



UTREACH NEWS

A publication of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County & The Marnee and John DeVine Foundation

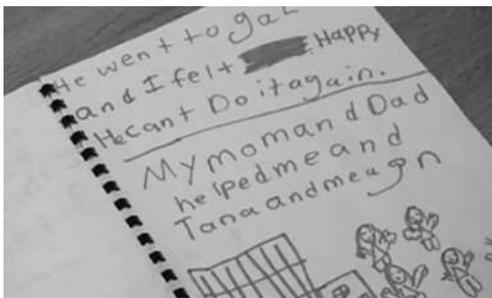
4925 Packard Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48108 • 734.971.9781 • www.csswashtenaw.org SPRING 2014

Program Profile: Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC)

According to Darkness to Light, a national child abuse prevention organization, "Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious consequences."

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we all can play a role in preventing child maltreatment by promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our community. At CSSW, the Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center (WCAC) provides services, from case management to prevention education assisting families affected by abuse.

"It's a very rough thing to go through, but my child and I were comfortable here. Thank you for the support! We both need it!" - WCAC Client



Continued on page 7.



A Birth Mother's Selfless Act

Making an adoption plan doesn't involve easy decisions. Through open adoption at CSSW, fifteen year old Alex saw a path she knew was best for her and her baby—to place her child with Ann and David Babcock.

Ann and David had one child, Sam, conceived after enduring years of infertility treatments. The pregnancy was dangerous and Sam was born prematurely with Downs Syndrome. Doctors discouraged the couple from attempting another pregnancy.

The Babcocks chose CSSW after visiting other adoption agencies and learning how each approached open and semi-open adoption. With the prospect of such a life changing process ahead, it was essential for them to feel comfortable with the agency, its perspective and policies. After their initial informational meeting at CSSW, the Babcocks were ready to begin.

Open adoption was important to Ann, as she was adopted through a closed process. Even though her parents made sure she understood that she was special and chosen, Ann thought an open process offered more advantages to the adoptive child. The Babcocks did have some concerns about the possibility of the birth mother changing her mind after placement, but CSSW parent education classes addressed their questions and helped them to understand the issues.

For Alex, selecting an adoptive family was the most joyful part of the process. She chose criteria that narrowed down the adoption pool to three families. As soon as she heard the Babcocks' story, she appreciated that they were

Story continued on page 5.

What's Happening at CSSW

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The Oaks Adult Day Program is Expanding!

Due to the growing number of participants, The Oaks is adding another small program within its current location at the Ann Arbor Church of Christ.

The program will run from 10 am - 2 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and, at times, will join the larger program for activities. For more information, please call 734.662.4001 or send an email to theoaks@csswashtenaw.org.

Holiday Celebrations

Grandparents As Parents (GAP), Healthy Families and The Oaks Adult Day Program each held joyful holiday celebrations for their client families. Activities included delicious food, crafts, wonderful music and touching speeches.

An extra special thank you to the following for making these events so successful:

- Meijer on Jackson Road
- Fortitude Inc
- DJs Sean Duffy and Graham Rockwood
- Ritchie Coleman of the Department of Public Safety, Pittsfield Township
- Joe McCadden, CSSW Tax Program Coordinator
- Eastern Michigan University student musicians
- The many individuals that volunteered their time and talents and contributed to the success of these events



In the Spirit of Giving...

CSSW Supporters Step Up to Help Those In Need!

Providing help. Creating Hope.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who made a contribution through the Good Samaritan Appeal or a specific program request appeal. The more than \$225,000 received will help families in the most difficult of circumstances. Whether the challenge is mental health issues, homelessness or hunger, your generosity makes a tangible difference.



Through your support, we help people live safe, meaningful and independent lives in a more just community. There is much to do, but with your partnership, we will change lives together for a better year ahead.

This holiday season, food, hundreds of gifts and personal care items were donated, making it possible for the families we serve to enjoy a special Christmas. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously!

PKSA Karate School Ann Arbor
Immaculate Conception Parish
St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
St. Joseph Catholic Church - Dexter
St. Joseph Catholic Church - Ypsilanti
St. Mary Student Parish
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

2014 CSSW Board

Congratulations to the new CSSW Board Leadership. At the January meeting, the following leadership was instated:

Anna Schork, Chair
Stephen Loney, Vice Chair
Ian Glassford, Secretary
Pamela Jones-Sexton, Treasurer

CSSW Board

Steven Matthews
 David Mengebier
 Sharon Redmer
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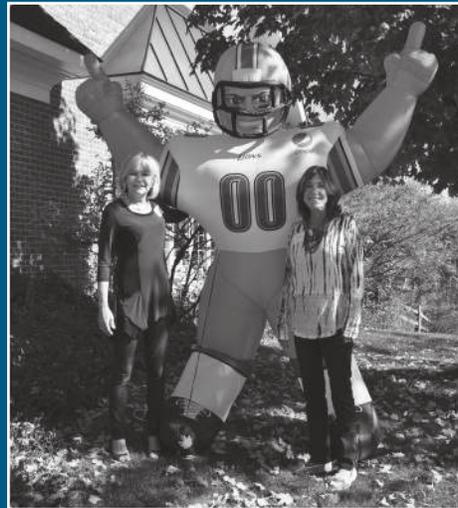
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 Mary Kay Pearson
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John DeVine,
 President Emeritus*
 Marnee DeVine,
 Trustee Emeritus
 Dorothy Farhat,
 Trustee Emeritus

*in Memoriam

THANK YOU for meeting us on the goal line to Score A Touchdown for CSSW!
 Presented by the Marnee & John DeVine Foundation, the event raised over \$80,000 for CSSW programs. We are especially grateful to Event Chairs Margot DeVine-Mumby & Mary Kay Pearson and Honorary Chairs Herb & Chris Black for spearheading the event.



Event Chairs Mary Kay Pearson and Margot DeVine-Mumby with "Tiny"



Mary Beth Strassel with Honorary Chair Chris Black



Dick Carlisle with Honorary Chair Herb Black



Al Mumby, Margot DeVine-Mumby, Marnee DeVine, Ashley Mumby, Suzanne DeVine and John Koselka

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 United Bank and Trust
 *Gifts of Philanthropy

SAVE THE DATE!
 CSSW Fall Event
**"Painting A Brighter Future
 for Those in Need"**
 New Day and Time!
 Friday, October 10 · 6:00 p.m.

CHIP IN FORE CHILDREN

WHAT Chip In Fore Children Golf Outing

WHEN Monday, June 9, 2014

WHERE Travis Pointe Country Club

BENEFITING Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center
Father Patrick Jackson House Program

SIGN UP www.csswashtenaw.org

734.971.9781 ext. 313

development@csswashtenaw.org



NEW DATE!

8 am check in · 9 am shotgun start

2:30 luncheon

\$135 per golfer · \$540 per foursome

\$40 luncheon only

Travis Pointe Country Club

2829 Travis Pointe Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Join us for a fun filled day as we Chip-In Fore Children on the NEW event date! Golf includes breakfast, cart, snack, luncheon, prizes, raffle, contests and much more!

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County's First Annual PAWS IN THE PARK

Fetch your sneakers and your furry friend and join us at Gallup Park for the first annual CSSW Paws in the Park!

Participants will enjoy:

- A 1.65 mile Fun Run/Walk
- Animal Costume Contest
- Food Cart (for fee)
- Live Music
- Activities for Kids

Where: Gallup Park

Date: June 7, 2014

Time: Registration @ 8:30 am,
event begins @ 9 am

Cost: \$20/individual, \$75/team

For every team member that raises \$100, receive a free t-shirt!

To sign up:

csswashtenaw.org/csswpawsinthepark

#CSSWPawsinthePark

email: jgiron@csswashtenaw.org

phone: 734.971.9781 ext. 323

Costumes Encouraged!



Your team has the opportunity to raise money for a specific program or the entire agency, so don't forget to select who your pet will represent!

FUSE Awarded MSHDA Grant!

FUSE (Frequent User System Engagement) is a pilot project in a nationwide effort integrating housing, care management and health services to assist high risk adults caught in a revolving door of hospitals, emergency rooms, rehabilitation and other crisis services.

FUSE was awarded an Emergency Solutions Grant from MSHDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority). This grant provides "bridge" housing, allowing the FUSE program to assist with rent, security and utility deposits for twenty individuals for up to four months. FUSE now has the ability to house these clients while they search for more permanent housing, avoiding a period of homelessness in the interim.

MSHDA has also included FUSE in their "Moving Up Initiative". This new program allows people with shelter care vouchers to "move up" to a less intensive service voucher, one that does not require case management. FUSE is working with its community partners to identify good candidates for the fantastic thirty NEW vouchers designated for Washtenaw County!

Birth Mother Story continued from page 1.



experienced parents capable of taking care of her birth child.

When it came time to meet, Alex was extremely nervous. Would the Babcocks look down on her because she chose adoption over parenting?

When Ann found out their profile had been chosen, she was excited with the news. "I think I began yelling, jumping up and down and crying. I kept asking, 'Really??'" But they, too, were nervous.

Despite the nerves all around, the meeting went well. "Everything felt right", Alex said. And by the end, Ann hugged Alex. In fact, Alex and Ann spent a lot of time together for the rest of the pregnancy, making Christmas cookies, shopping, going to prenatal appointments and discussing names.

On a snowy February day, Alex gave birth to a baby girl. Alex permitted Ann to be in the delivery room and even cut the umbilical cord. The baby's name — Gwendolyn (Gwendie) Abigail Renee Babcock — acknowledges special people involved in the lives of both mothers.

The Babcocks stayed with Alex while she was in the hospital and 24 hours later Gwendie went home with Ann and David.

At first Alex and Ann spoke by phone daily, but as life resumed for both mothers, contact between them became less frequent. The Babcock family experienced more excitement when Ann found out she was pregnant, just four months after bringing Gwendie home. Gwendie has a brother named Eli, ten and a half months younger.

Alex is now a freshman studying Social Work at Eastern Michigan University, trying to balance a demanding class

schedule with work and studying. When she looks back on making an adoption plan, she recognizes how incredibly difficult it was. She also admits that with a toddler to care for, she would not be able to keep up with her job and education.

Alex and the Babcocks still have a very close relationship. Alex is able to visit with Gwendie, and in fact considers the Babcocks as family. Ann sends Alex texts and calls her with updates. This frequent contact made the transition much easier for Alex. She visits more infrequently now, but is never forgotten, and is included in Gwendie's bedtime prayers almost daily.

To read more adoption stories, visit csswashtenaw.org and check out the CSSW Feature Stories on the home page!

Birth Mother's Day Celebration

Each year, CSSW holds a Birth Mothers' Day Celebration the Saturday before Mothers' Day, honoring birth mothers who chose adoption and the people that support them. Alex attends the celebration



every year. She enjoys hearing the stories of others, and knowing that she isn't alone. The event includes brunch and an interactive ceremony with music, readings and public affirmations. If you or someone you know has been touched by adoption, please contact:

Julie Payne | jpayne@csswashtenaw.org | 734.971.9781 ext321.

Holiday Shopping Event



On December 12, **Senior Services** collaborated with Ten Thousand Villages for a holiday shopping event. Ten Thousand Villages is an organization run by volunteers who sell fair trade goods from around the globe. For this event, 10-15% of the profits went to Senior Services.

Peggy Harless, RSVP Program Director and Dorothy Keskitalo, Director of Senior Services were on site to share program information with shoppers.

Grant Awards

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Casa Latina
BLUePRiNT For AGiNG

Austin Community Foundation

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw

Buhr Foundation

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw

Community Foundation for SE Michigan

Van Dusen Income

Consumer Energy Foundation

2013 Tailgate

DTE Energy Foundation

2013 Tailgate

Michigan Association of United Ways

Casa Latina

Religious Action for Affordable Housing

Washtenaw Prisoner ReEntry

Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw

The J. F. Ervin Foundation

Senior Services - Tax and Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program

Intentional Communities of Washtenaw

United Way of Washtenaw County

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Washtenaw County

BLUePRiNT For AGiNG

Social Support Therapy Dog Workshop



The Pawsitive Comfort Social Support Therapy Dogs Workshop took place on November 21. Social workers and other attendees earned Continuing Education Units from nationally renowned service dog trainer and behavioralist Michelle McCarthy. Training included how therapy dogs can help in community settings (hospitals, schools, etc) as well as in family homes with special needs

individuals. Michelle also discussed best practice and legal requirements of owners and institutions.

Additionally, Kit Fuller, a local psychotherapist, shared her experience with therapy dogs and the wonderful contribution they make to her practice.

Become A Foster Parent



The Foster Care program recently participated in an AATA Bus campaign from January 27 - March 30 to promote community awareness of the new program.

Have you ever considered opening your home to a child in need? The Foster Care program is looking for more foster parents. Free monthly orientation meetings are held at the Packard Office on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, please call 734.971.9781 ext 448.

Washtenaw County's Inaugural 60+ Survey

The Blueprint for Aging (BFA) program has developed a survey for people over the age of 60 to establish a baseline of what leads towards positive aging and independent living factors. This data collection is the first of its type to take place in Washtenaw County.



To kick off the survey, on February 20 the BFA hosted a Community Providers Meeting for more than ten

organizations that serve older adults, as well as nearly 50 Masters Students from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Providers were given the opportunity to voice questions, provide input on potential survey locations and areas of interest, and learn how they can get involved. The BFA will be working in conjunction with students from the University of Michigan School of Social Work to complete 600 surveys by the end of May.

For more information or to take the 60+ Survey, please call 734.926.4655 or visit blueprintforaging.org.

Sexual Abuse Perpetrator Facts

Many people do not realize it, but a good portion of perpetrators are other children. Here are some statistics about perpetrators:

- As many as 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older, or more powerful children.
- The younger the child victim, the more likely it is that the perpetrator is a juvenile. Juveniles are the offenders in 43% of assaults on children under age six. Of these offenders, 14% are under age 12.
- Juveniles who commit sex offenses against other children are more likely than adult sex offenders to offend in groups, to offend at schools, and to have more male victims and younger victims.
- The number of youth coming to the attention of police for sex offenses increases sharply at age 12 and plateaus after age 14. Early adolescence is the peak age for youth offenses against younger children.
- A small number of juvenile offenders — one out of eight — are younger than age 12. Females constitute 7% of juveniles who commit sex offenses.

“It was very helpful, I learned things about how to deal with situations like this and I would definitely refer people here who needed help.” - WCAC Client

About The WCAC

The WCAC is a child-focused program in which representatives from many disciplines including: Law Enforcement, the Department of Human Services, Prosecutor’s Office, and Mental Health, Medical and Victim Advocates collaborate for the benefit of the victims and their families. They conduct forensic interviews and make team decisions about investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of child abuse cases. The program helps minimize the trauma to children and families by offering crisis intervention services, coordinated case management and emotional support as the case goes through the legal system.

The WCAC’s services are free of charge. In addition to forensic interviews, they also provide short term counseling for parents and children, medical exams, court preparation and prevention education, or “Body Safety”.

Since its inception in 2005, the WCAC has performed **over 1,550 forensic interviews, averaged 50 medical examinations a year since 2008, and saved the county 36%, or \$1,047 per sexual abuse case.** In 2013 alone, the WCAC performed 218 forensic interviews and counseled an additional 37 children and teens.

If you or someone you know would like **more information** about the WCAC and its services, including counseling and prevention education, **please visit csswashtenaw.org or call 734.544.2925.**

FATHER PATRICK JACKSON HOUSE | 30th Anniversary St. Patrick’s Feast

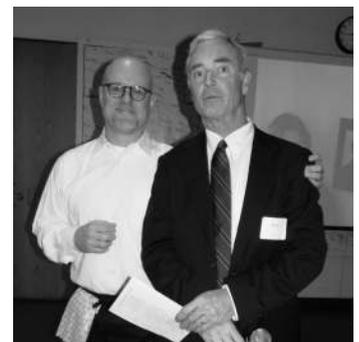
Sunday, March 13, the Father Patrick Jackson House celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a Feast that would have made the Irish proud! Paesano’s beautifully recreated traditional Irish fare while Grizzly Peak Brewery provided the tasty pints. The space at St. Francis of Assissi Church was made even more authentic by the fiddling of Kate Outterbridge strolling through the crowd.



COO David Garvin, Father Larry Jackson & President Larry Voight.



Strolling Fiddler Kate Outterbridge

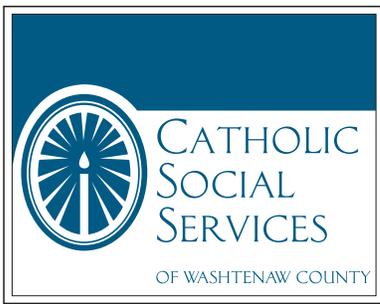


Event Chairs Joseph Easthope & Brian Kelley.

It was an important time to remember this common purpose we share as a community, made even more meaningful by the stories from residents past and the heart-felt words from our event chairs, Joe Easthope and Brian Kelley. For the last six years, Joe and Brian have spear-headed the Feast with dedication, tireless work, and positive energy. Thanks also to Scott Wright, the volunteers at St. Francis and everyone who attended or supported the event and the ongoing legacy of Father Pat Jackson.

Thank you to our Sponsors:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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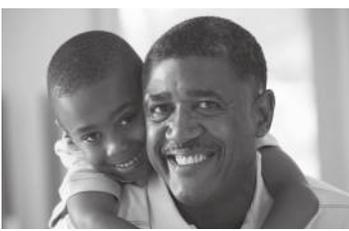


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on Facebook and Twitter



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please visit us on Facebook
or email
marketing@csswashtenaw.org.

24 HOUR GIFT MATCHING ON MAY 6



May 6, 2014



Give Local Ann Arbor Area

Imagine if your support dollars could double their impact with the click of a mouse. On May 6, you can do just that!
CSSW is proud to be one of the non-profits selected by the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation for Give Local Ann Arbor, a day of matched giving. For 24 hours on May 6, every dollar you give to support the ongoing work of CSSW is doubled with all proceeds coming straight to the many important programs we provide the community. Your \$10

gift becomes \$20, doubling the significance of every dollar donated!
Look for a special guest coming to help us spread the word. We'll roll out the red carpet soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars for May 6 and Give Local Ann Arbor. With your help, we can double the impact we make on our community.
Donations can be made on May 6 ONLINE ONLY at www.givelocalannarborarea.org.