

Update

• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES of NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •



WINTER 2006

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Forever family models love, commitment despite challenges



Daniel, Susan, Rachel and Steven with Judge David Stowe at Daniel's adoption hearing.

Meet Steven and Susan O., who relocated to the Traverse City area six years ago from Boston; their daughter Rachel, 8, and the newest member of the family, Daniel, who is nearly two.

Susan worked as a volunteer for the inaugural Festival of Tables benefit in 2001; she then chaired the Silent Auction Committee in 2002. In that role, Susan began to learn and think about the reasons behind the event. She came through Child and Family Services' front lobby regularly to look over printing jobs and make other event decisions, and saw the many faces of those who come to us

for help. She read about our mission, looking for ways to incorporate it into the Festival of Tables and draw attention to it. And then there was a personal connection, too.

"We knew we were unable to have additional children and wanted to enlarge our family," Susan says. "We looked at several adoption choices, which brought us full circle to Child and Family Services."

Steven and Susan began foster parent training in the fall of 2003. Susan had deep reservations. "We knew we didn't have to make a commitment yet, so we went ahead," Susan recalls. "I was very fearful of the disappointment of not getting a placement, of not having things work out." Steven, on the other hand, felt completely serene in the knowledge that whatever happened would be the right thing. "Each day in our family, we give one another everything we can," he says, "because we don't know about tomorrow. This has been true in our foster parent and adoptive parent roles as well."

The family's first placement came in March 2004 with an emergency phone call for a home for sibling girls. That was a short placement, and then the Ovalles waited until late November, when the call came for a brand new baby, just five days old. "I fell in love with the two little girls that were here only overnight," Steven recalls with a laugh. "Danny was no exception."

Danny was a beautiful, blond-haired, blue-eyed boy, full-term and healthy. Life became a whirlwind of visits with Danny's biological family and others who helped assess some early

Continued on next page...



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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"We were very grateful for the patience, balance, and compassion on the part of Child and Family Services to help make the system work for Danny."

“Forever family...” *continued*

medical challenges the baby faced. “It was an extremely intense time for us all,” Susan says. “I never would have thought I’d have the capacity to balance the complex emotions of the process. At the same time I wouldn’t trade it for anything. It has been an amazing learning experience every step of the way.”

One of the main goals of foster care is to support the reunification of the biological family if possible. Steven and Susan took this commitment very much to heart. “We felt as though we were living a dual life,” Susan says. “On one hand was our compassion for Danny’s parents, especially as one mother to another, and their need for help with their son, whom they very much wanted. It was also very important to us to convey our respect for Danny’s biological family to our daughter Rachel during this time. Ultimately, we were dedicated to what was in Danny’s best interest.”

It became increasingly clear that what was right for Danny was not reunification. “We all tried so hard,” reflects Susan. “We were very grateful for the patience, balance, and compassion of Family Resources Specialist Marilyn Wiesner and everyone at Child and Family Services to help make the system work for Danny. And we definitely believe the system did work.”

Danny’s adoption was finalized in August following a process that lasted nearly all of his young life. He still faces medical concerns, which the family is adapting to. His big sister Rachel was five when the journey began, and has a great intuition about her new role. “We were always careful about expectations,” Susan notes. “When we talked about the future, we’d say, ‘if Danny stays with us...’” Steven concurs. “We involved her in the process as much as we could. She asked lots of questions. She was well informed about what was happening.” As parents, Steven and Susan’s goal is that both of their children will fulfill their individual potential.

The future feels bright. “We’re complete as a family,” Susan says. “But as thrilled as Rachel is with having a little brother, she makes it clear that she would also like a little sister!”

Steven feels that parenting is “an honor and a privilege,” and says that if Rachel and Susan want another child, who is he to stand in the way?

“We just renewed our foster care license. Never say never!” laughs Susan.



From the Director

As another year winds down, I reflect on the growing importance of the partnership that Child and Family Services has with you, our extended family of supporters. Next year, we will celebrate our 70th year of serving the abused and neglected children and families in need in northwestern Michigan—a real milestone for us and for those who have come to us for adoption, foster care, safe visitation and exchange, and counseling services including sexual abuse counseling and pregnancy counseling.

Child and Family Services began as a charitable organization fully funded by donations from those in the communities we serve. Time passed, and the responsibility for the protection of children passed from the goodwill of the community to the state of Michigan. In times of financial prosperity, the marriage of donations and governmental funding was sufficient to support comprehensive services for the children and families who were in desperate need of relief from abuse, neglect, and domestic violence.

Unfortunately, hard economic times in our state have resulted in a terribly under funded system of care for children in need. Your support has really never been more important.

Even though times are hard, our staff continually provides inspirational care to the children and families we serve. Just last week, a teenaged girl who had recently left foster care for independent living suddenly lost her financial support. We hope that youth who have lived through trauma and loss will be successful as independent adults. But in many cases they are left to themselves without support after only a short course of needed services in foster care. In this case, our foster care worker made a quick referral to our Family Group Decision Making coordinator and together they stabilized this young woman, shopped with her to stock her refrigerator, and gathered the community resources she will need to alleviate her crisis and continue her journey to independence.

Thanks to a generous local family foundation, we are beginning to develop a pilot program, “Family Knows Best” to help address the needs of youth returning from foster or residential care to their families or independent living. It’s an exciting new direction, another innovation of Child and Family Services, to build on our Family Group Decision Making process to assure that the resources for the most vulnerable in our community are in place when they need them.

It is your contributions, large and small, that keep our services at the high quality and cutting edge we demand of ourselves. As we weather the storm of insufficient governmental dollars for the needs of children and families, we are grateful for your connection to Child and Family Services. The support you provide for the critical work of protecting and healing children and families in need is inspiring.

I wish you a safe and fulfilling holiday season and a healthy and happy 2007.

Jim Scherrer, Executive Director





gratitudes

A partial list of organizations we'd like to thank for their generosity. (March - October 2006).

Michigan Women's Foundation, \$2500 to support Pregnancy Counseling;

Quota International of Traverse City, \$1000 to support Pregnancy Counseling;

To Wal-Mart Petoskey, \$350 in unrestricted support;

Rotary Camps and Services, \$1625 to assist with orthodontic treatment for a child in foster care;

Optimist Club of Traverse City, \$1000 in unrestricted support;

The Oleson Foundation; \$15,000 in unrestricted support;

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Youth Advisory Councils, \$8280.50 for programs supporting youth in foster care;

St. John's Episcopal Church, Petoskey, \$1100 to provide respite opportunities for foster parents;

The Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, \$2000 for foster parent respite;

The Bay Area Insurance Agents Association, \$1250 in unrestricted support;

The Alabaster Foundation, \$25,000 to support the "Family Knows Best" program.

The Depots Deliver!



The Home Depot donated a badly needed storage shed and provided a great group of volunteers to assemble it in our backyard! The Depot Crew flanks Child and Family Services Information Technology Manager John Bassett, center.



Child and Family Services Executive Director Jim Scherrer gratefully accepts a \$500 donation from Office Depot representatives in celebration of the store's Grand Opening this summer.

GoodSearch Help our fund-raising efforts while you surf the web...

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it as you would any search engine and it's powered by Yahoo! so you get great results. Go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Child and Family Services of Northwestern Michigan as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime!



Tell everyone you know—surf with GoodSearch.com!

Annual Giving Clubs



OCTOBER 1, 2005 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

DREAM MAKERS

(\$1000 and above)

Allen-Heath Memorial Fdn.
John and Sheila Bailey
Bay Area Insurance Agents Assoc.
Chuck and Barb Benson
Benzie Co. Community Chest
Bill Marsh Automotive Group, Inc.
Blue Green Vacation Club
Char-Em United Way
Child & Family Services of MI
Christ Child Society
Warren W. Cline, III & Della Lewis
Crystal Mountain Resort
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Doering, III
EMJ Design Consulting
Gae Ellery and Don Butkovich
Todd and Amy Endresen
Leslie and Erik Falconer
Daniel and Cameron Farley
William and Carolyn Gauthier
Grand Traverse Band
Grand Traverse Regional
Community Foundation
Lynne and Tim Hertler
Home Depot
Huntington Bank
John and Matilda Shumsky
Foundation
Johnson Clark Printers, Inc.
Dr. Richard Kosinski
Edith Krause
Labadie's Summer Place Casuals
Lisa and Bob Lazar
Local Revenue Sharing Board
Marriott International
John and Jane W. Matz
Michigan Women's Foundation
Dorothy Miller
Sam and Beth Mitchell
Ben and Lisa Morgan
Northern Family Intervention
Services
The Oleson Foundation
Alan Olson
Optimist Club of Traverse City
Jack Otto
Jean and Terry Paquet
Paragon Laser Hair Removal &
Skin Care
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
Community Foundation
Quota International of
Traverse City
Craig and Mary Rapin
Marvin and Luella Rorick
Rotary Camps and Services
Rotary Charities of Traverse City
Jim Scherrer and Deb Kalchik
Rick and Joni Scherrer
St. John's Episcopal Church

Stanton Charity for Children
Tilestone Imports
Tom's Food Markets
Linda Tyson
United Way of Northwest MI
Wachovia Foundation
Williams Chevrolet
Robert E. Wolfe
Anonymous (4)

HEROES

(\$500 - \$999)

Steven and Sally Adams
Alden United Methodist Women
Brad and Polly Barnes
Bay Area Oral and Maxillofacial
Surgery
Big Water Media
Robert Arden Biggs
Carpet Galleria
Michelle Cook
Warren and Suzanne Creamer
Day Signs Inc.
Richard and Connie Deneweth
Gary Depky - Closets Plus
Downtown Traverse City Assoc.
Ann and Russell Edens
Elk Lake Community Choir
Bruce and Julie Falconer
Mary Lu Fennell
First Congregational Church U.C.C.
First Presbyterian Church
of Elk Rapids
Charles and Dianna M. Forster
Grand Traverse Resort
and Casino
H. Cox & Sons, Inc.
HFC - Member HSBC Group
Holly and Davis Hack
Hertler and Associates
Thomas and Cherie Hitchens
Marlene and Forbes Houghan
Hramiec Hoffman
Hub International
Regina and Kevin Jaeger
Robert Kalchik
Scott Kalchik & Victoria Perez
Kingsley Golf Club
Kiwanis Club of Traverse City, Inc.
Lowder Insurance Group
David and Anne Mann
Michigan Specialty Insurance
Agency, Inc
Migration Home
Gene and Peggy Miller
Dr. Carolyn Moats
Dennis and Sheila Morgan
Munson Health Care
Office Depot
Katie Phelps

Priceless Photography - Liz Price
June Rengo
Mark and Jackie Ribel
Robert W. Baird, Inc.
Dave and Liz Rollert
Mr. and Mrs. Neill R. Schmeichel
Alan and Norena Scott
T.J. Maxx
Frank and Evelyn Tenbusch
Textron/Cone Drive Operations
The Mead Foundation
Stephen and Sarah Trippe
Lance and Carol Vernam
Wal-Mart of Traverse City
Wal-Mart Foundation
Windows
Wooden Gallery
Randall Zeller
Anonymous (5)

CHAMPIONS

(\$250 - \$499)

Mike and Lorene Abel
Alden United Methodist Women
Terry and Shannon Beia
Barbara Bensley
Betsie Bay Furniture
Brian Blood
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bowman
Boyd's Sewing Center
Brown Lumber Company
Brys Estate Vineyard and Winery
Patrick and Jane Buck
Bruce and Mary Byl
CAP-COM, Inc. Paging & Cellular
Audrey Carlson
Janet Carrington
Cedar Creek Interiors Grand
Traverse
George Comden
Gordon and Jean Cornwell
Dennis and Ann Couturier
Details - Cabin & Cottage
Distinctive Windows and Doors
Gary and Sandra Drew
Daniel and Debra Edson
Jennifer Eis
Elements of Harbor Springs
Elmbrook Golf Course
Ethan Allen Interiors
Excel Rehabilitation Services
Ferguson's Fireplace and Stove
Center
First Presbyterian Church
of Elk Rapids
Brian R. Fisher, D.D.S.
Floor Covering Brokers, Inc.
Ford Insurance Agency, Inc.
Forest Lakes Canvas
Dr. Fred Foust

Garden Goods
Branko and Diane Gegich
Grand Traverse Children's Clinic
Grand Traverse Resort Golf
Center
Grandview Golf Club
Char and David Gray
Great Wolf Lodge
Hagerty Classic Insurance
Annette M. Harland
Steven Hodges
Bruce and Terry Hooper
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Howes
Bill and Susie Janis
Mr. and Mrs. John Jay
Gerald and Patricia Jehle
Amy Johnson
Brad and Cindy Jurik
Kalcher, Vanderwal & Torrey, P.C.
Karen Youker Photography
Paula H. LaClaire
Michael LaVire
Lake Ann Lions Club
Lichty Upholstery
Robert and Phyllis Mactavish
Mancelona United Methodist
Church
Tom and Shirley McLenithan
Phillip and Nancy Jean Meek
Michigan Specialty Insurance
Agency, Inc
Sam and Karen Mitchell
Neiman Marcus
New York Luxury Limo
Kenneth and Diane Neyer
Northern Michigan Bowling
Proprietors
Northern Shores Real Estate
Northland Contractors
P.O.M. Associates, Inc.
Papers & Presents
Parsons Ringsmuth PLC
Marian Petersen
Ed and Patty Petrick
Tom Pfeifle
George and Nancy Powell
Joseph Quandt
Quilt-N-Bee
Roger and Ruth Quinn
R.W. Popp Excavating, Inc.
Republic Bank
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral
Home
Brian Riggs and Jill Little
Sara Lee Corporation
Arthur M. Schmuckal
Cal and Carol Schmucker
Art and Martha Snyder
Larry and Linda Sommerville
Scott and Merilee Suomela
Terra-Bella



Thanks to every one of you for your generous support!



Annual Giving Clubs

Textron/Cone Drive Operations
The Bedroom Company
The Rowe Inn
Herman and Laurie Thomas
Bud and Mary Jean Thompson
Toad Hall
James and Ida Tompkins
Traverse City Golf & Country Club
Irene Veraldi
James and Karen Wadsworth
Wal-Mart Petoskey Store
The Honorable Howard Walker
Mr. and Mrs. L. James J.
Wetherbee
James and Beverly Wheaton
Patrick and Jean Wicksall
Yellow Book
Doug Zernow and Marilyn Ueno
Anonymous (4)

FAMILY FRIENDS

(\$100 - \$249)

A.G. Edwards & Sons
David and Jacqueline Adams
Mrs. Carl Albright
Allure Salon
American Copper and Brass
Amical
William N. Anderson
Donald and Marla Badour
George and Merry Ball
Bonnie M. Barnes
Baskets Full of Gifts
Eloise and George Basta
Lani Bathje
John and Ruth Bay
Bay Supply and Marketing
Abby Beale
Bear Creek Drywallers, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. James Beckett
Becky Thatcher Designs, Inc.
Phillip and Ann Begley
Karen Belanger
Belangers Septic Service
Belle Tire
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Belovich
Belstone Gallery & Gifts
Ivor and Marci Berry
Reginald and Ann Bird
Timothy and Marilyn Black
Todd Bonzelet
Thomas and Sue Booth
Joe Bottenhorn
Bottrell Wireless
Bounce Arena
Brake and Alignment Service
Center
Ellen Briggs
Ronald and Nancy Broquet
Sara Busby

Dr. Gualberto Buzon, Jr.
Jan and Mike Carda
Arch and Robbie J. Carmichael
Bill and Sandra Cartwright
Central State Bank
Charlevoix Area Garden Club
Mrs. Margaret Clark
Clark Walter Serrine Architects
Edward and Barbara J. Collins
Charles and Barbara Cox
Ciao Bella
Crown Golf Club
Crystal Lake Golf Club
Crystal Mountain Resort
Daniel and Gail Dall'Olmo
Dance Arts Academy
DeYoung's
Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth, PC
Sandy Denton
Dr. and Mrs. Preston Dilts
Dolly's Best
Dr. Robert Dotterer
James and Dorothy Dowd
Brian and Renee Drabik
Mark and Barb Dressler
Gary and Sandra Drew
Rosie and Ray Duell
Scott and Valerie Duensing
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Dutmers, Jr.
Patricia E. Dutmers
Easling Construction
Daniel and Debra Edson
Edson Farms
Elements Spa Salon
Elk Rapids United Methodist
Church
Ella's
Mr. and Mrs. H. John Ellis, Jr.
Elmbrook Golf Course
Mike and Barbara Eva
Kathleen Ferguson
Firefly/310
Folgarelli's
Donna Gamache
Lawrence and Martha Garber
Carol Garneau
Margaret Gass
Charles and Pamela Godbout
Gold and Silver Center
Grace Salon
Grand Traverse Refrigeration, Inc.
Grand Traverse Women's Clinic
Great Harvest Bread
Green Grasshopper Lawn Service
Paul and Bertha Gully
Don and Barbara Hakala
David Halperin
Elinor Harrigan
Joanne L. Harrigan
John Harrigan, Jr.
Agnes Hayden

Montgomery and Kimberly
Hegewald
James and Carol Helmer
Peggy Holland
Home Elements
Michael and Margaret Hooton
House of Denmark
JP and Jennifer Huntington
Impres Salon Spa
Kevin and Cynthia Jackson
Gerald and Patricia Jehle
Jim and Alice Johnston
Kalcher, Vanderwal & Torrey, P.C.
Ivan Kalchik
Karen Youker Photography
Kay's Lingerie & Leisurewear
John and Laura Keenan
Marilyn Kelley
Kennel Club Dog Bakery
Kilwin's of Traverse City
Jeffrey and Julie Kimpton
King's Challenge Golf Club
Kiwanis Club of Petoskey
Philip and Margaret Knapp
Jerry and Robbie Kolak
Korner Gem
Katherine Kosorski
Edmund and Anne Krigbaum
Richard and Galen Krupka
Walter and Elaine Kurczewski
Lawrence and Linda Kustra
La Becasse
John and Hope Laitala
Ann Laughtery
Margaret Burrows LeGrand
Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms
Leonardo's Tree Service
Chris and Richard Lesley
Dorothy Litzer
Wayne and Terry Lobdell
Lobdell Management Services, Inc.
Douglas and Lynne Luciani
Michael and Susan Maasberg
Magnum Hospitality
Jim and Barb Maitland
Steven and Judith Marshall
James Martin
Mason Interiors
Mel and Judy Matchett
Max's Service
Guy and Kathleen Maxwell
Phillip Michael and Kathryn May
Beverly R. McCamman
Patrice McDonald
McLain Cycle and Fitness
Leon and Folly Michael
Michigan Specialty Insurance
Agency, Inc
Midwest Tractor & Equipment
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Moore
Larry and Kelly Nelson

Mark Newhouse
Nels and Lynda Nichols
Drs. Walter C. and Susan C. Noble
North Bay Produce
Northwestern Bank
O.I.L. Energy Corp.
Odom's Reuse
Randi Hood Oehlers
Old Mission Tavern/La Bella
Galleria
Old Town Optical
Oleson's Food Stores
Clarine W. Olson
Optimist Club Of Petoskey
Paulette and Grant Parsons
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer J. Peterman
Jeffrey and Kristen Peters
Peterson-MacGregor &
Associates
Ken and Gail Petterson
Piche Family Chiropractic PLLC
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pickering
Pine Hill Village Gardens
Pine-Tech
Dr. Bethany Piziks, D.D.S.
Paul and Barbara Poehlein
Poppycock's
Mary Pratt
Premier Health and Fitness
Priority Health
Pure Essence
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Mrs. Kenneth Ramsay
Gina and Rod Ranger
Daniel Rice
Richmond Architects
James and Barbara Rowlett
John and Elizabeth Ruckrich
Sara Lee Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Sawin, II
Don Schmuckal
William and Judith Schneider
Leonard and Sally Schreier
Robert and Kris Send
Patricia Sharpnack
Kelvin Shaw
Frances Shepard
Sherwin Williams
Silver Swan
Hugh and Beverly Simmonds
John and Jennifer Skinner
Sladek's Catering
Barbara S. Smith
Bill and Lee D. Smith
Smith & Johnson Attorneys, P.C.
Robert and Judi Smuck
Peggy Snowday
Leo and Linda Stallman
Stewart-Zacks
Sulzer Enpro
Herbert and Lucille Swanson



Annual Giving Clubs



OCTOBER 1, 2005 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

FAMILY FRIENDS (cont'd)

Helen C. Swint
 TC Trojans Soccer Boosters
 TNT Electrical Systems, Inc.
 Jill Taylor
 Teter Orthotics & Prosthetics Inc.
 The Dance Center
 The Leaping Lizard
 The Lighting Center

Kathryn Thomas
 Thompson Pharmacy
 Thomas and Mary Torbet
 Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Townsend, Jr.
 Traverse City Golf Center
 Traverse Motors
 Anne Tremain
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Turner
 Jan Underwood

Virginia Tile Co.
 Margaret Warren-McTaggart
 Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver
 Dr. Catherine Webb
 Janet Webb
 What to Wear
 Charles and Janet Whetsel
 Tom and Joan Wigton
 Greg and Donna Williams

Larry and Carol Winegar
 Robert and Keri Wojan
 Willard and Joan Wolfe
 Wayne and Sharon Workman
 Wright Brothers Repair, Inc.
 Theodore and Virginia Wynne
 Yarn Quest
 Yoga for Health
 Robert H. Young, Jr.
 Anonymous (17)

Lifetime Giving Clubs

* denotes first year at this giving level



Founders Club

Lifetime giving \$50,000 and above

Terry G. Brandt
 Robert P. and Maxine C. Briggs
 Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
 Chippewa Indians
 Grand Traverse Regional Comm. Foundation
 Robert T. Hughes Foundation
 Robert B. Murchie Trust
 The Oleson Foundation
 Jacob Nicholas Rickers Estate
 Rotary Charities of Traverse City
 United Way of Northwest Michigan
 Gretchen Votruba
 Anonymous Donors (1)

President's Club

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

Allen-Heath Memorial Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Anderson
 Chuck and Barb Benson
 Benzie County Community Chest
 Char-Em United Way
 Charlevoix County Community Foundation
 Cherryland Electric Community Caring Fund
 Child & Family Services of Michigan, Inc.
 Gordon and Jean Cornwell
 Gae Ellery and Dan Butkovich*
 Exchange Club of Traverse City
 Leslie and Erik Falconer
 Daniel and Cameron Farley
 Fifth Third Bank
 Huntington Bank
 Keswick United Methodist Church
 Kiwanis Club of Traverse City, Inc.
 Paula H. LaClaire
 Martin and Olivia Lagina
 Michigan Women's Foundation
 Clarine W. Olson
 Optimist Club of Traverse City
 Jack Otto
 Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
 Community Foundation
 Quota International of Traverse City
 Marvin and Luella Rorick*
 Arthur M. Schmuckal

Target Corporation Community Relations
 Textron/Cone Drive Operations
 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)

Gold Circle Club

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

Alden United Methodist Women
 John and Sheila Bailey*
 Bank One of Petoskey
 Bill Marsh Automotive Group, Inc.*
 Mrs. Fred Bishop
 Naomi Tudor Borwell
 Mrs. Walter B. Boyd
 Brauer Productions
 Dick and Linda Buist
 Cadillac Area Community Foundation
 Christ Child Society
 Warren W. Cline, III and Della Lewis
 John and Theresa Crinnion
 Peter and Peggy Dendrinon
 Downtown Traverse City Association
 Easling Construction
 Todd and Amy Endresen
 First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids
 Fitzmaurice-Garvin Insurance
 Charles and Dianna Forster
 William and Carolyn Gauthier*
 Grand Traverse Allergy
 Great Lakes Energy
 Hagen Family Foundation
 Theresa Harding
 Hertler and Associates*
 Home Depot
 Interlochen Women's Club
 Gerald and Patricia Jehle
 Kalcher, Vanderwal & Torrey, P.C.
 Keswick United Methodist Women
 George and Cheryl Knight
 Jerry and Robbie Kolak
 Kathy Kostrzewa
 Edith Krause*

Leland United Methodist Women
 Jeff and Kristi Link*
 Sandra Lockwood
 Lowder Insurance Group
 Robert and Phyllis Mactavish
 John and Jane W. Matz
 Betty Mitchell
 Sam and Beth Mitchell*
 Sam and Karen Mitchell*
 Carol Morris
 Nels and Lynda Nichols
 Douglass North
 Northern Family Intervention Services,
 Northern Michigan Bowling Proprietors
 Alan F. Olson
 Passageways Travel
 Peninsula Construction And Supply, Inc.
 Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
 Dave and Liz Rollert
 Rotary Club of Elk Rapids
 Roselynn Ruis
 SBC
 Jim Scherrer and Deb Kalchik*
 Rick and Joni Scherrer
 Mr. and Mrs. Neill Schmeichel
 Schmuckal Oil Co.
 Judith Schuler
 Bill and Lee D. Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith
 Peggy Snowday
 St. John's Episcopal Church
 Stanton Charity for Children
 Frank and Evelyn Tenbusch
 The Art and Mary Schmuckal Foundation
 Herman and Laurie Thomas
 Bud and Mary Jean Thompson
 Petra Von Kulajta and Timothy Werner
 Wachovia Foundation*
 Wal-Mart of Traverse City
 Gregg B. Wickstrom, M.D.
 Williams Chevrolet*
 Robert E. Wolfe
 Women's Resource Center -
 Three Generation Circle of Women Givers
 Doug Zernow and Merilyn Ueno
 Anonymous Donors (9)

New This Year!!

Use Your IRA to Help Child and Family Services

Last summer, President Bush signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006 to promote charitable gifts from donors who are 70½ or older. Under the Act, you can make a lifetime gift using funds from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) without negative tax effects. Before the law took effect, you would have been required to: 1) report any amount taken from your IRA as taxable income; and 2) take a charitable deduction for the gift, but only up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. The end result was that some donors had to pay more in income taxes than if they didn't make a gift at all.

This is no longer the case.

Today, these IRA gifts can be accomplished easily and without tax complications. In addition, you can make the gift now, while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity.

You may contribute funds this way if:

- You are age 70½ or older
- The gift is \$100,000 or less each year
- You make the gift on or before Dec. 31, 2007
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- You transfer the gift outright to one or more public charities, but not supporting organizations or donor advised funds

How The Pension Protection Law Works

John, aged 75, lives comfortably on his pension, savings, and social security. He has \$300,000 in an IRA and is required to take minimum distributions from his account each year and is taxed on those funds. This also results in more of his Social Security income being subject to tax. John decides to give \$25,000 to Child and Family Services this year. If John transfers \$25,000 from the IRA, he will avoid paying income tax on that amount. John has found an easy way to benefit CFS without tax complications. If he desired, he could give more than \$100,000. The new law allows a maximum \$100,000 gift in both the 2006 and 2007 tax years. So John could give \$100,000 each year. If he were married, and his spouse had an IRA and was 70½ or older, she could also give up to \$100,000 each year.

How to Make a Gift

Contact your IRA custodian to transfer your desired amount, as well as your tax adviser for more information specific to your needs. Child and Family Services' Director of Donor Relations, Kathy Ferguson, is available to answer any questions you may have at 231.946.8975 x 1041.

This information is not intended as legal, tax or investment advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney, tax professional or investment professional.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Sixth Annual Festival of Tables



Saturday, May 12, 2007

10 am - 2 pm

**Grand Traverse
Resort and Spa**

Celebrating spring,
good friends, good food
and drink, and the art
of home entertaining



Youngsters from the School Success Program hit the water at South Bar Lake last summer. The School Success Program uses recreational activities to help children learn communications skills, improve school performance, and function better within their families and communities.



Volunteers: The *heart* of CFS



Think about the influence you have on your family and friends, colleagues, and peers at school or church. Now think about the impact you could have with a complete stranger. Next time you go grocery shopping, take the time to smile and chat with the person behind you in line. A friendly conversation will immediately ease any impatience you may feel. Now imagine taking that test one step further. Smile at a teenager and offer a compliment. They won't know what to do or think—until they start to talk your ear off because you've expressed an interest! Now try this on a teenager in foster care and you could change things forever.

Youth in foster care are often like dormant seeds, waiting to be nurtured. A friendly adult mentor showing an interest in a vulnerable "invisible" child or teen can make a huge impact on their self-worth. Support and guidance from caring adults can change their views of adults as untrustworthy, and of themselves as undeserving of such attention and care. It can improve their social skills and their relationships.

At Child and Family Services, we believe the value of a volunteer is enormous—not only for helping us raise the necessary monies to fund a variety of services that foster and develop social and emotional healing and growth, but to empower the volunteer to make a difference in a child's life. Volunteers can offer a model of care and support that will help youth in foster care connect with a cross-section of adults. This in turn will help build bridges to higher education and employment as teens "age out" of foster care.

The goals for our newly expanded volunteer program, including opportunities to have direct contact with youth and families, are:

- To enhance our services to clients through volunteer energy and expertise
- To provide clients and volunteers with new skills and perspectives
- To increase our contact with the community we serve
- To grow informed advocates on child welfare issues



Lynne Hertler (left) and Sheila Bailey are Child and Family Services' 2006 Volunteers of the Year

Volunteers are vital to the success of our fundraising events; they created our golf outings and Festival of Tables. They have also put in hundreds of hours helping with mailings, creating photo albums, Power Point presentations and more. At this year's Annual

Dinner we recognized many outstanding volunteers, including board members and two very special Festival of Tables Committee Chair volunteers who have dedicated many hours of service and excellent work this past year. The value of their commitment to our organization and the children we serve is priceless. They know how to raise necessary monies for the cause. They're not afraid of asking for donations because they believe in the work and they have witnessed the difference we make in our community. They have skills and ideas to share with kids who are in desperate need of adult role models.

Thanks to all of you who give of your time and energy to make a difference to the most vulnerable among us. And remember:

"Immortality lies not in the things you leave behind, but in the people your life has touched."

Anonymous

You have something to contribute to the life of a child. Call Director of Volunteer Relations Linda Sommerville at 947-8975, ext 1010 to learn how.

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