

July 2010



*Providing holiday memories
for more than 35 years...*



Operation Good Cheer Goals...

- 1) Receive additional funding through grants
- 2) Receive radio support and enhance media involvement for Operation Good Cheer
- 2) Gain further support & interest for The Children's Entitlement Fund



2010 Program Dates



- October - CFSM begins distributing Wish Lists to donors
- December 3rd, 2010 - Gift Collection
- December 4th, 2010 - "Spirit of Good Cheer" flight



Child and Family Services
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www.c fsm.org

Operation Good Cheer

"Making Christmas wishes come true"



Operation Good Cheer - 2009

Volunteers load trucks with gifts that will be flown to local airports across the state by volunteer pilots.

2010 Program Update...

Summer is finally here and Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., has been busy organizing for another wonderful year of Operation Good Cheer. Our staff is currently contacting our generous donors and hope that everyone will continue to support our agency and the children we serve in 2010. Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., is grateful to everyone who has continued to make this program a success. Our sincere appreciation goes out to our donors, pilots and volunteers who provide each year for every child Operation Good Cheer serves. Our agency looks forward to working with you all again this year.

Agencies have been contacted regarding their participation for the year and preliminary numbers show that we may have more than 5,000 children enrolled in Operation Good Cheer this year. Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., will be holding our annual Agency Meeting later this month in Okemos and expect all agencies taking part will attend. This meeting allows our staff to

foster a stronger relationship with each agency and their staff. Some agencies have been participating for almost 40 years and we are proud to still have the ability to offer service to them and the children they provide for today.

Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., has initiated an immense recruitment effort for additional donors for 2010. This project will hopefully ensure there will be no hardships this year in our effort to provide lasting holiday memories to children in care. We are in the process of contacting additional donors to participate in Operation Good Cheer. If you know of any family members, friends or companies that may wish to take part in this amazing program please contact our office. Though we attempt to gain sufficient donors to accommodate the number of children expected, at times we still fall short; your assistance will be truly appreciated.

📦 If you have not received your participation information for 2010, please contact our office at 517-349-6226.

A Special Thanks!

Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., would like to thank everyone who contacted our agency regarding matching contributions from their companies. We truly appreciate your dedication to the children of Operation Good Cheer, and hope that we can continue our involvement with you, as well as with the generous companies you are employed with.

Have a fantastic summer!

❧ The Children's Entitlement Fund ❧

The Children's Entitlement Fund was developed to bridge the gap between provisions provided by the State of Michigan for children in foster care or kinship care, and the actual needs which shape, influence, and promote a healthy, happy life for the children in care. Through a partnership with multiple agencies The Children's Entitlement Fund provides enriching and sustaining activities or events for children in care. Life sustaining needs include items that continue a child's way of life, and assist in providing items and activities that improve the quality of life; orthodontic work, ramps or handicapped accessible equipment, specialized formula and supplements for infants, and even advanced optical options for a child. Enrichment activities for children in care are even more limited, the rewards a child reaps after taking part in their school band, going to summer/sports camp, or even receiving tutoring services can have a lasting positive effect on the child's life. But because of limited funding for agencies, and declines in general charitable giving, these activities are being further denied to children in care. Funding provides items, activities, and experiences for children in care that would normally be unavailable to them, yet would dramatically enhance their lives. Through gifts from the Children's Entitlement Fund youth in foster care and kinship care have the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe nurturing environment with enrichment opportunities, which supplies the increased self-esteem, value, and happiness that results with an improved quality of life.

While Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., receives requests daily, resources are limited and requests are delayed. We understand that changes in the economy make it difficult for many to give as much as they would like. Giving to the Children's Entitlement Fund allows you to continue providing for Michigan's abused and neglected children without a great sacrifice to your time. Currently we have many requests held due to lack of funding, if you or someone you know would like to make a contribution to The Children's Entitlement Fund please contact our office at 517-349-6226. All donations are tax deductible and every contribution, whether large or small will assist a child. Below are samples of letters received by our office after a child was granted funding.

"Thank you for the money for 5th grade camp. I really enjoyed horseback riding. One class we held a garter snake, box turtle, tertus, salamander, and a frog. Everyday we learned how people lived a long time ago. It was a lot of fun, we square danced, we did skit night the skits were funny." Collin 10 year old

"Dear Children's Entitlement Fund, thank you so much for helping me with my trip to Washington, D.C. The memories of my trip will be with me forever. I took lots of pictures and saw some really cool stuff on the trip. I was really tired when I got back but it was worth it." Chloe 11 years old

"Thank you for the uniforms so I can stay in my school." Leanza 15 year old

"To whom it may concern: Thank you very much for the money toward graduation cap & gown and my acceptance letter. These are two major steps in my life and I couldn't have done it without your help. Once again, thank you very much." Melissa 17 years old.

"This letter is being sent to you in appreciation of funding Amanda's specialized day camp this summer. She had a wonderful time and each evening returned to her foster care home telling stories of what she experienced that day. This camp helped her to maintain the social skills she has worked hard at developing. The people involved with Children's Entitlement Fund have made a big difference for this child and although she does not have the verbal skills to truly express her self, she did write two letters and drew a picture of her appreciation." Mary, Foster Care Caseworker (for Amanda 13 years old)
