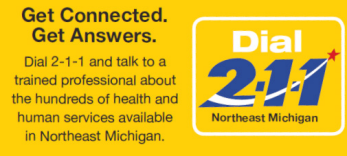


**Listening Ear Crisis Center**  
 107 E Illinois, P.O. Box 800  
 Mt. Pleasant, Michigan  
 48804-0800  
 PH: (989) 772-2918  
 FAX: (989) 772-5339  
 TTY: (989) 775-0480

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### Agency Updates

Listening Ear is pleased to welcome new personnel and congratulate those who have made advancements —

#### Welcome:

- Megan Taylor Mental Health Technician/2-1-1 Call Specialist in the Crisis Center.
- Child Foster Care program Intern: Kelsey Arneson, CMU BAA.

#### Congratulations:

- Anissa Chapp, Senior Program Director, North Birch, received certification through the American Heart Association as a Heartsaver Instructor.
- Michelle Elliott, who was promoted to an Assistant Program Director, for Residential Services – Central, Parkview.
- Congratulations to Foster Care for passing their annual licensing review without citations.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chairperson:** Dr. Kristin Sheridan  
**Vice Chair:** Dr. Ross Rapaport

**Secretary:** Al Kaufmann  
**Treasurer:** Paul Siers

Gregg Barrick  
 Ruth Freebury

Bonnie Hayward  
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John Leonard  
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Heather Tubbs  
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**Executive Director:** Donald Schuster

If you wish to have your name removed from the newsletter mailing list, please write: **Executive Director, Listening Ear P.O. Box 800 Mt Pleasant, MI 48804-0800** or, email [dschuster@listeningear.com](mailto:dschuster@listeningear.com). If you want more information about us, please visit our website at [www.listeningear.com](http://www.listeningear.com) or see [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).



**1** • More Affordable Housing

**2** • Letter from the Director  
 • Annual Report

**3** • Foster Parents Needed  
 • Supporters

**4** • Agency Updates

The mission of Listening Ear is to provide citizens of Michigan with human services and affordable housing that satisfy, support, and promote the dignity and well-being of those in need.

April 2016  
 Volume XIX, Issue 1

# Listening EAR

## More Affordable Housing

Northwinds, a 60 unit low income apartment complex, was recently purchased by Listening Ear adding to our current roster of 79 low income apartments in Mt. Pleasant. Located at 3176 E. Deerfield Road, it offers 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units for individuals or families. Over 30 of Listening Ear's 139 rental apartments are barrier free.

The need for housing is one of the top reasons citizens call our 24 Hour Crisis Center. Individuals and families are looking for affordable housing, that is safe, clean, near jobs, school bus routes, public transportation and recreation.



Housing is often the largest monthly expense for a family. When rent is unaffordable, it challenges the family budget for food, transportation and medical care. Having stable housing contributes to the well-being of both parents and their children. A safe, stable home is important for children's physical and mental health today, as well as their growth and learning abilities tomorrow.

According to Donald Schuster, Executive Director, "we now offer our citizens numerous housing options in various locations throughout Isabella County." To inquire about rates and availability, contact Jennifer Helmer at 989-775-7180.

# INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY

## Dear Readers,

Just being kind to someone else, giving your time, talent, or some of your treasure, changes us for the better.

Foster Care families in Listening Ear's Child Foster Care program give every day. Families receive training and support and are licensed to provide a safe and nurturing home environment for very special children and youth. As a growing program, our agency needs more families willing to open their hearts and home to youth at critical points in their young lives and become a foster family. (see page 3).

Our human service and housing programs touched the lives of 43,000 persons across Lower Michigan as shown in the annual report on page 2. We continually work to meet our mission and "satisfy, support, and promote the dignity and well-being of those in need."

As a nonprofit charitable organization, income from gifts and grants are used to carry out programs as well as reinvest in the capacity of our agency to expand services. Most recently, as shown on the cover, Listening Ear acquired Northwinds Apartments adding 60 more affordable rental units for individuals and families.

We feel blessed for the donors listed on page 3. Your willingness to give says something about you. It says you care about yourself, your community and the world you share. You feel better when you feel connected. Whether you offer the change from your jar on your dresser, or the gift that you make once a year, please know your gifts matter.

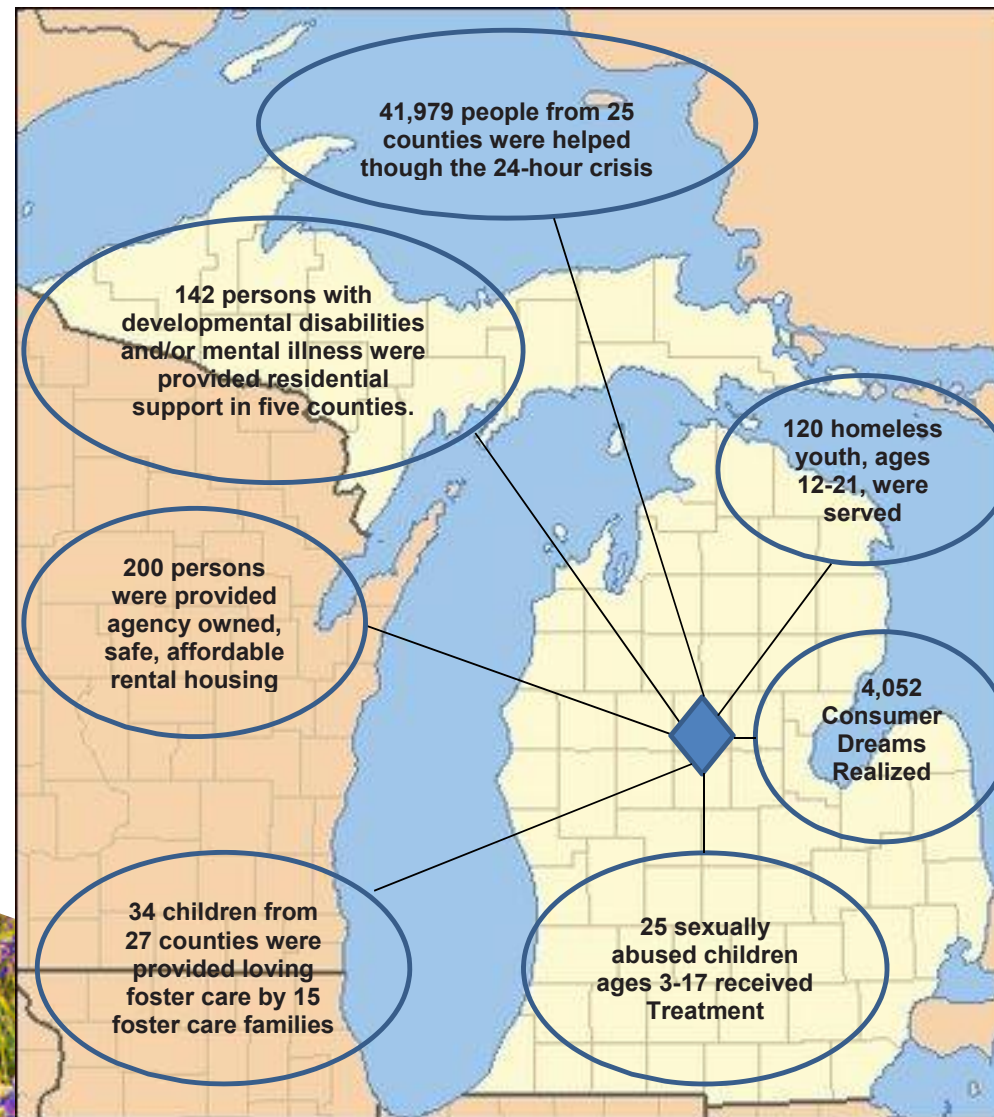
With your support, Listening Ear is able to build a community that is "Always There."

Sincerely,

Donald Schuster, LMSW  
Executive Director

# ANNUAL REPORT

LAST YEAR 43,000 CHILDREN AND ADULTS FROM 46 MICHIGAN COUNTIES WERE PROVIDED A VARIETY OF SERVICES BY 352 CARING EMPLOYEES



Audited Expenses 2014-2015		Client Satisfaction-2014-2015	
Personnel	\$ 7,535,729	Residential Consumers...	91%
Operations	\$ 3,498,407	Child Sex Abuse.....	97%
Depreciation	\$ 167,591	Homeless Youth.....	100%
Administration	\$ 746,320	Foster Youth.....	94%
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$11,948,047</b>	Crisis Line.....	99%

"Nationally Accredited with the Council for Accreditation since 1998"



## Child Foster Parents Needed To Make Difference...

Emily, age 7, came into Kathy and Kens Foster Care Home weighing only 30 pounds and was not able to crawl, sit up, was on tube feeding, in a wheelchair and had 'failure to thrive syndrome'. Kathy spent hours each day stimulating Emily with physical therapy exercises, while also working with medical professionals daily to ensure the nurturing a seven year old would need. After 15 months of loving and persistent care, Emily has doubled in weight, is now starting to walk, sitting up and eating solid food. Kathy and Ken gave a gift to Emily and her family that will last a life time and start her out on a better life. Emily is now reunited with her family and the foster parents continue to support Emily and the family.

Zoey, a 15 year old foster youth with 13 prior placements, had a history of long term abuse and neglect. Zoey was volatile at times but it was obvious she want to be loved. After two years of care, Zoey said, "I finally felt loved at my new foster care home with Foster Care Parents, Sarah and Scott". Zoey felt part of a loving family while in placement until 18 years of age when she started going to "Job Corps" where she finished her high school degree and learned a trade. Zoey reflects, I went through a lot of stuff in foster care, but everything happens for a reason and it's made me the person I am today. With great support from caring foster parents, like Sarah and Scott, it made a difference forever." Zoey, like many former foster children, continues to maintain relationships with their foster parents for decades.

Last year, Listening Ear's 15 different Child Foster Care Homes located across 7 counties provided a loving home to 34 foster youth. The Agency specializes in caring for youth, ages 7 years to 18 years, placed by the Juvenile Courts, Department of Health & Human Services, and Community Mental Health. Youth have a variety of emotional & behavioral challenges, and/or medical needs.

Foster Parents are licensed through Listening Ear and the State of Michigan and receive a daily stipend for the care of each youth. Foster parents receive on-going training and weekly support from Agency credentialed staff.

**If you have the desire to nurture a child and interested in 'making a difference' please consider being a Foster Care Parent in Mid or Northwest Michigan.** Just call April Higgins @ (989) 773-6904 ext. 3229 (Central Michigan) or Sharon Mikowski @ (231) 645-9966 (Northwest Michigan) for more information. Open your home and your heart to turn a child's life around.

## We are thankful for these supporters!

(Gifts made since the last newsletter)...

### LISTENING EAR CRISIS CENTER FUND

- Mary Lou Angelotti in memory of Marivene Brown
- Anonymous
- Anonymous in memory of Mary Ann Fisher
- Betsy Banta
- Joseph Bohrer
- Linda Browne
- Commercial Bank
- Sally Goodrow
- Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze
- Peter Kelly
- Virginia Kjolhede in memory of Ted Kjolhede
- Dolores Lawrence in memory of Joe Lawrence
- Elizabeth Meadows
- Dianne & Mike Morey
- John & Mary Nicols
- April Orser
- Doris Jean Powell in memory of Phil Langlois
- Diane Saltarelli in honor of Lori Shively
- Shepherd VFW 8215
- Ross & Shelly Rapaport
- Cristie Shively made a gift in memory of aunt Lori Shively
- Deb Smilo in honor of Carolyn VanCleave & Martha Phillips
- Kathy Tarrant
- Patrick & Mary Thompson
- Alma & Sherry Wentworth in memory of Erika Bowerman
- Kathy Tarrant

### CONSUMER NEEDS & DREAMS FUND

- Anonymous
- Anonymous in honor of Kristin Sheridan & Michael Libbee
- Pamela Burke in honor of Nancy Wanek
- Laurie Booth
- Maureen Carlson in memory of Tom Tarrant
- Ellen Fuller in memory of Evelyn Welker
- Bonnie Hayward
- Jane Kipp
- Carol & Jim Wojcik

### CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TREATMENT FUND

- Norma Bailey in memory of Valerie Stephens
- Dr. David & Colleen Bremer
- Linda Browne
- Mary Ann Freling in memory of Valerie Stephens
- Dykstra & Phyllis Heinze
- David & Kathleen Ling
- Carol Meixner
- Michele Punke
- Earl & Georgann Schuster in honor of Donald Schuster
- Rev Ronald & Margaret Vredeveld in memory of Sheri Joy

### PHIL A. LANGLOIS ENDOWMENT FUND

- Joseph Barberi
- Vicki Chessin
- Albert Langlois
- Jeannette Langlois
- Kevin & Melissa Langlois in memory of Phil Langlois
- John & Barbara Leonard
- Jim & Linda Letts in honor of Thomas Tarrant
- John & Priscilla Lorand
- Jim & Naomi Stark

### GENERAL DONORS & GRANTMAKERS - Thank you to:

- Anonymous gift to the Schuster Family Fund for Listening Ear in honor of Molly Schuster
- C & O for donating 20 sweatshirts for the holiday baskets for homeless youth.
- Edward & Nedra Fisher for the gift toward Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program and in appreciation of Michael Simon, Cameron Lovett, Glen Feldhauser, Barb Cataldo, Charlie & Jennifer Cline.
- Ellen Fuller for the gift toward Recreation activities
- The Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for helping to fund new homeless youth services in Gladwin County.
- WE Martin Foundation for the generous gifts to help support homeless youth services and child sexual abuse treatment services
- Sharon Tilmann for the gift to help support the child sexual abuse treatment program
- Sanda Wiper for the gift in honor of Donald Schuster