



## Director's Message by Lyle Dorr



When people hear that I am the Director of Child and Family Services, they say, "Oh, you work for the state". No, Child & Family Services of NE MI is a private nonprofit child welfare agency providing foster care, adoption, girls' residential services and a few other critical services designed to support at risk children and strengthen families.

The agency's formal history can be traced back over 100 years to 1891 and the founding of "The Michigan Children's Home Society". Even then it was known that caring homes were a better alternative for homeless children than orphanages.

Child & Family Services of NE MI was founded in 1958 as one of many satellite agencies to provide foster care and adoption services. In 1968 Hope House, our girls group home, was opened and through the years a number of other family support services were added.

This year is our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The staff is proud to live in Northeast Michigan and serve the vulnerable children that live in our area. We cannot thank you enough for your support through encouraging words, monetary gifts, supportive services, and prayers as many churches through the years have been an ally against threats to the youth we serve. We invite you to continue your partnership with us in this fight to support the children, youth and families of Northeast Michigan. Have a great summer and please come and join us for some fun Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> at J.J.'s

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## President's Message by Steve Kieliszewski

As the new Board President, I would like to take a few lines to introduce myself. I've been employed in the law enforcement field for the last 21 years, 20 of them with the Alpena County Sheriff's Office. I've held several positions with the sheriff's office and was elected Sheriff in 2004. I've been married to my beautiful wife Erin (McDonnell) for 19 years (this year) and together we have 6 children, Christopher (17); Emily (16); Hailey (14); Collin (9); Connor (8); and Colby (4). Our three youngest children Erin and I were blessed with adopting so adoption and adoption issues are close to my (our) heart.

Former board member and current Alpena County Treasurer Joelyn McCallum nominated me for a position on the Child and Family Board and I was elected as a member in 2003. I've served on several committees while being a member and was elected to the position of Board President in 2006. Former President Karen Werth has been a big help with my transition and I want to thank her for her years of service on the Board and as past Board President.

With the state of the State, we have seen some interesting things take place this past year. There have been some big changes with the way the State of Michigan is doing business with private agencies, especially regarding the manner in which the State is currently funding foster care and other programs. I know that your Executive Director is keeping a close eye on this as more changes are expected and it is our hope that the State will appropriately fund these vital programs.

Hope House is currently a top priority for me as President. As Karen mentioned in the Spring 2007 newsletter, the program has outgrown its current facility and is in need of change. We have looked at several pieces of property and will be planning budgets for it. The pieces of property that have been looked at would include a new building for a transitional living program to assist those girls who complete the Hope House program or foster care that have aged out of the juvenile system. I am hopeful that in the coming year we will be able to report to you positive news about how we are meeting the needs of these vulnerable populations. I'm excited to be your new Board President and look forward to serving you during my term.

### A Life Changed by Tina

#### MY HAPPY ENDING

Forgiveness is what it all boils down to. It can be hard to put your past in THE PAST. But I did it; it was hard and took a lot of time and patience. When I first came into Hope House, I was dark, pink hair with corn rolls, thick eyeliner, piercings, tattoos, and deep cuts all over my arms. My wall was up, it was not coming down. Well that is what I thought. "Forgiveness" Well it all started when I was 14 and my mom left the family for her boss. It broke my heart. But did I let people see me in pain? No, I bottled, let my anger out in other negative ways such as cutting myself until I couldn't stand it or feel my wrist. I used cocaine, acid, duster and annex to take the hurt away. But none of that worked, what I really needed was my mother. I wanted to tell her how much I hated her and couldn't stand the fact that she's with another man and not with my dad. I fronted for two years about my true feelings. My wall started fading slowly but surely the day I entered Hope House. At first, I still denied me being mad about my mom leaving and going with a 70-year-old guy. It wasn't until I ran from the program that I faced reality that I was here and staying here. So I had to start walkin. I felt so relieved to say my true feelings. But still it was hard. I didn't want to look like my mom got me down. I wanted to be big and show everyone how "hard" I was. But I couldn't hold it in any longer. So I confronted my mom about this issue. I told her everything. I told her how every night I had to answer my sister when wondering "Tina, when's mommy coming home?" I didn't know what to say or how to say it, so I'd say she's never coming back. She has what she's always wanted, MONEY. I was very confused and hurt. Hope House helped me through the pain and let me work at my own past. I want to thank you all for not giving up on me. I lied and deceived the program, but you never once wanted to give up. You saw me at my worst and now you're seeing me at my best. If it weren't for this program, I wouldn't know where I'd be. I've learned so much and did a complete 180 since the day I walked in here. Never once did I ever think I'd stop using or cutting myself or even sleeping around. I learned new coping tools, positive coping tools that are talking, journaling and looking at pictures of my family. But by no means am I perfect. I still have those urges to just sit in a dark room and cut myself or just pop some pills to take the pain away. But I'm not giving in, not today, not tomorrow. I came too far and worked way too hard. I can be happy. I don't need no guy to tell me that he loves me then gets what he wants and leaves me for another girl. All I need is confidence, supports and my family and I'll be just fine. So staff of Hope House and my group members, thank you, this will never be forgotten.

### Hope House by Peggy Krajniak, Director



Hope House has added a couple of new staff members. Susan Hilla has come on board as a Treatment Specialist. Kym Ray is the new cook for the program. We are currently looking to hire a part time secretary as Sally Curley has resigned her position. We will surely miss her but wish her well in her new position with the Alpena Public Schools.

Hope House has been maintaining levels at 11 residents with the new trend being to refer abuse neglect kids instead of those that are delinquent. Hope House has also received many donations from area organizations which will be put to good use for such things as new sleeping bags so we can take the girls camping, pillows for the girls, and other necessities for the house. These donations make it possible to provide items for the house that aid in the everyday care of the girls in residence.

Hope House is also partnering with the Boy Scouts of America in their Venturing Program. This will allow us to use their facilities to do many new things with the girls such as canoeing and camping. We usually take the girls to Eagle Village in June for a three day challenge. By partnering with the Boy Scouts we can accomplish the same objectives but with a much better cost to the program. We are really excited about all the opportunities that this venture will bring and all the doors that it may open for our girls.

The staff are busy with the girls planning the summer camping trip. We are going to try something different this year so we can split up the time and all staff may have the opportunity to participate. We will do a two or three day summer trip followed by a few days of camping. Most of the girls that we have here have never been on a trip or camping. This should prove to be fun for all of us.

As always we are busy meeting the many varied needs of the girls. Hope House has a pretty challenging group of girls right now, with two of them being abuse/neglect with no delinquency. The Hope House Treatment Staff have certainly risen to the challenge and continually show why they are such a great team.

### Child Welfare by James Juchartz



We recently have had some staff changes with hiring Laura Kearly for the added position of Adoption Specialist and Mindi Herriman along with Darcie Scheller assuming the positions of Foster Care Caseworkers'. Madelene Wirgau was offered a lateral transfer from casework to the position of Foster Family Certification Specialist.

Beginning in October 2007 the Michigan Department of Human Services began transferring 50-75% of all adoption case services to private agencies. I have been retooling our child welfare program hiring one additional Adoption Specialist and we have begun to accept adoption cases. It is anticipated that we will assume up to approximately 45 cases both male/female with age ranges from infancy to late teens. In addition to our coverage areas of Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Otsego, Oscoda, Crawford, Iosco, and Ogemaw, we now have expanded our services to the counties of Arenac, Gladwin, and Roscommon. Naturally, these children who are listed for adoption are currently in care or will be entering into care awaiting a permanent home and family. If you have an interest in adopting, don't hesitate to contact our Adoption Specialists; Marci Sample or Laura Kearly @ (989) 356-4048.

Since the transfer of adoption cases to private agencies and the fact that these children are in need of a permanent homes and families are or will be entering into foster care, now more than ever, the call for new foster homes and families is very critical. We are beginning to recruit foster & adoptive families at an accelerated rate. Should you know of anyone who may be interested in foster care and adoption, please have them contact Madelene Wirgau; Foster Family Certification Specialist, for more information.

Recently, Darcie Scheller and I attended a program titled PRIDE Train the Trainer (Parent Resource for Information, Development, and Education). The program is mandatory for all new foster parents but is also available for existing ones. Darcie and I will be providing this training to our foster parents beginning in March 2008, and will be doing another session in May. The remainder of the staff will be receiving the PRIDE training so they too, can offer it to foster parents.

On behalf of the staff, I am happy to announce that the CW Program has a newsletter. After much deliberation, I have decided it was time to revisit a long ago tradition of providing a newsletter with critical updates in the child welfare system, along with training opportunities for foster and adoptive parents, changes in the agency, important dates etc. Not only will foster and adoptive parents receive this, but we are considering the Courts and DHS offices that we service. We will be sending out a newsletter quarterly so be on the look out.

### Specialized Foster Care by Ken Skwir

*Help a Child in your*



*community by  
opening your  
heart and home:*

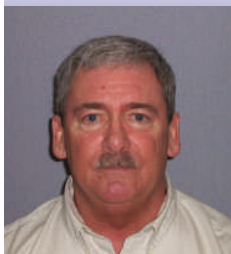
***Become a Foster Parent!***

For more information contact Child and Family Services Of Northeast Michigan  
*Locally at 989-356-4567  
or 1-800-779-0396*

The Specialized Foster Care program is underway and doing well. Licensing Specialist Ken Skwir, who came to Child & Family after retiring from another non-profit agency, reports that we have three families licensed for the new program and all three have kids placed in their homes. All three families are doing very well after receiving extensive training in November of 2007. The Specialized Foster Care Program is a collaborative effort with AuSable Valley Community Mental Health to provide foster care services for hard to place youth from Iosco, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties. Presently we have foster homes in each county, and kids placed from each county as well.

We hope to have at least three more families licensed by August of 2008. Ads are running now so that we can start recruiting and training new families. Interested families can call Ken @ 989-739-5865.

## Staff Spotlight



Ken Skwir is our new Licensing Specialist for our new Specialized Treatment Forster Care Program.

He is a single dad of two daughters, Jessica who is 24, a teacher living in Chicago and Kaitlin 20 who is a junior at MSU in Lansing.

Ken enjoys fly fishing, golf and gardening. He has lived in the Greenbush area for 2 yrs and 20 yrs in Saginaw prior to that. He is a new member of the Moose Lodge.

Ken earned his bachelors in Education at NMU and has taken classes at MSU toward his master in social work. He worked for over 30 years for a large non profit organization.

Ken states that starting a whole new program and the challenges that it presents are the most enjoyable part of his new position.

He finds establishing and maintaining positive relationships with a new group of people very rewarding. He loves to tell others about how caring and energetic the staff are at Child & Family Services of Northeast MI Inc.

## CFS Family Fun(d) Day

### A big thank you to Jerry & Gailynn Reed of JJ's Awesome Acres!

Jerry & Gailynn Reed have graciously agreed to host our event again this year. Mark you calendars for **Saturday, June 14th** beginning at 10 a.m. We will be enjoying all the fun at JJ's Awesome Acres. Come out and enjoy the bumper boats, go carts, and golfing. Come bid on the many items in our silent auction. While you are there stop by our concession stand and visit with the staff. We are looking forward to seeing you!!

## Yes, I would like to contribute to the Family Fun(d) Day!

Please fill out coupon below and return in envelope provided *before May 10th*.  
**Thank you for being a Champion for Children and Families in Northeast Michigan.**

### Grand Slam Level

\$500 or Over Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Lead designation** in our advertisements, website and sponsor board at event. **15 Family Foursome Tickets** for mini golf on Saturday June 14th.

### Eagle Level

\$250-\$499 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Level designation** in our advertisements, website and sponsor board at event. **5 Family Foursome Tickets** for mini golf on Saturday June 14th.

### Birdie Level

\$100-\$249 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You will be recognized in our advertisements, and sponsor board at event. **1 family foursome ticket** to golf on Saturday June 14th.

### Par level

Less than \$100 Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You will be listed in the Thank You ad and on sponsor board at event.

## 4C News by Robin Benson



4C has had a busy start to the New Year. Our child care resource and referral duties have remained consistent. Child care referrals are somewhat down from last year, but with fewer people in our areas being employed, this is to be expected. Due to the additional training we were able to do last year outside of our training contract and the great work we did within our contract training (a total of 3 times as many providers were trained last year than the year previous!), the Michigan 4C Association offered additional training funds to our program to offer three additional courses – Basic II, Health & Safety and Accreditation Support. Basic II and Accreditation Support are new and we were able to assist in the development of these pilot programs. The Basic II is a coaching model of training for providers who have taken our 16-hour Basic course. Providers taking this course will receive 14 hours of coaching in one of these three areas: learning and development, behavior and discipline or professional management. Training will for the most part occur on site at the child care location. The Accreditation Support will work in much the same way, but will focus on assisting programs in becoming accredited through either the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). Both of these new trainings will be a great asset in increasing quality in child care in our nine counties. Additionally, we were given funds to offer the Health & Safety course to providers at no charge. This course combines blood borne pathogen, SIDS and shaken baby syndrome training together in an 8 hour course. Stephanie Dettloff and I both received training from UAW in order to offer the blood borne pathogen training.

We have had some movement in staff this year. Karen Aube, who had taken over for Lisa Mertz for the position of Onsite Coordinator for Alpena and Presque Isle Counties, received a position as Wrap Around Coordinator for Catholic Human Services. We filled her position with a friend and previous employee of C&FS, Kristen Johnson. We are thrilled to have her back. Christen Satchwell, Onsite Coordinator in Mackinac and Cheboygan Counties, accepted a position at the Cheboygan DHS office. For that position, we hired Sara Johnston, who is a great asset to our program. She previously was a child care provider in St. Ignace and has a great educational background in early childhood education. Lynn Kann, our Onsite Coordinator to Montmorency and Alcona Counties was out for a bit with a badly broken arm. Several members of our staff took turns covering her counties. We are happy to say she is healing nicely and back to work! We are lucky to have such a flexible and hard working staff!

## Families First by Lynne Walter



The Families First Program is going well. We have one new worker on our team, Madeleine McConnell. She came to us from another Families First program and she has really shined. She's a great advocate, very resourceful and has a calm, confident demeanor that the clients and referral sources have responded well to. She has been a great addition to our team. The rest of my team have been with us from 2 to 10 years and they continue to do a terrific job helping to keep families safely together.

This is a contract year so our contract is up for bid with the State this year. I'm confident we will continue to serve the eight counties we have been so privileged to help. Our four workers are covering Alpena, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alcona, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda and Ogemaw counties.

Families First is an extremely intensive in-home/community program that is designed to keep families safely together if possible. Our referrals come from DHS for category 1 and category 2 abuse or neglect case (they are at extremely high risk of removal without intensive services.) We also get DHS Foster Care referrals to help ensure a successful return home when children have been in care and we get some delinquency referrals from Iosco courts. My workers are available to the family 24/7 for 4 to 6 weeks, including holidays. They spend a minimum of an average of 10-12 hours per week working directly with the family. Families First Workers teach and advocate around a wide variety of needs. They address whatever is putting the family at risk and also assist the family with any needs they identify. While the time commitment and the nature of having the system involved with a family appears overwhelming for families initially, by the end of the intervention they are often sorry to see the workers leave as it has been such a positive and beneficial program.



# Child & Family Services

Of Northeast Michigan, Inc.

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