

2005-2006 annual report



A Community Action & Michigan Works! Agency

www.eightcap.org

2006 EightCAP, Inc. Governing Board

GRATIOT COUNTY

Larry McGillis - Public
Rep. of Gratiot Co. Commissioners

Bertha Davidson - Private
Rep. of Gratiot Co. Farm Bureau

Teresa Davaloz-Cervantes - Consumer
Rep. of Ithaca Head Start Center

IONIA COUNTY

Mary Cusack - Public
Rep. of Ionia Co. Commissioners

Janet Thomas - Private
Rep. of Lakewood Community Schools

Nancy Haga - Consumer
Rep. of Consumer Sector

AT-LARGE

Richard McClintic - Public
Rep. of Gratiot Co. Commissioners

James Mullendore - Private
Mullendore and Thrall

Dan Humphrey - Consumer
Rep. of Head Start Parent Policy Council

ISABELLA COUNTY

John Riley, Jr. - Public
Rep. of Isabella Co. Commissioners

Margaret Heintz - Private
Rep. of Sacred Heart Parish

Kimberly Johnson - Consumer
Mt. Pleasant Housing Commission

MONTCALM COUNTY

Dan Petersen - Public
Montcalm Co. Commissioner

Jae Evans - Private
Rep. of Greenville Community Bank

Jim Sharp - Consumer
Rep. of The Arc Montcalm



The 1st Annual Walk for Warmth "On the Poverty Path" was a tremendous success. \$30,000 was raised to help needy families pay their utility bills. Walk participants visited a series of booths to experience what it's like to live in Poverty.

President's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I would like to start by thanking you for reading the EightCAP 2006 Annual Report. As you read this report, I think you will notice that the underlying current through the entire document is one of change. Funding figures change, priorities change, people change—the agency must change with these influences.

The job development and worker training facets of our agency have grown in direct response to the number of workers that are looking for work and the number of new employers that are starting to come into our area. This change will take some years to complete.

There is increased activity in the areas of supporting those who are less fortunate—this is also often due to the loss of jobs. While this creates more work for agencies like EightCAP, it isn't something we would like to see continue. We would like to eliminate the need for these kinds of services—again, a lengthy effort.

Support is waning for programs like Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See—not that the children who go there aren't important, but because there are so many higher-priority, base-level needs in our state and in our nation that make our camp temporarily less important. It is my fervent hope that local support can be found to continue this wonderful program.

This is the last year we will report on Special Olympics. EightCAP as an organization adopted this program many years ago, and wonderful staff members from the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs made sure it was very successful in the Ionia and Montcalm areas. Things have changed once again in this area, and the high cost of operating this program has become something that EightCAP can no longer continue to support. Under new management, this effort will be ongoing and should continue to be successful as many of our staff members will continue to volunteer with the program.

One of the most significant changes this year has been the move of Threshold Academy from its former portable buildings at the EightCAP Turk Lake site to new, donated facilities in Orleans—a real school building with bricks, mortar, gymnasium, library, kitchen, offices, and larger classrooms. This 17-acre site is offering a wonderful educational opportunity. The enrollment increases that the academy has experienced are a witness to the success of this move.

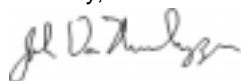
Head Start went through its three-year review and came out with flying colors. Research across the nation is showing that children who attend Head Start have a leg up when entering regular school.

There have been many changes in the organization's personalities. We have lost some very important board members over the last year. I want to express special thanks to two people who have worked long and hard over many years to be part of the EightCAP effort in your community: Mr. Hugh King, who resigned from the board near the end of 2005, and Mrs. Mary Cusack, who resigned from the Board at the end of 2006. Both of these individuals spent countless hours and a lot of effort and support to make sure that EightCAP continued to be a successful organization.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this annual report to Jan Castro, one of our very dear and treasured staff members who lost her life to cancer on Christmas Day 2006. Jan was with our organization for 20 years and was in charge of the family advocacy portion of our Head Start program. Her support of the other programs was very apparent, and everyone in the EightCAP family knew her. As you read this annual report, I ask that you remember her and watch for the threads of her influence throughout the report. We will miss her.

The year is closed out; we will continue to look forward to greater challenges as our community, our state, and our country meet the economic and social challenges that have been put before us. Organizations like EightCAP will become more and more important in the coming years.

Sincerely,



John Van Nieuwenhuyzen
President



Community Services

Empowering people to overcome poverty

The purpose of the Community Services program is to empower the poor to take control of their own lives and to provide services that may lead to self-sufficiency. Community Services operates programs that educate the community about the systemic barriers that hold people in poverty as well as programs that respond directly to the needs of the poor.

Programs include income tax preparation, home heating credits, earned income credits, prescription drug credits, and homestead property tax credits. Community Services also provides emergency assistance, including homeless prevention, utility payments, and food supplements for low-income people.

The staff provides information about other resources in the community and works closely with churches and other agencies to assist people in need.

Community Services is the local agent for Michigan Enrolls, providing education and enrollment assistance for managed health care providers in the community.



The annual Montcalm County Food Drive, sponsored by EightCAP in partnership with business and industry, raised over \$20,283 and 51,557 food items for area food pantries.

Helping People Become Self-Sufficient: A Story

Sue Eller, EightCAP Community Services coordinator, had Martin Luther King Day off of work and was home. She got a phone call that day from a Crystal businessman who had found a man living in a rented storage unit. The unit had no heat or lights and the man was nearly frozen to death.

The business owner took the man back to his business where he fed him and warmed him up. EightCAP paid for him to stay two weeks at the Half Moon Hotel.

He was referred to the Commission on Aging, and a case worker worked with the Social Security Administration to get him an additional \$250 in his pay check. The case worker also took him to the Department of Human Services to apply for medical and food assistance.

The gentleman now lives in Crystal and is doing very well. If not for the efforts of these agencies, the man would not be here today.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided assistance to **17,801 low-income persons**.
- Assisted **7,306 families** with emergency services including utility and shelter payments.
- Provided tax return assistance to **856 individuals** who received **\$413,073** in refunds or credits.
- Distributed **233,244 lbs. of food** to needy families.

Office Locations

906 Oak Drive, Turk Lake
P.O. Box 368
Greenville, MI 48838
Phone: 616-754-2660
Fax: 616-225-8761

300 W. Michigan
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: 989-772-0110
Fax: 989-775-3907

315 Prospect
Alma, MI 48801
Phone: 989-463-5693
Fax: 989-463-6872

413 W. Main
Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: 616-527-5507
Fax: 616-527-1196

Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See

HIGHLIGHTS

- **255 campers ages 5 to 69** from Ionia, Kent, and Montcalm counties took part in swimming, boating, arts and crafts, nature walks, and recreational activities.
- New furniture and a big screen T.V. were donated to the Camp this year.
- The Optimist Club planted a tree near the tents in memory of Bill Freeman, long-time friend and volunteer to the Camp.

Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See, located in Greenville on Baldwin Lake, is a summer camp serving adults and children who have received or are receiving Special Education services, regardless of age or ability to pay. The Camp is an overnight tent camping experience and offers fishing, boating, swimming, arts/crafts, nature experiences, field trips, and nightly campfires. The Camp provides weekly sessions by age group and is open to any family in the local service area.

Funding for Camp Wah-Wah-Tay See is provided by EightCAP, community donations, United Way of Montcalm, Tri-County Electric, We Care for Kids Council, Montcalm Human Services Coalition, the Montcalm/Ionia DHS, and Michigan DHS. Community Partners include the Greenville Optimist Club and the City of Greenville.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The David Hansen Bowl-A-Thon raised \$7,500 for Area Six Olympians.
- **Four athletes** competed in golf in July and **4 athletes** competed in cycling and unified tandem cycling in October in State competitions.
- Area 6 received a grant from Tri-County Electric People Fund to support registration for **20 athletes** to State Summer Games.
- Snowshoes and winter uniforms were purchased with a **\$1,500 grant** from Water Warriors.
- The Tri-County Bicycle Assoc. and the DALMAC fund gave a grant for 3 cycles and 2 tandems for unified cycling.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics provides year-round training and competition for mentally retarded children age eight to adult. Area Six (Ionia and Montcalm counties) Special Olympics provides sports training in track and field, bocce ball, horseshoes, bowling, golf, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, and snowshoes.

Local practice and competition is held throughout the year including summer games in May and winter games in January, providing time for all the athletes to compete and enjoy a party.

Area Six Special Olympics also takes a number of athletes to state competition in June.



SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program exists for the dual purpose of engaging persons 60 and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs - to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers, and to provide supportive, person-to-person services to children with exceptional or special needs in local schools and Head Start Centers.

Commitment and Compassion describe Longtime Volunteer

Thelma Brauher began her volunteer career with EightCAP in the Foster Grandparent Program in 1990. Serving with commitment and compassion for those she is assigned, she has always been one of the most flexible of volunteers. She willingly would "give it a try" at whatever the program needed. Whether assigned to babies and toddlers in a teen parent program, helping physically challenged three and four year olds to brush their teeth, playing with developmentally delayed kindergartners, or helping elementary children learn to read, Thelma was consistently recognized as caring, patient, and kind.

When the Corporation for National and Community Services awarded funds for an in-home component to the program, EightCAP staff began looking for volunteers that could work independently, model parenting skills without judging, understand and be supportive of parents in crisis, and be a constant adult presence in the lives of children moving between home and foster care. Thelma was one of those volunteers. But when the direction of the program changed again, Thelma easily transitioned back to the classroom. Wherever she was needed, she always stepped forward.

Thelma currently serves as a Senior Companion. Her in-home background made her a great candidate as a Senior Companion. When the program was initially funded, Thelma agreed to give it a try. From then on, she has served with distinction, whether at a respite center or with in-home clients. In the summer of 2006, she was asked and agreed to take on additional responsibilities as a Senior Companion Leader. As a Leader, she helps to promote the program, assists in training of new Companions, and helps to identify training topics beneficial to the performance of Companion duties.

Because of Thelma's willingness to "give it a try," many lives have been enriched by this wonderful, caring lady throughout her years of service. Thank you Thelma, for 16 + years of dedication!

Senior Companion Program

Senior Companions help homebound clients with chores such as light housekeeping, paying bills, buying groceries, finding transportation to medical appointments, or tutoring to increase literacy proficiency. They can also provide a few hours of respite for a caregiver. In institutional settings, such as foster care or convalescent facilities, they assist with activities designed to help patients regain their independence and reduce feelings of loneliness and depression. Senior Companions help adults with disabilities and provide respite services for caregivers both in-home and at respite centers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **88 Foster Grandparents** provided services to over **500 children** at **42 separate sites** in Ionia, Mecosta, and Montcalm counties.



State Representative Judy Emmons talks with Senior Companion volunteer Orvil Sullivan at the Senior Recognition held at the Greenville Area Community Center on April 20, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **40 Senior Companions** provided services to **168 elderly adults**.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **202 homes** were weatherized, exceeding the number of planned units by 40%.
- **78 families** in Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, and Montcalm counties received energy conservation classes.
- **57 additional homes** were weatherized because of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds and Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).
- **4 roofs** were repaired or replaced.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a federally funded, low-income residential energy conservation program. The program provides free home energy conservation services to low-income Michigan homeowners and renters. These services reduce energy use and lower utility bills, making homes more comfortable and utilities more affordable, while helping families become more self-sufficient.

Program Facts:

82% of families whose homes were weatherized had household incomes less than 125% of the poverty level.

21% of families had at least one household member who was 60 years of age or older.

30% of families had one or more children under the age of five, and 45% had children under the age of 18.

46% of families had at least one member of the household who was disabled.



(before)



(after)

Montcalm Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

HIGHLIGHTS

- Montcalm CASA hired Kristi Jeffrey as the new coordinator.
- **4 volunteers** were assigned to cases advocating for **7 children**.
- Received a National CASA grant to send the new coordinator to the National CASA Conference in San Diego, CA.

The Montcalm CASA program is a volunteer based program that provides advocacy for abused and neglected children in the juvenile justice system. Trained community volunteers are appointed by the Judge and are responsible for gathering information and working with the child, attorneys, social workers, parents and others involved with the case. From the information gathered, the CASA volunteer makes recommendations to the court as to what is in the child's best interest. Montcalm CASA's goal is to provide a voice for abused and neglected children in the juvenile justice system by providing advocacy for their needs and ensuring a permanent home.

CASA is a new program in Montcalm County. In March of 2002, community leaders convened for the first time to create a CASA program. An Advisory Board was formed, program coordinator was secured and by August of 2004 the first volunteer was assigned to a child. A new program coordinator was hired in November of 2005 and Montcalm CASA became a full member of National CASA in 2006.



Over \$3,000 was raised during the 2nd Annual Playhouse Fundraiser. Winner Jody Warner, Director Precious Gifts Child Care Center, donated the playhouse back to her child care center.

Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for children 0-5 years who either live in poverty or have a certified special need. With the goal of school readiness and family self-sufficiency, Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Michigan School Readiness Program combine local, state, and federal resources to deliver an array of individually tailored educational and social support services.

Training & Professional Development are Keys to Success

Shared governance took on new meaning in 2006 as Governing Board members, Policy Council representatives, and key staff spent two days learning about the oversight and management of the 0-5 Head Start program at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center at Higgins Lake. The group explored the regulations that determine the functional responsibilities of each segment, as well as the overriding philosophy that melds them together as a team.

Recognizing that center staff no longer has time for routine group training, periodic e-trainings were developed and disseminated to staff via e-mail. Materials were reviewed individually, acknowledged as appropriate, and filed at the center level for future reference.

With the goal of providing state-of-the-art technology and resources to classroom teachers, web-based Creative Curriculum® services were secured. Company-based trainings, tutorials, and time set aside for planning, placed teachers in a position to write effective lesson plans, individualized to meet the needs of enrolled children.

Effective data management is critical to an early childhood education program serving over 1,000 youngsters. Purchasing a reputable technology program, devoting sufficient staff time, and participating in specific training exercises brought a new level of retrievability and reporting to the 0-5 Head Start program. Accurate accounts or reflections of program activities assist in establishing policies, areas of service, and continuous improvement plans.

A five year project involving Early Head Start and the Child Welfare System (CWS) of Isabella County reached its final year during 2005-2006. Due to "Building Block's" great success, the CWS project became a permanent addition to the basic EHS program.

The primary objective of the CWS project was to nurture the parent/child attachment relationships among Early Head Start families in a stable, home-like environment for the purpose of enhancing the positive physical, social, and moral development of infants and toddlers involved in the Michigan Child Welfare Services system.

HIGHLIGHTS

Early Head Start

- **257** prenatals to three year-olds were served.
- **30%** have a disability.
- **156 families** developed individual Family Service Plans.
- Fathers of **19 children** participated in father/father-figure planned activities.
- **163 families** requested and received supportive services.

Head Start

- **906 preschoolers** were served in literacy-rich child development centers.
- **18.3%** of children have a disability.
- **852 families**, including non-custodial parents, developed Family Partnership Agreements.
- **202 fathers** participated in father/father-figure planned activities.
- **786 families** requested and received supportive services.



Head Start/Early Head Start



The service model implemented for the CWS Grant was a mixed model with a common thread – training parents on the “how to’s” of positive child rearing. A center-based option was available two to four days per week, based on need. Children who participated in the center also received home visits. Children attending two days per week received a monthly home visit, while children attending four days per week received two home visits per year.

The Home Visit Only option was available for families who were not in need of child care or respite care or did not have reliable transportation to the center. Families involved in the home-based only component received weekly home visits.



Weekly playgroups (Parent Education) were available to all families involved in either model. Transportation was provided for families who needed it. Quarterly Family Fun Nights were offered for the entire family to participate. Parent meetings (Parent Education) were offered monthly with guest speakers brought in to present on many different topics. A light meal and child care were offered at Parent Meetings.



While there were some processes that were adjusted over time, Building Blocks stayed true to its primary mission. The relationship with CWS workers improved greatly over time and EHS staff were recognized as “experts” on child development and care. Significant findings, based on program assessment instrument scores, were discovered during the course of the project, including:

- gains in parental involvement with their children
- increased family functioning
- increased knowledge of parenting practices and skills
- improvement in the overall safety conditions of the home environment
- improved child development outcomes for children

Lessons learned throughout the life of the CWS pilot project:

- collaboration is always evolving, must always be nurtured, and is never finished.
- adult participants must be flexible, and communication must be maintained at all costs.



Threshold Academy

Threshold Academy is a tuition-free public elementary school chartered under the authority of Central Michigan University. It provides door-to-door bus transportation to students residing in the Belding, Carson City, Crystal, Greenville, Howard City, Hubbardston, Ionia, Lakeview, Sheridan, and Stanton areas.

The Academy prides itself on meeting the individual needs of all students and believes that all children are special and works to provide learning environments accessible by each student, regardless of background or differing abilities. The staff structures educational pathways using a combination of traditional and hands-on learning activities for its kindergarten through sixth grade students.

Threshold Gets New Home

Threshold Academy moved to a “new” and larger school building in Orleans for the 2006-07 school year. The building was donated to EightCAP by Ken Faber and the estate of Roger Seibelink. For the past ten years the school had been housed in two portable buildings at Turk Lake just north of Greenville and directly adjacent to EightCAP, Inc. While providing a comprehensive educational program, space constraints had limited some student activities in the past.

The move greatly increased the overall square footage, including the addition of a gymnasium, larger classrooms and media center; while offering the same great services and teachers the Academy had always employed.

Threshold Performs Well in Standardized Test

Central Michigan University Charter Schools Office announced results of their Performance Series test in the areas of reading and math, to its charter schools around the state. Threshold scored well above the CMU Average when compared to the other fifty-eight CMU charter schools.

The Performance Series by Scantron is a group of internet-delivered computer adaptive assessments in the areas of Reading, Math, Science, and Language Arts. Growth is measured using scaled scores that are designed for measuring student improvement.

In grades 3 through 6, Threshold’s average score in math was remarkably higher than the CMU and National average. Ninety-three percent of Threshold 3rd graders met or exceeded normal gains, compared to 46% for the CMU average, while 100% of Threshold 5th graders made or exceeded normal gains compared to the CMU average of 48%. In total, 78% of Threshold students met or exceeded normal gains in math.

Students’ performance in the reading portion yielded similar results. The Average Reading Fall to Spring Growth Rate for Threshold 3rd through 6th graders was higher than the CMU Average. Fifty-three percent of Threshold 3rd graders compared to the 47% CMU Average, and 67% of Threshold 5th graders made or exceeded normal gains compared to the CMU average of 47%. Seventy-one percent of Threshold 6th graders met or exceeded normal gains compared to the CMU Average for 6th graders of 51%. In total, 54% of Threshold students made or exceeded normal gains.



Threshold Academy Board

Connie Borton
Michael Goldman
John Kroneck
Betty Knapp
Tom Pridgeon

Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium

2006 CAMWC Board of Directors

GRATIOT COUNTY

Commissioner Linton Chapin
Commissioner Roland Merignac

IONIA COUNTY

Don Benjamin (representative of
Commissioner James Banks)
Commissioner Larry Tiejema

ISABELLA COUNTY

Commissioner George Green
Commissioner John Haupt

MONTCALM COUNTY

Commissioner Patrick Q. Carr
Commissioner Ronald Retzloff

The *Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium* (CAMWC), provides workforce development services in Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, and Montcalm counties. CAMWC is a local government consortium, funded by state and federal grants, and is designated as a Michigan Works! Agency to provide public employment services for job seekers and employers. Community oversight for CAMWC programs is provided by the local CAMWC Board, composed of local elected officials, and the Workforce Investment Board, composed of private business representatives and other community leaders. The Boards set overall policies and goals for workforce development services.

CAMWC Receives Award

CAMWC received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from Montcalm Community College for its "strength, guidance and support for those who have lost their jobs and assisted the business and industrial community to enhance the learning and skills of their incumbent workers," reads the certificate presented to CAMWC in September.

The award is presented annually to individuals who or organizations that, through a sense of purpose, community concern and leadership, have helped Montcalm Community College serve the people of this area.

Service Center Locations:

Gratiot Service Center

327 East Center St.
Alma, MI 48801
Phone: 989-466-4832 / TTY:711

Ionia Service Center

307 West Adams St.
Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: 616-527-1360 / TTY:711

Isabella Service Center

1803 South Mission St.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: 989-772-5304 / TTY:711

Montcalm Service Center

114 S. Greenville West Drive #2
Greenville, MI 48838
Phone: 616-754-3611 / TTY:711

Michigan Works! Service Centers

Michigan Works! Service Centers throughout the state offer job referral, training, and employment services to the job seeker and employer. Numerous federal and state-funded programs exist to prepare people for jobs and careers so employers have the skilled workers they need to be competitive in the global economy. The CAMWC Michigan Works! centers are located in Alma, Ionia, Mt. Pleasant, and Greenville.

Each service center is fully equipped with state-of-the-art computers and resources. Center staff assists with job search preparation and job postings through the web-based Michigan Talent Bank and Michigan Job Bank.

US Bio Job Fair a Great Success

Michigan Works! Service Centers in Ionia and Hastings partnered with US Bio Woodbury for a successful job fair at Lakewood High School on April 3, 2006. Three hundred seventy-eight applicants registered and attended one or all of the four sessions that were offered. The sessions included Lab Technician/EHS/Lab Manager, Operations, Grains, and Maintenance. Staff from US Bio Woodbury as well as US Bio Energy staff from Kansas led the sessions. US Bio received more than 2000 applications/resumes as a result of the fair.



Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium

Congratulations Shanda

Shanda Christiansen of Fenwick was selected to represent the Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium at the statewide Alumni Celebration in Lansing for her outstanding accomplishments in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program. Christiansen was one of 25 Michigan Works! participants honored at a special awards ceremony held at the Michigan State Capital.

Also recognized locally for their accomplishments as graduates of workforce development programs in a January celebration in Wyman were Tracy Friend of Gratiot County, Jason Crisman of Ionia County, and David Dutcher of Isabella County.



CAMWC Honors Customer Service Standouts

The Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium (CAMWC) honored three individuals for Excellence in Customer Service at the July Workforce Investment Board meeting at Maxfield's Restaurant, Wyman.

State Representative Judy Emmons was in attendance to present the awards to Michigan Works! Service Center employees Sara Butler, Dave Schnepf, and Suanne Tasker.

Sara Butler of Greenville, an Office Specialist with the Greenville Service Center, "was a pillar of the agency during the rough times that have occurred as a result of layoffs and plant closings. Keeping a positive attitude while dealing with the influx of people needing assistance was a tremendous help," stated the Special Tribute awarded to Butler. Butler's co-workers describe her as an individual who exhibits a positive attitude and spirit, with stellar work ethic and job performance.



Suane Tasker, Supervisor of Employment Services at the Greenville Michigan Works! Center, received the CAMWC Customer Service award for her tireless support of service center clients and staff and her hard work and dedication.

Case Manager Dave Schnepf was nominated by his peers at the Ionia Michigan Works! Service Center. One unemployed worker that turned to the Ionia Service Center described Schnepf as "most courteous and cheerful. Dave always treated people with respect and compassion while maintaining a professional, caring mannerism."

2005/06 Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Lou Adams
Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Thomas Batchelder
Mid-Michigan Family Consultation Center

Jan Baszler
Department of Human Services

Carolyn Bennett
Middle Michigan Development Corp.

Dr. Donald Burns
Montcalm Community College

Mary Cusack
Muir Hardware

Steve Foster
Greenville Tool & Die Company

Dale Howard
Extruded Metals

Dorothy Howard
Gaertner & Howard, CPA's, P.C.

Michelle Ingram
Aramark

Robert Kjolhede
Beal City Public Schools

Franz Mogdis
Montcalm Alliance

Tim Oeschger
Brown Corporation of America, Inc.

Don Schurr
Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.

Sheral Simon
Maxfield's Restaurant

Diane Smith
Ionia County Economic Alliance

Bruce Traverse
Carson City Hospital

Ralph Ward
Ward Creative

David Westlake
Alma Products Company

Robin Whitmore
Gratiot Community Hospital

Philip Wilson
American Educational Associates

George Yost
Mid-Michigan Central Labor Council

Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium

Service Centers Offer Support and Expertise to Businesses

Central Area Michigan Works! has been busy again in 2006 helping businesses to recruit, select, and screen for qualified applicants. Michigan Works! Service Centers offer employers a single location to access services that support their economic and workforce development needs. Services are available to any employer without fees or hassles.

Michigan Works! can recruit and refer qualified applicants based on an employer's needs and requirements, including job fairs that are employer-specific, industry-specific or community-wide. Michigan Works! can also provide interview facilities and workplace accommodation assistance. Some of the businesses that benefitted from these services in 2006 include: **AmericInn, CME-Mitsuba, Federal Mogul, Lowe's, SunnyFresh Foods, TB Woods, United Solar, and several major retailers.**

New Educational Lab Opens

A new educational opportunity was launched in September 2006 for dislocated workers in Montcalm County. The Educational Lab designed specifically for the adult learner, offers classes in remediation and GED (Grade Equivalency Degree) completion. The Lab is located at 114 E. Lafayette Street in Greenville and is staffed by the Gratiot-Isabella RESD.

This open-entry open-exit adult literacy/GED completion program provides individualized instruction based on personal interviews, test scores, career interest, and skill levels. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the basic reading, writing and math skills necessary to obtain gainful employment; prepare individuals to successfully advance in the workforce; and to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Another component is for displaced worker(s) to improve English proficiency and literacy for those whose native language is not English. The final component is to assist adults in preparing to complete the GED test requirements and transition to postsecondary education.

Surveys and assessments of displaced workers found that a fair number of displaced workers did not have their high school diploma and that many of them needed refresher courses in reading and math.



Financial Report

EIGHTCAP, INC.

Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See	\$67,366
Care Management - MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program	2,245
Commodities (Value of commodities distributed)	90,318
Community Corrections	68,351
Community Services Block Grant	597,217
Community Services Block Grant - Discretionary (Tax Prep.)	15,000
Community Services Emergency Fund	10,657
Court Appointed Special Advocate	22,299
Early Head Start	1,327,017
Early Head Start - State Collaboration	25,000
Foster Grandparents - Corporation for National Service	202,210
Foster Grandparents - Office of Services to the Aging	227,856
Head Start	4,599,068
Head Start - Child Care Food Program	256,909
Head Start - Evening Child Care	13,126
Head Start - School Readiness	518,100
LIHEAP - Crisis Assistance	193,345
MDHS Emergency Needs	16,000
Michigan Enrolls Project	6,473
Montcalm County Food Drive	20,000
Montcalm County Love in Action	16,013
MPSC/MCAAA CAA Energy Assistance Program	170,954
MSHDA Emergency Shelter Grant	25,500
MSHDA Rural Homeless Initiative	30,000
Senior Companion Program - Corporation for National Service	85,920
Senior Companion Program - Office of Services to the Aging	100,510
Supportive Housing Program	113,375
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	62,024
The Emergency Food Assistance Program	42,188
United Way – FEMA	66,577
Walk for Warmth	12,060
Weatherization	426,125
Weatherization – LIHEAP	169,120
Weatherization - Reynolds Township	25,000
Weatherization – Save Energy with Ease	2,550
Weatherization and Client Education – MPSC	168,197

CAA – Community Action Agency
MCAAA – Michigan Community Action Agency Association
MDHS – Michigan Department of Human Services
MPSC – Michigan Public Service Commission
MSHDA – Michigan State Housing Development Authority

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
LIHEAP – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
GF/GP – General Fund/General Purpose
WIA – Workforce Investment Act
TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

CENTRAL AREA MICHIGAN WORKS! CONSORTIUM (EightCAP, Inc. is the administrative entity)

Food Stamp Employment and Training Program	\$93,997
Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (supportive services)	2,046
Reed Act Service Center Operation	85,460
Reemployment Services	25,858
Trade Act	3,619,614
Wagner-Peyser Employment Services	387,767
WIA Adult	785,413
WIA Dislocated Worker	1,319,611
WIA Dislocated Worker - National Reserve	971
WIA Dislocated Worker - Rapid Response	8,470
WIA Incumbent Worker	101,816
WIA Local Administration	423,126
WIA Statewide Activities - Capacity Building	24,000
WIA Statewide Activities – Incentive	47,094
WIA Youth	988,286
Work First (GF/GP)	297,704
Work First (Reed Act)	195,512
Work First (TANF Supportive Services)	114,000
Work First (TANF)	1,491,843
Youth Statewide Activities	26,028

THRESHOLD ACADEMY (EightCAP, Inc. is the management company)

At Risk Funds	\$78,942
Comprehensive School Reform Grant	49,492
Food Service	83,080
Homeland Security Grant	1,334
Local Revenue	699
Special Education	43,668
State Aid	986,700
Title I School Improvement	30,000
Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs	105,542
Title II, Part A: Teacher/Principal Training & Recruiting	21,132
Title II, Part D: Enhancing Education Through Technology	1,969
Title V, Part A: Innovative Programs	1,837
Title VI, Part B: Rural and Low-Income Grant	8,729
TOTAL	\$ 21,246,410

FUNDING SOURCES:

Central Michigan University - Corporation for National & Community Service - Donations from Area Businesses & Individuals - Ionia Area Council Church Women United - Ionia County Community Foundation - Ionia/Montcalm District Department of Human Services - Isabella County Ministerial Association - Michigan Community Action Agency Association - Michigan Department of Community Health - Michigan Department of Education - Michigan Department of Human Services - Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth - Michigan Head Start Association - Michigan Office of Community Corrections - Michigan Office of Services to the Aging - Michigan State Housing Development Authority - Montcalm Area Intermediate School District - Montcalm Community College - Montcalm County We Care for Kids Council - Reynolds Township - Shepherd Public Schools - Tri-County Electric People Fund - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services - U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development - United Way of Ionia County - United Way of Isabella County - United Way of Montcalm County



Threshold Academy

A Michigan Public School

EightCAP, Inc. / 904 Oak Drive, Box 368 / Greenville, MI 48838
Phone (616) 754-9315, TTY:711 / Fax (616) 754-9310 / www.eightcap.org

EightCAP, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.