

Update

SUMMER 2003

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• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES of NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •

VOLUNTEERISM...*The Heart of CFS*

The philosophy of Child and Family Services is to provide services to everyone who needs them, regardless of their ability to pay. With fewer resources available in a challenging economy, the resources we do have must be put to even more efficient and productive use.

One of the greatest resources we have at Child and Family Services is our volunteer base. With two fantastic spring fundraising events now behind us, we wanted to take the opportunity the Update provides to introduce you to several of those who are instrumental in making these events happen, as well as those whose volunteer services impact the day-to-day operations of the organization. We hope their efforts inspire you to volunteer for your favorite cause (and we hope that's CFS!).

Linda Sommerville and Julie Finch are the talented, energetic women who led the effort to make a new event called Festival of Tables a reality for Child and Family Services. The first Festival of Tables in 2002 was a huge success, and the May 2003 follow-up was bigger and better, growing from 18 table designs, four demonstrations, and nearly 500 attendees to 30 tables designs, 10 demonstrations/samplings, and nearly 600 attendees! Over 100 different businesses and organizations contributed in one

of those ways to last month's Festival, sponsored by Traverse/Northern Home Magazines and Huntington Bank.



Julie Finch, receiving the 2003 Volunteer of the Year Award from 2002 recipient Linda Sommerville.

Linda and Julie's leadership helped establish a great Festival Committee, including Margaret Alexander (table design judging), Susan Ovalle (silent auction coordinator), Cathy Spanski (party chair/Resort liaison), Cameron Farley (raffle chair), Polly Barnes (program chair), and Janet Wolff (promotional materials and signage). Deb Ritchie, Sherri Fenton, Lynn Hertler, Kristi Link, Dee Grost, Tracie Herkner and many others worked tirelessly in all areas to assure a great day for everyone.



Kathy Kostrzewa and Brad Jurik taking a breather at "Tee Up FORE Kids;" Jack Otto (r) showing his true colors.

The always-fun-despite-the-weather "Tee Up FORE Kids" Golf Outing was also held in May. Co-Chairs Jack Otto and Brad Jurik led the 15th annual outing once again, asking their friends and colleagues to sponsor foursomes and donate door prizes. Brad, the owner of Tilestone Imports, donated a \$6,000 granite kitchen for a live auction and helped propel the event to its best net yet!

Longtime volunteer Kathy Kostrzewa, Foster Care Supervisor Jan Carda, and Board member Linda Buist assured that the three meals for each of more than 100 golfers were fresh and ready. Steve Morley and the crew from Bob Evans donated, prepared and served dinner to a hungry rush of humanity and have done so for many years.

Greg Gay, manager at Mistwood Golf Course, is always friendly and helpful and makes sure that Tee Up FORE Kids runs smoothly on the ground.

Thanks to longtime committee members Jim Bladek for his tenacity in soliciting golfers and hole sponsors, and Peggy Snowday for pounding Front Street for great door prizes. New committee member Greg Williams attended nearly every meeting and contributed fresh ideas for this established golf tradition.

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Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) agency supporting safe and healthy family life since 1937 through foster care, adoption, counseling and community service programs.

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VOLUNTEERISM



Barb Benson (2nd from right) and Schmuckal Oil Co. employees celebrating a good "Koins for Kids" year.

The Koins for Kids benefit, a "spare change" effort to provide direct assistance to children in foster care, is about to enter its 14th year. Spearheading Koins once again is **Barb Benson**, former Board Member, current Leadership Council member, and all-around advocate for CFS. As Vice President of Schmuckal Oil, Barb takes this benefit on as her own each year and rallies Schmuckal employees in service stations and mini-marts around

the region to the call of the "pink pigs." The Schmuckal family was given CFS' Partnership Award this year for their many contributions to the organization, from the Koins benefit to direct financial assistance, volunteerism, and advocacy in the community.



Gretchen Votruba

For more than 30 years, the cheerful face of **Gretchen Votruba** was seen regularly here as she and her late husband **Bill** transported adopted children from the hospital to their new families and foster children to doctors' appointments and visits,

spearheaded drives of donated toys and clothing, and sewed prom dresses for our young women in care. The stories she can tell! She had an opportunity to tell some of them as she opened her home to the cameras of our friends at Brauer Productions to film a public service announcement for CFS last year. CFS can still count on Gretchen for her help with mailings and other office tasks—all while she regales us with those great stories. Gretchen is also a valued financial supporter of CFS programs. Thank you for everything, Gretchen!

The **CFS Board of Directors** (listed on pg 4) is a diverse and talented group charged with developing policy and advocating for the agency in the community. Several are called to help because of personal experiences with adoption or foster care, while

others are generous enough to donate their time and talent to administrative tasks. In any case, they all do what they can for the children and families we serve.

CFS staff are some of the most devoted and generous people anywhere. They put the "family" in Child and Family Services! They work long hours but spend weekends and evenings mentoring children, taking them on outings they wouldn't normally have the opportunity to enjoy, provide respite and support for foster families, and volunteer their help for special events. CFS is fortunate to have such a caring group of employees whose commitment goes well beyond "9 to 5."

There's a place for **YOU** in our volunteer family—call 946.8975 for more information. And thank you for the many ways in which you give.

From the Board President

I am honored to have been elected the new President of the Board of Child and Family Services, and I look forward to working with the other Board members in guiding CFS in the coming year. First we would like to thank Al Olson for his leadership over the past year, a year which saw many challenges and changes for the organization and required numerous hours from Al and other Board members. We are proud of CFS and its staff and how everyone worked through these changes as a team. The Board and I look optimistically to the future.

The coming year will be my fifth as a Board member. I became involved with Child and Family Services because of

my personal experience of being adopted as an infant. I wanted to help the agency as it provides crucial services and support to children and families. Those services wouldn't be possible without a great team of people, and I would like to express my thanks to the staff, foster and adoptive families.

As in the past, CFS will have challenges in the coming year. These include budgetary issues at the state and federal levels, increased staff workloads, and a growing need for the agency's services. I believe the Board is well prepared to address these challenges, given its diverse range of backgrounds and talents. I want to thank each

member of the Board for their service and list the new slate of officers and committee chairs:

Vice President and Services Committee Chair

Linda Buist

Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

Sheila Morgan

Secretary

Galen Krupka

Personnel Committee Chair

Linda Wasielewski

This newsletter focuses on the importance of volunteers who give so much time, talent, and financial support to CFS. The recent changes in the priorities of local fundraising organizations and the shrinking State budgets has made your involvement even more vital



and needed. CFS has and will continue to maximize the positive impact on children and families with your help. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, THANK YOU for all your support.

Todd A. Endresen



gratitudes



With summer fun on our minds after what seemed a long wait, please indulge us as we go back to late 2002 to thank the many generous people and businesses who contributed to happy Christmas holidays for our children and families. For the fifth consecutive year, **Northern Michigan Post Offices**, ably coordinated by carrier **Linsey Thompson**, provided gifts to every child in foster care.

Sue Nichols of Glen Arbor coordinated a holiday coat drive for neighbors in need. 30 families were beneficiaries of Sue's wish to provide a little extra warmth this season. Thank you, Sue and donors!



Foster children enjoy holiday craft activities as part of a respite day provided to foster parents by Child and Family Services' Harbor Springs office and a generous grant from the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation. The First Presbyterian Church hosted children and families for a day of Christmas crafts and activities. CFS staff took the opportunity to give foster parents some time to do their own holiday shopping, cleaning, or have some quiet time.

Nearly 40 individuals and businesses participated in the "Boots for Kids" program, which provided new winter boots in all sizes to children in need. Other holiday donations came from (very partial list): **Bank One of Acme; Dawn Bruce; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Buist; the Central United Methodist Church Youth Group; Bowerman, Bowden, & Moothart P.C.; Drs. Mark Priest and Joseph Stafford; Grand Traverse Auto service department; Char and David Gray; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Morgan; Sue Sotak, Sandy Meshekey, Linda Favel, and Mary Schreier; Richard and Carlene Kelley; Grand Traverse County Road Commission; Inland Seas Engineering; Keswick United Methodist Church; Bethlehem Lutheran Church; Platte Grange #1328; accounting staff and administration at Munson Health Care; Jackie Ribel; La Senorita (US 31 South); Trinity Lutheran Church; Dr. Mark Whiting and staff; and Carol Wright.**

To **Colleen Bagley** and **Money Mailer of Traverse City**, for providing Child and Family Services with a community coupon advertising our services and need for financial assistance in the January mailer. Colleen won a national award from Money Mailer for her commitment to using her business to help local nonprofit organizations spread the word about what they do. Congratulations, Colleen, and thank you!



... A big thank you to **Janet Wolff of Wolff Creative Group** for her design of the Money Mailer coupon.

... To **The Homestead Resort** and to **Shanty Creek Resort**, for their donation of lift tickets for a total of four days of skiing for participants in our Youth Incentive Program.

...To **Marshall Field's of Traverse City**, for a \$1,500 grant for a pilot art therapy program for sexually abused children

...To **Allen Heath Memorial Foundation**, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, for \$3,000 for the pregnancy counseling program

... To the **Kiwanis Club of Traverse City**, \$1,000 for the 2002 Christmas Store for children in foster care, and for the purchase of needed items for children 0-3 years of age

.. To the **Oleson Foundation**, \$5,000 for operational support

.. To the **Beers Family Foundation**, \$2,000 for operational support

... To the **Zonta Club of Traverse City**, \$1,000 to establish "Zonta Cares for Caring Women," a fund for the training and development of women in social work

.. To **Christ Child Society**, for \$3,000 for support of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs office

...To **Char-Em United Way**, for \$1,578 for adoption support

... To the **Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Youth Advisory Councils of Antrim, Leelanau, Grand Traverse, and Kalkaska Counties**, \$6,417 for programs in independent living, experiential adventure, and support groups for girls

... To the **Benzie County Community Chest**, \$4,500 for the pregnancy counseling program, and to Quota International of Traverse City, \$1,000 for pregnancy counseling

... To the **Canaan Foundation**, for \$2,000 in unrestricted support

... To the **Three Generations Circle of Women Givers**, for \$4,000 for support of teen girls in the Independent Living program

...To **Sally Tummelson** and **Deb Wyckoff** at **Creative Classrooms** in Traverse City for their donation of gift certificates to local schools participating in this year's "Koins for Kids" benefit

...To **Randy Sagante** and the staff of **Bob's Place** in Alanson, for providing a fine meal for 15 teens from Littlefield Middle School participating in the Girls' Support Group there

... And to **everyone** who has given financially or in goods and services to us this first half of 2003. Your partnership means so much!

Mrs. Derks' 5th grade class at Glen Loomis with stuffed animals they collected for children in foster care. (below)



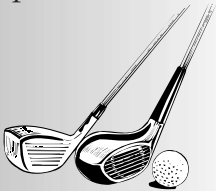
Tee-Up FOR Kids II

Mark Your Calendar

Monday,
September 15

Traverse City
Golf & Country Club

For more information,
please call us!



UNITED WAY FUNDING

Because of a shift in the funding priorities of the United Way of Northwest Michigan, Child and Family Services will not receive the financial allocation that has helped us provide lower cost counseling to our community. For each of the past two years, CFS received \$15,000 from the United Way of Northwest Michigan for sliding fee scale counseling to mid- and low-income families. This is the first time since the founding of the United Way of Northwest Michigan over 50 years ago that CFS will not receive support. We will, however, receive the donations that have been specifically designated to us.

Although your United Way of Northwest Michigan donation to CFS will still help our children and families, please consider making your donation directly to the agency this year. If you wish to designate your donation to a particular program, be assured that 100% of your donation will directly fund that service; e.g., counseling, pregnancy counseling, juvenile justice. Please let us know your preference.

Our thanks to the Benzie County Community Chest, Char-Em United Way, and all of you for your continued support.

Child & Family Services

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child & family services
of Northwestern Michigan

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