

Spread the Word...Save a Life
The Childhelp National
Child Abuse Hotline
I-800-4-A-CHILD
(I-800-422-4453)

Serves the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Established in 1982, it is anonymous and confidential and is staffed by professional crisis counselors who, through translators, can provide assistance in 140 languages.



Founded in 1959 by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson
PREVENTION and TREATMENT of CHILD ABUSE

www.childhelp.org



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21455 Melrose Avenue
Building R
Suite I
Southfield MI, 48075
(248) 353-0921
michigan@childhelp.org

Foster Families Needed

The Childhelp Foster Care program has been created to serve as a placement opportunity for youth in the human services or juvenile justice systems in Michigan requiring out of home services. We received our state license in May 2005 to provide therapeutic foster care and effective 10/1/06 have a contract with the Department of Human Services for general and specialized levels of foster care. **Our dedicated team specializes in recruitment, training, certification and supervision of foster parents and focuses on providing continuous in-depth training and support for the foster families and youth.**

Services such as individual and family therapy; 24 hour access to your foster care coordinator for support; group activities and recognition events for our foster parents; support groups; and, mentors for our foster children are all provided for our families. Fostering a child in your home provides a stable and nurturing environment for children to feel safe and relaxed, in many cases for the first time. A foster parent's responsibilities include: nurturing, teaching social and living skills, engaging youngsters in appropriate leisure activities, teaching healthy living, and teaching children to begin to trust.

Interested in becoming a foster parent? Please call us at 248-353-0921 or e-mail us at Michigan@childhelp.org



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Childhelp Michigan Greater Detroit Chapter Summer Newsletter 2008

A Message From Childhelp Michigan President Ed Greenup

One of the problems a lot of us have who work with children in the legal system is never seeing a final product. When the parents' rights are terminated, the legal representation is usually ended. We are left only with a file and prayers for the child.

Two years ago at one of the membership meetings, two young adults gave talks to us about their lives after termination to the present. Both of these individuals shocked the audience when they related the horrors they encountered even after their parents' rights were terminated. It wasn't until each one began to talk about how Childhelp here locally helped them, that you could feel the relief and utter pride of those members present.

After the talk, one of the speakers, a young man, came to our table and introduced himself to me. He informed me that I had represented him and his siblings years ago in Macomb County. He told me how thankful he was to all of those who helped him. He wanted our membership to know what can be done with their help.

It was an honor to finally see, feel and behold a "finished product."

It was that encounter that made me want to be an important part of Childhelp. So, when I was asked to serve as President of this organization, I was delighted and serve proudly.

Mentors Needed!

Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

Childhelp Michigan's goal is to provide youth between the ages of 10 and 18 years old the opportunity to positively interact with an adult mentor, in order to increase the youth's positive social skills and interactions in the community and to enhance the youth's opportunity for success in life.

Childhelp Michigan's Mentoring Program is community-based. This offers the youth the chance to develop a relationship with an adult, other than an authority figure, who then becomes a friend, role model and advocate for the youth. The youth and the mentor plan activities that can be related to education, career exploration, life skills development, game playing and going to sporting events, entertainment or cultural events.

Interested in becoming a mentor? View the mentor eligibility requirements and application online at www.childhelp.org/regional/michigan.

2008 Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar for Childhelp!



September 17th
Membership Meeting
Mac and Ray's Restaurant
Harrison Township

October 18th
Annual Gala
"There's No Town Like Motown"
GM Wintergarden
Dance the night away to benefit Childhelp!

Program Notes from Childhelp Program Director Ann Marie Lesniak

It has been a little over one year since I have joined the Childhelp Michigan family. I am amazed at the changes that have occurred in just one short year. I would like to spend a few minutes reminiscing over our accomplishments. In July we added experienced staff and support staff that has resulted in an increase in our census in both the foster care program and the mentoring program.

In December we hosted a holiday party for our youth in both programs as well as another local charity. We were successful in recruiting volunteers to help make the holiday party a success. The food, entertainment, crafts and gifts were donated by our great supporters, which resulted in happy smiling children, who were able to forget their problems and being involved in the system for a few hours.

We continue to become active with community based and state-wide initiatives focusing on children in foster care and with youth aging out of the foster care system. Through our efforts we have established and maintained positive relationships with local officials at both the court and through the Department of Human Services. In April we partnered with Wayne State University to recruit mentors, and in May we partnered with Quicken Loans. Both initiatives show our commitment to work with the youth in our state in need of mentors. In May we added a foster parent recruiter who has been focusing his efforts in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne County. We have seen an increase in our inquiry calls and attendance at foster parent orientations.

We co-sponsored a Life Skills Symposium in May for youth in foster care or who have aged out of foster care. The symposium hosted 4 breakout sessions, covering the following: Medicaid, Completing Financial Aid Forms for College and two sessions on Effective Communication. Before and during the sessions, we had community partners who had display tables concerning topics important to our youth. Community Representatives were there from L'Anse Creuse Alternative School, HIV, Safe Sex and the ISD. Childhelp also had a table recruiting for mentees. DHS had a booth where they had ties for the youth to pick out and keep as well as an instructional guide on how to tie a tie, demonstrations were done and each youth (male/female) left being able to tie a tie. We had 40 youth participate and each youth received a binder from us that contained information about budgeting, colleges, housing, jobs etc.

The Special Friends Fund has been critical in assisting our foster parents and the mentoring program this past year. We have provided financial assistance totaling over ten thousand dollars, which in turn has increased the quality of life of our children. The funds have been used as follows:

We covered braces for one teen, as this is not a covered benefit under Medicaid.

One 9-year old was born drug exposed and the orthodontist stated as he grew his jaw would not support his adult teeth. Braces and a special procedure were needed to strengthen his jaw. Medicaid would not cover, so we paid for the procedure.

One youth placed in September who had just spent two years in a residential program was in need of clothing, which the state would not pay. We reimbursed the foster family for the clothing purchases. This same youth is 14 and cannot read, we were able to get him into the reading clinic at Oakland University this summer, we covered the expense of the clinic.

One of our mentee lost her brother and had no financial support for his funeral. We paid for the funeral and flowers, so she could give her brother a dignified funeral.

These requests may seem small, but to our families and youth they are enormous. The funding available for foster youth is limited and at Childhelp we believe that they should have every opportunity to be a "regular" child. We make things happen!

Our state has been going through changes regarding practices in child welfare. As a result we have seen an increase in referrals from Macomb County, which is trying to reduce state workers case load sizes. We were contacted to take a substantial number of cases, and we are currently preparing for the transfer of case. We have demonstrated our commitment to child and families and our program reflects best practices.

I am excited about these upcoming changes regarding policy and procedures for children in foster care, and how we will be strategically ready to be a model program. The opportunities for the upcoming year are limitless. I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization, and with your continued support we will make a difference in the lives of Michigan Children.

Development Update from Elizabeth Brazilian

We are very grateful you are a friend or member of the Childhelp Greater Detroit Chapter. We want to share with you our successes and our challenges.

We have helped to prepare two of our foster care children for a successful adoption. Being adopted into a loving supportive family that has chosen you, is a dream come true for a foster care child. The concept that needs to be remembered is that Childhelp is very careful in recruiting, training and licensing our Foster Care Families. This is a lengthy process, but very necessary.

The Proof is in the Press. Foster Care children have died in care because of lack of supervision and other causes resulting from neglect. There is a movement under foot to privatize all foster care to private agencies, rather than the State Run Department of Human Services. The DHS was sued by a National Children's Advocacy Group from New York on behalf of the Foster Care children in our state and settled out of court.

The DHS is realizing the advantages of placing only one child per family and providing that family on-going support, training and supervision. These are all the things we do as our standard of operations, we could be considered a model agency. (See all about our programs in our Director's article)

To maintain and grow our programs in Southeast Michigan, we need to raise \$200,000 this year from our Gala Event on October 18, 2008 at the GM Wintergarden and other donations. To meet our goal, we are asking friends and members to purchase a sponsorship and/or ask a friend or business contact to become a sponsor. Participation can be at any level of commitment:

Presenting Sponsor Package - \$25,000
Platinum Record Package - \$10,000
Gold Record Package - \$5,000
Top 40 Package - \$2,500
Top 100 Package - \$1,000

Ads can be placed in the Program book from full page to card size.

The Honorary Co-Chairs for the event are: Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Congressman John Conyers, Congressman John Dingell and Marianne Williamson. They will make every effort to attend the Benefactor's Party just prior to the Gala.

The need is great, but the rewards are priceless lives being nurtured. It is important to note that 91 cents of every dollar Childhelp raises goes directly to the programs for the children.

Please call the office at (248) 353-0921 and we will send you the sponsorship materials, or drop by our Southfield office to say "hello" and pick up the materials.



Donation Wish List

When we place kids at intake they often come with only the clothes on their backs, we like to give them personal need items and if possible a small age appropriate toy such as a doll, stuffed animal, car, etc. We really only want new items to make the children feel special. These items are needed:

Art supplies (markers, crayons, drawing paper)

Gift cards to Borders and Dunham's (to give to our older teens at birthdays)

Toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes to give at intake)

Journals and pens

Backpacks

These items are also needed for our office:

*Office furniture
(Chairs and Desks)
Copy paper
Toner
Printing Services
Stamps
Paper goods*

*If you wish to donate, contact Shirlee Marshall at
(248) 353-0921 or smarshall@childhelp.org.*

Special Thanks

Thank you to Lou and Terry Merz for hosting our golf outing at the Oakland Hills Country Club. We thank you for your generosity and love for the children we serve!

Clean Out Your Closet for Childhelp!

Childhelp Michigan Launches New eBay Auction Initiative

With your help, this campaign can generate a viable revenue source for existing Michigan program operations, maintenance, and expansion, as well as provide critical funding for new Childhelp programs in Michigan. You can help by donating items for sale on eBay or by making direct gift-in-kind (GIK) donations to Childhelp. We are accepting household goods, art objects, collectibles, designer clothing, and other pertinent items that meet the following criteria:

- Have a minimum value of \$50
- Are new or gently used and in excellent condition (i.e., clean, functional)
- Include a receipt or documentation from the donor verifying the item's value

To schedule a drop-off time, please call Donna L. Selleck at (248) 588-7188, or e-mail her at donnaselleck@sbcglobal.net. Donna will be able to receive donated items one day a week, from 10 AM – 3 PM at our warehouse location (1407 Allen Drive, Suite F, Troy, MI 48083)



Rules and Regulations

- Each donor will receive a receipt and electronic photo of the item donated.
- The donor will receive notification when the item sells on eBay.
- If an item does not sell in 90 days, the donor may re-claim the item or donate as a gift-in-kind.
- Donor agrees to hold harmless Childhelp and its affiliates, should any item loss or damage occur.

The value received by Childhelp, after all applicable fees, is considered the donor's contribution to Childhelp. Applicable fees may include administration, warehouse, eBay listing, photo, and Paypal transaction fees.

Donations are tax-deductible by law. You may deduct the final monetary amount received by Childhelp in compliance with your individual tax structure.

Membership Committee Update from Frank Buscemi

Hello, Members and Friends,

My name is Frank Buscemi. I have just begun my term as Vice-President of Membership of the Greater Detroit Chapter of Childhelp. I am standing tall on the shoulders of all the wonderful Vice-Presidents of Membership that came before me. At present, we have 267 members.

I am excited and honored to be able to assist this very important organization. With your help, we can double the size of our membership.

As members, you will receive a Newsletter quarterly to stay informed about all of Childhelp's programs and events. You can make yourself available to volunteer your time and talent in a variety of ways and make new and lasting friendships with fellow members.

When we work side-by-side to heal the life of an abused and neglected child, we not only realize what a difference we make in the life of a child, but we also have fun!!

There is a Membership Application enclosed in the Newsletter. Please ask a friend to become a member, give a membership as a gift or sign up yourself, if you are not yet a member.

Membership coffees are a great way for you to bring a group of your friends together to hear about Childhelp. We have speakers, DVD's and collateral materials to bring to your home, place of worship, club or business in order to make a presentation. We will even bring the coffee and sweets!!

Please consider a donation to Childhelp in honor of a loved one's special occasion. We have beautiful cards to send out that indicates a donation has been made to Childhelp in their honor. Call the office to place your requests or send the information and method of payment to the office.

We have three membership meetings a year. The Fall meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17th, at Mac & Ray's in Harrison Township. Our guest speaker will be Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, International renowned speaker and recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize and nominee of the Nobel Peace Prize. Our Winter meeting is tentatively planned for January at the Detroit Athletic Club, and our Spring meeting will be in May at the Oakland Hills Country Club. You will receive more information about these meetings as they become available.

Thank you for your prayers for the children and let's act together to make a profound difference.

Special Friends Fund

Please consider being a special friend to our Childhelp Foster Care Children.

\$2500
(Individual Special Friend)
\$5,000
(Family Special Friend)

The Childhelp children are not as lucky as your children and grandchildren. They need a "Special Friend" to support all types of activities, including school, sports and medical needs. Please join our list of caring individuals.

Please commit yourself to being a "Special Friend."

Contact the Childhelp office at (248) 353-0921 today.

Clarins Honors Childhelp, Makes \$60,000 Donation

On June 17th, Childhelp Co-Founders Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson were recognized by Clarins USA for their lifelong achievement of helping to prevent and treat child abuse. Clarins USA bestowed upon them the Clarins 2008 Most Dynamic Women Award at an event in New York City. This prestigious award is presented to exceptional women that have devoted themselves to bettering the lives of children.

In addition to the award, and a gift of \$60,000, Clarins USA has graciously committed to donating 100% of the profits to Childhelp from the online sales of its popular Sun Protection products during the months of June, July and August.

Please visit www.clarinsusa.com and click on Clarins Childhelp Products to purchase these Sun Protection items.

Help Us Get the Word Out!

We are always looking for opportunities to speak to community groups about Childhelp. If you have suggestions, please contact public relations chair Elif Wisecup at wisecup@gmail.com.

2008-2009 Board Inducted

Please join us in welcoming the following members of the 2008-2009 Childhelp Board of Directors:

President, Ed Greenup
Vice President, Linda Marshall
Secretary, Terry Merz
Treasurer, Michael P. Berry
Fundraising Chair, Jim Wolfe
Membership Chair, Frank Buscemi
Publicity Chair, Elif Wisecup
Education & Awareness Chair, Dr. Harsha Jayatilake
Chaplain, Mary Albertson
Parliamentarian, Jennifer Bielfield
Past President, Betsy Reich

Your Childhelp Staff Contacts

Elizabeth Brazilian
Development
ebrazilian@yahoo.com

Ann Marie Lesniak
Program Director
alesniak@childhelp.org

Foster Care Case Managers
Nykol Edgeworth
nedgeworth@childhelp.org
Kristen Sattler
ksattler@childhelp.org

Mentor Coordinator
Allison Smith
alsmith@childhelp.org

Licensing Specialist
(Licenses foster homes)
Carmaine Segars
csegars@childhelp.org

Marshall Bullock
Foster Family Recruitment
mbullock@childhelp.org

Shirlee Marshall
Office Manager
smarshall@childhelp.org

All staff may be reached by phone at (248) 353-0921.

A Message from Outgoing Childhelp Board President Betsy Reich

It is hard to believe the year is already over! So much to do, so little time. Let me share with you some of things the 2007-2008 Board accomplished this past year.

As you will read in the Membership Report, we have 267 members and growing. With this came a need to update formats, procedures, and get more computer savvy! We updated our bylaws, our Board Member Job Descriptions; we created Board Expectations and signed off on those commitments. We updated the membership application, and then we took on a huge project...and updated our database for both membership and mailings. We created a new computer program with various categories to capture a variety of data. Big HUG to Lori Zieman and Wendy Silverman.

A Fun Fact: we were recognized in front of the National Board of Directors last October as having one of the largest chapters and in having a board member mix that is 50/50 men and women. Thank you to Ed for continuing this mix in his new Board.

Last September, we arranged for the Board to fly to Virginia for the day to tour the Childhelp facilities they have there. This Washington DC/Virginia area has a residential village, advocacy center and a group home program. Because our programs in Michigan are relatively new, I wanted our Board to be fully aware of what Childhelp has established throughout the country. If you are ever in one of our facility locations, I highly recommend you call ahead for a tour! These locations are listed at www.childhelp.org.

We focused on raising awareness this past year in everything we touched. Through Elif Wisecup we sent our Director, Ann Marie on a whirlwind speaking tour through Rotary Clubs in the tri-county area. We hired a public relations firm to assist us in producing press releases and getting increased coverage of our programs. This led to having Jack Kresnak use our Childhelp 1 800 Hotline number in his series on Child Abuse in the Detroit News...and subsequently we were honored to have him as our speaker at the Winter Membership Meeting this past January at Park West Gallery. At this meeting he formally announced his retirement from journalism and start of a new chapter of his life as the Director of Michigan's Children in Lansing. Jack has been instrumental in directing new members to us who have inquired to him on how to volunteer for an organization such as ours. Thank you to Mitzie and Albert Scaglione for hosting such a lovely meeting and art tour.

Our 8th Annual Gala was held at the Townsend last October. What a party! Jim Wolfe and Shelly Farmery created an Old Hollywood/Cabaret Theme which attracted much support from our National Celebrity Ambassadors! Our Founders, Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson were in attendance, the President of our National Board Jim Hebets and his wife Carol and wonderful celebrities such as Anne Jeffreys, Joyce Bulifant and Roger Perry, Ron Mazek, Norm Crosby and Gary Collins. See Elizabeth & Jim's articles regarding the upcoming party Jim Wolfe is

planning! Volunteers are needed! Call the Childhelp office at (248) 353-0921. if you are interested in volunteering on Jim's committee or at the event itself.

With the help of the National office, we developed our new feasibility plan to guide us in developing our programs for the next 3 years. The Key Strategies include expansion and growth of our Foster Family Program, expansion and growth of the Mentoring Program, development and growth of a Preventive Education Program, establishment of a Child Diagnostic Assessment Program, and the active exploration of strategic acquisition and / or strategic partnerships. For a summary copy of this plan, please call Shirlee at the Childhelp office.

We have had a number of creative new fundraisers this past year! Thanks to Elizabeth Brazilian we had an auction package in the Barrett Jackson Gala in Arizona last January that raised \$35,000 for Michigan. We had an end of the year "Non Event" Invitation that brought in \$10,000. This past spring we had a Yoga Flow fundraiser and awareness event at the Birmingham Unitarian Church with Jonny Kest Center for Yoga. Thank you Linda Marshall for this beautiful & spiritual day. Thank you to Jonny and his wife Mila for becoming lifetime members! If you know of anyone with a "classic car" that they would like to donate (charitable donation) for a tax break, we have been offered the opportunity to auction off a car for the Michigan Chapter at next January's Barrett Jackson Car Auction. Please contact the Childhelp office: 248-353-0921.

While I have "retired" to the Past President position...I will still stay actively involved! I feel as though we accomplished so much, yet there is always so much more to do! Thank you to all who have reached out in this past program year moving us ahead towards growing our programs and providing love and support for these children!



Board members traveled to visit a Childhelp facility in Virginia in 2008.

Childhelp to Take National Lead on Crystal Meth Awareness

Following the airing of the Crystal Meth Documentary over all major networks in Arizona on May 20, 2008, in which over 1.5 million Arizonians listened to, watched or read about the dangers of Crystal Meth, Childhelp has announced it is taking the lead role in helping spread the message around the nation. Childhelp was the presenting sponsor and operator of its hotline.

This documentary has been shown simultaneously on all major networks in Reno, Las Vegas, Oregon, San Diego, Sacramento, New Mexico, El Paso, and is going to be aired in Colorado, Oklahoma and Iowa. Childhelp is responsible for maintaining the program's hotline, 1-888-METH-AID, in addition to its own child abuse hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

Childhelp Co-Founders Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson said: "The use of Meth impacts the entire family and not just the addict. Right here in Arizona, over two-thirds of the cases of child abuse handled by Childhelp have a direct correlation to meth use or production by the child's parents or guardian."

"The explosive demand for this Crystal Darkness Documentary is unfortunately a result of the tremendous need for communities to fight back against this deadly drug," says Michael Reynolds, producer of Crystal Darkness and owner of Global Studio. "The real blessing through all of this is that we see city by city and state by state, people working together in unprecedented fashion to protect their families and win back their neighborhoods. Now, with Childhelp leading the way, we can take this to a whole new level."

Crystal Darkness is told through the powerful testimonies of young people who have gone through the dark and lonely depths of Meth addiction. With heart wrenching and raw honesty, they speak to their generation with an unforgettable message of warning. The program is targeted for youths and their parents, but the message extends with conviction to an entire community and throughout the nation.

Help us to bring this Crystal Meth Documentary to Michigan. Please call our office 248-353-0921.



Party With Childhelp on October 18th!

Please save the date for Childhelp's annual gala, which will be held this year on Saturday, October 18th.

This year's theme is "No Town Like Motown - For the Love of a Child" and it promises to be a night to remember!

This fun event will feature:

Great Motown dance music by "KGB"

Fabulous Food and Cocktails
Exciting silent and live auction

The event will be held at the beautiful GM Wintergarten, thanks to the generosity of General Motors.

Ticket prices this year are \$150 per person and \$250 per person for Benefactor Tickets.

Benefactors tickets will include a private party prior to the event at the Penthouse of the Marriott Renaissance Center. Our honorary chairs are hoping to attend. They are: Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Joe Knollenberg, Congressman John Conyers, Congressman John Dingell, and Marianne Williamson.

We need your support for our largest fundraiser of the year. The funds from this event support our programs for the children. Please call the Childhelp office 248 - 353-0921 to get sponsorship information, make donations, take out ads in our program book and to volunteer for the committee.

Questions about the gala? Contact Jim Wolfe, Fundraising Chairman at (248) 353-0921.