



BARRY COUNTY, MI

# FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

awareness. advocacy. education

**“TO ELIMINATE AND PREVENT ALL FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT THROUGH AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION.”**

## NEWSLETTER OCT. – DEC.

### SUMMER EVENTS

We've had a great summer and our focus was primarily on our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Elk's Golf Outing on August 11, 2018. We had many hole sponsors and 104 players took part in our golf outing. Thank you to all the volunteers who donated money, food or time to make this event such a success.



*Winning team: Tripp and Tagg Attorneys*



*Our staff with manager Andrea*

We also had a first-time fundraiser event at Applebee's on September 27 with a silent auction. Applebee's hosted the entire event from 4-8pm and gave us 20% of all their proceeds. Thank you also to everyone who either donated gifts for the auction or came to dine.

### UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

#### COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Our next community breakfast will take place November 14, 2018 at the Barry County Community and Enrichment Center, at the Leason Sharpe Hall from 8-9am. The topic will be Food Resources for families in Barry County. We will have a panel of speakers from local food banks that will inform us about this topic.

#### KINSHIP FAMILY THANKSGIVING PARTY

The Family Support Center will be hosting the Kinship Family Thanksgiving on **Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 from 6:00-8:00pm**. This event will be located at the Barry County Community and Enrichment Center, Leason Sharpe Hall to give thanks to all our Kinship families, who are providing healthy and safe homes for children residing in Barry County. The Family Support Center will be preparing a Thanksgiving Dinner and activities for the family to engage in together. We would greatly appreciate donations for this this event! If you can't give, but

still like to support our cause, please share our page with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to help us spread the word.

## **KINSHIP FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Family Support Center will be hosting the Kinship Family Christmas on **Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 from 5:30-7:30pm**. This event will be located at Leason Sharpe Hall to celebrate the holiday with all our Kinship families in Barry County. The Family Support Center will be preparing a Christmas dinner and providing activities for the families to engage in together. Santa will be coming to town to help families spread holiday cheer! We would greatly appreciate donations for this this event! If you can't give, but still like to support our cause, please share our page with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to help us spread the word.

## **FAMILY WORKSHOPS STARTING AGAIN**

Families residing in Barry County, please join us for our Family Workshop Series! The FREE workshop entails dinner and education provided from guest speakers, on specifically targeted topics, to address concerns experienced by families within our community. The workshop will be held in two locations, Middleville Baptist Church (517 N. M-37 HWY, Middleville) and Hastings Baptist Church (309 E. Woodlawn, Hastings). The 2018 Family Workshop Series will be held in Middleville on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and April 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30. The Family Workshop Series will be held in the Hastings location on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and April 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. Childcare is available for families during the workshop. The Transit of Barry County will be providing transportation to families free of charge, to and from the Hastings Family Workshop Series if you RSVP.

For the Kinship Family Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner and Family Workshop Series, contact Jennifer Jarman at [jennifer@familysupportbarry.com](mailto:jennifer@familysupportbarry.com) or 269-945-5439 to RSVP, donations, and any questions you have! For the Family Workshop Series you will also have the opportunity to register online on our website starting in December 2018.

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

The last Board meeting of this year will be held on **Nov. 29, 2018 at noon** in the United Way Conference Room at the Barry County Community and Enrichment Center.

## **RESILIENCE FILM**

Working hand in hand with trauma-informed schools we are offering a viewing of the film Resilience, which allows us to become a trauma-informed community and developing the next steps. If you are interested in seeing the movie with us, contact Karen Jousma at [karen@familysupportbarry.com](mailto:karen@familysupportbarry.com) or 269-945-KIDZ. If you want learn more about the film, go to <https://kpfjfilms.co/resilience/> .

Check out our homepage for more information on events and programs: [www.familysupportbarry.com](http://www.familysupportbarry.com) and like us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Family-Support-Center-of-Barry-County-149603201753499/>

## **MONTH OF OCT.**

**National Bullying  
Prevention Month**

**Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month**

**Breast Cancer Awareness  
Month**

**Oct. 2, 2018: Child Health  
Day**

## WELCOMING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



My name is Kim Metzger and I was recently hired as the new Executive Director for the Family Support Center of Barry County. As many of you know, Karen Jousma has decided to take the Program Director's position thus creating a spot for me to join the Family Support Center team as Executive Director. I bring a variety of background experiences, education and knowledge that makes this position a good fit.

I have earned a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Organizational Development at Spring Arbor University as well as a Master of Divinity of Methodist Theological School in Ohio. I became a licensed clergy for the United Methodist Church; I gained so much experience during the years I served as pastor. I lead many meetings, supervised staff, developed and oversaw many programs, maintained budgets and endowments, lead fundraising, wrote grants, lead and planned community outreach and events, became confident as a public speaker, and walked with many people through both celebratory times in life as well as many difficult times and challenges.

While I found the work of clergy very rewarding, the required moving for United Methodist pastors became very taxing on my family, especially while my children were still in school. I left the church to seek other employment opportunities where I could provide a more stable home environment for my children yet still utilize my passion for helping people. This change brought me to accept the position as the Barry County Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters where I learn much about social work, case management, networking, community outreach and development, branding and marketing, event planning, fund raising, measurable outcomes and grant writing.

On a personal note, my husband, Gary Metzger, and I have been married 7 years and together we have 5 children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 grand puppies. I recently competed in two sprint distance triathlons this past summer. Completing a triathlon has always been a lifelong goal for me. I was very excited to place first in my age group at my second triathlon which took place in Middleville (Tri del sol). Additionally, I competed in this year's Hastings Summerfest 10k race. This was my first 10K distance race. Gary and I enjoy staying active. We enjoy biking, swimming, running, kayaking, and camping to name a few. For other hobbies I do custom stain glass work as well as industrial art.

### A WORD FROM KAREN JOUSMA

After 19 years as the Executive Director of Family Support Center of Barry County and being very proud of what we do, as of the beginning of September I am taking the role as Program Director. Many of the Programs of the Family Support Center have grown or morphed to the supporting services for families and children we see today. Our mission has been to prevent all forms of child abuse and neglect through awareness, advocacy and education.

Whether it is working with parents and improving their skills or working with children to cultivate personal body safety, supporting prevention of 'shaken baby syndrome' or making sure infants in Barry County sleep safely, our mission is ongoing and seeking ways to improve. I look forward to my focus being on the Programs of the Family Support Center.

Sincerely,

*Karen Jousma* - Program Director for the Family Support Center of Barry County

***Thank you for being part of our mission to prevent and stop child abuse in Barry County***