

The Power of Giving

October 2008

Issue Three

FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL CHALLENGES

SAVE MONEY ON GAS

One of the goals of the Cadillac Area Community Foundation is to collaborate with other local organizations to assess community needs and work on plans to meet those needs. The Foundation has currently been working on the issues of transportation, community safety, and teen pregnancy.

In line with the goal of collaborating with other organizations the foundation has been working with Mercy Hospital, Baker College, the Cadillac Area Industrial Group, the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce, MDOT, the Cadillac News and CWTA to research options for our residents to save money on gas as they commute to work, shopping, school, etc. Many communities across the country use a web based carpool sign up program called **RideShare**. Before we become involved in such a web site, we felt it was necessary to survey our residents to find out the actual potential for use! Please visit the following website and take the survey at: www.cadillacnews.com/survey/carpool.php (created by the Cadillac News at no charge). Please pass the website address on to all of your co-workers, friends, neighbors and relatives and encourage them to take the survey...it only takes a couple of minutes...and give us the information we need to move forward, or not, on this project. The Marketing Class at Baker College will tabulate the results of the survey and provide a suggested marketing plan for the creation and use of such a website. This would be provided as a free service to the residents of Wexford, Missaukee, Osceola and Manistee County. This truly is a community-wide collaborative effort.

COMMUNITY SAFETY A PRIORITY

No one likes to think about it, but the fact is that when area residents are released from prison they come back to this area.

Sometimes they are released from their sentence early, yet have no place to go. They frequently end up in hotel and motel rooms, or in rental homes in residential neighborhoods with little or no supervision or restrictions. The Cadillac Area Community Foundation is working on the **Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative** in conjunction with the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, the Wexford County Corrections Department, and the JEHT Foundation, to make our community safer by providing supervision and oversight of returning prisoners. The first step will be to administer a grant from the JEHT Foundation to allow the Corrections Department to release prisoners into a monitored home rather than the community at large. Research has shown that returning prisoners who are placed into monitored group homes with supervision and support services have a much lower rate of re-offending.

\$1.4 MILLION TAX DOLLARS SPENT

Teen pregnancy is a continuing issue in Wexford County. In 2006 the teen pregnancy rate for the State of Michigan was 54 out of every 1000 teens statewide. That same year the teen pregnancy rate in Wexford County was 74.5 per 1000. The economic impact of **Teen Pregnancy** in our community is staggering. According to a 2004 study, the PUBLIC cost of teen childbearing in Wexford County was over \$1.4 MILLION annually. These are public tax dollars that could have been spent addressing critical issues in our community. This is only one of many issues associated with Teen Pregnancy. The Cadillac Area Community Foundation is working with representatives from Mercy Hospital, the Health Department, Care Net, MSU Extension Services, United Way, Doula Teen Mentoring, and other agencies and concerned citizens to study this problem and find solutions that work in lowering teen pregnancy rates.

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Our Mission:

Our mission is to develop a community-wide vehicle for permanent endowments to enhance the quality of life in the area and establish and manage worthwhile endowed funds for the benefit of our community.

Cadillac Area

community foundation™

For good. For ever.™

201 N. Mitchell St., Suite 101
Cadillac, MI 49601
Tel 231.775.9911
Fax 231.775.8126

www.cadillacfoundation.org

COMMUNITY NEWS



Because of a conversation that took place a little over a year ago between former foundation Trustee John Bishop and City of Cadillac Community Development Co-ordinator Jerry Adams, another need in the community has been met. After months of hard work the new **Rotary Pavilion Sign** is now in place and already in use informing residents and guests of forthcoming public activities.

YOUTH IN GRANTMAKING The Future of Philanthropy.

"Youth grantmaking helps young people understand the process of grantmaking and experience the personal satisfaction of working with a peer group to achieve philanthropic goals," said Liz Wilder, executive director of the Funders Alliance of Upstate New York. "They see the value of organized philanthropy and discover their ability to positively impact services in their community. The experience can give them a foundation for a lifetime of involvement with the nonprofit sector."

A 10 year study of youth grantmakers from Michigan community foundations has shown that youth exposed to grantmaking participate in their communities as young adult volunteers at a higher rate (88%) than their non-grantmaking contemporaries (42%). In addition to being in a leadership position as a youth grantmaker, over 77% went on to serve in leadership positions in their jobs. 94% utilized the same leadership skills as an adult that they learned as a youth grantmaker. 96% still believe that by working with a group of individuals they can make a difference in their communities.

Participation as a youth grantmaker offers an opportunity to not only changes the face of your community now, but to learn skills that will last a lifetime. **The Cadillac & Kellogg for Youth Committee is still accepting applications for membership** from Cadillac area students, grades 8 – 12, who are committed to making a difference in their community. Please contact the Foundation at 775-9911 for further information.

WOMEN AND PHILANTHROPY

"As women become more sophisticated and get involved in the workplace and world, we start to realize, there's a lot more [out there] than baking cookies and making pies—all of which is well and good, but there's also a world out there that we can serve and make changes to," says Pamela Fiori, editor-in-chief of *Town & Country* magazine, which puts out an annual philanthropy issue. Fiori says the two genders often approach giving differently. "Women are looking for relevance, not tax deductions. They want to serve in some way. They feel it's their obligation and responsibility," she says. One thing is clear: women have become an influential force in the nonprofit world. In doing so, women have become designers and planners of the future of their communities, and through their volunteer and philanthropic efforts they are reshaping the world

GOING GREEN

Libraries are the original recyclers lending books to millions every year. When the Cadillac & Kellogg for Youth committee received a grant application from the **Cadillac-Wexford Public Library** for cloth library book bags it seemed like a perfect fit. Beginning in 2009 these cloth bags will be distributed to children who are receiving their first library card in an effort to promote responsible use of library materials and resources. Beginning in 2009 the library will no longer supply plastic bags to library patrons.

To contact the Cadillac Area Community Foundation for further information about the Foundation or any of our programs, please telephone us at 231.775.9911, email us at cafc@cadillacfoundation.org, or find us on the web at www.cadillacfoundation.org.