Meet Mitch Albom and Support Prevention

Tickets are now available for the Children’s Trust Fund’s Spring Event on Friday, June 12, at the home of Paul Hodges in Orchard Lake Village. The event, hosted by Paul Hodges and Ron and Heather Boji, begins at 6:00 p.m. with a brief program beginning at 7:30 p.m. The evening will include an opportunity to meet and hear Mitch Albom (renowned sports announcer and author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*), to see the very lovely home of Paul Hodges, to enjoy an exquisite hors d’oeuvres and wine reception, to mingle with friends and family while unwinding to local jazz entertainment, to interact with state department directors, and to support the mission of the Children’s Trust Fund.

To purchase tickets or to help the Children’s Trust Fund sell tickets, please call our office at 1-800-CHILDREN or visit our website at www.michigan.gov/ctf and click on “Spring Event” to download an invitation and RSVP card and/or a ticket commitment form. We are asking guests to pre-register by May 31. Ticket price is $150 for benefactors and $100 for patrons. Sponsorship opportunities are available starting at $500 and up. Information regarding sponsorship opportunities is available on our website or by calling Tricia Headley, Event/Fund Development Coordinator, at (517) 241-7226.

Please join us for this very special evening! Thank you.
Ingham County Child Abuse Prevention Services sponsored a Healing Field at Lansing’s Ferris Park, which was on display from April 24-26, 2009. Rows of 1,400 flags were displayed to represent the annual number of child abuse related deaths in the United States. According to Heidi Hilliard of the Michigan Public Health Institute, approximately a dozen deaths per year occur in Michigan.

The event was part of a national Healing Field effort to raise awareness concerning child abuse and neglect and prevention. Over 500 people attended the event in Lansing and many more were reached through media coverage. Congratulations to Ingham CAPS for holding this successful event.

The Child Welfare Information Gateway has produced a short animated Prevention Promo. It is designed to promote prevention all year. The video can be embedded in a PowerPoint presentation and used as a meeting opener or closer.

Go to http://www.youtube.com/ChildrensBureauHHS to access the video. If you have any questions regarding the Prevention Promo and/or how to place your organization’s tag at the end, please email Sharon E. McKinley at smckinley@childwelfare.gov or Patricia Brincefield at pbrincefield@childwelfare.gov.

You are invited to join FRIENDS for a webinar on Qualitative Evaluation on May 6 at 3:00 p.m. EST. Qualitative evaluation methods can lead to a clearer and deeper understanding of what works in child abuse prevention. Qualitative data used in program evaluation:

- can help explain why certain results were achieved or not achieved;
- allow discovery of unexpected outcomes; and
- inform decisions about modifications to service provision.

While quantitative data are necessary for evaluating program outcomes that can be statistically analyzed, augmenting your evaluation with qualitative data provides a more complete and personal picture of your program as experienced by families and program staff.

This interactive webinar, led by Dr. Susan Janko Summers, lead author of the FRIENDS resource, Using Qualitative Data in Program Evaluation: Telling the Story of a Prevention Program, (http://www.friendsnrc.org/download/outcomeresources/qualitativedata.pdf) will:

- Describe key elements of qualitative evaluation
- Explore ways to use qualitative methods as part of program evaluation
- Demonstrate in real-time how information can be gathered, interpreted, and used to improve program services

Space is limited! Reserve your webinar seat now at https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/214428746. If you have any questions or comments, please email Jean Nussbaum at jean.nussbaum@acf.hhs.gov.

The application period for the CTF executive director position closed on April 30, 2009. The CTF Board will begin reviewing applications and scheduling interviews in early May. CTF will keep grantees updated on this process. If you have any questions, please contact interim executive director Paul Shaheen.
Community Collaboration for Prevention

In reviewing the federal stimulus dollars that may be used for child abuse prevention, it has become clear that some dollars are going directly to local communities. For example, Title I education and Head Start funds will be available for discretionary purposes. Local decision makers will be making decisions about how those funds will be spent.

We encourage you to consider hosting or engaging local stakeholders in a discussion about potential funding opportunities from those stimulus package monies for child abuse prevention efforts. One opportunity might be to engage in a conversation with your respective ISD superintendent to discuss his/her willingness to use Title I dollars for prevention, including but not limited to home visiting programs or the expansion of pre-K programs. Partnering with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) Great Start Collaborative groups might also be a consideration, as they are interested in prevention outcomes.

Early Head Start dollars are competitive. Some local Head Start agencies might be willing to partner with community-based groups, to ensure that they provide their respective communities comprehensive, cost-effective programming which includes prevention services.

Adding your voice could make the difference in whether that happens or not.

Think about using your voice to assure that your community does not miss this opportunity. And if you develop effective partnerships, please let us know. We would love to hear what is working in your community!

Help Parents in Your Programs: Join the Parent Leadership Work Group!

The Parent Leadership Work Group is currently exploring different ways to support parent leadership development within CTF programs. This may include providing financial support for parent leaders from CTF programs who wish to take part in local and statewide leadership trainings and activities. But we need your input!

Join us for the next Parent Leadership Work Group on Wednesday, May 20, at 10:00 a.m. We will be using the CTF conference line, (877) 336-1828 and access code 8088351. Please contact Sarah Davis at CTF with any questions, or to join the work group’s email list.

ECIC Releases RFP

ECIC released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Michigan Child Care and Early Learning Resource Center and for regional Child Care and Early Learning Resource Centers (10 will be funded). ECIC currently administers the Federal Child Care Development Block Grant funds for Quality for DHS.

These RFPs will support the increase in available, high-quality child care to children who are receiving the child care subsidy. The goal is to improve the quality of child care across all settings—both regulated and unregulated—to assure the best opportunities for early learning for our most vulnerable children.
A Special Thank You

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for all the hard work you did to make CAP Month 2009 a total success. I enjoyed reading your event announcements and summaries of completed events. You are all making a positive difference in your communities!

Reporting and Application Renewal

- A reminder that 2nd quarter reports were due on April 20. If you haven’t already completed and submitted, please do so. If you received a note from me (and/or EGrAMS) stating that corrections were needed, please correct and resubmit. Once all of the reports are approved, expenses will then be submitted to DHS.
- When completing your program register report, mandated reporter trainings are captured on PAGE ONE ONLY. Do not input the data on page 2 and/or duplicate your data on both pages 1 and 2.
- While reviewing the reports, I noticed that activity reports don’t always capture the full extent of educational activities that councils conduct. For example, the activities may be listed in the program register report on page 2, but there is no summary of them in the activity report. It appears that the work plans didn’t include all of the activities that were taking place. As you move forward in completing your application renewals (LCFY-10), it is important to comprehensively capture all necessary objectives and activities to show all provided educational services.
- A reminder that the LCFY-10 application is due by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19. After that date EGrAMS will be closed and you will not be able to enter any data. Please contact me with any questions about the renewal.

Upcoming Local Council Work Group Meetings

Please note that the meetings will continue to occur the first Thursday of each month, except for the June and July meetings.

- May 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
- June 3 @ 2:00 p.m. (a Wednesday afternoon)
- July - No meeting
- August 6 @ 10:00 a.m.
- September 3 @ 10:00 a.m.
- October 1 @ 10:00 a.m.
- November 5 @ 10:00 a.m.
- December 3 @ 10:00 a.m.

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**Upcoming Events**

**May 5:** Take a “Journey of Hope”! Join CARE House (Oakland County) for a fundraising luncheon on Tuesday, May 5, from noon until 1:00 p.m. at the Birmingham Community House. You can confirm your place by calling (248) 332-7173 or contacting Pat Rosen at prosen@carehouse.org. If you are unable to attend, but would like to support the mission of CARE House, visit www.carehouse.org.

**May 27-29:** The National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit will be held at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The summit will explore the current state of evaluation practice in the field of child welfare and to promote cohesive, strategic, and sound approaches for evaluating child welfare systems, programs, and projects. Target participants include Children’s Bureau discretionary grant evaluators, State and Tribal child welfare administrators and analysts, evaluation experts in child welfare, evaluation experts in other human service fields, and interested child welfare professionals. For more information, email evaluationsummit@pal-tech.com.

**June 2-4:** Register now for the National Summit on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment: From Inspiration to Innovation: Leadership, Partnership, and Change. The summit will be held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, from June 2-4. To register, please visit http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1081/.

**June 13:** The Alpena/Presque Isle CA/N team is holding its first annual Hospice of Michigan – Exchange Club – CA/N Team Golf Outing Fundraiser on June 13 at the River’s Edge Golf Course on Werth Road near Alpena. The event will feature a four-person scramble, 18 holes of golf with cart, and lunch. Cost is $75 per person ($300 per team) with registrations limited to 34 teams. River’s Edge Golf Club members can register for $60 per person.

The event will feature door prizes and prizes for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin. There will also be 50-50’s, a Skins Game and a Hole-In-One Contest to win a new car! Mark the date on your calendar, get a foursome together, and come out to have some fun. All CA/N Team proceeds will be used to fund child abuse prevention efforts in Alpena and Presque Isle counties.

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**Building Blocks For Kids: Creating Intervention Systems That Support Young Children’s Healthy Development**

Chapin Hall is hosting a webinar entitled “Building Blocks For Kids: Creating Intervention Systems That Support Young Children’s Healthy Development.” Policymakers and funders increasingly recognize what educators and psychologists have long known about the importance of early childhood experiences: interventions that enrich young children’s environments can prepare them cognitively and emotionally to achieve in school and become more successful youths and adults.

The webinar will explore how states and local municipalities can strengthen the infrastructure to support multiple early childhood services that together promote school readiness and other developmental goals. The webinar will take place on:

- **May 6, 2009**
- 1:00 p.m. EST
- Program Length: 1 hour

Register online at http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102556076849&s=275&e=001rSFIGDcQGBAqEVGpX_e-v1MY9p9O9sRz7VXQswTyuPd9srEwNRCWtzGIAhJGrfZQXEYe6ApJOxXAlc-wDedcdqGJeFpn6v2XIG9kAyT7ixFWphDnGGaW96g==.

Speakers will provide concrete examples of developing collaborative and effective partnerships at both the county and state level, discuss the role of research in system building, and describe new funding opportunities for improving early childhood systems available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The web conference is free and space is limited. If multiple people in your office want to participate, please have only one person register and your group can view the web conference together. To join the web conference, you need a computer with an Internet connection. You can listen to the conference by telephone or over the Internet. A recording of the web conference will be posted online for those who cannot attend the live event.
His Brain-Her Brain…And Your Approach

The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition invites you and up to five staff members from your agency to attend a FREE in-service training event on May 19, 2009. Duane Wilson, LMSW, will be the featured speaker at this event. Duane is the Program Manager for the Proud Fathers-Proud Parents Programs at the Michigan Department of Human Services.

“His Brain-Her Brain…And Your Approach” is an interactive presentation appropriate for anyone who has direct contact with fathers. It is designed to promote and strengthen male engagement. Through current research on male and female brain functioning, the presentation will introduce biological factors that play a major role in male behavior, male learning, and male communication styles. The presentation clearly conveys an understanding that communicating with men/boys can be uniquely different and often requires a very different approach. Attendees will learn specific strength-based strategies and techniques that work in conjunction with the “biological factor” to improve male interaction and involvement in order to increase positive outcomes for children. Attendees will also receive specific tips that are designed to promote positive working relationships, even with the most challenging males.

Details for the event are as follows:
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Ingham County Health Department, Room A
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing MI 48911
PARKING: Parking is available in front of the building. Enter the building through door #3. Room A is on the second floor.

There is no charge for this event. Light refreshments will be provided. Attendance is limited to 60 persons. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, so register now by sending your RSVP to michfatherhood@gmail.com. Any questions, call Mike Kildee at (810) 591-7232.

Michigan Fatherhood Coalition

You and your staff members are welcome to attend the business meeting of the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition immediately following the “His Brain-Her Brain…And Your Approach” event. This meeting will conclude at noon. The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition is a non-profit organization of committed volunteer practitioners and professionals who work with fathers in private and public agencies. Its mission is to:

• Work with practitioners to ensure that programs include and engage fathers,
• Train practitioners in best practices to enhance positive male parenting,
• Provide a network for those promoting healthy families, and
• Serve as a source of information for responsible fatherhood initiatives in Michigan.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to enhance your skills, to network with your colleagues, and to get better acquainted with the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition. See www.michiganfatherhood.org for more information about the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition and how to join us in our mission. We look forward to seeing you on May 19!
CTF Interns Complete Service

April St. Amant and Terran Cockerill have completed their internships with CTF. April assisted with the Citizen Review Panel and is graduating from Central Michigan University. Terran assisted with fund development and is graduating from Michigan State University. CTF congratulates April and Terran on their graduation and wishes them the best in their new endeavors.

Memorial Day--May 25, 2009

The CTF office will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2009, in honor of Memorial Day.

CTF Staffer Receives MBA Degree

Congratulations to Alan Stokes for earning his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Davenport University on April 26. Alan’s specialized concentration in his MBA program was in Accounting. This is Alan’s second graduate degree, having previously earned the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Alan joined the CTF team in January 2005. He is known by the field, staff, and stakeholders as a professional and resourceful go-to guy. Over the years, he has consistently performed his CTF responsibilities with the added value of insights obtained from his graduate studies. CTF recognizes Alan for his accomplishments.