



# PROJECT W.E.A.V.E.

"WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES THAT VALIDATE AND EMBRACE YOUTH"

## FUTURES REPORT

### NEWSLETTER

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION  
RECLAIMING FUTURES



Volume 4, Issue 1

MARQUETTE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Summer 2006

## Three Sisters Gardening

**Liz Smith, Director**

*Project WEAVE*

My mother first introduced me to three sisters gardening several years ago. It is a gardening technique originated with the Iroquois, "People of the Long House". Three sisters gardening is now practiced widely by Native Americans in which corn, beans and squash are planted together in the same mound. These three sisters symbolize spirituality, ceremony and celebration. They must work together to benefit each other.

The corn, the oldest sister, is planted in the center of the mound and grows straight and tall. The corn is a grain and carbohydrate. The beans twist their vines around the corn stalks and offer a source of protein. The squash is planted next and its leafy foliage keeps the ground moist with nutrients and protects the sisters from rodents and other pests. Squash is also a great source for vitamin A.

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## What Is The Performance Measures Project?

**"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there"**

**Judge Michael Anderegg**

*Marquette County Probate Court*

This quote is often used by Doug Thomas, a researcher from The National Center for Juvenile Justice, to describe the state of juvenile justice before the Performance Measures project. The project was a federally-funded collaboration between The National Center for Juvenile Justice, The American Prosecutors Research Institute, and academicians from Florida Atlantic University. The grant helped juvenile justice professionals from four pilot sites (Bend, Oregon; Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; Cook County, Illinois and the State of South Carolina) develop a strategy to identify the most important work being done with juveniles on probation, track the progress of those juveniles while under court jurisdiction, and report to the public about the performance of the system and its juvenile clients.

## **Performance Measures at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Juvenile Justice Conference**

The Performance Measures Project was the subject of an all-day pre-conference workshop at the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Juvenile Justice in Denver, Colorado on March 25, 2006.

One of the informational sessions consisted of presenters from three sites where the Performance Measures system is being used. Christina MacLaughlan described the systems use in Bend, Oregon. Jim Reiland, Director of the Allegheny County Juvenile Court, covered implementation in Pittsburgh and in

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The three sisters benefit each other. In order to grow, they must support each other. Corn, beans, squash and tobacco are known as sacred plants in Native American culture. Traditionally, the three sisters together are called Dyonheyko, “they who sustain our lives”.

In the juvenile justice system initiative of Reclaiming Futures, there have been “three sisters” who have enriched the lives of many youth and families. Over the course of this year, these “three sisters” have used their wisdom, resourcefulness and expertise to persevere and penetrate the “system of care” to seek the best possible care and treatment for young people.

When I plant my three sisters garden, I will lay tobacco and reflect on the incredible efforts of these women. The oldest sister, like the corn, has a strong outer layer that has provided her strength, distinction and protection. On the inside, she is tender and sweet. The middle sister like the beans uses all of the resources available in the community to help her three peas flourish. She cautiously weaves her way around the corn stalk always seeking the path that will yield the best results. The youngest sister, like the squash, offers a great source of support, understanding and shelter for her child who struggles with drug and alcohol use. No leaf goes unturned when it comes to obtaining the most effective, comprehensive treatment practices for her family.

The three sisters seek guidance and support from each other. They communicate and collaborate to sustain the efforts of the community as we work together to reclaim the lives of children caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime.

### **The Iroquois Legend of the Three Sisters**

The term “Three Sisters” emerged from the Iroquois creation myth. It was said that the earth began when “Sky Woman” who lived in the upper world peered through a hole in the sky and fell through to an endless sea. The animals saw her coming, so they took the soil from the bottom of the sea and spread it onto the back of a giant turtle to provide a safe place for her to land. This “Turtle Island” is now what we call North America.

Sky woman had become pregnant before she fell. When she landed, she gave birth to a daughter. When the daughter grew into a young woman, she also became pregnant (by the West wind). She died while giving birth to twin boys. Sky Woman buried her daughter in the “new earth.” From her grave grew three sacred plants—corn, beans, and squash. These plants provided food for her sons, and later, for all of humanity. ❖

the state of Pennsylvania. I reported on how the project has been used in Marquette County. I handed out thirty copies of our “Report Card” to the citizens of Marquette County. The audiences’ reaction was uniformly positive. I received several comments from people who were amazed that we were able to design and implement our system in only one year.

After the conference started, there was also a 1 ½ hour break-out session on using performance measures in the juvenile justice system. Presenters were John Delaney, Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia, PA; Doug Thomas from the National Center of Juvenile Justice; Denny Maloney of Community Justice Associates; and Jim Reiland, Director of the Allegheny County Juvenile Court in Pittsburgh, PA.

I was asked by the conference planners to be the facilitator for that session. I introduced the speakers, presided over the question and answer session, and spoke briefly about the process we had used to produce our report card. This session was attended by about fifty people, and again the information was well received.

### **Next Steps**

When we distributed our local report card, one of the people who received it commented “What grade did you get?” The real answer is “Incomplete”, because the first report card only included data from six months of case closings. However, some of the information was very encouraging. The initial Report Card showed that our recidivism rate was only around 20%, even though we use an expansive definition of who should be counted as a repeat offender. Historically, the recidivism rate for juvenile courts has been around 45%. More than half of all juveniles who were ordered to pay restitution to their victims had paid all of the court-ordered restitution at the time of discharge. Forty-four probationers had completed 1717 hours of public service work as part of probation. At minimum wage rates, this works out to almost \$9,000 in benefit our community received as a result of court-ordered public service. Twelve of fourteen youths who were participating in substance abuse outpatient treatment were considered successful at the time of discharge.

The baseline data in this year’s Report Card will allow us to begin to look at trends in youth performance. We are also in the process of designing some interim reports, so that this data is reviewed and used more often than annually.

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Steve Powers, the Marquette County Administrator, has been very generous in providing help from the county's Data Processing department to our Report Card project. He is interested in discussing how the performance measures concept can be applied to other county departments. On March 8, I made a presentation to other county department heads and elected officials at Steve's request, and on April 10, I met with Steve, Brent Nault, the head of the county's Information Management systems, Sue Vercoe, Finance Officer, and Carolyn Hanson, the county's Friend of the Court, to further discuss how the system might be used.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that a response to the simple question "How're you doing?" can be lengthy and complicated. However, with a lot of help from our friends, including funding from Project WEAVE, my staff and I are well on our way to being able to provide a much more satisfactory answer. ☒



## Yellow Ribbon Club Nominated for 2006 Governor's Service Award

### Jayne Letts, Director

*Big Brothers Big Sisters*

Jayne Letts, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette County and the Mentor Michigan Providers Council, and Dr. Carole Touchinski, Chairperson of the Mentor Michigan Providers Council, met for tea at the Governor's residence with fellow children's advocates from across the state.

The Governor addressed the group, saying, "...The First Gentleman and I actively support mentoring and mentoring programs because we know the benefit of mentoring for Michigan's kids."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette County is a finalist for the Governor's Service Award for the "Yellow Ribbon Kids" program, a partnership between Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Family Readiness Group of the Michigan National Guard 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion. "Yellow Ribbon Kids" provides a supportive mentor to a child and family experiencing deployment.

The Governor's Service Awards was held May 20 at the Fox Theater in Detroit. The event was hosted by Governor Granholm, First Gentleman, Dan Mulhern, and film and stage actor, Jeff Daniels.

To become a mentor call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 475-7801.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Launches Program in K.I. Sawyer

### Jayne Letts, Director

*Big Brothers Big Sisters*

When Annette Doren, program coordinator at Big Brothers Big Sisters received a call from the Kappa Sigma Fraternity asking how they could help, she knew this would be a great match opportunity for boys at K.I. Sawyer.

The new program, called "Kappa Kids," matches ten boys at K.I. Sawyer with ten members of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

The matches meet on Saturdays at the Salvation Army Recreation Center (SARC) in K.I. Sawyer and talk about safety issues, health, relationships, community service and academics.

Activities include playing board games, shooting hoops, playing pool, visiting and chatting. Members of the fraternity include a musician from California, football players, future teachers and future engineers.

Kappa Sigma members said their reasons for participating and committing to this program included seeing the difference made in the local community, making kids happy and feeling that they've helped someone.

Initial reports from parents are extremely positive. On the second meeting, the matches attended a Northern Michigan University Wildcat basketball game and ate pizza.

The kids had a great time and are learning a lot about future opportunities, sharing opinions, getting along with others and exploring new activities and interests.

Doren, SARC director Doug Swartout and grand master Jonathan Bell of the Lambda-Alfa Colony, Kappa Sigma Fraternity collaborated on recruitment, planning and set-up of the program.



left to right: Dr. Carole Touchinski, Governor Jennifer Granholm, Jayne Letts.





# Reclaiming Futures, National Program Office

## Spring Leadership Conference

By **Bill Davie, Communications Consultant**

*Project WEAVE*

Why would the National Program Office of Reclaiming Futures want to hold a conference less than 50 feet from a Texas river during flood season, the third week of May? “Actually, it was delightful,” said Connie Eltman, one of six staff and community fellows attending from Marquette’s Project WEAVE. “There are dozens of shops and restaurants, gardens and giant trees all along paths right next to the river.” The San Antonio River begins just five miles north of town and a system of controls keeps it at a perfect level for tour boats and walking beside as it winds for three miles around the center of San Antonio. It’s called the River Walk.

“These are working conferences,” said Mac Prichard, Communications Director for the NPO. “We used to have them at hotels next to airports, but everybody had to travel all over at night when they wanted to sightsee, so now, if we can, we try to put them where everything is convenient.”

Ninety participants from ten project sites and the National Program Office attended the Reclaiming Futures Leadership Institute, May 9-12 at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel. Each community team spoke of how the Reclaiming Futures model has become successfully institutionalized in each locale and how it was accomplished. They also discussed the barriers that prevented integrating and implementing essential components and the group offered suggestions for overcoming those areas.

The essentials to bring the model to life for teens caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime were stated as:

- ensuring shared leadership throughout the community
- gathering data to support evidence based practices to sustain the model
- engaging the community and families to be more involved
- providing youth with appropriate pro-social opportunities
- and offering positive reinforcement with graduated responses to each youth engaged in the model of care.

Communicating the message was an important component stressed throughout the conference. That message was better defined through participation in developing a community monograph — a paper laying out needs, values and visions that groups can focus on to help youth reclaim and take control of their futures. When completed, it will be distributed to encourage top-down change of policies, laws and procedures that demonstrate better results in achieving the goals of Reclaiming Futures:

1. Reduce drug and alcohol abuse by teenagers in the juvenile justice system;
2. Improve public safety, reduce corrections costs, and increase accountability among young people;
3. Engage communities to reclaim teenagers and increase the public dialogue.



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**Children learn by example.  
They adopt the values we  
demonstrate through our  
actions.**

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# Amber's Story



## Amber, Age 18

*Project WEAVE Youth Advisory Committee*

Hello! My name is Amber. I'm a senior at Negaunee High School and I'm here to tell you my experiences with drinking and drugs.

I was raised in a home with two alcoholic parents. When I was 7 years old, my brother was born and I learned quickly how to take care of myself and my brother. We were often left unsupervised, having to cook for ourselves. When my parents were both home they were both drinking, causing yelling, screaming and constant fighting making all four of us scared and confused about what was happening to our family. I was a scared little girl learning to be hateful and resentful because of what was happening in our home.

At age ten my parents got a divorce making things even harder on all of us. Because of the abuse that was happening in our home, protective services took my brother and I away and placed us in foster homes. That was the best thing they ever did for us but at the same time the worst thing. Even being placed in a foster home my parents still had me wrapped around their finger. I was still being manipulated from each parent to hate the other and I never knew which one hate or like. Because of the fact that I was so young I didn't know. I didn't know who or what I belonged to anymore.

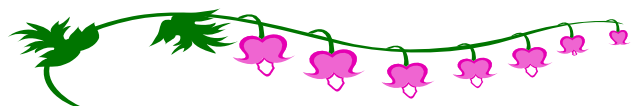
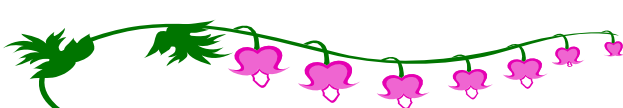
Being so young and having to grow up so fast took a big toll on my life right there. After the age of 13 I started hanging out with the older "cool crowd" or so I thought, I managed to not care about anybody but myself anymore. I got into drinking and smoking marijuana when I was placed in another foster home. Getting MIP's (Minor in Possession) and being in a foster home got me on probation. I had to change schools and leave all my friends and start my life over. All I did was ruin my childhood by making all those bad decisions and having to grow up so fast. I was way to mature for my age. At the age of 15 I received a drunk driving ticket. I was already on probation so they extended my probation and made me see a drug counselor.

Well, being in the program just made me become more of a rebel at first. After this I was really starting to fall apart. I couldn't take being the person I was and I decided to put myself in an outpatient rehabilitation program while still seeing my drug counselor. This went on for about a year and a half, I was on a roller coaster of drugs, alcohol and hanging out with older people. At the age of 16 going on 17 I was in a real bad relationship with an older guy involving drugs and it tore me in half. This is the time I realized I was done, done with drugs, done with alcohol, and done with the guilt. It took a lot out of me and a lot out of others that were always there for me to help me get better and not give up on me.

When I first got into the court system I hated everything about it and now that I'm older and better I appreciate everyone for helping me and being able to let them in my life. I joined Project Weave with a thumbs up from the judge. I got attached and knew that this program was teaching me more than anything how to bring myself somewhere in life and become someone to help others choose to have a substance free life style.

After 5 years of a hard battle between myself and drugs I became the person I am today. A person who understands others like me, and willing to help and fight for others like me, a person that has learned to love and care about others and myself. I have been substance free for almost a year and a half now and I'm happier than I ever thought I could be.

I have a few messages for all of you, first I want teens like me to know that you can still have a fun and adventurous teen life without drugs and alcohol and learning to let others in your life is a big step but you just have to want it to get it. Second. a message for parents, I would have to say excessive drinking around your children has an effect not only on yourselves, but also on your children. Finally, one last thing, for our community, become a role model, and help keep kids substance free, like getting involved in our lives and listening to what we have to say.



# Marquette & Alger County's Kids & Alcohol Abuse:

## Town Hall Meetings

Let's start talking, before they start drinking...

Negaunee – On April 3, Marquette County joined 700 other communities around the Nation by hosting a Town Hall meeting, which was moderated by WNMU-TV13's Sonia Chrisman, to discuss alcohol abuse and children. Over 80 community members attended. Since 1996, Alcohol Abuse has been listed as a community health priority by the Rural Health Project, United Way COMPASS Survey, Marquette Family Coordinating Council and the Marquette County Board of Health. The purpose of the Town Hall meeting was to hear from community prevention specialists discuss what they feel the community needs to do to get it “off” the priority list.

The Evening began with a 15 minute film, *This Place*, that dramatically captures today's youth drinking culture. The film shows the alcohol-saturated environment kids are exposed to and the impact of underage drinking. *This Place* highlights what youth and communities across the country have done to reduce alcohol abuse. *This Place* is now available to present at any community program, service club, and community board meeting in Marquette County by calling Marquette County Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention (MC<sup>2</sup>) at (906) 315-2614.

The importance of environment in which our children live is also a key concern. Paul Olson of the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development along with Project WEAVE youth, Amber Dollar and Elliot Johnson presented information on local data. Elliot presented slides that demonstrate that Marquette County has some real problems. For example, nearly 25% of youth surveyed in 2004 indicated that they got drunk sometime in the past week. Not too surprising when data also shows that nearly one in three Marquette County Adults binge drink. Paul highlighted the fact that Marquette County has over twice the number of licensed liquor establishments as the State average. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa68/AA68.pdf> recommends several actions that would reduce early use and abuse of alcohol:

Increase taxes on alcohol. The tax on Beer in Michigan has not been raised since 1962. Much of the decrease of cigarette use among youth has been attributed to the increase cost of cigarettes.

Develop community policies that decrease the availability of alcohol to youth. This includes enforcement of existing laws such as the MIP law. (See MC<sup>2</sup> Policy on Community Events on the next page)

Thank you to all panel members: Paul Olson, GLCYD, Project WEAVE, Liz Smith, Amber Dollar, Elliot Johnson, Merrilee Keller and Donna Kitrick from Pathways, Jim Harrington MC<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Robert Lorinser, Addiction Specialist, Family Care Doctors, Shawn Hatch, MGHS Behavioral Health, Patty Holman, Great Lakes Recovery Center, Larry Ziolkowski, Catholic Social Services of the U.P., Candy Weber, MGH Women's Center, Karissa Beauchamp, Voices for Youth, Marilyn Kahl, MARESA, Judy Watson Olson, GLCYD, Mike Lovelace and Sue Girard Jackson, MCSO, Norma Semashko, Child and Family Services, Lenny Shible, NMU Health Promotion Office, Marie Hansen, Prevention Network and Michigan Resource Center, and City of Marquette Elks

Young People in Action was another key message of the evening. The Westwood and Negaunee Action Troupes are two youth groups that presented skits on the issue for their peers and community groups. Both groups do an outstanding job in the community and only need requests to present programs. Contact Larry Boburka at Westwood High School, 485-1023 or Michelle Morey at Negaunee High School, 475-7861.

Recently, the GLCYD and MC<sup>2</sup> provided local schools with funding to assist Project Graduation alternative activities at several area schools.

Several community panels of local experts presented treatment as well as prevention goals. Panelists stated that research consistently shows that people drink the heaviest in their late teens to early twenties. Young adults are especially likely to drink in ways that are harmful, such as heavy and binge drinking which can lead to tragic consequences. The community panels highlighted several programs

(MC2 lists treatment and prevention programs on its website at [www.upprevent.org](http://www.upprevent.org)). It is also very important to work on programs such as Project WEAVE, and local youth treatment programs which work with youth with early substance abuse. The following three graphs list 3 important objectives for the community, parents, and law enforcement if we are ever able to reduce our priority problem:

### Community Groups

- Set policies about when, where and how to serve and sell alcohol at community events.
- Provide Responsible Alcohol Service (RAS) training for all servers of alcohol at special events.
- Make it a priority to provide a broad range of activities for youth in the community.

### For Parents

- Refuse to purchase alcohol for people under 21.
- Refuse to provide alcohol or allow individuals under 21 to drink alcohol in your home or on your property.
- Clearly communicate your rules and consequences regarding underage alcohol use. **STICK TO THEM.**

### For Law Enforcement

- Consistently enforce your state's MIP law.
- Make sure retailers that are known to sell alcohol to youth are aware that this is unacceptable! When necessary, follow through with citations.
- Actively enforce laws that penalize adults who knowingly provide or obtain alcohol for people under 21.

## WHAT'S NEXT!

MC<sup>2</sup> and its partners are taking a serious look at the above nine objectives. MC<sup>2</sup> has requested that the Marquette County Board of Health adopt a community event policy for the sale of alcohol at community events. The Board of Health unanimously adopted a recommended policy for municipalities and community groups to follow called the 0-0-1-3 program. (Program information is located at [www.upprevent.org](http://www.upprevent.org) and is currently being "rolled out") At the same time a RAS program is being worked on to provide free or low cost RAS training for all community events and clerks at off-premise retailers (grocery/convenience stores). Several schools have also provided letters to be sent home to parents notifying them of the upcoming prom/graduation season to not provide alcohol and keep close track of their children.

MC<sup>2</sup> next meeting will be on July 11 at 11.30am at MARESA.



# Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition Annual Conference

**Liz Smith**

*UPCC Secretary*

The Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition (UPCC) recently named Connie Eltman as the 2006 Outstanding Individual of the Year and the Boys and Girls Club of Menominee County as the 2006 Outstanding Agency of the Year.

The purpose of the UPCC is to work with Upper Peninsula organizations and individuals concerned about the well-being of children in order to identify and support the delivery of timely and appropriate services for youth and families.

This year's annual conference featured keynote speaker Pat Crum from Family Nurturing Center, DeVos Children's Hospital. The featured topic of discussion was 'The Minds of Boys, What Are They Thinking?' A copy of this book is available through the Northern Michigan University bookstore.



Connie Eltman, 2006 Outstanding Individual of the Year Award.



Paul Olson, Great Lakes Youth Development presents Keith Boye, Boys and Girls Club of Menominee County the 2006 Outstanding Agency of the Year Award.

Project WEAVE's Youth Advisory Committee would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for their continued support in helping make Teen Tuesdays possible:

Marquette County Coalition for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention  
Pathways Coordinating Council  
Pathways Community Health – Pop Can Donations  
Wal-Mart  
Marquette Breakfast Rotary Club  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Court  
Northern Michigan University Health Promotions Office - Karaoke Machine

Join us ON THE FOLLOWING Tuesdays throughout the summer!

*Teen Tuesdays Summer 2006 Calendar*

June 13	7pm– 9pm	Lower Harbor Park	– Marquette
June 27	7pm – 9pm	KI Sawyer Base Lake	- KI Sawyer
July 11	7pm– 9pm	Lower Harbor Park –	- Marquette
July 25	7pm – 9pm	KI Sawyer Base Lake	- KI Sawyer
August 8	7pm– 9pm	Lower Harbor Park –	- Marquette
August 22	7pm – 9pm	KI Sawyer Base Lake	- KI Sawyer

For more information contact us at [teentuesdays@yahoo.com](mailto:teentuesdays@yahoo.com) or 226-2150.

# Congressman Bart Stupak

## Recognizes Juvenile Court, Treatment Providers and Youth Serving Agencies

**Liz Smith, Director**

*Project W.E.A.V.E.*

A meeting at the Commons drew a common crowd of partners working together to improve the services, treatment and opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system experiencing substance abuse and co-occurring concerns. Congressman Bart Stupak held a briefing in April to support the community's efforts in helping youth overcome drugs, alcohol and crime. Congressman Stupak noted the national statistic that allowing one child to drop out of high school and fall into a life of drug abuse and crime costs our society 2.3 million dollars, while an effective course of community-based substance abuse treatment can cost as little as \$3,000 per year.

Congressman Stupak relayed information that grant funding will be gravely reduced in the areas of juvenile justice, drug and problem solving courts, mentoring initiatives and adolescent substance abuse prevention and treatment due to the billions of dollars being spent on the war in Iraq. Stupak encouraged juvenile justice staff, substance abuse and mental health treatment providers and youth serving agencies to continue to work together and share resources to best serve youth and families.

Judge Michael Anderegg presented the 2005 Juvenile Justice Report Card to community members noting that the grade for this first publication is "incomplete". Judge Anderegg reported that data will be collected and reported on an annual basis on youth's cases who were closed through juvenile court. Key indicators include: community safety, accountability to the victim and community and competency development. Donna Kitrick, read a letter of support for the advocacy work of the substance abuse treatment providers by the Michigan Association of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies (MASACA). Marquette County has worked closely with MASACA to engage key policy makers to ensure that stable funding and sound public policy exists for adolescent substance abuse prevention and treatment dollars.

A significant part of the forum featured Amber Dollar, a member of Project WEAVE's Youth Advisory Committee, graduate of the Marquette County Juvenile Court and

Marquette General Health Systems substance abuse treatment program. Amber shared her positive experiences and struggles with the system of care. She celebrated nearly two years of living a substance free lifestyle and "feels great". Amber encouraged the community to get involved in the life of a teen by becoming a mentor or offering teens a work experience.

At the conclusion of the briefing, Congressman Stupak agreed to have the Law Enforcement Caucus partner with the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus to annually highlight communities that are working together to prevent and treat adolescent substance abuse through community-based partnerships.



*Youth member, Amber presents Congressman Bart Stupak with a mug and shirt from Project WEAVE*



*Judge Michael Anderegg speaks to the crowd*



*Community participants*

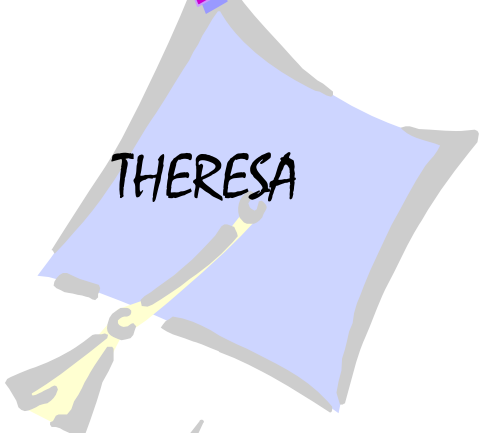
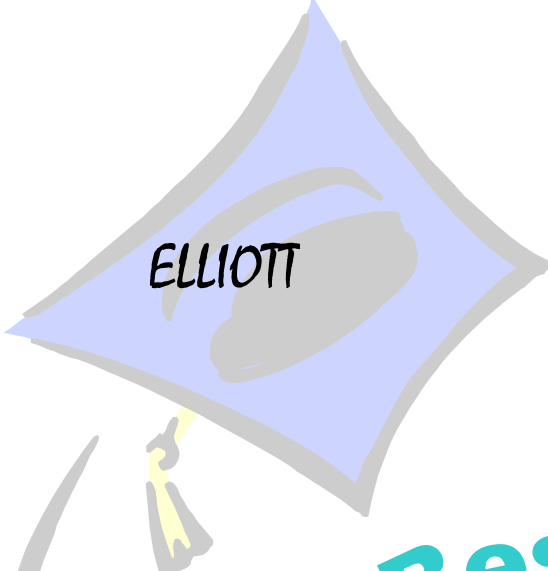
# Congratulations!

Hats Off To You!!!

COOL



Way To Go!



Best Wishes

Reach for the Stars

Go For It!

## Words of Encouragement

**Elliott Johnson, Youth Advisor**

*Project WEAVE Youth Advisory Committee*

Lately I've been thinking  
how I can impact you.  
The only way I think  
is to say what I've been through.

I've been through a lot in my life  
not all of it has been good.  
I have a rebel past  
and I thank God it didn't last.

The drugs I once dealt  
became the worst feeling ever felt.  
The pain I saw in mom and dad  
tore me up and made me sad.

I thought the gang was gonna be cool,  
but it turned me quickly to a fool.  
I lost some close family members,  
relationships thought would never surrender.

I look back to see how it changed me.  
It was the best thing that could have happened.  
I am who I am today  
and that's how I'm gonna be.

There is a song called "The River"  
and another called "The Dance"  
both talk about life  
one about the future  
and one about the dying past.

You all have a bright future ahead of you  
don't worry about the past,  
because, it's just a period of time,  
one that's never gonna last.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Save The Date!!!

#### Upcoming Pow Wows

**When:** July 23 – 25, 2006  
**Where:** Keweenaw Bay  
Baraga, MI  
**Contact:** Pauline Spruce (906) 353-6623  
or [Pauline@up.net](mailto:Pauline@up.net)

#### Girl Scouts of Peninsula Waters Outdoor Leadership Adventure

**When:** August 10-16, 2006  
**Where:** Isle Royale National Park  
**Who:** Girls ages 15 and up. No previous Girl Scout experience is required.  
**Cost:** Assistance may be available to help cover cost. Registration forms are available at [www.gspw.org](http://www.gspw.org).  
**Contact:** For more information contact Emily Koren, Program Director  
(906) 225-8020 or (800) 562-9787

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Wraparound Conference

**When:** September 18 – 20, 2006  
**Where:** Treetops Resort, Gaylord, MI  
More information will be coming soon!!!

#### 14th Annual Parenting Awareness Michigan Conferences

##### 2007 PAM Kickoffs:

October 19, 2006, Marquette  
November 6, 2006, Lansing

Both conferences are geared for professionals and volunteers who work with parents and caregivers. SB-CEUs and MCBAP contact hours will be available.

Registration brochure available in August.

Parenting Awareness Michigan  
Prevention Network

1-800-968-4968

[www.preventionnetwork.org](http://www.preventionnetwork.org)

## ON-GOING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Marquette County Wraparound Community Board** meets the third Thursday of each month from 10 a.m.-noon at Messiah Lutheran Church. For further information contact Katie Ritzenheim at (906) 228-4025 x 109.

**Marquette County Family Coordinating Council**, Please contact Kelly Zambon, Child & Family Services at (906) 228-4050 for further information.

**Marquette County Youth Roundtable** meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month from noon-1:30 p.m. at the Bonanza Restaurant. Their mission is: "Promoting positive youth development and creating a healthy community for youth." If you want more information, please contact Great Lakes Center for Youth Development at (906) 228-8919.

**Project W.E.A.V.E. Executive Board** meets on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Michelle DeMitchell at (906) 226-2150.

**Marquette County Defense/Prosecution Attorney Advisory Committee** meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Contact Project WEAVE at (906) 226-2150.

**Marquette County Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention Coalition** meets the first Tuesday of every month at MARESA. Call Jim Harrington at (906) 475-7848 ext. 281 for additional information. **FREE LUNCH!!!**

**Tobacco Coalition** is a bi-monthly meeting held at Catholic Social Services from 11:30a.m.-1p.m. Meeting dates vary. Please call (906) 475-7848 or e-mail [jharrington@hline.org](mailto:jharrington@hline.org) for more information.

**"Tobacco Blues"** Education for youth who are tobacco users meets from 4-6p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Marquette County Health Department. Please call (906) 475-7848 for information.

**Marquette County Project WEAVE Youth Advisory Committee** meets every Wednesday. For further information please contact Michelle DeMitchell at Project W.E.A.V.E. (906) 226-2150.

**Upper Peninsula Children's Coalition** meets the third Tuesday of each month. Call Chris Zenti at MA-RESA for more information (906) 226-6680. Visit the new website [www.upchildrenscoalition.org](http://www.upchildrenscoalition.org).

**The Ishpeming Salvation Army Youth Group** meets every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. during the school year. Located at 100 N. Main, Ishpeming. All ages welcome. For more information call Captain Jolly (906) 486-8923.

**Parents Anonymous** meets every Monday at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Marquette. For more information contact Diane at Teaching Family Homes of Upper Michigan at (906) 249-5437.

**Marquette Alger Mentor Taskforce** meets once a month. For information about the next meeting date and time, call Jayne Letts at 475-7801.

## ♪ Notes of Interest ♪

**Recommended Reading:** *Smashed* – Story of a Drunken Girlhood by Koren Zailckas. A brilliantly told, “mortifyingly credible story” (The New York Times) of growing up as one of thousands of girls who routinely use alcohol as a shortcut to courage, a stand-in for good judgment, and a bludgeon for shyness. A crucial book for any young woman growing up under the allure of alcohol, or for anyone who is concerned about someone locked in a pattern of dangerous drinking. (\$14.00, 340 pages).

**Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report** – Available from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. This report draws on reliable data and relevant research to provide a comprehensive and insightful view of juvenile crime across the nation. The report offers Congress, state legislators and other state and local policymakers, professors and teachers, juvenile justice professionals, and concerned citizens empirically based answers to frequently asked questions about the nature of juvenile crime and victimization and about the justice system’s response.

## ◀ ◀ Learning Links ▶ ▶

For more information on the articles featured in the newsletter or to learn more about youth substance use/abuse and the juvenile justice system, please visit the following websites:

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	<a href="http://www.rwjf.org">http://www.rwjf.org</a>
Reclaiming Futures	<a href="http://www.reclaimingfutures.org">http://www.reclaimingfutures.org</a>
State of Michigan	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov">http://www.michigan.gov</a>
Marquette County Juvenile Court	<a href="http://www.co.marquette.mi.us">http://www.co.marquette.mi.us</a>
Recovery High	<a href="http://www.basesteencenter.org">http://www.basesteencenter.org</a>
Coalition For Juvenile Justice	<a href="http://www.juvjustic.org">http://www.juvjustic.org</a>
Chestnut Health Systems	<a href="http://www.chestnut.org">http://www.chestnut.org</a>
Bridges 4 Kids	<a href="http://www.bridges4kids.org">http://www.bridges4kids.org</a>
Gongwer News	<a href="http://www.gongwer.com">http://www.gongwer.com</a>
Mentor Michigan	<a href="http://michigan.gov/mentormichigan">http://michigan.gov/mentormichigan</a>
Community Matters	<a href="http://www.commatters.org/youth">http://www.commatters.org/youth</a>
Family and Youth Services Bureau	<a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb</a>
Forum for Youth Investment	<a href="http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org">http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org</a>
4C Coalition	<a href="http://www.the4ccoalition.org">http://www.the4ccoalition.org</a>

## \* \* \* W.E.A.V.E. Challenges \* \* \*

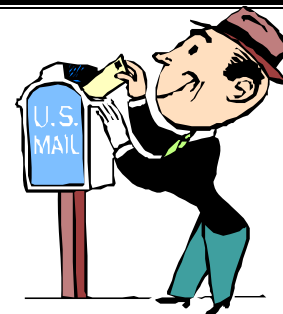
We are interested in your stories about youth/family successes and/or challenges. Should you have a story that you would like featured in this newsletter, please contact Michelle at [Project W.E.A.V.E.](#), 2111 County Road M-554, Marquette, MI 49855, phone (906) 226-2150, fax (906) 225-0224 or e-mail [projectweaveglrc@hotmail.com](mailto:projectweaveglrc@hotmail.com).

Your wish to remain anonymous will be honored if you choose.

**Project WEAVE’s Communication Action Team edits all articles for content and grammar.**

## Mailing List

If you wish to receive a copy of this newsletter or you have a new address, please notify our office (906) 226-2150, or mail us at 2111 M-554, Marquette, MI 49855, e-mail us at [projectweaveglrc@hotmail.com](mailto:projectweaveglrc@hotmail.com).



The most important thing you can  
give someone is...  
**A CHANCE**

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Reclaiming Futures, Project W.E.A.V.E.  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
2111 County Road M-554  
Marquette, MI 49855