



# Operation Good Cheer



## 2007 Kick Off!

Summer is here, and Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., is already preparing for Christmas with Operation Good Cheer. This year brings additional agencies to Operation Good Cheer, which means additional children looking to have lasting Christmas memories made by our generous donors, pilots and volunteers who make this worthwhile program possible. Our sincerest appreciation to all who have granted the wishes of Michigan's foster children for the past 36 years through Operation Good Cheer.

## Agencies in Need

Agencies suffer further funding cuts each year. The children of Operation Good Cheer rely on our donors and volunteers to create a Christmas come true. Non-profit agencies must rely on variable funding, grants, and donations,

which are not a financial stability. Lack of financial resources is the reason many valuable programs like Operation Good Cheer are lost each year.

Those who have participated in Operation Good Cheer are aware of the tedious organization, and transportation that is required at the end of the year. CFSM, Inc., uses an intricate coded method to ensure the confidentiality of our recipients, as well as make the gift delivery efficient and reliable. To facilitate this we annually require more than 10,000 sheets of Avery White Mailing Labels, number 5164. Our agency has only been able to obtain a very limited donation source for these, and is forced to see program costs rise with every agency who comes to us with a child in need who has no where else to turn. Anyone who could donate a box of these labels, or

knows of any offices, or office supply stores who would be interested in supporting us, please contact our office. Any assistance would be tax deductible and greatly appreciated. These labels are vital to the success of Operation Good Cheer.

## 2007 Changes

Unfortunately, Angie Baker, our Program Coordinator will not be with us for the 2007 year. To ease this transition CFSM, Inc., will have Katie Williams aid in guiding the 2007 Program. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Katie at our office.

### *Have a Terrific Summer!*

Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc.  
 "Operation Good Cheer Headquarters"  
 2157 University Park Drive  
 Okemos, MI 48864  
 517-349-6226  
[www.c fsm.org](http://www.c fsm.org)

## ☞ Children's Entitlement Fund ☜

Another large part of Operation Good Cheer is the Children's Entitlement Fund. This restricted fund runs throughout the year, to give generous individuals the chance to provide children in foster care with activities that develop social leadership skills, and increase their self-esteem. When a child is removed from a home where violence and abuse were part of their daily life, many times they will feel isolated, and are unable to trust anyone. The individuals who give to the Children's Entitlement Fund, provide these children with the knowledge that there are people who care about them, and allows them the chance to lead a "normal" life and participate in the opportunities children around them take for granted. These activities can be as simple as joining the school basketball team, or taking drivers education. As foster families open their homes, and provide the love, shelter, and support these children have been lacking; the Children's Entitlement Fund assists with the cost for Michigan's foster children to take part in activities that were previously denied.

In 2006, Children's Entitlement Fund was able to distribute more than \$18,182 to clients in foster care, thanks to donations from individuals, and corporations across the state. Changes in the economy this year has made it difficult for many people to give what they would like, and corporations that contributed so much in the past are now suffering their own financial hardships. By giving to the Children's Entitlement Fund, you are able to provide for Michigan's children, without having any sacrifice to your time. Already this year, children's requests are not being met because of insufficient funding coming into this program. If you, or someone you know, would like to make a contribution to the Children's Entitlement Fund for 2007, please contact our office at 517-349-6226. Below are a few of the children, and items, or events still waiting to be granted. Requests to the Children's Entitlement Fund are received daily.

<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Reason Placed in Care</b>	<b>Grant Purpose</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Nathan	Parental Substance Abuse/Neglect	Senior Pictures	\$ 170.00
TJ	Neglect	Bair Lake Bible Camp	\$ 288.00
Darius	Neglect	Bair Lake Bible Camp	\$ 288.00
Devey	Abuse/Neglect	Lacrosse Equipment/Fees	\$ 290.00
Anthonie	Emotional Abuse/Neglect	YMCA Sports Camp	\$ 250.00
Richard	Abuse/Neglect	Woldumar Nature Camp	\$ 200.00
Troy	Neglect/Physical Abuse	Sports Day Camp	\$ 150.00
Michael	Physical Abuse/Emotional Neglect	Special Needs Camp	\$ 475.00
James	Abuse/Neglect	Drivers Education	\$ 250.00