

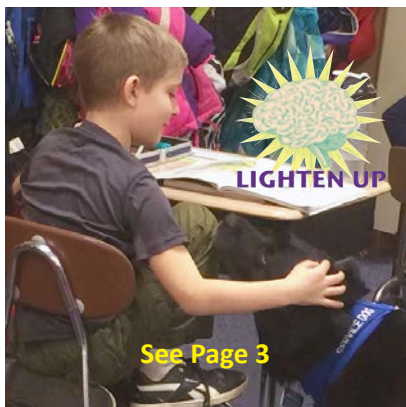


# Newsletter

## Christmas – A Special Time For Children!

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## It's All About The Children At The IM-K Kiwanis Children's Christmas Party

The Iron Mountain-Kingsford Kiwanis Club hosted their annual Children's Christmas Party. Thank you Kiwanis leaders for touching the lives of so many children! All children went home with new books, stuffed animals and Key Club coloring books and crayons.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU –  
DEBRA KETCHUM  
Iron County Community Leader**

DEBRA donated stuffed animals and many matching books given to children participating in the Annual Kiwanis Christmas Party. Appreciation also extended to Aspirus Foundation Director PEG JAMES, and Kiwanis

Leaders - LEAH RANKIN and THERESA OZZELLO who took on major leadership roles in making sure children's gifts were put in the hands of SANTA CLAUS!



KIWANIS CHRISTMAS PARTY LEADERS – Walt Summers, Jenny Baker, Theresa Ozzello, Beth Bray, SANTA and Becky Nord

## HUGS FOR SANTA







## SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, January 27  
9:30 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Pine Grove Country Club**

The January Strategic Plan Retreat Goal will be to identify existing children and family support, services and resources; in addition to determining what current statistics are indicators of future needs. Michigan's Great Start Consultant Kay Balcer will be the strategic plan trainer!



# Great Start Hosts January Strategic Planning Retreat

## PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLAN RETREAT AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC
9:30	Identifying SERVICES
10:30	Supports & Mindsets
11:30	LUNCH
12:00	Systems Working
1:30	Dashboard Exercise

At the 2017 Strategic Plan Retreat, our Dickinson Iron Great Start Collaborative and Parent Coalition will take a close look at building more strong systems of support for young children and families.

Brain research proves we need more interventions and social-emotional support for our families. The January 2017 Strategic Plan Retreat will help in developing planning tools identify more specific goals, strategies and benchmarks.

At the retreat, Trainer Kay Balcer will lead us through an action learning process designed to look at needed data and valued outcomes for families. By identifying shared values we will be ready to change!

GREAT START needs your leadership at the strategic planning table! Let's take big problems and move forward by breaking them down into small attainable goals resulting in THINKING BIG AND BIG CHANGE!

**SUCCESS** The most effective strategic plans are developed when active parent leaders, collaborative leaders and community leaders come together to identify needs and create plans for future early childhood policies, procedures and projects. Trainer Kay Balcer will help us see what our community problems really look like by focusing specifically at system issues. Often times it takes an outside consultant to help uncover root causes of why conditions are happening.

**DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAY** is a tool that clearly will define the indicators, early successes and service outcomes we will be looking to achieve over the next three years.

**YOU ARE A GREAT START CHAMPION WE NEED AT THE STRATEGIC PLANNING TABLE – Please Sign Up!**



DR. ALEXIS WHALEY presents at the Children First Celebration 2016 held at the Pine Grove Country!



**I AM READY!**

**THE GREAT START DRUG TASK FORCE** started meeting in the summer of 2016 and already awareness, prevention and intervention programs are making a difference!

**PARTNERSHIPS** Thanks to the following partners/sponsors, valuable community and school initiatives are underway:

- United Way of Dickinson County
- Dickinson County Healthcare System
- Dickinson Area Community Foundation
- Thrivent Financial
- Northern Lights YMCA
- Great Start Collaborative
- Dickinson Iron Intermediate School District
- Child And Family Services of the UP
- Recovery Coaches
- IM-K Kiwanis Club
- Results Broadcasting
- North Elementary School
- Woodland Elementary School
- Floline Media
- Dickinson County Library

**DRUG PREVENTION RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS - PSAs**

have started being aired by Results Broadcasting. Drug Task Force committee leaders and second grade children from North and Woodland Elementary Schools are being featured on the radio advertisements by giving their opinions about the dangers of drugs to our community and to personal health. In addition to individuals talking about their views on drug abuse and addiction, the second grade classes also sang anti-drug jingles.

Drug Task Force Leader **CHERIE FILA** and owner of Floline Media, **NICK JENSEN** tape second graders from Woodland School



## Drug Task Force Makes A Difference!

### SCHOOL DRUG PREVENTION

Thanks to the generous contribution from the UNITED WAY OF DICKINSON COUNTY, 4 school drug prevention programs are being implemented during the 2016-2017 school year.

The following education-based drug prevention/intervention programs are being developed and all initiatives will begin in January and February, 2016:

- **LIGHTEN UP** - a classroom presentation that teaches children how to relax, focus and improve classroom behaviors and attitudes towards positive learning; featuring special classroom guest: Service Dog PEPPER (see photo on page 1), owner and co-presenter - John Estes
- **PARENT POWER** - a parent education group learning experience for family members who want to learn from other parents and learn new ideas that help build family togetherness.

- **RADIO PSAs** - a special way of building family and community awareness by featuring radio announcements that are personalized and improve knowledge

- **COMMUNITY FORUM** - Panel presentations featuring discussions that provide new insights into local drug issues and solutions. Forums will be held quarterly with the first in a series of forums beginning THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 at the Dickinson County Library from 6:00 to 7:00 PM - *See banner below!*

- **SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUPS** - Curriculum is now being developed to support students who are motivated to make behavior and attitude changes. Students who have problems that are interfering with their ability to learn will be asked to join groups.



# COMMUNITY FORUM

**Thursday, January 12 • 6:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Join Us At The Dickinson County Library!**

Light Pizza  
Dinner Served  
At 5:45 PM

**Discussion Topics:**  
Local Drug Issues, Support Services, Recovery Coaching,  
Great Start Drug Task Force, Family Counseling . . .

**PANEL:** Cherie Fila, Mike Johnson, Meghan Ruddell, Jonathan Ringel, Barb Reisner





**I AM READY!**



## GREAT START WINTER ACTION

• Thursday, January 19 @ 11:30

**GREAT START\_Tech. Ed. Center**

• Friday, January 27 @ 9:30

**STRATEGIC PLAN RETREAT**

• Friday, February 3 @ 10:30

**GREAT START Exe. Committee**

• Friday, February 17 @ 10:30

**KIDS COUNT WEBINAR\_DIISD**

• Friday, February 17 @ 6:00

**FAMILY CELEBRATION\_YMCA**

• **FEBRUARY 8 to 9**

**ABLE TRAINING\_Lansing**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATES**

## Special Appreciation To Great Start 2016 Action Team Leaders

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHERIE FILA  
PEG JAMES  
POLLY LUOMA  
RUTH MANIER  
JENNIFER MCCARTY  
CASEY MCCORMICK  
BARB REISNER  
JONATHAN RINGEL  
CURTIS VANDUSEN  
WENDY WARMUTH  
BECKY WATERS  
KIM WEBB  
LYNDA ZANON  
JOYCE ZIEGLER

### DRUG TASK FORCE

GENO BASANESE  
JIM BRENNAN  
JILL DOLL  
CHERIE FILA  
AMY GERONIMI  
REBECCA GRIDER  
HEIDI HARWELL  
PHIL HEFNER  
ELIZABETH HOLSWORTH  
MARIA JOHNS  
MIKE JOHNSON  
TRACY JOHNSON  
TAMARA JUUL  
RUTH MANIER  
STEVE MARKHAM  
CASEY MCCORMICK  
STEVE MULKA  
DARREN PETSCHAR

### GREG PRIMEAU

BARB REISNER  
JONATHAN RINGEL  
MEGHAN RUDELL  
RENEE STANCHINA  
CURTIS VANDUSEN  
KIM WEBB  
ALEXIS WHALEY  
IRENE WHITE

### ACTION TEAM CHAIRS

MISTY LEFEBVRE  
JONATHAN RINGEL  
KIM WEBB  
DENISE MALONEY  
CURTIS VANDUSEN  
REBECCA GRIDER  
SUE MIELCAREK  
SHERRY SMITH LABRASH