

Update

• CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES of NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN •



SPRING 2004

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Community Foundations: *Partners in Program—and Legacy—Building*

As Child and Family Services takes new steps this year to build our endowment—our financial foundation for future needs—we can't help but turn to our local community foundations for guidance and support. Over the years, they have provided us with a great deal of both.

In general, community foundations enhance the quality of life by supporting programs through grant-making, encourage and facilitate charitable giving, and build a permanent endowment for community needs. The three community foundations spotlighted here—the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation (GTRCF), the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation—also share a commitment to teaching philanthropy to youth.

The foundations' Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) have been generous to Child and Family Services in recent years, funding a variety of programs supporting teens in foster care such as independent living skills education, experiential

adventure, and school-based support groups. Programs which support foster parents have also resonated with community youth, and several grants have been made through area of interest funds for other programs like Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), which facilitates family preservation, and pregnancy counseling.

Community foundations are also skilled at helping people give in the way that best benefits them as well as the charitable work they wish to support. Foundation staff are versed in the various vehicles for giving that provide tax benefits or other return to the donor, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable bequests.

"We introduced our Community Charitable Gift Annuity program in 2002 as a way for donors to receive a life income and leave a remainder to benefit the community," notes GTRCF Executive Director Jeanne Snow. "Donors seem to understand that their giving is more important than ever, especially with state and private foundation support waning."

"Building community is really what we're all about," says Maureen Nicholson, Executive Director of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. "A gift to Child and Family Services through the Community Foundation is, as our tag line states, 'for good—for ever'. And gifts to community foundations receive a special Michigan tax credit, so giving is a win-win."

To learn more about charitable giving through a community foundation, call GTRCF at 231-935-4066, Charlevoix County Community Foundation at 231-536-2440, and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation at 231-348-5820.



(above) Girl Scouts from Old Mission School troop #58 decorated and filled holiday goodie bags for children entering emergency foster care.



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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From the Executive Director...

Helping our Children Reach for the Stars

Let me start by saying thank you for your help in supporting the work of Child and Family Services (CFS). Your connection to CFS and your commitment to improving the lives of northern Michigan's children in need is highly valued and critical in this time of scarce

and shrinking resources.

As the months wind down toward November's election, we are in the midst of an ongoing and increasing barrage of political messages from candidates and political parties. The issues that we hear about daily focus on the war in Iraq, the candidates' military records, the economy, the unemployment rate, and taxes. Somewhere, way down the list of priorities, come the issues that affect the welfare of children—pervasive poverty, poor or non-existent health insurance, and child protection.

At CFS, we are committed to doing more for the children who so desperately need us. They come to us from homes where their basic needs for protection, security, and nurturance have been unmet. In some cases they were in harm's way on a daily basis. Their concentration, out of necessity, is consumed with their very survival—leaving them little energy to dedicate to reaching their full potential. By meeting their basic needs and providing a safe, comfortable, and nurturing environment, we can then help them begin to take advantage of more advanced CFS programs, gain ground in school, and develop their special talents. One program featured in this newsletter is our Young Women's Practicum, designed to provide a series of educational and fun activities to expand and redefine the way our teen girls view themselves and their potential.

While youth in foster care have their basic needs covered by state funding, we actively pursue private donations, foundation and corporate grants and develop partnerships with local businesses to help us provide them with "beyond the basics" experiences that will help them reach for the stars. See the partial listing of these generous partners (*right*) and on our website, www.cfsnwm.org

We recently received a generous, anonymous grant to help us build our endowment and enhance our fundraising efforts. The endowment is key to our ability to continuing our mission—to enhance the lives of the children who come to us for help and to advocate locally and nationally for them—well into the future. In this newsletter you'll meet new Planned Giving Director Tom Carter, who will spearhead our endowment effort.

On behalf of the hundreds of northwestern Michigan children we will help this year, thank you again for your continued support.

Jim Scherrer,
Executive Director



(right) Key Club members at Interlochen Pathfinder school coordinated a holiday drive for gifts for families in need through CFS in December.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

Our thanks to those donors who contribute or discount goods and services for the Young Women's Practicum and other CFS youth programs:

- Robin Ahart
- Audie's Restaurant, Mackinaw City
- Bob's Place Restaurant, Alanson
- Boyne City Lanes
- Camp Daggett
- Camp Hayo Went Ha
- Crystal Mountain Resort
- Feeney Chrysler Dodge, Gaylord
- Grand Traverse Auto
- Grand Traverse Yacht Club
- Great Lakes Children's Museum
- Kellie Hammond
- Harbor Springs School
- The Homestead Resort
- Just for Kicks
- McDonald's of Petoskey
- Northport School Climbing Wall – Tom and Deb Wetherbee
- Ranch Rudolph Stables
- Ravenhill Discovery Center
- Scuba North
- Wagbo Peace Center
- Walloon Lake Equestrian Center

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

Jane Cline
Emma "Sue" Johnson

"When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight." –Kahlil Gibran



SAVE the DATE

Third Annual Festival of Tables

Grand Traverse Resort
Governors Hall

Saturday, May 22, 2004
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

tee up fore kids

Golf Scramble

Mistwood Golf Course
Wednesday, June 9, 2004
12:30 p.m. shotgun start



Golfers enjoy dinner and drinks following "Tee Up FORE Kids" 2003 at Mistwood last May.



Beautifully decorated tables were one of the highlights at Festival of Tables 2003.

The Young Women's Practicum Program: *New Opportunities For Teen Girls In Foster Care*



With the grant support of **the Three Generations Circle of Women Givers, the Michigan Women's Foundation, and the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC)**, the new Young Women's Practicum program is off to a very successful start. The first group occurred in November-December 2003, and the second is in progress. The groups include the sharing of personal information and activities like journaling to help the participants get to know themselves, give voice to their beliefs, and get to know each other. An initiatives day, which provides group activities that teach lessons in teamwork, trust, and consequences is a early favorite with most young women, as is the job shadowing. Job shadowing matches participants with women mentors in non-traditional careers, who share a typical workday with them. Other sessions include building interviewing and personal presentation skills and several cultural outings. The group culminates in a "graduation" ceremony, where the girls, their foster care workers, and mentors share a meal. This event is one the girls will plan themselves, including finding a location, deciding a menu, printing invitations and planning the program.

"We were most excited by the fact that there are no unwilling participants in the groups," notes Allison Rogers, who facilitates the Practicum with Courtney Padgett. "Since it's a voluntary program, this is so important to its success. The groups help establish a new level of trust between ourselves and the girls, and between the girls themselves. I think they feel really empowered, good about the possibilities the future might hold for them."

And that is the goal of the program—to help young women who have had such difficult starts in life realize that they can pursue their dreams, and that anything is possible. It's a gift we hope to give all our kids, one at a time.

For more information about the Young Women's Practicum or how you can help, call 231.946.8975.

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A Simple Guide to Making a Charitable Bequest

Including Child & Family Services in your will is a simple process. Bequests can be included in your will at its creation or added via a codicil later. It is important to review and, if necessary, to update your will periodically with the help of your attorney and/or financial advisor.

Many Options Are Available

A charitable bequest can take many forms. You can give a fixed sum of money or certain property. Or you can give a percentage of your estate. Your gift can be *contingent*; that is, you bequeath the funds to a named individual if that person survives you. Otherwise, the funds are paid to one or more charitable organizations.

Keep it Simple

You could simply say: "I give to Child & Family Services of Northwestern Michigan, 3785 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684 the sum of [dollar amount or percentage of estate] to be used at the discretion of its governing board."

A gift like this is the most useful, because it allows CFS to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds.

If you wish, however, you can specify how the funds are to be used. If you have a special purpose in mind, it is best to consult Tom Carter, Planned Giving Director.

You can also restrict the principal of your gift, requiring Child & Family Services to hold the funds permanently and use only invested income.

There are many assets you can use to fund a planned gift. Here are a few to consider:

- **Retirement plan assets** – possibly your most tax-efficient option; consider giving money accumulated in pensions, profit-sharing plans, 401(k)s or IRAs.
- **Securities** – typical gifts include common and preferred stock, mutual funds and savings bonds.

- **Cash (including Certificates of Deposit)** – a cash gift allows charitable organizations to meet their most pressing needs.
- **Life Insurance** – consider donating policies you no longer need, thereby reducing the size of your estate and receiving a charitable deduction.
- **Personal Property** – items such as artwork, jewelry, and real estate also make valuable gifts.

Introducing TOM CARTER Planned Giving Director



A big Child and Family Services welcome to Tom Carter, who will apply a broad management and planned giving background to his new duties in our Development Office.

Tom spent 30 years in the employ of Sears Roebuck and Company, most of those in the Chicago and Detroit areas. Following his retirement from Sears, Tom went to work for the Chicago area Boy Scouts of America, Glenwood School for Boys, and St. John's Home in Grand Rapids. These positions helped hone his varied skills and knowledge of the financial options open to those interested in planning their giving. We are very excited by the opportunities that we expect will open to us with Tom on board!

Personally speaking, Tom has been married for 39 years to Toni, who is an adoption coordinator with Bethany Christian Services. They live in Suttons Bay and have three happily married children. Their grandchildren, four girls and three boys, are all under age six! Tom and Toni grew up in Detroit, graduated from Wayne State University, and are extremely happy to be back home in Michigan. They both enjoy nature and outdoor sports and are active volunteers.



child & family services
of Northwestern Michigan

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