

CHAIR: Penny Ecarius
PIG: Joe Malan

INVOCATION: Duane Townley
MAILER: John McClellan

MUSIC: Wendell Meyer
EDITOR: John Mier

CALENDAR

Sept. 12 *Deadline for Travel and Adventure ticket donations to charitable institutions.*
Sept. 12 Young Children Priority One committee meeting, 1 p.m.. Jim Schroeder.
Sept. 25 Adopt-A-Highway pick up. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Community Center. Dick Jellum.
Sept. 28 Deadline for Travel and Adventure season ticket sales.
Sept. 28 First Travel and Adventure show "The Silk Road". 7:30 p.m. at the MCFTA.
October 3 Midland Area Crop Hunger Walk, starts at 1:30 p.m. at MCFTA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

***Duane Townley announced that the Early Childhood Candidate Forum will be held on Sept. 15 (7 p.m.) at the Griswold Lecture Hall at Northwood. This is a chance to get to know the candidates running for state office. The event is sponsored by the Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition. Duane also reported that the new Mentoring Training Program at Eagle Village starts on Sept. 28. Call Duane if you're interested.
***Wendell Meyer reported that Jim and Carol Struthers and Penny Ecarius contributed items that both sold well in the Silent Auction at the recent District Convention. Many thanks to Jim, Carol, and Penny.
***Dick Jellum said our next Adopt-A-Highway pickup will be on Sept. 25. Volunteers will meet at the Community Center at 9 a.m. for instructions. Dick will circulate a sign up sheet next Tuesday.
***Roger Briggs alerted members that Key Club meetings will be starting soon and we'll need volunteers to attend meetings.
***Ray Senesac reported that we only have four more weeks to sell Travel and Adventure tickets. Twenty nine members have contributed \$7,935 in sales through last week. He emphasized that next Tuesday is the deadline for ticket donations to charitable institutions. Sept. 28 is the final day for ticket sales.
***Jim Schroeder scheduled a Young Children Priority One committee meeting for 1 p.m. on Sept. 12.
***Jim Schroeder, representing Young Children Priority One, presented a check for \$740 to Gail Crosby from the West Midland Family Center. Gail thanked Kiwassee and said the donation will be used to support the "Play With a Purpose" program that serves seventy young children. A parenting education program is also included. Gail said they partner with Success by 6, Literacy Council, Salvation Army, and other agencies to further improve effectiveness.
***George Fromhold, representing Human and Spiritual Values, presented a check for \$500 to Thayre Talcott from the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network. Thayre thanked the club and said the donation will be used for additional food purchases (which provides about a third of the food distributed). The Food Pantry serves over 2,400 families (7,000 people) in Midland County from seven locations.
***Dick Heiny (guest Kiwanian from the Evening Club) reported that Stan Englund is recovering well from a recent minor stroke. Dick said he appreciates visitors.
***Duane Brooks asked for a volunteer to deliver Tuesday left overs to the Open Door.

JUDGE DORENE ALLEN EXPLAINS MIDLAND COUNTY'S "BABY COURT"

Jim Schroeder, representing Young Children Priority One, introduced Judge Dorene Allen who is the Judge of the Midland County Probate Court and the Forty-Second Circuit Court-Family Division. Judge Allen said her agenda today is to talk about the "Baby Court" in Midland County, which is part of a pilot program authorized several years ago for Midland, Genesee, and Oakland Counties by the Michigan Supreme Court. Rep. Dave Camp helped secure a federal grant for Midland County for \$300,000 beginning in 2008 to provide services for abused or neglected children from birth to 3 years old. "The program centers on what is in the best interest of the child and promotes a positive and healthy attachment between the child and parent or guardian. Through the training, therapy and counseling of an Infant Mental Health Specialist the parent(s) work toward reunification with their child with a goal of the child to have an overall good psycho-social functioning and reaching age-appropriate developmental milestones." Judge Allen said abused and neglected young children are a bigger problem than most people realize. Typical experience (including Midland County) is that 25% of abused and neglected children are in the 0-3 age range. Parents lose their parental rights in 65% of the cases (much of this is drug related). The goal is to keep parents with their children through this program of early intervention. The Judge said that the Court has partnered with a number of Midland agencies to make the program successful. She especially mentioned the key role of the Legacy Center with Penny Ecarius and Dick Dolinsky, and she also thanked Karen Adams for her great help. Actually, the Midland Probate Court has many unique and cutting edge programs. They are showing great results. Delinquency rates are down 70% and the Court was under budget by \$700,000 in 2009.