



Greater Detroit Chapter  
21455 Melrose Avenue  
Building R, Suite 1  
Southfield, MI 48075

### GIFT GIVING

Giving is receiving . . .  
Memberships and/or donations to Childhelp MI are available as tax deductible gifts for friends, family and colleagues. As we approach the holiday seasons and for any other occasion (i.e. Birthdays, Tributes and Memorials) please give to Childhelp MI in their honor.

## 2006 Dates to Remember

## Greater Detroit Chapter Board Members

**Fundraiser meeting dates:**  
October 24, 2006  
5:30 p.m. at Nationwide Insurance Office  
805 E Maple Rd  
Birmingham, MI 48009.

**Board meetings** will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

**Membership Meetings:**  
Winter Jan 24, 2007  
Spring/annual May 16, 2007

November 10, 2006 — Celebrate the Child Fundraiser  
April 4, 2007 — Day of Hope Luncheon

**Newsletter Due Dates:**  
January 10, 2007  
April 10, 2007

### For More Information

Contact Childhelp Michigan  
Greater Detroit Chapter  
248.353.0921



- Dan Cherrin, *President*  
Betsy Reich, *Exec. Vice President/President Elect*  
Merrill A. Friedman, *Acting Director*  
Vacant, *Recording Secretary*  
Steve Showerman, *Treasurer*  
Phyllis Whitehead, *VP Ways & Means-Fundraisers*  
Steve Roberts, *VP Ways & Means-Corporate & Individual gifts*  
Stephanie Johnson-Wuttke, *VP-Government Affairs*  
Pamela Dancu, *VP-Hospitality*  
Mary Claire Hathaway, *VP-Public Relations & Marketing*  
Linda Marshall, *VP-Membership*  
Shelley Farmery, *VP-Special Events*  
Edward Greenup, *Parliamentarian*  
Tania Cahill, *Newsletter Editor*  
Kathy Schweitzer, *Ex-Officio*  
Seth Faber, *member*  
John Kerr, *member*  
A.J. Weiner, *member*  
Jennifer A. Bielfield, *member*  
Adam S. Forman, *member*



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



### GREATER DETROIT CHAPTER

### FALL NEWSLETTER 2006

## President's Message

Joey, Sue, Lori, Kyle, Mitch, Oscar, Jane - They all sound like generic names and frankly I made them up, but I know a child whether they carry that name or not has just become a victim of child abuse and neglect.

This is why we exist - to prevent the vicious cycle of child abuse from happening to the next generation. Whether you are in the 48323, 48288, 48304 or 48230 some of your neighbors kids are being abused. Abuse transcends race and socio-economic status, it is everywhere and affects everyone.

Each day, more than 4 children die as a result of child abuse in the home in the United States alone - most of which are under the age of 4. As of this writing, I have two daughters, a three year old and a two year old. I am expecting my third, a boy, at the end of October. I cannot imagine anyone or anything harming them. As a parent, I cannot and will not let this happen to my children, their friends or classmates. I will do everything I can as President of Childhelp's Greater Detroit Chapter to prevent this happening to any more children.

This coming year we will see many changes with Childhelp in Michigan. Our foster care program is up and running with children currently in homes and one who was recently discharged. One of our children needed orthodontia and thanks to your generosity, he is on his way to walking more confident and with a brighter smile. We are constantly receiving requests from future mentors and the media is beginning to use us more and more as a resource. Soon we will be in the schools with our Good Touch/Bad Touch program working to educate children and prevent them from being abused in the future. We are having our annual Gala, Celebrate the Child, on November 10 at the Townsend Hotel. Drive to Canada and you will see our banner hanging proudly over the Detroit Windsor Tunnel. Visit us in Southfield and you will see our brightly colored offices ready to welcome our children. Things are happening here in Michigan and I am excited by your involvement.

To get further engaged, please contact me at [dcherrin@caponigro.com](mailto:dcherrin@caponigro.com).

For the love of a child,  
Dan Cherrin

## Rev Up and Ride the Dream! 7th Annual Celebrate the Child Event

This year our party is going to be very different!! We decided not to have the typical Black Tie Dinner...rather, the fundraising committee has planned an exciting, high energy event partnering with Great American Chopper, Clear Magazine and The Loaners to bring you an evening of custom motorcycles, high fashion, and Rock & Roll.

The event will be held at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham. Clear Magazine is presenting a fashion show "fusing the hottest European fashion with the sexiest bikes on the road" with fashions provided by Great American Chopper, Dolce Moda, Prodigy, Michelle Rachele and more....

Rock and Roll Music and Dancing will be provided by Quicken Loans own in house band, The Loaners. We will have a live auction with 10 incredible packages, a silent auction, our favorite deck of card sales, a strolling gourmet dinner, special martini bar, complimentary beer and wine, magicians, cigar rollers, choppers, choppers and more choppers on display!

The 2006 Benefactor Party will be held at the magnificent home of Keenie and Geoffrey Fieger in Bloomfield Hills. The Fieger's have graciously offered to host this event on Saturday November 4, 2006. Tickets to attend the November 10th event are \$150.00 per person and tickets to attend both the event and the benefactor party are \$250.00 per person. Sponsorship packages are also available and can be obtained by contacting our office at 248-353-0921.

We are looking forward to these spectacular events to benefit the children and families supported by Childhelp Michigan.



**Greetings, Childhelp Friends!** We are excited for the fall and all of the great happenings taking place. Our Mentor Program continues to grow and it's most recent awarding of a Mentor Michigan Americorp Member is highlighted in this newsletter by Betsy Pyle, our Intervention Services Coordinator. I'm also happy to note that Betsy was accepted as one of the newest members on the Mentor Michigan Providers Council. Congratulations Betsy! We have also finalized our State contract with the Department of Human Services, allowing us to work with the counties as a placement option for youngsters requiring general and specialized foster care services. We currently have 3 youth placed within Childhelp Foster Homes and one youth has already been successfully discharged to his Mother's care. Pam Talbot, our Foster Care Coordinator, has been asked to provide family therapy services as part of that youth's aftercare plan. Thanks Pam for working so diligently with our youth and their families! On September 21st, we held our fall membership meeting at the Gross Point Yacht Club where we had the opportunity to welcome new members to our Childhelp Michigan family and unveil more of our upcoming strategic plan. Keep an eye on our website that is undergoing great changes to better inform people of our services and commitment to Michigan's youth. Also, please stay tuned to our upcoming events, trainings and volunteer opportunities that can be found on the website as well as in mailings. Thank you again for any and all of your support.



## MENTORING PROGRAM Betsy Pyle, Intervention Services Coordinator

The Childhelp Michigan Mentor Program is pleased to announce a very exciting opportunity. In early September, we were awarded a Mentor Michigan AmeriCorps Member. This person will be a truly needed and welcome addition to our staff.

The primary goal of the Mentor Michigan AmeriCorps (MMA) program is to support Mentor Michigan's goal of recruiting 10,000 new mentors for Michigan's youth. The ConnectMichigan Alliance (CMA) Mentor Michigan AmeriCorps program places full-time AmeriCorps Members in eligible organizations statewide to increase the development of the state's youth mentoring infrastructure by supporting mentoring initiatives at the local and regional levels.

As a new program, we are excited to get this type of opportunity to develop better recruiting methods, enhance our current training, as well as provide more community outreach about the effectiveness of mentoring as a means of prevention and intervention with our youth. The primary role of the MMA Members will be to improve the quality of existing youth mentoring programs by enhancing, developing and implementing systems to effectively recruit, screen, train and support volunteer mentors and their mentees. MMA will engage at least 1500 volunteers in mentoring and related activities during the program's inaugural year.

We are currently in the recruiting and interviewing process. A MMA member will be selected by October 4, 2006. They will attend a week long training in Lansing, which will familiarize them with the mentoring initiative in Michigan, as well as give them the tools and knowledge needed to assist in developing and implementing recruitment efforts as well as training. It is our intention that this person will be an asset in helping to develop relationships with other mentoring programs. It is Childhelp Michigan's mission to best serve all youth wanting a mentor in Southeastern Michigan.

At this time, the Michigan legislature has adjourned to hit the campaign trails in full force to return after the November 7 election. Prior to leaving, the Governor and legislators completed the FY 2006-2007 budget. Included in the final budget was the hiring of 51 additional full-time Child Protection Service (CPS) workers. Over the years, many state employees have left the various state departments due to early retirement incentives offered in order to reduce the state's workforce for budget savings. The lower staffing ratios and the lack of experience staff have had a tremendous impact on DHS and the delivery of services.

Medicaid coverage for 19 and 20 year olds was also maintained in the Department of Community Health budget. This coverage largely covers children who are exiting from foster care. Early in the budget negotiations it appeared that this program would be eliminated for cost savings.

In addition to the completion of the state's budgets, the legislature also moved up the phase out of the Single Business Tax (SBT) to December 31, 2007. The legislature is currently in the process of crafting a replacement tax structure before the end of the current year. If a new structure is not in place by the end of 2007, the state will lose nearly \$200 billion in revenue. This will likely have a significant impact on many programs that serve children in foster care and other care settings.

Presently DHS is in settlement negotiations with New York Based Children's Rights after they filed a federal lawsuit on August 8, 2006, claiming that Michigan is not doing enough to protect foster care children and to ensure their needs, including permanent placement, are being met. Among the concerns raised by the organization is that the state is not adequately monitoring the safety of foster care children, nor is it providing the mental health and physical health care they need. Further, they claim that the state is not spending enough money on the foster care program and is not able to keep foster care workers on the job. Michigan has the seventh largest population of foster children and it ranks 12th among states in its ratio of state and local funds to federal funds.

DHS Director Marianne Udow offered immediately to enter into settlement negotiations in an effort to save money so that more resources will be available in strengthening programs for foster children and not on potentially costly litigation.

## Opportunities and Contributions

Dear Friends,  
Please consider a contribution to the Childhelp Michigan Programs for abused, neglected and at-risk children. Due to the support of caring individuals, such as yourselves, our Foster Care and Mentoring Programs are up and running. As you may have seen or heard in the media, the foster care children, numbering nearly 20,000 in our state, need our help. In order to provide that help, we at Childhelp Michigan, must maintain and grow our programs. We are seeking your support. Without financial donations these programs cannot become a reality. Your sponsorship will touch the lives of hundreds of children here in our own communities. Please purchase a sponsorship and attend our fundraiser. The children need us! If you have not received a sponsorship pack in the mail and would like one call 248-353-0921 and one will be sent to you. There is a full range of opportunities to participate from large donations to a small advertisement in our program book. Every effort on behalf of the children is appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Brazilian

