



# child & family services of Northwestern Michigan update



FALL 2019

*Support in times of crisis, challenge, and life transition*

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*Pete's Place Staff- Kyla Balcom-Pyles, Kierston Mead, Nikki Hollis, Ashley Stradinger, Kaylee Patterson, Gary Ankerman, Megan Morrissey, and Tara DeGroot*

## My Experience at Pete's Place - Northern Michigan's Only Shelter for Homeless Youth

By Kimberly Gordon

Having volunteered at several homeless shelters and transition homes in the United States, Russia, and Brazil, I was aware that each program has its differences, but the particulars often remain the same. These particulars are the size of beds offered, the lights on and lights off scheduling, and other standard protocol. The differences, however, are always the individuals. This was most certainly true of Pete's Place.

I interacted with six youth who came and went from Pete's Place throughout the summer. Whether these youth identified Pete's as a long or short term home, each of them became unique members of the Pete's Place family, and they generously accepted me into the family. This act of acceptance was no small feat for them, with many of them having experienced dysfunctional homes. Slowly but surely as the residents began to trust me with small things others might have seen as trivial, I began to see potentially invaluable steps of progression for each youth. Each of the residents had a different backstory. Some of the youth have experienced abuse, most of them suffer continuously with trauma, and all of them struggle with their own unique issues as teenagers. Whatever led these young adults to the Pete's Place doorstep, each one of them deserves to reach their highest potential.

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**Kids grow best in families! Be a foster parent.**  
To learn how, call 231-946-8975 today.

**“GIVING PAYS THE HIGHEST INTEREST RATE, AND HAS THE LONGEST TERM, OF ANY INVESTMENT AVAILABLE.”**

**JEFFREY K. WILSON**

# board

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Pete’s staff are uniquely qualified to deal with these individual differences. At Pete’s, staff have a mission to not only provide shelter for the residents, but to also provide them the opportunity to develop skills for life on their own after Pete’s. The staff serve as role models and mentors toward the development of these skills. They converse with residents about video games, helping residents with dinner menus, and always take the time to listen. Instead of simply giving residents a place to stay short-term, youth are offered a structured environment where they can learn essential tools to face early adulthood.



**Kimberly Gordon**

Interacting with both the staff and residents I immediately noticed that the effort required to create such an environment could have been easily forgone by the staff. I volunteered two to three days a week over the course of the summer and each day when I arrived I joined a different staff member as they interacted with the residents. And each of those days I found the staff engaged in their lives and the youth were willing to let the staff be involved.

This dynamic was inspiring.

By the close of my limited time at Pete’s it became clear that the program is so much more than a shelter.

I began by saying that individuals are the difference in programs such as this. The individuals at Pete’s Place are making a remarkable difference.

*Kimberly volunteered at Pete’s Place for three months before moving out of the area. THANK YOU KIMBERLY!*

*For more information about volunteering at Pete’s Place, contact Kendra Luta at [kluta@cfs3L.org](mailto:kluta@cfs3L.org).*

“Whatever...led these young adults to the Pete’s Place doorstep, each one of them deserves to reach their highest potential.”

Check out our new website!  
[cfsnwmi.org](http://cfsnwmi.org)

Follow us on Facebook/Instagram! [@cfsnwmi](https://www.instagram.com/cfsnwmi)  
Email us: [cfs@cfs3L.org](mailto:cfs@cfs3L.org)

CFS is pleased to announce that Diane Emling has taken the helm as our CFS Board President. Diane has a rich history of board and work experience, having served on the boards of Third Level, Michigan League for Public Policy, Michigan’s Children, Women’s Resource Center, and the Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) Foundation. Diane holds a PhD in Sociology and taught at NMC for 28 years. She also served for 12 years at the state office of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Diane states, “The work of CFS has been a passion of mine for



**Diane Emling, Board President**

years. I am now retired and able to take on this commitment.” Diane has served on the CFS Board for nearly four years and we are so pleased to have her in this new role.

CFS also welcomes Joanie Hazelton to the board. Joanie has worked in the social work field for over 22 years.



**Joanie Hazelton**

She is a professor of social work at Ferris State University, as well as a former employee of CFS. Joanie joined the board because she “wants to give back

to CFS and the Traverse City community. I hope to offer my professional insight to support the mission of CFS.” Welcome to the board, Joanie!

THANK YOU,  
board and trustees,  
for your dedication  
to our community  
and to CFS!

# director

## OUR MISSION

*Our services support the safety and well-being of children, youth, adults, and families in times of crisis, challenge, and life transition.*

## Board of Directors

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## Executive Director's Message



### *Grateful for Good Work*

Once, a long time ago, I was talking with a friend and he asked me how long I had been at Child and Family Services. I don't remember how many years it had been by the time of this conversation, but I replied and then said that I tended to have some longevity in my jobs. My friend sniffed, "That's not longevity. That's a rut."

I laughed, but did he have a point? It's easy to get stuck in the usual, to work without joy, to become robotic in our responses to things both in our jobs and in our lives.

Now that I've been in the executive director role at CFS for two years, I can honestly say that I don't feel like I'm in a rut. I loved my previous job in marketing at CFS, and I love this one. It's not hard to come to work every day when you believe in your mission to help kids and families heal and grow, when you share your days with great people working so tirelessly to make our community happier and healthier.

CFS is 82 years old now. November is National Adoption Month, when we reap one of the great rewards of this work, rejoicing in the creation of new families and the hope that the children involved will be able to live their best lives. October is Donor Appreciation Month, when we pause to thank you for all you do with your time and treasure to help us help others. There are so many reasons to be grateful.

I am grateful to be part of the caring, compassionate CFS community. In this newsletter are just a few of the myriad of ways you impact the lives of your neighbors, young and old. Thank you for your role in this work. It simply isn't possible without you.

Warmly,

Gina Aranki

# donor love

Thanks to  
Bill Marsh  
Automotive for their  
sponsorship of this  
Newsletter.

CFS is so grateful to all of our donors whose overwhelming generosity makes our mission possible. Here are just a few of our favorite donors who we honor during Donor Love Month.

## Thank you for your support!

Since 2013 Child & Family Services and MyNorth Media have partnered for the Up North Home and Cottage Tour each fall, showcasing some of the region's most unique homes while supporting Child & Family Services. Ticket proceeds from this event (over \$72,000 since 2013) directly support the great work of CFS. "Partnering with CFS is the best part of running the home tours each year," says **Erin Lutke, Marketing Director of MyNorth Media**. "The homeowners, builders, and attendees are always thrilled that their participation and ticket fees go to such a good local cause."

"I'm proud to promote our partnership with such an impactful local non-profit."

-Erin Lutke



**Mike Mahn, Owner of Golden-Fowler Home Furnishings**, has partnered with CFS on the Celebrity DreamRoom Classic event for seven years, resulting in revenue of over \$220,000 as well as providing donations to our families in need. "At Golden-Fowler Home Furnishings we pay our success forward to its origins: our community," says Mike. "With the resulting equity, we become even more successful and our business becomes more sustainable. This creates a wonderful, positive snowball effect."

"All along, Child and Family Services has been with us as a valuable partner, responsibly supporting our most vulnerable neighbors."



Real Estate One has been a long time supporter of Third Level programming. Their annual golf event, the Third Level Golf Classic, celebrated 17 years this summer. Real Estate One is also a sponsor of The Northern Angler's Cheese Cup, a fly-fishing tournament, which for the past three years has raised funds for suicide prevention.

"It is an honor and a joy to be a supporter of CFS!"

-Dennis Pearsall, President and COO, Real Estate One-Northern MI Region



Mike and Laverna Witkop have invited CFS foster and adoptive parents since 2009 to enjoy Jacob's Corn Maze. This year marked the 10th year. CFS had almost 200 people participate this fall!

"We are adoptive parents ourselves and are very supportive of the efforts of CFS."

-Mike Witkop (right, with his wife, Laverna)



# volunteers & friends

## Family of Faith Lutheran Church Delivers for Families in Need

Easter may seem like it was a long time ago but the appreciation we hold for a local congregation, Family of Faith Lutheran Church, lingers on long after the holiday. Each year since 2012, the Family of Faith congregation, led by Pastor Daniel LaCouteur, has donated and assembled complete Easter dinners and Easter baskets for our families. In addition to Easter, over the years Family of Faith has also bought and assembled Thanksgiving meals, school supplies for our Back to School



Adoption Specialist Rhonda Pomeroy poses with the gifts of Easter baskets

initiative, and contributed to our Paper Angels

campaign. Thank you to Pastor Daniel and the Family of Faith congregation for your kindness and generosity.

## Frey Foundation Sponsors Foster Family to Create “Unforgettable Memories”

Nancy and her daughter, Taylor “Ty” Crandell, opened their hearts and home to fostering female youth in February 2017. The Crandells have a farm in Boyne City with horses, goats, and other small animals, which is a calming environment for teen girls healing from trauma. In July 2017, their first foster daughter was placed in their home. This was the beginning of a new life for all of them. In September 2018, Nancy adopted her foster daughter, Emily. The Crandells have also been blessed with another foster daughter, who has been with the Crandells since January 2018.

Each year, the Frey Foundation pays for a trip for a deserving family. The Crandell ladies were chosen as this year’s Cedar Point trip recipients. Nancy was ecstatic when she received the call, stating that she had been wanting to do something fun with the girls before school started. They were filled with excitement and report that it gave them a chance to create unforgettable memories together.

“This was literally the trip of a lifetime! The girls had never been to Cedar Point, one of them had never been out of Michigan! We all became closer as a family and made unforgettable memories!”

-Nancy Crandell

## Sunrise Rotary Gears Kids Up for School

Each year the Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club generously supplies a new backpack full of school supplies to qualifying elementary age children in the Traverse City area with their Backpacks for Kids program. CFS is grateful to be a participant in this program and this year was able to distribute 160 backpacks to our families to start the school year off right. Backpacks for Kids began in 2004 and since its inception has donated over 19,000 backpacks, serving nearly 1,000 school children a year.

“We see this project as one small way to aid these families that are most in need of support from our community,” says Backpacks for Kids Chair Linda Raetz. On average, a fully supplied backpack costs \$20.00, requiring annual donations of \$20,000 - \$25,000. In addition to the monetary investment, volunteers donate hundreds of hours towards planning, ordering, organizing, and recruiting the many hands that help to stuff each bag. This truly is a community effort and we are so grateful to have that support for our kids and families.



Volunteers assemble backpacks.

If you would like to learn more about this program or would like to participate in assembling backpacks, please contact the Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club at [tcmisunriserotary@gmail.com](mailto:tcmisunriserotary@gmail.com).

# events



## Mark Your Calendars - It's Paper Angels Time!

Paper Angels is an annual campaign that matches wish lists of CFS families and partner organizations to generous donors who provide the gifts on their lists. We then have a drop off day that is joyously chaotic as we receive and then deliver gifts to our clients. It's an amazing program that makes a difference in many lives...but it wouldn't be possible without the strong backing of our many awesome volunteers. We truly couldn't do it without them!

The campaign will run from November 11 to December 20 and **volunteers are needed Monday thru Friday, 10 am-4 pm**. Volunteer shifts will run for 2 hours and we encourage volunteers to sign up for multiple shifts. Come join the fun and the good holiday cheer!

### Paper Angels Dates

**Paper Angels Volunteer Training:**  
Wednesday, October 30 | 5-6 pm  
3785 Veterans Drive, Traverse City

**Official start of Paper Angels:**  
Monday, November 11

**Drop Off Day (Harbor Springs):**  
Saturday, December 7

**Drop Off Day (Traverse City):**  
Saturday, December 14



Kendra Luta  
Volunteer and Donor  
Relations Specialist

For more information contact Kendra at [kluta@cfs3L.org](mailto:kluta@cfs3L.org).

## Giving Tuesday December 3, 2019

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday. We hope you will visit us on Facebook or our website, [www.cfsnwm.org](http://www.cfsnwm.org), this Giving Tuesday and give generously to your favorite charity (hint, hint)!

## Two Amazing Golf Outings, One Great Summer

On a picture perfect day in June, Elmbrook Golf Course hosted our annual golf fundraiser benefitting our Third Level Youth Services program. It was an amazing event and we are so grateful for the support of our major sponsors: **Real Estate One, Elmbrook Golf Course, Chic Home Staging and Design Company, and Huntington Bank**. We are grateful for the many hours put in from our volunteer event committee and all of the amazing volunteers who came out to help on the day of the event. This event showed firsthand the power of volunteers and the strength of our community for a great cause!



Teeing up at The Kingsley Club

Fast forward a few months and to The Kingsley Club for the 29th annual Tee Up Fore Kids Jack Otto Classic. This event is special for many reasons: the opportunity to golf on the prestigious Kingsley Club Golf Course; supporting the important work that CFS does in our community; and remembering two people who made an incredible impact at CFS, volunteers Jack Otto and Todd Endresen.

Again, great work from our event committee and the support of volunteers on that gorgeous day, as well as our generous sponsors: **Peterson McGregor and Associates, Wells Fargo Advisors, Edward Jones (Greg Williams), Freenjoy, Teter Orthotics, Fox Grand Traverse, WCCW 107.5, Day Signs, Jimmy John's, hole sponsors, and contributors!**

**Thanks for all you do to make our event fun and successful!**



“Philanthropy should help in the now and in the future. Our children are our future, and there is a cost to society if we don’t do something now.” - Alan Newton, monthly donor



## Meaningful Giving this Holiday Season

Linda Sommerville, Director of Development

Gifts come in many sizes and many types! **We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart: love, kindness, understanding, empathy.** I witness **our staff** interact daily with our clients - showing not only respect and kindness, but a trauma-informed understanding of the difficulties that have brought them to CFS. **Our volunteers** have also shown immense compassion and patience as they **give of their time** in a wide variety of ways.

**Financial giving similarly comes with a set of values** that make a huge impact, from lifting our clients toward hope and encouragement, to supporting a new program like **YouthWork** as an investment donor. A **Maidens of Michigan** grant was awarded to a young woman who recently completed high school while living at **Pete’s Place**, our youth shelter, to purchase her first car. She can now drive herself to her full time job, and she recently moved into her first apartment!

**Your financial support** moreover allows us to carry on our mission and work toward building a better, stronger, healthier community. Our donors give of themselves in ways that reaffirm our work, our partnership, and support of the greater good in all of us. We see and hear life-changing stories every day and your gifts are making a huge difference. We hope you’ll come by for a visit to hear the stories behind these successes. We want to share our joy and gratitude with each and every one of you, from the little five year old who recently brought in his birthday money to give to kids in foster care, to the older couple who decided to leave CFS a legacy gift. **All of your gifts contribute to the heart of the matter!**



### A few examples of how YOU can give:

#### Employer Matching Gift Program

Many employers will match employee donations towards their favorite non-profit. Consider CFS with your employers matching gift program!

#### Paper Angels and Angel Fund

November 11 through December 14, donations of gifts and cash are collected to assist CFS clients in need through the holiday season. The Angel Fund is used all year to meet ongoing client needs.

#### IRA Contributions

Did you know that you can make charitable contributions TAX-FREE to non profit organizations using your Individual Retirement Account? There are even more tax advantages after the age of 70.5.

#### Honorarium/Memorial Gifts

CFS will acknowledge your gift in honor or in memory of someone, according to your wishes. Instead of flowers, consider donations to CFS, which can have lasting impact.

**Contact Linda at 231-946-8975 x 1025 for more information.**

# grateful

## Thank You, Alan Olson, for 25 years of service!



“Most people don’t put CPA and Harley Davidson together,” says Bud Cline.

But that’s what Bud thinks of first when he thinks of Alan Olson, who recently “retired” from his service to CFS after more than 25 years of volunteerism and was recognized by his colleagues at his last meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Alan served on the CFS Board from 1994-2003, culminating in his role as the board president. Subsequently, Alan joined the CFS Foundation board, and spent an additional 16 years as a trustee including 12 years as president of the Foundation.

With his background as a CPA, and his wealth of experience in financial oversight, Alan was a huge asset to CFS and other community organizations, including

Rotary and the Grand Traverse Community Foundation. With all the demands involved in these capacities, you might guess that Alan had no time for fun.

“Taint so, according to Bud, who started his volunteer service with CFS about the same time as Alan.

“Al owned a Harley Davidson Police Road King that he purchased at an auction held by the Traverse City Police Department. I rode with Al up to Cross Village through the Tunnel of Trees on Highway 119, then we rode up to Mackinaw City before returning to Traverse City. What a great time we had, although we returned soaking wet. Al also rode a solo trip on his Harley from Traverse City to Arizona to visit his son.”

A proud MSU Spartan, Al is also a veteran of Korea and an avid sailor and fisherman.

Everyone at CFS wishes Alan the best in his “third retirement.”

