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Update

• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES of NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •

A TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN VOTRUBA March 26, 1916 – October 9, 2004



“When it came to these special children, no job was too big or too small for her...She gave and gave...to this most extraordinary of extended families.”

It is an unusual thing in the lifetime of any organization when it can point to one individual as having made a singular, extraordinary impact on its mission. But for Child and Family Services, Gretchen Votruba was that person. Volunteer, board member, donor, foster parent, advocate — Gretchen graciously played every one of these roles with Child and Family Services over the course of a 40-year relationship.

Gretchen was a teacher by trade, which may explain why she was so drawn to the children. She loved to tell a story about Elmwood School, built in 1882 and no longer standing. It was a two-story structure and students had to go out a window and down a slide when they had fire drills. Once, she had a little explaining to do when a child went home and told his mother that the teacher had “thrown him out the window.”

Gretchen was born in Detroit in 1916 and attended Olivet College before moving to Traverse City to begin teaching. Bill Votruba was a neighbor and widower, and he offered her a ride home one night after a Rotary Show. They were married in 1952. Bill’s joke, Gretchen would laugh, was to walk around with his violin, but like Jack Benny, they would never let him play. In actuality both Bill and Gretchen were both accomplished musicians; their love of music also led Gretchen to create scholarships for students at Interlochen Arts Academy.

Gretchen began her association with CFS, then known as the Children’s Aid Society, around 1960. For nearly a decade, she and Bill logged 3-5,000 miles every year transporting children to appointments and visits, and delivering newly adopted babies to their adoptive families. Another of her favorite stories was about the hospital policy that you couldn’t leave the premises unless you were in a wheelchair—whether you needed one or not. So she



Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote the safety and well-being of children, adults, and families by providing services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth.

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A TRIBUTE TO GRETCHEN VOTRUBA

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would sit in those silly wheelchairs, she'd say, with the new baby in her lap. And there they'd stay until they were united with their new families. This was long before there were car seats; Gretchen used a basket to carry her babies.

Gretchen was one of the organizers of the Auxiliary, a group of women who promoted the work of CFS in many different ways. They raised money and provided gifts to children in care, from Easter baskets and Christmas stockings to bicycles and everything in between. The Votrubas' stately Sixth Street home was where all the Christmas gifts would be stored, recalls former Executive Director Bud Thompson. Gretchen was a gifted seamstress and knitter who took it upon herself to assure that all the children had warm mittens, hats and scarves through the cold months—and in the spring sewed prom dresses for teen girls. The Auxiliary was the forerunner of our Angel Fund, through which friends of CFS provide for the special needs of children in foster care today.

But Gretchen went far beyond providing for the direct needs of the children. "She seemed to think so highly of everyone connected to the place," recalls Thompson. Indeed, in his remarks honoring Gretchen as the agency Volunteer of the Year in 1970,

the Rev. William DesAutels noted that her mark was everywhere—"the cover on the sofa in the staff lounge, the gravel on the driveway, the refurbished, refinished, and antiques furniture in the showing room, the frequent gifts of flowers, food, and seasonal decorations for the pleasure of staff, clients, and guests are just a few of her contributions."

Gretchen gave not only to CFS but to many other organizations in the Traverse City community. Still there was always a soft spot in her heart for her work with the children, and with those who worked for them. Bud Thompson once offered her a paid position given everything she did for the agency, but "she was very definitely not interested in being paid for her services," he says with a laugh. Nancy Cover, a 25-year Family Resources Specialist, attests to Gretchen's determined streak. Cover recalls seeing Gretchen in a store parking lot at midnight after she had taken a fall and gotten a couple of shiners in addition to being sore and bruised. She was well into her eighties at the time. Nancy asked her what she was doing out in the dark in her condition, and Gretchen simply said she had things to do. "She was surprised—maybe even a little annoyed—that I would even ask," Cover says. "She didn't have time to waste."

"Gretchen was a donor but she was so much more than

that," says Executive Director Jim Scherrer. "If we needed a board member she joined the Board. If we needed someone to transport infants and children, she did that. If we needed someone to sing our praises in a public service announcement, she did that (with volunteer and adoptive mom LaVera Bishop and social worker Eleanor Sabo). If we needed help with a mailing, she did that. Gretchen was the consummate philanthropist."

Gretchen was presented with the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce

Distinguished Service Award in 1995. Dr. Ken Taylor said of her work with CFS, "When it came to these special children, no job was too big or too small for her...She gave and gave...to this most extraordinary of extended families."

It's an apt description of our organization, which is what it is today in large measure thanks to Gretchen Votruba. We will miss her sunny attitude and infectious laugh, her commitment to children, and her belief in the mission and values of Child and Family Services.

Thank You!

We gratefully acknowledge the following friends whose families designated Child and Family Services as a beneficiary of donations in their memory:

Leonard Beard
Mary Chamberlain
Iva Jean Davis
Ted Endresen
Ruth Garvin
Emma Sue Johnson
Chuck Konsdorf
Bob Lund
Joanne Noller
Marilyn Olson
James Pillars
Tillie Pleva
Leona Scherrer
Jamie Woods

"When the heart grieves over what it has lost, the spirit rejoices over what it has left."

• *Sufi Epigram*



Lifetime Giving Clubs

founders club

lifetime giving \$50,000 and above

Terry G. Brandt
 Robert P. and Maxine C. Briggs
 Grand Traverse Regional
 Com. Foundation
 Robert T. Hughes Fund
 Robert B. Murchie Trust
 Oleson Foundation
 Jacob Nicholas Rickers Estate
 Rotary Charities of
 Traverse City
 United Way of Northwest
 Michigan
 Mrs. William Votruba
Anonymous Donor (1)

president's club

lifetime giving \$10,000-\$49,999

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Anderson
 Benzie County Community
 Chest*
 CharEm United Way*
 Cherryland Electric Comm.
 Caring Fund
 Child & Family Services of
 Michigan, Inc.*
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cornwell
 Exchange Club of
 Traverse City
 Cameron and Dan Farley*
 Fifth Third Bank
 Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa
 & Chippewa Indians*
 Keswick United Methodist
 Church
 Kiwanis Club of
 Traverse City, Inc.*
 Ms. Paula H. LaClaire
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lagina
 Marshall Field's*
 Ms. Clarine W. Olson
 Optimist Club of Traverse City
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Otto
 Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
 Comm. Foundation
 Quota International of
 Traverse City*
 Mr. Arthur M. Schmuckal
 Textron/Cone Drive
 Operations
 Tribal Gaming Revenue Board
 The Les and Anne
 Biederman Foundation
 The Seabury Foundation
 The Towsley Foundation
 Tom's Food Markets
 Zonta I Club of Traverse City
 Anonymous Donors (2)

**denotes new member in 2004*

gold circle club

lifetime giving \$2,500 - \$9,999

Alden United Methodist
 Women
 Allen-Heath Memorial
 Foundation
 Bank One of Petoskey*
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Benson
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bishop
 Ms. Naomi Borwell
 Mrs. Walter B. Boyd
 Brauer Productions
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Buist*
 Charlevoix Co. Comm.
 Foundation
 Christ Child Society
 Warren W. Cline, III and
 Della Lewis
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Crinnion
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter C.
 Dendrinis
 Downtown Traverse City
 Association
 Easling Construction
 Ms. Gae Ellery and Mr. Don
 Butkovich*
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd Endresen
 First Presbyterian Church
 of Elk Rapids
 Fitzmaurice-Garvin
 Insurance
 Hon. and Mrs. Charles M.
 Forster
 Great Lakes Energy
 Ms. Theresa Harding*
 Home Depot
 Huntington Bank
 Interlochen Women's Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Jehle
 June 8th Foundation
 Kalcher, Vanderwal & Torrey, P.C.
 Keswick United
 Methodist Women
 Mr. and Mrs. George Knight
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kolak
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 Leland United Methodist
 Women
 Ms. Sandra Lockwood
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Michigan Women's
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 Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nichols
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 Mr. and Mrs. Neill R.
 Schmeichel*
 Schmuckal Oil Co.
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 Ms. Peggy Snowday
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 Mr. and Mrs. Frank
 Tenbusch*
 The Art and Mary Schmuckal
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 Mr. and Mrs. Herman
 J. Thomas, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard A.
 Thompson
 Virginia Tile Co.
 Wal-Mart of Traverse City
 Dr. Gregg B. Wickstrom, M.D.
 Mr. Robert E. Wolfe
 Women's Resource Center -
 Three Generation Circle of
 Women Givers*
 Anonymous Donors (6)

**denotes new member in 2004*



Annual Giving Clubs

dream makers

\$1000 and above

Allen-Heath Memorial Foundation
 Bay Point Family Care & Laser Skin Clinic
 Chuck and Barb Benson
 Benzie County Community Chest
 Bill Marsh Auto Group
 Dick and Linda Buist
 CharEm United Way
 Charlevoix Co. Comm. Foundation
 Child & Family Services of Michigan, Inc.
 Christ Child Society
 Mr. Warren W. Cline, III and Ms. Della Lewis
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cornwell
 Ms. Gae Ellery and Mr. Don Butkovich
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd Endresen
 Daniel and Cameron Farley
 Gaylord Ford Lincoln-Mercury
 Grand Traverse Allergy
 Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
 Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
 Great Lakes Energy
 Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman
 Dr. and Mrs. Forbes Houghan
 Huntington Bank
 Johnson Clark Printers, Inc.
 Mr. Kevin Kelly
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Lagina
 Marshall Fields
 Michigan Women's Foundation
 Ms. Carol Morris
 The Oleson Foundation
 Optimist Club of Traverse City
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Otto
 Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation
 Quota International of Traverse City

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rorick
 Rotary Charities of Traverse City
 Jim Scherrer and Deb Kalchik
 Mr. Arthur M. Schmuckal
 Stanton Charity for Children
 Stratus Marble and Granite
 TRAVERSE, Northern Michigan's Magazine
 Mr. and Mrs. Craig Tester
 The Art and Mary Schmuckal Foundation
 Ms. Ethyl Thors
 Tom's Food Markets
 United Way of Northwest Michigan
 Wenco of Michigan, Inc.
 Ms. Mary Jo Winn
 Mr. Robert E. Wolfe
 Women's Resource Center, Three Generations Circle of Women Givers
 Anonymous (2)

heroes

\$500-999

Steven and Sallie Adams
 Alden United Methodist Women
 Senator and Mrs. Jason Allen
 Sheila and John Bailey
 Bay Area Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Carter
 Ms. Pamela G. Dow
 Elmbrook Golf Course
 First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids
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 Front Porch Photography
 Mr. and Mrs. James Gartner
 Grand Traverse Children's Clinic
 Grand Traverse Resort Golf Center
 Great Wolf Lodge
 Ms. Theresa Harding

Hertler and Associates
 Household Finance, Ken Crawford
 June 8th Foundation
 Kalcher, Vanderwal & Torrey, PC
 Mr. Scott Kalchik and Ms. Victoria Perez
 Kiwanis Club of Traverse City,
 Mr. and Mrs. George Knight
 Mr. David Matter
 Michigan Specialty Insurance Agency, Inc
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Mitchell, Jr.
 Dr. Carolyn Moats
 Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Morgan
 Northern MI Bowling Proprietors
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 Ms. Clarine W. Olson
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Quinn
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ribel
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Rollert
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Scherrer
 Mr. and Mrs. Neill R. Schmeichel
 Ms. Regina Schram
 T.J. Maxx
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tenbusch
 The Mead Foundation
 The Stadheim Foundation
 Dr. Gregg B. Wickstrom, M.D.
 Woody's Settling Inn
 Yellow Book
 Doug Zernow & Marilyn Ueno
 Anonymous (1)

champions

\$250-499

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 Black Star Farms
 Mr. Brian Blood
 Mrs. Walter Boyd
 Mr. Robert Bremer
 Brookside Inn/Hotel Frankfort

Chicago Marriott Downtown
 Cornillie Concrete
 Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth, PC
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Derosha
 Daniel and Denine Dingeman
 Dominion Exploration and Production
 Easling Construction
 Families First Monthly
 First Congregational Church U.C.C.
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ford
 Garden Goods
 Mr. and Mrs. William Gauthier
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 Ms. Dorothy Anderson Grow
 Hagerty Classic Insurance
 Ann and Ron Haggett
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hayden
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 Mr. and Mrs. William Janis
 Ms. B. Jane Johnson
 Mr. Ivan Kalchik
 Dr. and Mrs. John Kerns
 Keswick United Methodist Church
 Kewadin United Methodist Church
 King's Challenge Golf Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kolak
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 Mr. and Mrs. Donald LaVire
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 Lichty Upholstery
 Ms. Anne Lipp
 Mr. William Lowder, Lowder Insurance
 Mancelona United Methodist Church
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom McLenithan
 Ms. Dorothy Miller
 Munson Health Care
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Myers
 Nest of Grand Traverse
 Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nichols
 Northern Michigan Sonic Hockey Club



Annual Giving Clubs

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P.O.M. Associates, Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. Brad Barnes	Epoch Restaurant Group -	John Robert Williams
Parsons Ringsmuth PLC	Mr. and Mrs. Bruce B. Barnes	Latitude	Photography
Peninsula Partners	Ms. Abby Beale	Mr. and Mrs. Mike Eva	Jim and Alice Johnston
Molly and Peter Phinny	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beasley	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Evans	Jordan Exploration Company,
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pickering	Mr. and Mrs. James Beckett	Faith & Company	L.L.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Rapin	Becky Thatcher Designs, Inc.	Ms. Pamela Fay	Tracy and Brittany Kaminski
Mr. Peter Raphael - Davenport	Mr. and Mrs. Otto Belovich	Federicos Ltd.	Dr. and Mrs. Charles Kehr
University	Belstone Gallery & Gifts	Ms. Mary Lu Fennell	Kewadin United Methodist
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Scherrer	Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bernson	Ms. Kathleen Ferguson	Church
Schmuckal Oil Co.	Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Bird	First Community Bank	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kincaid
Silver Swan	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bishop	Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey E. Fisher	Kiwanis Club of Petoskey
Ms. Peggy Snowday	Mr. and Mrs. Gary Blackmore	Fitzmaurice-Garvin Insurance	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knoll
Mr. and Mrs. Art Snyder	Alfred and Joan Bonney	Forget-Me-Not Florist	Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Kolarik
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Thompson	Brake and Alignment Service	Ms. Donna Gamache	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kullman
Mr. and Mrs. James Tompkins	Center	Mrs. Carol Garneau	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kurczewski
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Verano Tan	Mr. Edward Buysse	Technologies, Inc.	Leland Community United
Virginia Tile Co.	C & H Maintenance	Mr. and Mrs. William Good	Methodist Church
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Ms. Linda Wasielewski	Mr. and Mrs. Mike Carda	Great Lakes Ignition & Supply,	Ms. Josephine MacLean
Ms. Connee Wayne	Dr. and Mrs. William Cartwright	Ms. Patricia Green	Magnum Hospitality
Mr. and Mrs. L. James	Chateau Chantal	Grey Hare Inn	Manistee-Mason District
Wetherbee	Chateau Grand Traverse	Holly and Davis Hack	Dental Society
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Williams	Melissa and Lawrence Chenault	Hagerty Classic Insurance	Marriott International
Windborne Photographic	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Chormann	Mr. John Harrigan, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. William Marsh, Jr.
Studios	Clark Walter Serrine Architects	Hattie's	Mr. Mark Martinek
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	Cornillie Concrete	Drs. David and Leslie	Dr. and Mrs. William McCool
	Cornwell - Callahan Architects	Heimbürger	Mr. and Mrs. Robert McQuilkin
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	Creative Needle Arts Ltd.	Hilltop Corner	Michael H. Rummel D.D.S.
	Cutler's	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoisington	Michigan Specialty Insurance
	DeSoto & Associates	Ms. Carolyn Hollenbeck	Agency, Inc.
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	Mr. and Mrs. H. John Ellis, Jr.	Huntington Mortgage Group	Old Town Optical
	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Emerich	Mr. and Mrs. Dave Irish	Mr. and Mrs. William Olsen

family friends

\$100-249

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 Marwan and Mary Abouljoud
 Mr. Wilbert Ackerman
 Mr. and Mrs. Willis Allen
 Americana Collection
 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Andrews
 Ms. Elizabeth Ascione
 Astro Building Products
 Ms. Carole Bailey
 Ms. Anne Ball



Annual Giving Clubs

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Pasadena Oil & Gas Corp. | Mr. and Mrs. Alan Scott | Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Taylor | Mrs. Virginia F. Walker |
| Mr. and Mrs. William Paul Pavlova | Mrs. Joan E. Seabrook | Teter Orthotics & Prosthetics | Ms. Margaret B. Warren-McTaggart |
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| Piche Family Chiropractic PLLC | Sladek's Catering | The Dance Center | Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pomper | Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith | Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Thomas, Jr. | Weber Curtin & Pahssen LLC |
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| Ms. Mary Pratt | Smith & Johnson Attorneys, P.C. | Timberlanes | Mr. and Mrs. Paul Welch |
| Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Preston | Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sommerville | Toad Hall | Whispering Waters Bed & Breakfast |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ramsay | Specialty Silicone Fabricators | Traverse Connection LLC | Mr. and Mrs. Harry Widman |
| Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rathburn | St. Patrick Catholic Church | Traverse Tall Ship Company | Dr. Charles R. Williams |
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| Robinsons, Inc. | Leo and Linda Stallman | Twin Birch Golf Course | Windows |
| John and Elizabeth Ruckrich | Mr. and Mrs. George Strassburger | Two on the Town, Inc. | Mr. and Mrs. Williard Wolfe |
| Phil and Denise Rusinowski | Studio Josef's | Valerio's | Mr. Wayne Workman |
| S.E.A.S. Monmouth Chapter | Sunset Lodge Bed and Breakfast | Ms. Josephine Vaughan | Mr. and Mrs. John Wuerfel |
| Sam's Club | Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Swanson | Mr. and Mrs. Lance Vernam | Younkers |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sampson | Mrs. Helen C. Swint | Dr. Petra Von Kulajta and Mr. Timothy Werner | Anonymous (17) |
| Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Schreier | TNT Electrical Systems, Inc. | | |
| Peter and Jane Schwartzfisher | Tarras Construction, Inc. | | |

SAVE *the* DATE



FOURTH ANNUAL

Festival of Tables

Grand Traverse Resort Governors Hall
Saturday, May 7, 2005 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Marketing Director Gina Aranki accepts a check for Pregnancy Counseling program support from Young Women For Change, a program of the Michigan Women's Foundation. The Michigan Women's Foundation is the first and most experienced statewide foundation that identifies, supports, and invests in women and girls. Young Women for Change was the first girls-as-grantmakers program in the nation. The program began in the greater Grand Traverse area in 2001 and has granted about \$20,000 to organizations serving girls and young women.





From the Executive Director...

Improving Children's Lives by Doing Business Differently

As we close in on the Holiday Season and the end of 2004 it is clear that the challenges our nation's families face are ever increasing. Governmental funding

that supports services to vulnerable children and families continues to be limited. For the foreseeable future, it is expected that there will be progressively fewer dollars available from the public sector to provide care and treatment to the children in our state that need it most.

Locally, the need for the programs provided by Child and Family Services has never been greater. We are providing foster care to over 200 abused, neglected or delinquent youth every day. We expect to place upwards of 60 special needs children into permanent adoptive homes this year. Our behavioral health and school based services are providing rehabilitative and support programs to youth who have been sexually abused, have substance abuse problems, live in families plagued by domestic violence, or have experienced school failure in greater numbers all the time.

Child and Family Services has been successful in implementing creative solutions to continue our commitment to provide high quality services to achieve our mission: *"to promote the safety and well being of children, adults and families by providing services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth."*

In the past year, we have experienced great success in:

- Adding depth to our current services
- Expanding school-based services to disconnected youth with high needs
- Diversifying the sources of private and public funds that support our work

We have employed three complementary strategies to achieve this accomplishment:

1. We have developed partnerships with community foundations, corporate foundations, private businesses and the donating public to enhance our work with youth in our Foster Care, Adoption, Family Group Decision Making and VOCA Sexual Abuse Treatment and Support programs. With the support of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, the Michigan's Women Foundation, and Marshall Field's, we have begun to offer the Independent Living program, the Young Women's Practicum, Art Therapy and Recreational Adventure programs to our young clients. We have also received either free passes or greatly discounted services from area businesses to help

us stretch the public dollar—adding value to our services and providing our youth and their families with exciting experiences that help them build their confidence and reestablish their connection to their community.

2. We have forged strategic alliances with other area agencies and schools to bring together resources and expertise to better serve people in need while maximizing the public dollar. In the past, schools and agencies may have developed important services independent of each other. That approach encourages unforeseen duplication of effort and is more competitive in nature. True collaboration has the benefit of building synergy among the partners to provide to the public innovative services that bring together the best of the participating agencies. We are proud of our collaborative efforts with the schools to reconnect youth who are failing in the classroom, of our progress in joint programming with Child Guidance that led to the transfer of the Treatment Foster Care programs, and of the Safe Haven program developed in conjunction with the Women's Resource Center to provide for safe visitation and exchanges for families experiencing domestic violence. Our community has benefited from the commitment of Child and Family Services to work and design programs with partner agencies.
3. We have had a very effective year of advocating at the State level to keep children's issues in the minds of our legislative team as they make difficult budget decisions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our talented and committed staff and Board of Directors for their hard work in assuring that CFS continues to provide innovative and compassionate services to the families of northwestern Michigan.

Never has the phrase, "we're in this together" resonated more strongly than at the present time. We rely on the strength of our partnership with you to continue to find creative and efficient ways to meet the needs of the children and families in our community.

Thank you for your connection to Child and Family Services. It is because of you that we continue to face our future with hope and optimism. I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Jim Scherrer, Executive Director



Those Year-End Appeals

With roughly one million charities operating in the United States — and most of them seeking year-end contributions — it's no wonder your mailbox bulges with appeal letters as the calendar winds down. Seems like everybody wants your money! Sorting through the mail, you find familiar organizations and some you don't recognize. You wonder, "How did these people get my name?"

To add to the onslaught of mail, your telephone rings more often. "Please help us meet our financial crisis!" "We'll have to close the doors if we don't pay our bills." "Children will starve unless you give." "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!"

It's downright confusing . . . and irritating.

As you consider the variety and intensity of the financial appeals you receive, we hope you will remember at least five things about us here at Child and Family Services.

1. **We count you as part of our family.** Whether you are a recent friend of Child and Family Services or a longtime supporter, we value your interest and involvement. We consider you a partner with us in this great enterprise. You are part of our family. And together, we share a common commitment, a common mission.

2. **We remain true to our mission.** Our mission is *to promote the safety and well being of children, adults and families by providing services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth.* We lay our plans, build our budgets and monitor our results to better achieve this mission. You can have confidence that we are staying the course.

3. **We depend on your faithful giving.** Whether a small annual gift or a larger estate gift, we rely on your financial support to help us accomplish our important mission. The more you give, the more we can do. It's that simple. On the other hand, without you we could not exist.

4. **We pledge financial fidelity.** We wince when we hear of scandals involving nonprofits organizations because this casts a shadow over all charities. And so we want to affirm to you that financial integrity is extremely important to us. We maintain strict accounting and reporting rules, and we are nationally accredited in all our services. Our books are open and we invite any donor to scrutinize us to the limit. Please know that your contribution to Child and Family Services is treated carefully and with a keen sense of stewardship.

5. **We offer personalized service.** Do you have appreciated stock or real estate that would make a tax-wise gift? Do you need to receive lifetime income as part of your gift to Child and Family Services? Planned Giving Director Tom Carter can help answer these and similar questions. Tom is happy to talk with you about your giving goals and to show you various options. He will guard your confidences and respect your freedom. He is also available to consult with your professional advisors.

As the year-end appeals come and your thoughts turn more toward charitable giving, please remember Child and Family Services. And please call Tom Carter at 231.946.8975 to learn more about year-end gift planning.



Young participants in the Cadillac Area Experiential Education Program this summer enjoy the Platte River by kayak. 18 at-risk youth learned new skills and had tons of fun in the two-week program generously supported by the Cadillac Area Community Foundation.

Board of Directors

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President

Larry Angove

Linda Buist

Linda Coburn

Ross DeFries

Holly Hack

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Galen Krupka

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3785 Veterans Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
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