

Perspective 21

A Long-Term Investment in
Prevention with Clear Results
for Kent County



*In the 90's the **Perspective 21 Initiative** lead the charge to reform the fragmented and ineffective approach to child abuse prevention services in this community.*

Grand Rapids Community Foundation launched the Perspective 21 (P21) initiative in 1992 to address the needs of abused and neglected children. Today, P21 services include counseling, parenting skills, substance abuse counseling and housing assistance, and Arbor Circle is the key provider for these services.

Prior to P21, only 45% of families reported to child protective services were investigated for abuse or neglect. Today, P21 providers are able to intervene with 88% of the families reported. Annually, over 1,600 families are offered prevention services, and of those, 93% received services. Less than 1% of participating families were referred back to protective services. Current data shows that P21 is reducing emergency room visits and substantiated cases of abuse and neglect.

Working in coordination with the Kent School Services Network (KSSN), P21 services are now provided in either homes or schools to make services more accessible. Placing services in schools will build upon the foundation of trust that KSSN has built with

families. Changes in procedure have also led to a more sustainable funding structure, by tapping into Medicaid dollars if a family qualifies. P21 is now considered an innovative national model for community mobilization and problem-solving.

This is Community Leadership

Recognizing the system was broken, Grand Rapids Community Foundation **instigated change** through the creation of P21. P21 led to a **transformation** in the way that services are provided. **Preventing** the abuse or neglect of even one of our city's youngest and most vulnerable residents has **validated** the hard work of this initiative.

Grant Facts

Organization: Arbor Circle Corporation

Grant amount: \$100,000

Grant Purpose: to provide school- and home-based intervention for families with risk factors for child abuse and neglect.

Web site: www.arborcircle.org

Started: 1945

Location: 1115 Ball NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

No. served: 377 families in 2010

Area served: Neighborhoods served by Kent School Services Network identified schools

Ways You Can Help

To help ensure the success of this grant you may give to address any of the needs listed below. Please call Arbor Circle at 616.456.7775 to learn more.

- **Recreational Activities** - \$500 for gift certificates and admission passes to help families engage in positive and healthy recreation.
- **Literacy Development Materials** - \$1,000 for backpacks and books for children to help prevent summer learning loss.
- **Laptop Computers** - \$3,000 for three laptops that clinical staff can take with them to support program activities in client homes and in the community.

*To ensure the Community Foundation can make grants like this one in the future, please consider a gift to the **Fund for Healthy People**. Please call 616.454.1751 to learn the benefits of Community Foundation giving and how gifts can be made.*



**Grand Rapids
community foundation**

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