuse and neglect. In 2017, CAN Council staff spent nearly 9,700 hours educating more than 5,700 individuals on how to prevent child abuse through our prevention education programming.

DINE & UNWIND

The dedication and support of the *Dine & Unwind* committee, the event sponsors, the auction donors, and each attendee ensure the CAN Council will reach even more children and professionals throughout 2018-2019. Thank you for your generous hearts!

Get in on the fun next year!
Mark your calendar for
Friday, April 26, 2019!



Comfort Canine for Families

The CAN Council's Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) will soon hear the pitter-patter of little paws around the office, thanks to **Brenda Haines**. Brenda had reached out through the CAN Council's website, asking if there was any interest in working with her therapy dog, **Jake**, a golden retriever. Jake is a graduate of the American Kennel Club's 12-week program, which included six weeks of obedience training and a six-week internship in public places designed to test obedience and discipline for the trainer and dog alike.



Open to ideas and suggestions on how to better serve families that visit, the CAN Council soon scheduled a meeting to discuss the various opportunities. After meeting, it was clear that Jake would be a great asset to the CAC program. Comfort and therapy dogs are used at CACs throughout the nation to assist children with traumatic experiences they may be facing.

Jake will be present on scheduled days to meet the children and families before and after the interviews, if requested by the families. The hope is that his presence will calm the children as they potentially disclose being sexually, physically, or emotionally abused or neglected, or if they have witnessed violence, and will help the caregivers cope with such trauma. The CAN Council's CAC Care Coordinators

will communicate with the families prior to the interviews, to be certain Jake would be welcomed to the interview.

With a heart of gold, Brenda is offering this service at no cost, in hopes of giving back to the community and those in need. A special thanks to Brenda and to Jake, as the CAN Council looks forward to working with you in this new adventure!

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Over 300 City of Saginaw residents took part in the various events that observed *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* April 8-14th. This year's theme, "Expand the Circle. Reach All Victims.," addressed how professionals, organizations, and communities can work in tandem to reach all victims, ensuring that every victim of crime has easy access to services and support.

Helping to kick-off the week at City Hall, **Representative Vanessa Guerra** joined **Mayor Pro Tem Floyd Kloc** who read the proclamation, followed by a speech given by **Senator Ken Horn**.



In addition to honoring the victims of crime in our community, a few others were awarded special recognition. **Jackie Jones**, a dedicated mother who lost a son to gun violence, has been an active member of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC), Everytown Against Gun Violence, and Mom's Demand Action. Jackie was awarded the *2018 Victim Advocate of the Year!* Congratulations, Jackie!



Congratulations to both **Saginaw County 911 Dispatch** and **Mobile Medical Response (MMR)** who were awarded the *2018 Crime Victim Support Agency of the Year* awards for their unwavering support to victims and for diligently responding to the needs of the community.

Didn't get a chance to participate in this year's *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*? These events, among many others, will take place again next year!



A Cause with a First and Last Name

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (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. This is great news for our children because according to the National CASA Association, around 12% of children in foster care return to care within six months. For children with a CASA volunteer, their likelihood to return to foster care is 5%. To date, Saginaw and Bay Counties have served nearly 1,100 children.



Monica Medel, Doris Johnson, Connie Parkhurst, Colleen Bryant, Debra Barnes, Referee John C. Keuvelaar, & Hon. Barbara L. Meter

CASAs are needed to fulfill our mission. During the latest Swearing-In Ceremony, five new CASA volunteers have been trained and appointed including **Debra Barnes, Colleen Bryant, Doris Johnson, Monica Medel, and Connie Parkhurst**. Without their dedication to our youth, our children's voices would be lost.

While expanding CASA training to include Fostering Futures (a national program through National CASA to assist in preparing our teens to successfully transition out of the foster care system), the CAN Council has also continued to recruit, train, and assign new CASAs. In 2017, 156 children were served, but there are more children in foster care who go unserved as we need additional CASA volunteers. You CAN be the voice for a child! If you would like to learn more about what it takes, please visit our website or call one of our offices. We'd love to hear from you!

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 the CASA Team today:

Bay County: (989) 671-1345
Saginaw County: (989) 752-7226



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."



Swimming Safety

Hard Facts

- Among preventable injuries, drowning is the leading cause of death for children 1–4 years old.
- Children 1–4 years old are more likely to drown in a pool.
- Children 5 years and older are more likely to drown in natural water, such as ponds, lakes and rivers.
- The risk of drowning in open water increases with age: The average 10-year-old, for example, is three times more likely to drown in open water than in a pool.

Top Tips

- Watch kids when they are in or around water, without being distracted. Keep young children within arm's reach of an adult. Make sure older children swim with a partner every time.
- Teach children how to swim. Every child is different, so enroll children in swim lessons when they are ready. Consider their age, development and how often they are around water when deciding if they are ready for swim lessons.
- Make sure kids learn these five water survival skills and that they are able to:
 - step or jump into water over their heads and return to the surface;
 - float or tread water for one minute;
 - turn around in a full circle and find an exit;
 - swim 25 yards to exit the water; and
 - exit the water. If in a pool, be able to exit without using the ladder.
- Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool. They need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather.
- Know what to do in an emergency. Learning CPR and basic water rescue skills may help you save a child's life.

The critical information on this page has been made available by **Safe Kids Worldwide**, a nonprofit organization working to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries.

Thank you for all that you do!

To see this full article, visit: https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/swimming-and-water.

Preventing Heatstroke

Sometimes babies are so peaceful and quiet in the backseat that we can forget they are even there, and it can be tempting to leave a sleeping baby in the car so we don't have to wake them up while we quickly run into the store. But leaving a child alone in a car can lead to serious injury or death from heatstroke, even in cooler temperatures.


Hard Facts

- On average, a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle every 10 days. In more than half of these deaths, the caregiver forgot the child was in the car.
- A car can heat up 19 degrees in just 10 minutes. Cracking windows doesn't help.
- Young children are particularly at risk, as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's.

Reduce the number of deaths from heatstroke by remembering to ACT.

- *Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving a child alone in a car, not even for a minute.* And make sure to keep your car locked when you're not inside so kids don't get in on their own.
- *Create reminders.* Keep a stuffed animal or other memento in your child's car seat when it's empty, and move it to the front seat as a visual reminder when your child is in the back seat or place and secure your phone, briefcase, or purse in the back seat when traveling with your child.
- *Take action.* If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They're trained to respond to this.

Check out all that our friends at **Safe Kids Worldwide** are up to by visiting their Facebook page!

 SafeKidsWorldwide

To see this full article, visit: <https://www.safekids.org/heatstroke>.



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

Baby Academy Educates New & Expectant Parents

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 *6th Annual Baby Academy* offered a variety of helpful child-rearing resources all in one place. From products to services, over 150 participants and families were able to peruse vendor booths offering a variety of goods for children and families. A special thanks to the 24 community partner agencies that provided pertinent information and free baby-friendly items.

Attendees were able to take part in breakout sessions including Breastfeeding, Infant Mortality, Infant CPR, Know Your Medical Options: Check. Choose. Go., Using Household Items to Teach Math & Literacy, Safe Sleep, Simply Dads, and 5 Domains of Development. 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. **Cynthia Pape**, President/Director of the **READ Association of Saginaw County**, was the keynote speaker focusing on reading literacy.



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

Sponsors who helped celebrate were **St. Mary's of Michigan | Ascension, Glastender, Duperon Corporation**, and **UnitedHealthcare Community Plan**.

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 *7th Annual Baby Academy* slated for next May!

Donors April through June 2018

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In memory of Irene McDonald

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<http://a.co/hDOCbgd>.