

Frysinger: Combat adverse childhood experiences in Ingham County

Bill Frysinger 5:32 a.m. ET April 30, 2017



(Photo: submitted photo)

Unfortunately, child abuse and neglect is growing in the Capitol area.

In 2015 in Ingham County, nearly one in six children live in families that came to the attention of Child Protective Services and have been investigated for abuse or neglect; in Eaton, nearly that many – 13 percent of all the county's children.

And for a growing number of children and youth in our communities, that investigation uncovers child abuse or neglect.

Confirmed maltreatment typically results from parents who struggle to adequately provide for their children physically, mentally, developmentally and emotionally, and the vast majority of cases are due to neglect.

Michigan's Children has long known that supporting parents with the tools they need to provide a nurturing and safe home builds the foundation for their children's future success. Supports like home visiting programs and other child abuse prevention programs give parents the tools they need while saving taxpayer dollars.

Child abuse and neglect are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), identified by the CDC as contributing to a variety of poor outcomes including costly future health problems.

Adversity and trauma actually rewire children's brains to be more apt to respond to life circumstances impulsively through fear and anxiety rather than reasoning and control. In adolescents, this looks like poor decision-making; in adulthood, it results in increased risks of serious health problems like diabetes and heart failure.

During the month of April, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, people across the country came together to raise awareness about the need to better focus resources and initiatives on child abuse and neglect prevention.

The Exchange Club of Greater Lansing has known for a long time that for our community, it would make more sense to work to stop adverse experiences like child abuse or neglect from happening in the first place, saving not only social costs for children, families and communities, but real dollars in the educational, justice and health systems.

Our ongoing support of prevention efforts through Child and Family Charities has been impactful for our members and for the families in our area.

The national project of Exchange Clubs is Child Abuse Prevention. Our Lansing club is leading efforts for the whole community to think about how they can help as well. We've connected with the recently launched Michigan ACE Initiative, working to build broader public awareness of the impact of ACEs.

Toward that effort, our club sponsored a free screening of the award-winning documentary *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope* on Thursday, April 20 in Lansing.


More than 100 members of our community came to that screening and left it more connected to current efforts through the Ingham Great Start Coalition, Community Mental Health and others. They also left better able to see where they, themselves could help.

Join our efforts in the Capitol Area and around the state to counteract ACEs with proven interventions and recognize the urgency of our work to devote more public and private resources to prevent them.

Bill Frysinger is the owner of Frysinger Printing Solutions in Lansing and president of the Exchange Club of Greater Lansing. Matt Gillard is the president and CEO of Michigan's Children and co-chapter lead of Prevent Child Abuse America – Michigan Chapter.

Read or Share this story: <http://on.lsj.com/2q12prj>

2017
CHEVROLET
EQUINOX



CLICK FOR PRICE

▶

RODGERS CHEVROLET
DOWNRIVER'S CHEVY DEALER.

[VIEW ALL INVENTORY](#)



CHEVROLET