

~2015 Year in Review~

Moving into the 45th year of Probate and Family Court Volunteer Services, we are proud to grow and support the needs of our courts and our community. Our team is dedicated to providing assistance to Probate and Family Court, including the Juvenile Probation Department. Our mission is to recruit and support volunteers with on-going training, enrichment and recognition.

*We started off 2015 by celebrating the 33 years of hard work and dedication that is Linda Fawcett, wishing her farewell in her retirement.

*RDSS Training– Volunteer Services boasts 17 RDSS (Regional Detention Support Services) trained transporters thanks to a training this past fall at the Grand Traverse Resort.

*Learning Partner Events– Learning Partner Volunteers and their students experienced a variety of activities together throughout 2015; Northwest Michigan Fair, hiking, ice skating, swimming lessons, and a back to school picnic. All of these events occurred in conjunction with the weekly one on one contact between youth and their Learning Partners during school hours.

*CASA Program-22 volunteers advocated for 53 children involved in neglect/abuse cases in 2015.

*CASA training– The CASA Program trained 10 new volunteers over the course of 30+ hours of classes facilitated by Volunteer Services and community agency staff.

*New transport car– Thanks to Sgt. Roy Raska, Volunteer Services was able to acquire a “new to us” transport car to replace an aging vehicle.

*Survey assistance– Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted in the distribution of customer satisfaction surveys for District, Family and Probate Courts this past fall.

*Orientation of new volunteers– 12 new volunteers were orientated to Probate and Family Court this fall. Attendees participated in two evenings of informational meetings about court process, programming, and volunteer experiences.

*Volunteer Services transitioned the newsletter to a digital format in 2015, reducing cost and paper waste for the department.

*For the 8th consecutive summer, New Vision Academy provided youth on probation with experiential opportunities. These sessions were provided by multiple community volunteers facilitating on a variety of topics.

*Volunteer Services dusted off the sewing machines and welcomed two new volunteers, eager to lead a community service work project for youth on probation. Thank you, Laura Scott and Karen Mauro-Doren!

Thank you for all the support and dedication to the many programs offered by Probate and Family Court Volunteer Services. Although we couldn't fit all of the good work you have done in the past year on the front page, we truly appreciate each and every one of you for all you have dedicated to youth and families in our community.

Guardianship Review Training-Tuesday February 2, 2015

4:00-6:00 p.m.-Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room

Save the Date

On Tuesday, February 2nd from 4:00-6:00 p.m., a “mini-training” and review of guidelines for adult guardianship reviews as well as tips on, “how to attend the visit” will take place. This training will be provided by Amanda Flowers, Probate Register, Lindsey Jordan, Volunteer Services, as well as other to be determined, community facilitators.

In 2015, 73 adult guardian reviews were performed by volunteers through Probate Court. This training is for all volunteers already performing reviews and also for any interested volunteers who would like to start.

Please contact Lindsey at 922-4827 to r.s.v.p. for this important training or to ask any questions. We look forward to seeing you all there.

~Community Service Work Monitor~

Informational Meeting

Wednesday, February 17th 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Lower Level, Multi-Purpose Room

Please join Volunteer Services staff to learn about and ask questions in regards to this new volunteer opportunity for 2016.

The **Community Service Work Monitor (CSWM)** roll is a chance for you to volunteer for the Court while also volunteering for a local non-profit agency. The CSWM roll offers the opportunity for a volunteer to teach a youth on probation the value of giving back to the community by working side by side, modeling good citizenship while the youth completes his/her community service work hours.

Please join us for this informative meeting on the rolls and responsibilities of this new volunteer opportunity.

To r.s.v.p. please call Lindsey at 922-4827

JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Kathleen Packer	Cathy Boissoneau
Nancy Bazemore	Nancy Ferrar
Ben Munger	Betty Leden
Caroline Hirth	Nancy Fraser
Katy Ramsdell	Val Doman
Dan Briggs	Donna Thoma
Henry Tenbrink	Diane Scrivo
JoEllen Evans	Lynn Troutman
Maswe Hennrick	John Roeser
JoAnn Carlson	Susan McMahon
Helen Knapp	Pat Drake
Dorothy Grant	Ann Geht
Caron Alpers	Suzetta Summers
Renee Stout	Beth Rideout
Jessica Heller	Allie Shumate
	Matt Dohm





Learning Partners will be ice skating on January 22nd.

Learning Partner youth and their families are invited to take part in the annual ice skating event at Howe Arena Ice Rink at the Civic Center. Thank you to Centre Ice for their donation of skate rentals and ice time.

Program Update

Exciting new changes are happening with the Learning Partners Program. The youth that Learning Partners are currently assigned to will continue to work with that child. However, research tells us that children in our elementary schools at greatest risk of leaning issues are many times children who are court involved or have an immediate family member court involved. Learning Partners, since it is a program within the Family Division of the Court, offers the perfect opportunity to provide support for these children. Since there is such a great need, Learning Partners moving forward will only be working with children who are court involved (neglect/abuse case children, foster care children) or have an immediate family member court involved (parent in jail, sibling on probation, etc.).

Simply, previously matched volunteers will continue with their assigned match. New Learning Partner matches will be with children court involved or children who have an immediate family member court involved.

Thank you for your continued support of this valuable, prevention, intervention program.

Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon,
Program Manager

As we embark on 2016, the CASA Program is pleased to provide training for its volunteers on the effects of trauma on young children. Trauma Informed Care is becoming a well known term as more research becomes available on the effects of trauma and subsequently the treatment that can be provided to children who have been through traumatic situations.

Please join us on, ***Tuesday January 19th from 4:00-6:00 for part 1*** of two trauma informed sessions. Part 1 will be a round table discussion of experiences you have had with your cases, questions you have regarding treatment and what's available and also information on research and studies that have been released.

Part 2 of this informative and important training will take place on, ***Tuesday February 16th from 4:00-6:00***. Speakers, Amber Lee, Supervisor of Behavioral Health-Child and Family Services and Elizabeth Carrillo, Trauma Program Manager -Child and Family Services will be joining us to share what their roles are and the services their agency is providing for children who have experienced trauma in our community.

CASA Training~2016

This years training is scheduled to begin on ***Monday April 18th, 2016*** at 4:00 p.m. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating in the CASA training, please have them contact ***Lindsey at 922-4827*** for more information.



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT
MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE
280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684
231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Tuesday, February 2, 2016



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Tuesday. February 16, 2016



*All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless otherwise mentioned.

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Guardianship Review Training-see pg. 2

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Monday, April 18th-
CASA Training, 2016-see pg. 3