



# 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 2018

## WELCOME!



We are delighted to welcome Peg Bravo as our new president and CEO! Peg began her term on April 16, 2018, and has since been busy getting to know our dedicated staff and board of directors.

Peg brings a dynamic range of skills to her new position. She has been a registered nurse for over thirty years, ensuring her appreciation of and commitment to client needs. Numerous clinical and leadership roles inform her broad view of organizations and systems in the healthcare industry. Her executive experience in operating multiple health-system and college wellness centers across the country will be invaluable for an organization of Catholic Social Services of

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Photo by Paolo Villanueva

## CHANGING LIVES

The problems our clients experience are rarely simple ones with easy answers or easy solutions. Not all of our clients are sympathetic, nor do they always demonstrate great judgment. Often, they don't have great options or choices. Denise, for example, was overwhelmed with her life. She was separated from her husband who was abusive to her and her twin daughters. But he made a decent living, and he was better than she was at talking with social workers and police officers. He made a persuasive case that Denise was abusive and too "crazy" to be taken seriously. Sometimes, Denise thought he must be right. She was convinced

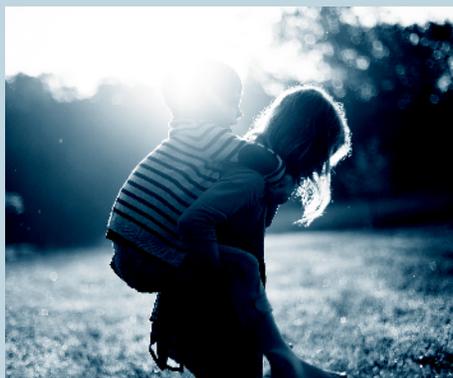
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## SEXUAL ABUSE—HOW TO RESPOND

What would you do if a child told you he/she had experienced every caregiver's worst nightmare — sexual abuse?

Tragically, child sexual assault is anything but rare. 10% of all children will be sexually abused before the age of 18. So what should you do if a child you care for tells you it happened?

When children disclose sexual abuse, they may be worried they won't be believed or frightened they will be punished. False reportings of child sexual abuse are uncommon. To reassure the child, follow these tips:



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Washtenaw County's size and scope.

Peg also brings her experience and knowledge serving as a trustee on both the Saint Joseph Mercy Chelsea Board and the United Methodist Retirement Communities Board.

"CSSW is excited to have Peg join the organization as president and CEO," remarked Pamela Jones-Sexton, board chairman. "She has a strong commitment to our mission of serving those most vulnerable in our community and continuing the legacy and excellent work of Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County."

Peg has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Detroit Mercy and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix.

Please join us in welcoming Peg to our CSSW family!

## BOARD NEWS

### Welcome Our New Board Members!

#### Garry Faja

Garry Faja is the retired CEO of St. Joseph Mercy Health System where he was responsible for six hospitals, as well as the regional Trinity Health system. He continues an active community role as a board member of the Michigan Hospital Association Foundation and as a cabinet member of the Sister Yvonne Gellise Endowment Fund for Supportive Services for the Homeless in Washtenaw County. Garry's comprehensive understanding of the complexities of health care administration in the context of our unique community is of tremendous value to the agency. Garry and his wife Barbara live in Ann Arbor.

#### Marilyn Geiger

Marilyn Geiger is a long-time advocate and supporter of CSSW. She served as a trustee for The Marnee and John DeVine Foundation for nine years and has been instrumental in its success—raising critical dollars, working on committees, and chairing two fundraising events. Her dedication to the community stems from her background in nursing administration and is predicated on her commitment to spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental health. Marilyn and her husband Doug live in Saline and attend St. Andrew Catholic Church.

#### Dr. Susan Dorr Goold

Dr. Susan Dorr Goold practices general internal medicine and teaches primary care, professional ethics, and health policy at the University of Michigan Medical School. Susan has focused her research work on health care policy, particularly its impact on disadvantaged individuals and families. Her understanding of diverse patient populations, as well as the social determinants of health, will provide the agency with critical insights for establishing best practices. Susan and her husband Michael live in Ann Arbor and attend St. Francis of Assisi.

#### Karin Romero

Karin Romero has a Master's in Information Technology and Management from Tecmilenio del Sistema Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico and works as an IT consultant at Domino's Pizza. As technology plays an increasingly important role in the provision of services, Karin's experience and knowledge will prove especially useful. Additionally, Karin brings her fluency in Spanish, her expertise in program operations, and her work in fundraising to advance the work of the agency. Karin lives in Ann Arbor and attends St. Mary's Student Parish.

## THANK YOU!



We are so grateful for the outpouring of love and generosity we received from our **Lenten Appeal**.

Special thanks to St. Francis of

Assisi and St. Joseph Dexter for their contributions to our Food Pantry!

Thank you for helping us

*Seek Justice and Change Lives*

Turn your compassion into action—support CSSW  
[www.csswashtenaw.org/donate](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/donate)

Sign up for email updates at [marketing@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:marketing@csswashtenaw.org)

she couldn't make it on her own.

Thanks to her husband's manipulations, Denise came to CSSW with a domestic violence charge against her and a court mandate for counseling. Lacking confidence, she didn't present her case well in court. But she was determined to "just get through it" and get her life back on track.

It isn't unusual for the perpetrators of domestic violence to claim innocence, but Denise was different. Intensive counseling revealed the level of abuse she and her daughters suffered, as well as the necessity of a plan for her family. How else would her children ever feel safe and make sense of their lives?

Denise's counselor at CSSW helped her understand that "just getting through it" wasn't enough—she and her children deserved more. For the first time, someone believed her story, and together they worked to understand it. Despite her terror and lack of faith in the process, Denise began to identify the cycle of abuse, confront her problems, work with Friend of the Court, and improve her parenting skills. It was a very slow process, but a life-changing one. Denise is moving forward—gaining strength and purpose, and building a better life for her family.



## GRANTS AWARDED

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation  
Ann Arbor Thrift Shop  
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan  
The J. F. Ervin Foundation  
The Helen McCalla Foundation  
James A. and Faith Knight Foundation

## SHOP FOR DIGNITY

The dignity of self-care is essential for getting our clients back on their feet. If you're looking for a 100% ROI, look no further. Our food pantry clients need:

Diapers	Shampoo	Toilet paper	Toothpaste
Feminine Products	Conditioner	Paper towels	Shaving Razors
Bar Soap	Deodorant	Toothbrushes	

Drop off your **new and unopened** donations at our Emergency Food Pantry:

Northside Community Center  
815 Taylor, Ann Arbor | 734.662.4462

Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM & Thursdays 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

### Sexual Abuse—How to Respond

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- Stay calm and find a private place to talk
- Don't react with anger or disbelief
- Listen to what the child says and praise him/her for being so brave
- Refrain from questioning about details or pressuring him/her to tell more
- Allow the child to use his/her own words—don't guide the child in what to say
- Reassure the child that telling you was the right thing to do
- Explain that you will tell others about the abuse to make sure he/she stays safe
- Assure the child that the abuse wasn't his/her fault, and he/she won't be punished
- Remind the child that he/she can always come to you for help
- Report all suspected cases of abuse

If you think a child has been sexually abused, contact your local law enforcement agency or MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) at **855.444.3911** immediately.

CSSW's Washtenaw Child Advocacy Center offers free services for families referred by law enforcement or MDHHS, as well as resources for the public. Learn more at [www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac](http://www.csswashtenaw.org/wcac) or call 734.544.2925.



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Email us at [marketing@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:marketing@csswashtenaw.org)  
to sign up for CSSW email updates!

## COOKING FOR A CAUSE SAVE THE DATE!

September 23, 2018  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
The Valley at Frutig Farms  
7650 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor



**Don't miss our annual foodie competition!**

We're lining up the best chefs in the county to bring you an unforgettable, pastoral feast.  
Tickets are \$150, and all proceeds directly benefit the programs and services of  
Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County.

**Sponsorships are also available!**

Contact [development@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:development@csswashtenaw.org) or call 734.971.9781 ext. 313 to learn more.