



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
of Southwestern Michigan, Inc.

CONNECTIONS

to Families and Individuals in Our Communities

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am pleased to announce that Child and Family Services successfully moved our Safe Shelter domestic violence program into a new state of the art facility. This was accomplished through generous support and assistance from various businesses, churches and individuals in the community. The Safe Shelter provides shelter services to women survivors, and their families, of domestic violence.

I am also excited to announce that through a partnership with the Ark (a youth shelter program of Catholic Family Services in Kalamazoo), the Link (Youth) Crisis Intervention Center has resumed its shelter services program which supports family reunification for homeless or runaway youth. The Link will offer shelter services for up to four youth, ages 10 – 17, on a daily basis.

Youth in need of shelter services can contact the Link 24/7/365. They will then be assessed by a Link counselor and transported to the Ark. Our licensed and qualified staff will provide case management and individual and family counseling.

The Link Youth Outreach Program serves troubled youth and those at risk of running away or becoming homeless. This program has now been expanded to include home based services. The Link continues to provide individual and family counseling services at our facilities, in schools, community agencies and homes through referrals from law enforcement, schools and other public and community agencies. In addition, the Link continues to provide education programs for at-risk youth through area churches and schools. We believe we will be able to reach out and directly impact the lives of more than 500 youth this year through the Link Outreach Program. We have already served over 250 this year.

As a partner agency of United Way of Southwestern Michigan and Van Buren County, and through the support of various other funders and community contributors, CFS continues to fulfill its mission to foster the development of the community, family and individuals which support healthy, self sufficient, fully-functional lives for children, families and adults of all ages.

We are excited about the opportunity to provide these additional services to our community and to help improve the lives and well-being of individuals and families. Your continued donations, and support of, Child & Family Services are most appreciated.

Warmest regards,

Warren W. Washington, MPA,BSB/A

www.cfsswmi.org

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission statement is to foster the development of community, family and individual potential and capabilities which support healthy, self-sufficient lives for children, families and adults.

PROGRAMS OF CFSSWMI

Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan has five programs under its umbrella of compassion:

Day Services for Seniors, Homecare Services, and West Michigan Guardianship fall under Sue Struwin, Director of Adult Services. **The Link (Youth) Crisis Intervention**

Center and Safe Shelter are under the direction of Kelly Nightingale, Director of Youth and Family Services.

In future editions of this newsletter, we will look at the individual programs of this agency and provide information on how each program serves different populations within this

community. We are excited at "showing off" our programs and our wonderful staff members who make these programs memorable. We can't wait to share information and highlights of each program.

CFS RECEIVES REACCREDITATION

Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. has received notification they have been re-accredited by the Council on Accreditation. The five programs of CFS are Day Services for Seniors, Home Care Services, West Michigan Guardianship, Link Youth Crisis Intervention Center and Safe Shelter.

A statement issued by the Council on Accreditation said, "COA's commitment to maintaining the highest level of standards and quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have set high performance standards for themselves and have made a commitment to their constituents to deliver the highest quality services. COA is proud to recognize Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan, Inc., as one of these outstanding providers."

COA reaccreditation is an objective and reliable verification that provides confidence and support to an organization's service recipients, board members, staff and community partners. The COA's reaccreditation process involves

a detailed review and analysis of both an organization's administrative operations and its service delivery practices. All are "measured" against national standards of best practices. These standards emphasize services that are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, evidence based, and outcomes-oriented. In addition, they confirm that the services are provided by a skilled and supported workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Child & Family Services is one of less than 1800 public and private organizations serving more than seven million individuals and families in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, England and the Philippines. Reaccreditation takes place every three years and is a very strenuous process for an agency to go through. COA reviews and reaccredits the entire organization, not just the specific programs, therefore instilling confidence within the community in the credibility, integrity and achievement of the entire organization.

WAYS TO GIVE

Every donation is used to make a difference in the lives of those we serve: from the young in age to the young at heart. We accept:

- Donations of real estate and personal property,
- Gift planning and
- Bequests

For more information on how you can help, please call 1.269.925.1725 or visit the web at www.cfsswmi.org. Checks can be made to CFSSWMI and mailed to PO Box 8789, Benton Harbor, MI 49023. Thank you in advance!

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

DAY SERVICES FOR SENIORS

This program provides individuals who have cognitive and physical impairments quality care in a safe and caring environment. Programming includes meals, exercise, music, celebrations, outings, mental stimulation, socialization, respite for caregivers and medical oversight. Transportation is also available. Day Services for Seniors services are offered Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Offices in Benton Harbor and Paw Paw. **Call DAY SERVICES FOR SENIORS in Benton Harbor at 1.269.925.1725 or the PAW PAW site at 1.269.657.0520.**

HOMECARE SERVICE FOR SENIORS

This CFS program provides a quality, cost effective, alternative to long term care. The services provided by our dedicated staff enable elderly and physically

challenged people to maintain their independence and live with dignity, while providing family caregivers with respite time. In-home, non-nursing care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **Call HOME CARE SERVICES at 1.269.925.1725.**

WEST MICHIGAN GUARDIANSHIP

CFS offers conservatorship, guardianship, representative payee, and power of attorney services to individuals who cannot manage their everyday living or financial needs without some assistance. **Call WMG at 1.269.934.9333.**

THE LINK CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER

CFS offers 24-hours-a-day crisis intervention services through the Link outreach program and the National Safe

Place. Families are offered crisis intervention services such as family therapy, outreach counseling, and case management services. We will assist youth in need of shelter. **Call the LINK at 1.269.927.1422**

SAFE SHELTER

Emergency shelter is provided for up to 30 days for female victims of domestic violence and their children. The program offers counseling, job training, case management, legal advocacy and outreach services including support groups, community education and a 24-hour hotline service. Residents are provided with food, clothing, personal hygiene items and transportation assistance in addition to counseling and advocacy services. **Call SAFE SHELTER at 1.269.925.9500.**

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Times are tough ... for everyone. Reductions in funding at the state and federal level has caused the agency to look to other funding sources and to "think outside the box" to save money, so as not to reduce services to our beloved clients.

CFSSWMI met with Senior Nutrition and Hospice at Home to explore avenues of collaboration to save money. From that discussion came the thought that if we could get non-profits in the area to combine together into a coop agreement, we could possibly save a tremendous amount of money on Directors & Officers insurance, vehicle insurance, medical insurance, supplies, internet and other technologies. The door could be opened to all types of savings that could affect all non-profits in our communities.

It was decided that we needed to have a meeting with all non-profits in the area. Nanette Keiser of the Berrien Community Foundation agreed to be the facilitator, but under the auspices as the Non Profit Collaboration with the Coalition of Community Funders.

A steering committee has been formed and will meet in late April. From this point, we hope to see additional committees identified and working together as one large group to bring affordable prices to a financially stressed tri-county area. The only requirements will be that the agency must be a 501 (c) 3 agency and have at least one paid employee.

Start making plans to attend the 4th Annual Festival of Lights. Last year was

such a success that we have expanded the area for this years event, held at the Mendel Center. The date has been set for Friday, November 19, 2010 beginning at 6:00 pm. Van Buren ISD Tech Center Culinary Arts Program will once again provide the dinner. There will also be a silent auction and, of course, beautifully lit, decorated trees will be auctioned off to the highest bidders. It's a night of fun filled laughter, some tears at the stories we bring, and always ending with great friendships and camaraderie.

This August we will be having our first Amazing Road Rallye Race for families, friends and community supporters. Details are yet to come, so stay tuned to the next edition of this newsletter.

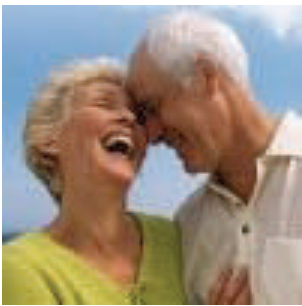
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**A non-governmental,
non-profit,
501 (c)3 agency.**

We are on the web!
www.cfsswmi.org



Our seniors have fun; share laughs, and create memories.



**United Way
of Southwest Michigan**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR CFSSWMI

APRIL, 2010

- 17 Kid's Health Fair in Niles
- 19 Veteran's Health Fair, Mattawan
- 20 CFSSWMI Board of Directors Meeting

MAY, 2010

- 6 Alzheimer's Presentation, First Church of God, Saint Joseph, 6pm
- 14 2010 Homeless Count for Berrien County (Volunteers are needed)
- 18 CFSSWMI Board of Directors Meeting

JUNE, 2010

- 5 Breakfast of Champions, Whitcomb, Saint Joseph (Alzheimer's Awareness)
- 14 Harbor Harvest Ministry Youth Program
- 15 CFSSWMI Board of Directors Meeting