



CPCAN receives Knight Foundation Grant

In December the Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CPCAN) received a capacity building grant from the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation to fund a part time volunteer coordinator for one year. The Volunteer Coordinator will aid the CPCAN in fulfilling its mission by recruiting and training community volunteers to assist with education and outreach, day-to-day activities and expand fundraising efforts - thus strengthening CPCAN's capacity and increasing its sustainability.

This award comes at a crucial time in Jackson County. The recent Jackson Kids Count data report shows an alarming increase in the number of reported and substantiated accounts of child abuse and neglect. The data book also shows that poverty has increased by over 34 percent in the past decade. This means that one in every ten Michigan children live in families with incomes that do not even reach half the poverty level. Living in poverty has a huge impact on children's physical health, emotional wellbeing and their education. Poverty is the number one risk factor contributing to child abuse and neglect, and recent policy decisions by our representatives have made life that much harder for families who are already struggling.

Community awareness and support are strong protective factors essential for the prevention of child maltreatment. A more informed and educated community is better able to recognize and respond to families and children who are at risk of child abuse and neglect and more effective in advocating for families and children in need. It takes a community to end child abuse and neglect and this grant will aid in expanding the important role communities play in protecting children. We thank the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation for this award and their dedication to improving communities and helping its most vulnerable members - our children.

Help CPCAN Provide a CSA Prevention Program

*"I am only one.
But still I am one.
I cannot do every-
thing, but still
I can do something.
And because I
cannot do everything
I will not refuse to
do the something
that I can do."*

Edward Everett Hale

Last summer CPCAN staff and volunteers were part of an Advisory Council formed to bring a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to Jackson. CACs provide a place where multi-disciplinary teams made up of crisis counselors, trained interviewers, medical staff, law enforcement and prosecutors work together in the investigation, assessment, and treatment of child sexual abuse (CSA), and severe physical abuse, in an environment that is child sensitive and supportive.

The Jackson CAC is organized by a variety of community partners. The Center for Family Health is providing a family waiting room and a specially designed interview area. The Department of Human Services is providing trained staff to conduct the forensic interviews. AWARE is providing nurses to conduct medical examinations and a crisis counselor to help the family in the healing process. The Prosecutors Office is coordinating the entire process by working with law enforcement and the agencies mentioned above.

The CAC Advisory Council requested that CPCAN provide child sexual abuse prevention education to the Jackson community. CPCAN has chosen Darkness to Light's, *Stewards of Children* - a nationally recognized evidenced-based, evidence-informed program recognized by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and named National Crime Prevention Program by the National Crime Prevention Council in 2007-08. *Stewards of Children* is a primary prevention program (educating to prevent abuse before it happens) that has been used successfully in communities across the country and internationally teaching adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse (CSA).

It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18, and that 90% of abusers are known and trusted by the children they molest. All children are at risk - every gen-





der, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and family structure. Victims of CSA suffer both emotionally and physically, and although it is impossible to measure the pain a child suffers from abuse a National Institute of Justice study estimates CSA costs the U.S. approximately \$35 billion a year.

The *Stewards of Children* prevention program is not currently being offered in Jackson county. CPCAN needs your help to bring this CSA program to our community. We are hoping to raise \$5000 so that we can offer the *Stewards of Children* program. Please consider a donation of:

- \$60 for a facilitator to perform the training program
- \$100 training materials for a group of ten adults
- \$350 to train a facilitator in the *Stewards of Children* program

With your help we will bring this important program to Jackson. Please use the enclosed envelope, write "D2L" on your check and mail to the CPCAN - any amount is appreciated. You can also educate yourself to make a difference by taking the *Stewards of Children* training online at: http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGeI5E/b.6242551/k.D3FC/Stewards_of_Children_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Prevention_Training.htm

All people are members of the same body, created from one essence. If fate brings suffering to one member the others cannot stay at rest. Saadi

The Importance of Supporting the Children's Trust Fund



CHILDREN'S TRUST AND PREVENTION FUNDS are state level organizations dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. There are 52 trust and prevention funds, established by legislative action, in every state. Ray Helfer, a Michigan pediatrician and former Vice-President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, proposed a nationwide network of funds dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in 1979. Dr. Helfer reasoned that since we had trust funds to care for our nation's highways and endangered wildlife species, we ought to have a trust fund to care for our children.

CTF was established by the Michigan Legislature through Public Act 249/250 in 1982 and also serves as the Michigan Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA). CTF serves as a voice for Michigan's children and families and promotes their health, safety, and welfare by funding effective local programs and services that prevent child abuse and neglect. All 83 Michigan counties have a designated Local Council, CPCAN is the designated Local Council for the Children's Trust Fund in Jackson County. CTF does not receive a state appropriation. It is funded by interest income from a restricted trust fund, direct donations, grants, earned income, the Children's License Plate, fundraising, and the income tax check-off. The income tax check-off is one of the most important sources of revenue for CTF and is raised through the charity option from the Michigan State Income Tax form 4642. The state's policy is that if a charity fails to collect \$100K in each year of a two year period, then that entity will be removed from the list and so it's vitally important CTF raise the target goal of 100K this year. If you can please give to CTF this year through the income tax check off your donation would help immensely.

Save the Date

Join CPCAN friends and supporters at noon on Monday, April 2, 2012 for our annual Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Kick-off in Austin Blair Park. The Children's Trust Fund (CTF) has declared April 2 the day of the Kick-off to bring maximum exposure and awareness to CAP month. Local Councils across the state will join together and plant pinwheel gardens which have become the symbol of a carefree, happy childhood – and one which every child deserves. Join CPCAN and child advocate organizations across the country to change the way our nation thinks about prevention, and help us focus on community activities and public policies that prioritize prevention right from the start.



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Check out CPCAN's website at: <http://www.cpcan-net.doodlekit.com/home>

We're also Facebook and Twitter!