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Lee Fitzpatrick of Alpena joins Michigan's Children Board of Directors

LANSING, MI --- **Lee Fitzpatrick of Alpena** has joined the board of directors for Michigan's Children, the state-wide public policy and advocacy group known for its vigorous support of issues in support of children and families, particularly those facing the greatest challenges. Fitzpatrick works as the Director of Communications for Alpena Schools, and has spent the past 22 years of his career in a variety of public, private and charter schools, focused on helping to improve opportunities for all kids.

His appointment begins today, as he joins the 11-member body at its quarterly board meeting in Lansing. In his new role, Fitzpatrick will help shape the direction of the non-partisan organization as it works on a variety of issues related to children and youth of all ages (cradle to career) including their families. Those include foster care and kinship care, child care and early childhood concerns, adult education programs that build family literacy skills and help build economic self-sufficiency, homelessness and juvenile justice.

"We're thrilled that Lee Fitzpatrick, a man committed to community service and working to change the odds for kids, has agreed to serve Michigan's Children. In Alpena and earlier in his hometown of Detroit, Lee has exhibited time and again an abiding passion and drive for standing up for children in our state," said Matt Gillard, Michigan's Children President & CEO.

In addition to serving as Alpena's communications director, Fitzpatrick previously worked directly with parents as the parent involvement coordinator for the district. In recent years, he has led the successful Alpena Early College program. He also has an extensive record of public service, serving on boards and commissions for the Alpena Great Start Collaborative, the Alpena Child and Development Center Board, the Alpena Boys and Girls Club, and the Alpena/Presque Isle Child Abuse and Neglect Team.

"I have worked with students and families in Michigan's largest urban district as well as my current role in a community which has high levels of rural poverty. In the end, whether I'm helping my child, your child or someone else's child, it's about helping to build a better place for all children. Michigan's Children is an organization that I know aligns perfectly with that ideal," Fitzpatrick said.

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[Michigan's Children](http://michiganschildren.org) is an independent voice working to reduce disparities in child outcomes from cradle through career through policy change. It has served to improve the odds for all children and families in Michigan for more than 25 years.