



Hello Volunteers,

On February 17, 2015, I became the 13th Circuit Court Family Division Programs Manager. In this position, I assume many of the responsibilities Linda Fawcett held as Volunteer Services Coordinator. Additionally, I am working with the Truancy Program, Juvenile Probation, and Juvenile Therapeutic Courts.

Most recently I worked at Women's Resource Center as the Program Director. Previous to that I worked many years in higher education. I worked at NMC; Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana; and Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. I also previously worked at Eagle Village in Hersey, Michigan working in the experiential program and camp program as the Associate Director. I worked with foster care youth, newly adopted youth, adjudicated youth, children with high emotional needs, and preventive school programs.

I hold a PhD in criminal justice from Capella University, a Master's degree with concentrations in education and emergency management from Eastern Michigan University, a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism and Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy-both from Iowa State University.

My 18 year old daughter is a senior at Central High School in Traverse City, and my 15 year old daughter, 12 year old stepson, and 10 year old step-daughter all attend Glen Lake Public School. My husband and I are newlyweds. We married in October 2014, however; we have known each other since 1992!

I am thrilled to join a program that has such a committed, professional, and compassionate group of volunteers. I am here to support you in your service. If you have a moment, please stop in and see me. I would love to hear more about you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Anthofer-Fialon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH

Harold Adler
Carol Valko
Wanda Anstine
Dick Reddy
Jim Warner
Judith Clark
Ellen Briggs
Christina Riddle
Darcy Schlitt
Kim Morrison
Bev Saur
Pamela Petajan
Colleen Macdonald

APRIL

Ester Norris
Parker Field
Maxine Rideout
Victor Rioux
Jackelyn Brundige
Bonnie Lahde
Dustin Tortorici
Carolyn Klender
Judy Zrimec
Susan Kraus
Cheryl Bzdok
Sharon Herron
Kathy Blunck



Dear Volunteers and Staff,

Thank you all so much for your phone calls, cards, your kind words and well wishes, and for attending the wonderful Open House. I feel honored and grateful for your friendship and for what we have accomplished over the years. You have truly added a great deal to my life and our times together will forever be cherished.


With sincere best wishes for health and much happiness,
Linda

Volunteer Services welcomes a new member to the Probate and Family Court staff. *Angel Kaley-Wolf* is the new Judicial Assistant.



"I've worked for Grand Traverse County for 12 years. I am very excited to join Family/Probate Court. The staff and their commitment to the work they do for our community is really remarkable and I'm proud to be a part of that. My husband Bill and I share 3 children and 1 very energetic grandson. We enjoy boating, traveling, and a common love for football."



Farewell and Good Luck

Parker and Andi Field are moving out West. Parker began his volunteer work with Family Court as a Learning Partner. He and Andi also worked in the Probate Court office-Andi volunteered several days a week for more than five years! Parker has held many volunteer roles; probation monitor, guardian, Citizen Panel, transportation and in most recent years, accounting assistance in Probate Court. Parker also took on many tutoring assignments for youth, especially enjoying those in math.

Another volunteer, Diana Zapalski moved to California last fall. Before she left, she helped our CASA program complete their national standards assessment. She was also a nurse who helped us with special needs children in CASA cases, and she helped us with recognition events, Truancy Intervention, and New Vision Academy.

Parker, Andi and Diana made a difference for kids and families, and for the Court.

We miss them already!



Slip-Sliding Away.....

Learning Partner students, their families, and Learning Partner Volunteers enjoyed ice skating and pizza at Howe Arena on Friday, January 23rd. We always have siblings join in, but this year we even had a few parents on the ice! One parent commented about her daughter, "She learned to skate on her own and improved her self-esteem and confidence!".

A big thank you to our high school helpers: Mariah Bensley, Cassidy Merten and Allie Shumate. Their willingness to help, personal attention to the students, and positive attitudes helped teach our Learning Partner students to skate, and a whole lot more. Thank you, also, to Centre Ice! Their support made our annual event possible.



Up Next: Swim and Water Safety Lessons

No set dates, yet, but we do plan to offer our annual Swim and Water Safety Lessons to all Learning Partner students and elementary school-aged siblings in April and/or May.

We Can Always use More Help!

Learning Partner Volunteers are always needed. Welcome to Nancy Bazemore, Julie Howe, Kim Morrison, Lori Metcalf and Kathy Sinnard-all of whom have been matched with students in recent months!



On **Tuesday, March 17th, 2015**. Jerry O'Hearn and Lynn Bryant, counselors with Pinerest, will be our guests for a combined Learning Partner and CASA meeting.

They will discuss tips on working with youth and on building positive relationships. Some of their topics will focus on the use of encouragements, giving good directions, and how to look at the positives as ways of building these relationships.

Please join us for this important presentation for Learning Partners working with at-risk children in elementary schools and CASA volunteers working with youth of all ages.

On **Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015 from 5:15-8:30 (note date and time change)**, we welcome all CASA's to attend the new CASA training session presentation, An Introduction to Understanding Families and Trauma Informed Approach. Our own Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon, will be the facilitator.

Trauma Informed Approach is a practice recognized nationally for its proven success in allowing more children in care to receive support necessary to overcome the effects of childhood traumatic stress and thrive at home or in their placements.

See pg. 4 for more details on Trauma Informed Approach, as well as, the **2015 CASA Training Schedule**.

April 12-18, 2015 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week

Thank you for all you do! To show our appreciation of you we will have fresh flowers at the various offices you work with, in our Court.

Stop in, get your flower and pay us a visit!

Why Trauma-Informed Approach?

“Trauma-Informed systems are structured with an understanding of the causes and effects of traumatic experiences, along with practices that support recovery. This approach gives children a sense of control and hope, and requires involvement by those working with the child, including caseworkers, lawyers, judges, caregivers and even CASA volunteers.”

According to a 2014 article written for ABA Child Law Practice, by Eva J. Klain; “About 46 million children are affected by violence, crime, abuse, or psychological trauma each year. Many of these children will become involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Children in foster care are more likely to have been exposed to multiple forms of trauma, such as physical or sexual abuse, neglect, family and /or community violence. In addition to the abuse or neglect that led to their removal, children in care may experience further stresses after entering the system including separation from family, friends, and community, as well as uncertain futures.

The trauma children in foster care experience is often complex. If left untreated, it can permanently affect their growth and development and have effects decades later. The Attorney General’s National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence recommends all professionals servicing children exposed to violence and psychological trauma learn and provide trauma-informed care and trauma-focused services.”

It seems only natural to incorporate this approach and its teachings to you, our volunteers. Please join us Wednesday, April 22, 2015 for this important presentation on the trauma-informed approach.

CASA Training Schedule 2015

**Monday's and Wednesday's beginning April 13th and ending May 13th, 2015
from 5:00-8:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, lower level, Hall of Justice.**

If you know of anyone who would make a great CASA volunteer, or would like to have more information on this program, please have them give us a call at 231-922-4827 or email Lindsey at

ljordan @grandtraverse.org



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA LITERACY COUNCIL



The bay is frozen and the last time it froze (last year) it stayed that way for 80 days! I have it on good word, however, that Spring can't be too far away.

The Literacy Council is avoiding the cold temps as it does its work (tutoring adult non-readers) in warm places in such locations as area libraries, cafeterias, town halls, court buildings, and in learning labs in Michigan Works!.

Ongoing projects such the Probate and Family Court/GTALC program continue as well as the Business Outreach Program which has produced its first referral. The outreach team has requested that every member of GTALC's board make follow-up calls to those businesses which were on the original mailing list.

All of this activity bespeaks hours upon hours of volunteer effort. Given that GTALC is a 100% volunteer run organization and since April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, GTALC is having an appreciation event for who else but our volunteers. Ruth Bay is volunteering (there is that word again) her home and has graciously volunteered (there we go again) to host it as well. All of GTALC's volunteers will be receiving invitations shortly.

Later in March I will meet with NMC developmental/remedial educators, staff and administrators together with representatives of MI Works! To discuss literacy issues and possible connections between these agencies.

In closing I want to share with the readers of this newsletter that at GTALC's January Board meeting the years of service and support provided by Linda Fawcett to our organization were formally recognized. Linda was the Court's liaison to the Literacy Council for over 30 years. Details of her support were memorialized in a specially designed statement of recognition. We will miss Linda.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Thompson

Board President, Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council



TC Boat & Outdoor Show

GT Civic Center-Howe Arena

Fri-Sun April 10-12, 2015

Tickets: \$6/adults

NW Michigan Camper & RV Show

GT Civic Center

Fri-Sun March 27-29, 2015

Tickets: \$5/adults





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

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Or Current Resident

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

Learning Partners

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



Tuesday, March 17th, 2015

Date Change (see pg. 3)

Tuesday, April 7th, 2015

CASA (Court Appointed Special

Advocate)- See pg. 3

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

Tuesday, March 17th, 2015

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015

Date & Time Change (see pg. 3)



Literacy Council

3rd Wednesday-6:00 pm

Traverse Area District Library

Wednesday, March 18th, 2015



Don't forget to
move your clocks
forward, Sunday
March 8th, 2015.

