



The Need for Effective Child Advocacy

Each year thousands of children become involved in the judicial process through cases of abuse and neglect or custody and child support battles.



During the year 2001 there were 172,984 children who were investigated for possible cases of abuse and neglect in Michigan. Out of these cases, approximately 28,646 children were confirmed victims.

Former Governor Engler's Task Force on Children's Justice stated a challenge to those involved with legal cases concerning children:

An independent voice is often necessary so that the child's needs do not get lost in the battle for custody, the quest for successful prosecution, or in the labyrinth of a well-meaning but often unwieldy state bureaucracy.

The Chance at Childhood Program exists to meet that challenge and to provide an independent voice for children involved in Michigan's court system.



The Chance at Childhood Program



The success of Chance at Childhood is dependent upon adequate resources. The goal of the program endowment will be to establish a strong foundation for the protection and care of children. You have the opportunity to give Michigan's children a chance.

Your contribution can bring people and resources together in order to provide crucial support for the Chance at Childhood Program. Together we can provide better opportunities and hope for these at-risk children and families.

To make your contribution, go online at:

chanceatchildhood.msu.edu

or call **Chance at Childhood** at 517 / 432-8406.



Helping Children & Families



The Chance at Childhood Program is comprised of three distinct components designed to improve the lives of Michigan's children and families.

1 Child & Family Advocacy Certificate Program

One component of the Chance at Childhood Program is its curriculum for law and graduate-level social work students. This joint program is offered by the Law College at Michigan State University (MSU-DCL) and the MSU Graduate School of Social Work. The certificate program can be completed concurrently with the social work and law degree requirements, and students completing the program gain hands-on practice and advocacy experience through:

- Externships (law and social work students working together in the same agency)
- An integrated seminar
- Specialized academic courses

For more details on the Child & Family Advocacy Certificate Program, go online at chanceatchildhood.msu.edu or call Chance at Childhood at 517 / 432-8406.

2 Continuing Education

Chance at Childhood offers numerous educational seminars and workshops aimed at providing legal and social work practitioners with the



A Community That Cares



skills and knowledge to effectively advocate for at-risk children and Michigan's families. The programs are taught by medical, legal, and social work professionals with extensive experience in dealing with children's and families' issues.

Chance at Childhood also provides publication resources to professionals and community members.

3 Law & Social Work Clinic

The Chance at Childhood Law and Social Work Clinic provides three primary services: a) Legal representation to children, b) Consultation to practitioners and community members, and c) Training of students seeking careers in child welfare. The clinic is staffed by Michigan State graduate students in the School of Social Work and law students from Michigan State University-DCL College of Law. Through this unique collaborative effort, students work in teams to bring the professional expertise of both fields to the practice of child welfare.

Chance at Childhood Sponsors

Supported by the MSU Office of the Provost, the Dean of the MSU College of Social Science, the Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Michigan State University-DCL College of Law, and the Director of the MSU School of Social Work.



"Giving Children a Chance"

Making a Gift to the Chance at Childhood Program



Giving a Gift Today. Make an impact in a child's life today by making a direct donation at the Chance at Childhood Program. Alternatives to cash donations such as gifts of stock, appreciated securities or property can allow you to make a large donation without depleting any of your cash-ready assets. These donations can make a difference in the operations of the program while securing tax deductions for you.

Giving a Gift for the Future. There are many ways that your legacy can live on by supporting this program through your will or trust. These contributions will impact the lives of children involved with the Chance at Childhood Programs for years to come. Some of these estate-planning gifts include the following options:

- Life Insurance
- Real Estate
- Gift Annuity
- Cash or Securities
- Deferred Gift Annuity
- Annuity (Trust)
- Retirement Account

For more information on all the giving opportunities through the Chance at Childhood Program visit:

www.givingto.msu.edu/guidetogiving.html



The Chance at Childhood Program

The mission of the Chance at Childhood Program is to promote and protect the well-being of children and families through integrated education and advocacy.



The Chance at Childhood Program is an initiative between Michigan State University Graduate School of Social Work and Michigan State University-DCL College of Law and is designed to protect and serve the rights of children.

Lawyers and social workers collaborate to strengthen the knowledge base, practice and advocacy skills to meet the needs of children, youth, families and communities.

The Chance at Childhood Program includes three components:

The Child & Family Advocacy Certificate Program, a curriculum for law and social work students focused on teaching practice and advocacy skills directed at serving the needs of children and families

Continuing education through seminars, workshops, forums and conferences for practicing lawyers, social workers, educators and students

Law and Social Work Clinic providing advocacy and consultation to children, families, and professionals in the field of child welfare

Chance at Childhood
is online at
chanceatchildhood.msu.edu

Chance at Childhood



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

238 Baker Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

517.432.8406

Chanceatchildhood@ssc.msu.edu

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