

FASD News and Views



A Michigan Coalition for Fetal Alcohol
Resources, Education and Support
(MCFARES) Newsletter



Established in 2003

Questions We Are Asked

Question: *My daughter is a sophomore in high school. She has had an IEP since 3rd grade. Most of her classes are general education classes but she does get support for math and language arts. She could not manage these courses without significant adaptations to the curriculum. At this point, we're not sure if she should pursue the diploma track or the certificate of completion track. How do we learn about post-high school opportunities?*

Answer: There are many things to consider during the high school years. It is hard to know which path might be most appropriate for your child. In Michigan students who receive a certificate of completion are eligible to continue educational programming until they are 26-years-old. Special education services through the K-12 system will end for students who receive a diploma.

During this school year, it would be wise to begin post-high school planning. Talk with your daughter's education planning team about local options available to your daughter. For instance, if you're considering the certificate of completion track, investigate post-high school programs in your area. Your school can arrange tours of the schools and may be able to arrange a day of shadowing at the school. If your daughter has an interest in college, she can attend a community college without a high school diploma. While she won't have an IEP, many community colleges offer support services to assist her in classes.



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Your special education team can make contact with Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and invite them to attend an IEP meeting. Assessments completed through MRS may help your daughter decide a career path. Here is more information about MRS:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_25392_70985---,00.html. If your daughter would like to learn a trade, Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) may be an option for her. MCTI offers training in 13 different vocational programs. Here is a link to MCTI:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_25392_40242-11770--,00.html. Services through MRS and MCTI remain available to your daughter even if she receives a high school diploma.

Involve your daughter in as much of the process as you believe might be appropriate for her and accompany her as she visits different programs so

that the two of you can discuss them later. As the process of deciding which path to take may be very lengthy, take notes along the way and be able to present information to your daughter in a way that she can remember and understand.

Consider talking with other parents who have already walked this road. Seek input about the choices that were made and how things have worked out. Try to learn from other parents if they used or considered any other services or supports that you might not be aware of.

If you have any FASD-related questions, please send them to Charisse at charisse@mcfares.org

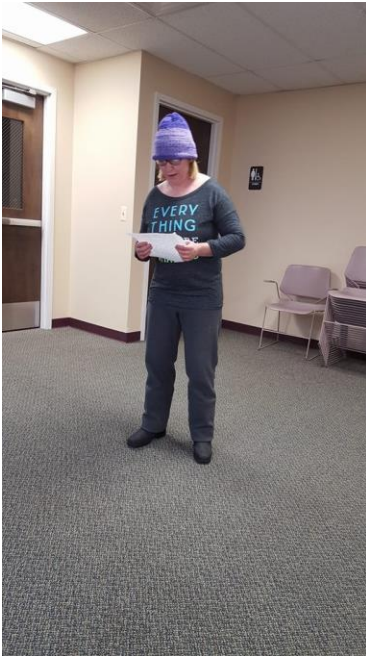
Macomb County Project S.A.F.E. Monthly Potluck Dinner



Project S.A.F.E. (Supportive Activities for Everyone) has been meeting in Macomb County since February, 2008. Project S.A.F.E. began as an opportunity for families who are affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders to come together to enjoy a meal, enjoy friendship and socialize in a safe, supportive atmosphere. Over the years we have met at the homes of some of our families and at various churches in Macomb County. We have had families join us from as far away as St. Clair, Grand Blanc and Saline. Through Project S.A.F.E. we've enjoyed some great meals, learned more about FASD and have developed great friendships.

If you are interested in joining other families for a meal, friendship and a chance for children to play together, please contact Charisse at charisse@mcfares.org. We're looking to expand Project S.A.F.E. into other areas of Michigan. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Charisse at charisse@mcfares.org.

Insight from Anna, age 21



why FASD change my hole when i was little I had have FASD. so i was think how my life will be for me at home and at school . i get every mad at school is one thing that i have live with other this that

i have live with overwhelm when i feel scared and when i feel lost i shutdown and i will stop and think

that I'm going to give up but then i think about my family and what they mean to me and then i think about my friend that understand me and what i have to live with out my family and my friend i will no't be here today with out my friend and my family that why people need read about FASD and know what to do to help FASD adult and kid they will like to be friend with you but is hard for them to make friend and keep them why out friends i will no't be who i am now if it was no'r for my family and my friends at school at other place that's how my life is .

Q: Why couldn't the sailors play cards?

A: The captain was standing on the deck.

From our friend Melissa

GoodSearch

Please consider helping MCFARES raise funds to support individuals and families who are affected by pre-natal exposure to alcohol. Each time you conduct a search at <http://www.goodsearch.com/>, a donation is made to MCFARES. Please designate MCFARES as your charity of choice. You can also use GoodShop for your on-line shopping needs. A percentage of your on-line purchases will be donated to MCFARES.

Amazon Smile

If you shop on-line with Amazon.com, please consider using this link: A donation to MCFARES will be made each time you shop: [smile.amazon.com/ch/35-2394822](https://www.amazon.com/ch/35-2394822)



Member Spotlight



Kayla Dadswell, LLMSW, CPC-R
Program Supervisor: Public Information
CARE of Southeast Michigan

Tell us 3 things about yourself (two are true, one is false – see end of story to find out which is false):

1. I love to travel (when I have the time)
2. I have never gone to the movies
3. I have 4 cats and 1 dog

What is your favorite season and why?

I love fall! Cider mills and sweater weather (when Michigan has this kind of weather) is really my favorite time of year!

It's a cold, snowy February day. You've got the day off work and no commitments. How will you spend your day?

It's a cold snowy day and I have nothing to do? This seems like a dream come true for me! My day will likely be spent with my animals, hot chocolate, and a nice comfy blanket!

Favorite Color – Lime Green

Favorite Sport – Hockey

Favorite Store – Target and Bath and Body Works

What is your favorite movie? Why?

I don't have a favorite movie, I like so many different movies so it's too hard to choose a favorite.

What is one thing you could not go without during your day?

Water or Tea! I always need something to avoid having a dry mouth because so much of my job involves talking!

Tell us about your job:

I am currently the Program Supervisor of Public Information at CARE of Southeastern Michigan where I supervise agency interns, casual and full-time employees. I also chair the Macomb County FASD Committee, plan and coordinate programs for youth and families such as Teen Intervene, PATTS, Seeking Safety, and my favorite Camp CARE! I am also responsible for everything FASD related at the agency.

What attracted you to your current job?

I love that each day of work is different, but I love our summer camps and being able to see smiling and familiar faces return each year!

What, in your opinion, is the biggest need related to FASD in Michigan?

I would love to see the stigma regarding FASD end! FASD is not caused intentionally and those who have FASD are just as loving and caring as anyone else!

(Two truths and one untruth answer: #2 is not true! I love going to the movies especially to the movie theaters that have the reclining seats!)

Michigan FASD Task Force 2016-2018

Goal #1: Make MCFARES as the NOFAS affiliate the clearinghouse for FASD information in Michigan and accumulate information regarding services and resources available for parents and professionals.

Goal #2: Educate all who come into contact with individuals who have an FASD for the purpose of improving lifelong outcomes by increasing access to information, to resources, referrals, screening tools, and intervention strategies.

Goal #3: Empower adults with FASD through screening, diagnosis, treatment and interventions, and support.

FASD Brain

5-year-old: "My brain has holes today."

5-year-old: "I don't remember what I was going to say, Mommy. I have memory lost."

(For a brief moment I panic thinking, does he realize that he struggles with his memory at such a young age? What insight! But how sad!)

Then he finishes his thought with, "Mommy, what's memory lost?" Panic abated, at least somewhat, anyway. 😊

I ask my 2 year old (FASD), "What does a doggy say?" She ponders this question for about three seconds and then says, "Hi!" 😊😄

The Mi-LEND Program

The Michigan Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (MI-LEND) is an interdisciplinary leadership training program of graduate students, family members and self-advocates. LEND programs are found in all 50 states and 5 U.S. territories and commonwealths. LEND programs are funded under the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act, and administered by the Health Resources and Service's Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). The MI-LEND program trains emerging leaders with the goal of improving the health of infants, children, and adolescents with or at risk for neurodevelopmental disabilities and other related health care needs. The curriculum includes 300 hours of educational, clinical and community experiences over 2 semesters. MI-LEND is a collaborative effort of 6 Michigan universities and the Family Center with an emphasis on the L.I.F.E. (Leadership, Interdisciplinary, Family-Centered, Equity) perspective throughout the experience.

LEND Programs impact on the lives of children and families with disabilities by:

- Influencing positive attitudes toward children with disabilities
- Helping pioneer interdisciplinary, inclusive, and integrated systems of care
- Providing community linkages between scientific discovery and practice
- Fostering family-and person-centered care
- Developing new service models and approaches for care
- Collaborating with state and local agencies
- Conducting research
- Affecting public policy for children with DD and their families

Because Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are considered a developmental disability, the MI-LEND training offers a webinar on FASD and provides related information and resources for professionals, families, and advocates. The webinar provides the following information:

- Defines what are fetal alcohol spectrum disorders
- Identifies the causes of FASD
- Shares the prevalence and costs associated with FASD
- Describe some of the primary and secondary disabilities associated with FASD

For more information on the MI-LEND program please contact Ann Carrellas, Project Manager at ann.carrellas@wayne.edu or call 313-577-8562.

Bragg

Meg, age 21



Special Olympic Figure Skating team and Unified partners performed at Detroit Skate Club's "Skate for Dreams, Champions on Ice". Olympic contenders performed to benefit their team. Her teammates will be competing in Traverse City at the State Special Olympics Winter Games.

Jack, age 9



2017 was a great year for Jack. He started Math tutoring and surprised everyone by getting to grade level math within 6 months. He also made the GoldFish swim team! Way to go Jack!

Shianna, age 7

Shianna has learned over 20 sight words and is spelling. She asked me in a note "RWUOKMOM" (are you ok Mom?)

Leroy, age 21

Leroy moved in to his permanent supportive housing in January.

Pure Michigan

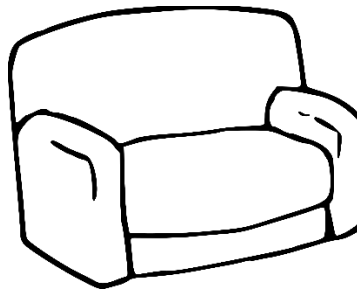


Eben Ice Caves

Donate Time – Work with Us!

Do you have a few hours to spare? We have several different opportunities to help you put your spare time to good use. Do you like kids? Maybe you can enjoy Project S.A.F.E. with us and supervise the children after dinner so that parents have some time to talk. Do you have website-building skills? We'd love your help re-designing and updating the MCFARES website. Do you have newsletter-designing skills? We could use your help putting the quarterly MCFARES FASD News and Views newsletter together (we'll develop the content and you can organize it into the newsletter).

On-line Support Group Starting Soon



Michigan Project SOFAS Parent Support Group
(Strength through Online Fetal Alcohol Support)

Are you interesting in meeting up with other parents but just can't seem to get out of the house? We may have just the answer for you. Join us for Michigan Project SOFAS: A synchronous online meeting designed to provide Michigan families of individuals with an FASD with a caring and supportive space. Please consider taking this online survey so that we might find a time that works for most families. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5JPCN6C>. Please address any questions to info@mcfares.org.

IN MEMORIUM



Theophile (Ted) Wybrecht

December 13, 1936 - December 6, 2017

On December 6, 2017, Theophile (Ted) Wybrecht passed away a week before his 81st birthday. A memorial celebration of Ted's life was held on December 16, 2017 at Grand Rapid's Westminster Presbyterian Church which among its service missions includes support of FASD.

In 1973 Rob Wybrecht became part of Ted and Barb's family and was the first infant in the United States to be diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Ted was instrumental in educating teachers, parents and legal professionals regarding the impact of prenatal alcohol exposure on one's lifetime. His parenting of Rob along with interaction with other individuals on the spectrum provided experiences that allowed him to be a better principal for all students and their parents. He said that he could feel the parent's sigh of relief when he would say, "I do understand what you are describing, and I do know how you are feeling. My son has similar challenges". A friend also on the spectrum said, "Ted always listened and treated me as an equal; he got my puns and we laughed together."

Ted was also involved in many other aspects of FAS:

- He was a member of the curriculum design board associated with the development of the Equal Justice trainer manual under the auspices of the Association for Community Action and the Developmental Disabilities Institute. Through his efforts, the legal language was translated into a more usable format for the trainers and parents.
- Ted was instrumental in writing grants and coordinating many details for the first national FAS camp that was held in Michigan the summer of 2002 with 50 individuals in attendance.
- At a 2011 SAMSA conference, Ted participated in a one-time fathers' panel discussion entitled, **"Keeping the Faith: Time to Hear from Dads of Children with FASD"**.

On a personal note, he attended Cass Technical High school in Detroit where his emphasis was violin and science. In 1955 he was accepted at the University of Michigan and joined the Men's Glee Club within the first week of school. A new octet was formed that year with Ted being one of the founding members and they named themselves the "Friars". In that same year he met his future bride, Barbara, a nursing student also attending U of M. He graduated in 1959 and became the only science teacher at a new high school teaching math, physics and chemistry. In 1964 he graduated with his master's degree from U of M and became the youngest Michigan school principal in the state.

Throughout the years Ted lived his faith and expressed his love for others, for his music and for the university. His gentle demeanor, quiet laughter and sense of humor that touched so many lives will be missed but not forgotten. It was truly fitting that the Friars attended and sang at the memorial celebration and it ended with an emphatic ---GO BLUE!!!



Vision: The Coalition strengthens served communities' ability to eliminate prenatal alcohol exposure and provide support to persons and families impacted by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) by delivering exemplary professional education, public awareness, and support.

Mission: Bridging the gap between individual needs and community services

To find out how you can help us work toward our vision and mission, contact us at info@mcfares.org.

Macomb County Summer Socialization Program

Feedback from Families

Students from Macomb and surrounding counties have the opportunity to attend a summer socialization program in Macomb County coordinated by the MISD. One student who attended this year said she “liked the scavenger hunt in the outside mall, going to Vik's diner and going to the Metro Park, even though no one else would paddle with me! I liked making new friends.” Another student stated that he “liked making new friends who have the same interests, going to Metro Park and going to the Coney restaurant.” He said it was great to do the talent show too. One parent reported that she liked that her daughter “got to learn some life skills--paying for lunch and leaving a tip, working together as a team, learning to make their pizzas at California Pizza Kitchen.”

If you are interested in having your child attend the program next summer, please send an email to Charisse at charisse@mcfares.org.

Kroger Community Rewards

Please consider registering MCFARES as the beneficiary of rewards using your Kroger Plus card. The MCFARES organization number is 91150. We thank you for your support. Funds raised will assist MCFARES in providing support to individuals and families affected by pre-natal exposure to alcohol.





Support Groups for FASD in Michigan

(not all groups are specifically for FASD support)

(Please phone or email contact person prior to attending to ensure that group is still meeting. If information has changed, please email Charisse at Charisse@mcfares.org).

Alpena County

FASD Family Support Group, Meets 2nd Thursday of each month; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Partners in Prevention office in the First Presbyterian Church at the corner of US23 and Long Rapids Road, Alpena. Contact Mary Schalk at mary@nemcpi.org or 989-359-2880 for more information.

Eaton County

Eaton County Foster Adopt Support Group, Meets 1st Thursday monthly, 6 – 8:30 p.m. Pot-luck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Group/training at 6:30 p.m. Childcare available. Eaton Intermediate School District, 1790 Packard Highway, Charlotte, MI 48813. Located right next door to Walmart. Contact Michelle for more information at besa_93@yahoo.com.

Kalamazoo County

Kalamazoo Area Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Support Group (KAFASD), Meets 2nd Tuesday monthly, 6:30 p.m. Augusta McKay Library, 105 S. Webster Street, Augusta, MI 49012. For more information, contact Robin or Kathy at KAFASDgroup@yahoo.com.

Kent County

West Michigan FASD Support Group, Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 47 Jefferson Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Contact Sandy Kezenius, 616-874-9522; Corry Tait, 616-550-4273; or Barbara Wybrecht, 616-241-9126 or bmwybrecht@gmail.com for more information.

Self-Advocates with and FASD in Action (SAFA), generally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The meeting is for adults age 18 and up who have an official FASD diagnosis. Contact Rob Wybrecht for more information, rob1195@yahoo.com.

Adoptive Families Support Group, Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6 – 8 p.m., Holy Family Catholic Church, 9669 Kraft Avenue SE, Caledonia, MI 49316-9723. Contact Shelley Garcia, 1-855-MICH-P2P, x705 or sgarcia@afsn.com for more information.

Macomb County

Project SAFE (Supportive Activities for Everyone), generally on a Friday or Saturday evening from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at various locations in Macomb County. Families meet for pot-luck dinner followed by supervised play for the children and support group time for adults. Contact Charisse at Charisse@mcfares.org or 586-329-6722.

Brunch Bunch, Monthly, 2nd Tuesday, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., In Clinton Township, Contact Charisse at Charisse@mcfares.org or 586-329-6722 for location details.

Muskegon County

Support group for foster/adoptive/kinship families. Very active group meets weekly for various activities. Contact Janice Hilleary at Bjhilleary@comcast.net or 231-286-7892 (cell phone).

Washtenaw County

Ann Arbor Support Group, Meets 4th Wednesday of each month except November (meets 3rd Wednesday) and December (no meeting), 7 -9 p.m. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Education Center, Classroom #5, 5305 East Huron Drive. Contact Vern Soden for more information, vsoden@umich.edu.

Statewide List

Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Support Groups by County <http://afsn.org/services/foster-adoptive-and-kinship-support-groups-by-county/> (not all groups are FASD-specific)

On-line Information/Support

MCFARES: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MCFARESFASD/>

Michigan's FASD Advocacy and Social Network: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mifasd/>

KAFASD (Kalamazoo area): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KAFASD/>

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Updated 11/17



MCFARES is the Michigan NOFAS Affiliate

MCFARES Member Agencies

Arc Services of Macomb
(fiduciary)

Family members of affected
individuals

Michigan FASD Task Force

Kids Belong/ACMH Board
Member

Oakland University School
of Nursing

Parent and Child Services,
Inc.



*MCFARES needs you. Call us at
586-329-6722 to find out how you
can help.*
