

QUARTERLY CONNECTIONS
for Families and Individuals in Our Communities

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Greetings,

Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan, Inc. (CFSSWMI) continues to evaluate and modify the services it provides to ensure we meet the ever changing unmet needs of families, youth and adults in the communities we serve. As a result, we recognized the need to revise our mission in order to ensure it distinctly describes our organization’s fundamental purpose. Effective May, 2010, “Our mission is to walk beside children, families and adults of all ages

and to support them in maintaining safe, healthy, meaningful lives within the community.” The statement was written by our very own Rita Cotterman, a Case Manager in our West Michigan Guardianship Program. We also have a new vision statement, “To make Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan a leader in providing excellent human services that meet the needs of children, families and adults of all ages.”

CFSSWMI is extremely appreciative that we are able to fulfill our mission through the generous support from individuals, businesses and various funding organizations. (See page 3, “Acknowledgements”). Support from people like Tom Jennings and Marc VanGilder, owner and manager, respectively, of Czars 505 in St. Joseph who eagerly opened their doors and helped organize a fundraising event that raised nearly \$1000, or the Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb, IL who spent over 260 hours enhancing the landscaping in our beautiful green park space that is enjoyed by our seniors, adult and youth is indicative of the people and organizations who help us accomplish our mission every day.

The dedicated staff and leadership of CFSSWMI are committed to using all funding we receive from our generous donors, funders and volunteers in the most efficient manner to provide the highest quality services possible through our programs. I invite you to contact me at 269-925-1725, ext. 120 or visit our website at www.cfsswmi.org to learn more about how you or someone you know can help support and advance the mission of Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan.

Warmest Regards,

Warren W. Washington, MPA
Executive Director

www.cfsswmi.org

| VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 | AUGUST, 2010 |
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**CHILD & FAMILY
SERVICES OF
SOUTHWESTERN
MICHIGAN, INC.**

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**MISSION
STATEMENT**

**Our mission statement
is to foster the walk
beside children,
families and adults of
all ages and to support
them in maintaining
safe, healthy,
meaningful lives within
the community.**

DAY SERVICES FOR SENIORS

We are blessed with many success stories emanating from the Day Services for Seniors program. We had to share this one with everyone.

“A” lives with her brother who has taken care of her since their mother passed away. “A” was born blind and with a disability. While growing up she was involved with a program that gave her the opportunity to socialize and get out of the house. Recently “A” was not able to continue with that program because of their age limit. “A’s” brother was finding it difficult to juggle being a caregiver 24 hours/7 days a week, and still handle his daily responsibilities. “A’s” brother found out about the Day Services for Seniors program and was thrilled there were no age requirements. Now that “A” is attending Day Services she has the opportunity to make additional friendships and socialize throughout the day. With the help of United Way funding, Day Services was able to

purchase and create various activities for “A” to use during her time at Day Services. She is able to participate in bingo with braille bingo cards made at Day Services. She is also able to play dominoes, checkers, and yahtzee with other clients since Day Services was able to purchase braille versions of all three games. Once a month, “A” helps to make dog bones that are donated to the humane society and every Friday she participates in the women’s group. Along with all the center activities, “A” also enjoys going out on outings like the “Brown Bag” concerts on the bluff in St. Joseph, MI which gives her the opportunity to get out and enjoy the music while eating lunch. She is able to continue making friends, get out in the community and take part in all of the stimulating activities at Day Services without any fear of having to leave the program due to an age cap. While “A” is at Day Services, her brother is able to get the respite he needs to take care of his daily responsibilities and himself.

CFSSWMI HAPPENINGS

Our first Amazing Road Rally Race is about to hit the pavement ! On August 14, from 3—8 p.m., a number of cars will begin solving puzzles and searching for clues to get to the end of the race with the most points. The one team that arrives with the most points will win a very nice Brinkmann Gas Grill. Trophies and prizes will be awarded, as well as a few “door prizes” in which all participants are eligible to win.

The cost of the race is \$45.00 per car and there is no limit to the number of people packed in a car. Call 925-1725 for additional details and an entry form.

The Road Rally is limited in the number of people that can participate. It’s not too late—yet—to enter the race. Bring the family and kids. These five hours of pure entertainment will cost less than a movie.

The signature event of Child & Family Services will be held Friday, November 19, 2010 at Upton Hall in the Mendel Center. The FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS is a delightful evening featuring a silent auction, live auction of Christmas trees, entertainment, and a wonderful catered dinner. Everyone is invited to attend. Call 925-1725 for ticket orders now.

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: 1) Donations of real estate and personal property, 2) Gift planning and, 3) 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

Our Day Services for Seniors is a busy program. For the past three months, our Benton Harbor program has seen 40 clients per month who are enjoying meals, exercise, music, celebrations, outings, mental stimulation, socialization, respite for caregivers, and medical oversight. Program services are offered Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. with offices in Benton Harbor and Paw Paw. The Paw Paw office is seeing about 30 clients each month. **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. Our Home Care Services program is seeing an average of 180 clients each month. **Call HOME CARE SERVICES at 1.269.925.1725.**

WEST MICHIGAN GUARDIANSHIP

This CFS program offers conservatorship, guardianship, representative payee, and power of attorney services to over 525 people each month. These individuals cannot manage their everyday living or financial needs without some assistance. **Call WMG at 1.269.934.9333.**

THE LINK CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER

Over 250 kids are being reached out to on a monthly basis. 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. It's sad to see, but the Safe Shelter is filled to capacity almost every single day. **Call SAFE SHELTER at 1.269.925.9500.**

TO OUR DONORS: THANK YOU!

Child & Family Services of Southwestern Michigan are blessed with donors from across the three counties we serve: Berrien, Cass and Van Buren. We thank our sponsors and our donors and appreciate each of you so very much. A list of donors for the months of April, May and June are included below:

Cass County Auxiliary
David Grozescu
Elvin Gonzalez
First Congregational Church—
JoAnn Sprayberry
First United Methodist Church—
Joyce Bliss
First United Methodist Church—
Lou Ann Stellar
Jeffrey and Susan Templeton
Jennifer Black
John Lewandowski

John McCoy
Kathleen Burkett
Katy Post
Larry Phillippi
Maria (Lupe) Hopp
Mary Trollinger
Richard & Claire Gillespie
Richard Malich
Saint Joseph First United Methodist
Church—Denise Foust
Susan Kay Schalon
Tom Jennings
Mark Van Gilder

We have tried to make it very easy for those who wish to donate to us, to be able to do so with the least amount of trouble. From now on, visit our website at www.cfsswmi.org and go to the

section on Ways to Give. Pay-Pal will take your payment and send it directly to us. It is painless, easy to do and takes no time at all to transfer money to Pay Pal.

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.

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

We are on the web!
www.cfsswmi.org

DAY SERVICES FOR SENIORS PROGRAM

Many people are not aware of this, but our Day Services for Seniors Program is the only one of its kind in this area.

Did you know that Day Services for Seniors:

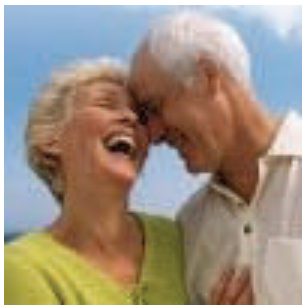
- Helps seniors remain in the community by maintaining or improving their level of functioning.
- Offers participants the opportunity to socialize and enjoy peer support in a stimulating and supportive environment that promotes better mental and physical health.
- Provides assistance to families and others caring for older adults who cannot be left alone during the day but do not require 24-hour nursing care.

Day Care for Seniors is based on the Eden Alternative model, which recognizes that many seniors suffer from boredom, loneliness and helplessness. The Eden philosophy seeks to

eliminate these conditions by providing an opportunity to give care as well as receive care; an atmosphere in which the senior's life is valued and revolves around close contact with plants, animals and caring individuals, both young and old; and, an atmosphere of choices, variety and spontaneity.

Our program is in a state-of-the-art facility with full-time nursing support and a compassionate and professional staff. We offer creative activities and group outings, along with intergenerational opportunities, an exercise component and quality care and socialization.

People ask, "Why would I place my loved one in a Day Services program, instead of a nursing home"? The reply? "Wouldn't you be a happier senior if you could stay in your home at night, but get to interact socially with others during the day, in a fun environment"?



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



**United Way
of Southwest Michigan**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR CFSSWMI

AUGUST

- 14 The Amazing Road Rally Race
- 16 The United Way Campaign at CFSSWMI Begins
- 17 Board of Director's Meeting
- 18 Sensational Senior Day, 8am—1pm at Van Buren ISD Tech Center
- 21 2010 Annual Summer Fest, Civic Center, Covert, MI
- 24 Back to School Bonanza, Van Buren County
- 28 Memory Walk for Alzheimer's Disease

SEPTEMBER

- 07 Million Father March, Benton Harbor, MI
- 11 DSS—PP Rummage Sale at Paw Paw Wine & Harvest Festival
- 11 DSS – BH Rummage Sale (Main Campus)
- 21 CFSSWMI Board of Directors Meeting

OCTOBER

- 19 CFSSWMI Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER

- 19 Festival of Lights