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Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Central Area Consortium Boards

## 2009 Board of Directors

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Commissioner Roland Merignac

### IONIA COUNTY

Don Benjamin, Rep. of Commissioner James Banks  
Commissioner Larry Tiejema

### ISABELLA COUNTY

Commissioner George Green  
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### MONTCALM COUNTY

Commissioner Patrick Q. Carr  
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*Middle Michigan Development Corporation*

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*Montcalm Community College*

Dennis Dunlap  
*Gratiot-Isabella RESD*

Dr. Robert Ferrentino  
*Montcalm Community College*

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*Greenville Tool and Die Company*

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*Brown Company of Ionia, Inc.*

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*Montcalm Alliance*

Carolyn Newell  
*MDLEG - MI Rehabilitation Services*

Glennes Page  
*RAVE Ionia/Montcalm*

Mary Peterson  
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Erin Roberts  
*RAVE Ionia/Montcalm*

Terri Romel  
*Masonic Pathways*

Don Schurr  
*Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.*

Jeremy Sheets  
*CMS Internet L.L.C.*

Sheral Simon  
*Maxfield's Restaurant*

Diane Smith  
*Ionia County Economic Alliance*

Bruce Traverse  
*Carson City Hospital*

David Walker  
*Granco Clark*

Ralph Ward  
*Ward Creative*

Robin Whitmore  
*Gratiot Community Hospital*

Steve Yager  
*Department of Human Services*

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*Mid-Michigan Central Labor Council*

Dear Central Area Michigan Resident,

It is our honor to provide you with this Annual Report for Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium (CAMWC). We are proud of the services described in this report, and we are always striving to find new and better ways to serve the job seekers and businesses of this region.

As you well know, the economic turbulence has been the single largest challenge. To that end, we are continually assessing and re-programming services provided by Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium to add value to our businesses and job seekers. Because the success of every individual and business we serve is important to us, our new initiatives in 2009 included:

- Continued support of an expanded Incumbent Worker program.
- Continued programming specific to foster youth, specifically those aging out of the system and in-need of transition services.
- Implementation of the 2009 ARRA-funded Summer Youth program.
- Continued promotion of the strategy *Keep Learning...Our Future Depends On It* – support of *No Worker Left Behind*.
- Implementation of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) credential across the participant population.

As chairs of the Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium Workforce Investment Board and Administrative Board, we would like to thank the excellent Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium staff. We would like to welcome **Shelly Keene and Lori Johnson** to the administrative staff team and say good-bye and good luck to **Diane Hazlewood**. Shelly joined the team in May originally as the Summer Youth Program Coordinator. In October she took a temporary assignment as Program Manager and was permanently assigned as Program Manager in November. Lori Johnson joined the team in October as a Program Coordinator. Diane entered a new life chapter...retirement at the end of the year.

In December **Phil Wilson**, Business Services Manager, lost his long and courageous battle with cancer. Phil served in every capacity imaginable. He served on the CAMWC Administrative Board for 10 years as an Ionia County Commissioner; as a small business owner he served on the Workforce Investment Board for 7 years; and he served the community as a valuable CAMWC staff member. His wisdom and sense of humor are missed.

It would not have been possible to address the challenges or implement the changes without the organizations that deliver the programs and services described in this report - the Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Ionia County ISD, and Mid-Michigan Industries, Inc.

Thanks also to you, the residents of this unique community, for the opportunity to serve you. Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium looks forward to continued success in workforce development.

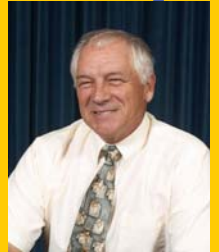
Sincerely,



Thomas Batchelder  
Chair, Workforce Investment Board



Ronald Retzlaff  
Chair, Administrative Board



A Letter From the Leadership

# Wagner Peyser Program Leads Job Seeker to Employment

Cynthia Muscott came into the Ionia County Michigan Works! Office in early October 2008 looking for employment. She had recently been laid off from an area used car dealer where she was doing sales and insurance. Cynthia was working on a commission basis and never knew what she was going to earn from week to week.

Cynthia used the resource area at the Service Center several days a week looking for employment and stated that having access to the Ionia County Michigan Works! Office anytime was a huge advantage while looking for employment.

Cynthia coordinated all of her job search at the Ionia County Michigan Works! Office using the computer, phone, copier, printer, fax machine and resource materials. She received help with workforce information, career guidance, resume writing and cover letters. She was also referred to the Workforce Investment Act program to see if training/schooling was an option.

After almost 3 months of coming into the Ionia County Michigan Works! Office several times a week looking for employment, Cynthia was offered a bookkeeping position at Great Lakes Publishing starting at \$12 an hour. On December 18, 2008 Cynthia started her new position and has been hard at work and enjoying her job ever since.

Cynthia stated that the use of all the office equipment and the collaboration of services through the Employment Service Programs were vital in her becoming employed.



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The ARRA provides the U.S. Department of Labor and the public workforce investment system with unprecedented levels of funding for a number of employment and training programs to help Americans acquire new skills and get back to work.

## WIA Dislocated Worker Services

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides funding for the Dislocated Worker program. This program serves persons who have been terminated or laid off from employment or have been given a notice of termination or lay off from employment. The ARRA funding has allowed Contractors to provide services to approximately 210 additional dislocated workers. Participants are provided with supportive services, training opportunities in demand occupations, and receive case management assistance to assist with employment placement and retention.

## WIA Adult Services

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) provides for an Adult program that works to enhance the quality and productivity of people and business by preparing a competitive workforce. The ARRA funding has allowed our Contractors the opportunity to serve approximately 420 additional participants. Participants work with case managers who understand the future demands of the labor market and can assist jobless workers with entry-level positions and locating employment. Employed workers are also able to use the WIA Adult Program to update skills through training. Supportive services such as transportation, clothing and auto repair, may be provided to enable an individual to participate in training activities.

# ARRA

## Summer Youth Employment and Training Program

Stimulus dollars were used to employ 525 youth in over 173 non-profit community organizations in Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella and Montcalm counties.



After a hiatus of several years, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided funding for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. Through the summer program, many of the youth had their first exposure to the “world of work.” Others were able to obtain a job when they otherwise would not have been able to.

In addition to acquiring job specific skills, being exposed to careers, and earning money, they all received work readiness instruction. Our youth now have the information they need to demonstrate habits and behaviors appropriate for any job – providing them a foundation for success at future jobs.

“I learned what potential I have as an employee and it gave me real life experience for my course of study in college which is families studies.”  
-Angela

→14 youth secured employment after the program

→57 youth enrolled in post-secondary education

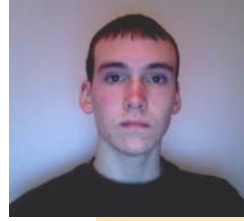
→112 participants recieved the National Career Readiness Certificate



# WIA Youth Foster Program

CAMWC targeted this specific population of young people by designating funding to address the unique barriers foster youth face. The focus of the program is to deliver creative and effective services to foster youth who are aging out of the system to assist them to live successfully and independently. The foster youth population in our service area is not large, but the need is definitely there.

A strong foundation of WIA Youth services is provided to allow youth the opportunity to express themselves and promotes responsibility, leadership, and ownership of their decisions. Youth are prepared for independence by tailoring services to each enrolled youth, preparing them academically and with the ability to be self-supporting. This combination of structured activities will firmly place youth on the road to self-sufficiency.



Joseph Benath was one of the original foster youth referred to the Michigan Works! Foster Youth program in Gratiot County. Through Michigan Works! programming, he has received

consistent support and assistance in the areas of employability skills, independent living skills classes, college application assistance, FAFSA assistance, resume writing and job seeking skills.

After graduating from Alma High School, Joseph was accepted and attended Ferris State University for Landscape Management in the fall of 2009. He transferred to Lansing Community College for the spring semester and enrolled in their Landscaping program.

Joseph is working at Big Boy in Charlotte, MI and is rebuilding a positive relationship with his biological parents.

He remains in contact with Michigan Works! when support and positive directives are needed and is now on a path to success.



2009 was a busy year for the Ionia County Foster Youth Program. Thirteen foster youth were enrolled in the program, and all of them remain in at least quarterly contact with the Foster Youth Coordinator. Michigan Works! placed eight of the youth at a work site where they gained work experience while being paid solely by Michigan Works - 2 of them obtaining employment through those work sites once their work experience was over, and another was offered a job but had to decline.

Many of the youth did not know how to prepare meals on their own, so they were taken to a prep kitchen where they were taught how to prepare several meals that they could take home and share with their families. Staff took the youth to a fine dining restaurant, none of which had ever that experience before.



Three youth attended an Independent Living Foster Youth Conference at Central Michigan University where they were given lots of information about how to live independently, how to enroll in college, and were introduced to many foster care agencies that will help them through the next few years of their life.

Another highlight of the year has been the overwhelming success of the newly created Foster Care Youth Board. Meeting twice a month, the youth come up with ideas of how to promote community awareness and leadership abilities. As a result, they decided to volunteer at Green Acres Retirement Home in Ionia once a month. The youth help residents with Bingo and hold group meetings where the youth and residents exchange thoughts and life experiences.

“The lessons they have learned will truly help them succeed in life.”

# Greenville Man Exemplifies Success of Workforce Development Programs

Jason Moulter and his wife Kellyn came to the JET program in February 2009 as a two parent family.

“Michigan Works! helped me to focus on looking for employment in different fields and to broaden my possibilities,” said Jason. “The JET program made me focus outside of the pigeon hole that I had been in. After being unemployed for over six months, JET was just what we needed to push us in the right direction and it gave us the motivation we needed.”

Jason added, “I didn’t have a resume and never needed one before for the types of jobs that I had applied for in the past. Kelly and I didn’t have the means to travel for job searching and JET helped us with that. JET also assisted us with interview clothing, driver’s license renewal, and testing for NCRC.”

Following his participation in the JET program, Jason was hired at Admiral Petroleum in Greenville, as an Assistant Manager earning \$7.40 per hour. After 3 months he was promoted to Manager and is now earning \$25,000 annually. Jason now calls JET when he has positions available at the Admiral station to see if JET has any participants that would qualify for openings.



**Shelly Keene** replaces Diane Hazlewood as Employment and Training Program Manager. As manager, Shelly provides administrative guidance for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult Program, WIA Dislocated Worker Program, Wagner Peyser Program and the Trade Program.

Prior to her current position, she spent 11 years as a Head Start teacher, and one year as the Head Start Disability Service Coordinator for EightCAP, Inc.



**Lori Johnson** was hired in November 2009 as the Summer Youth Program Coordinator. Just a couple of months later she began her new duties as Employment and Training Programs Coordinator.

Before beginning her work with CAMWC, Lori was a Third Party Benefits Administrator for Next Generation Enrollment, Ada.

**Diane Hazlewood** retired from the Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium in December after 30 years. She most recently served as Employment and Training Program Manager. We thank Diane for her many years of dedicated, professional service. She will be greatly missed.



# Program Outcomes/ Financial Report

Program	Service Period	Job Seekers Served	Total Participants	Increase/Decrease	Employment Rate
One Stop Service Center	1/09-12/09	540,836		-4%	
Wagner-Peyser	7/08-6/09		10,686	46%	
Incumbent Worker	7/08-6/09		223	-24%	
WIA Adult	7/08-6/09		1,107	83%	91.20%
WIA DW	7/08-6/09		1,391	-12%	97.40%
WIA Youth	7/08-6/09		898	88%	
Older Youth (19-21)	7/08-6/09		481	56%	97.00%
Younger Youth (14-18)	7/08-6/09		417	145%	
WIA Foster Youth	1/09-6/09		14		
Older Youth (19-21)	1/09-6/09		13		
Younger Youth (14-18)	1/09-6/09		1		
Youth - ARRA (Summer Youth)	2/17/09-9/09		507		
GF/GP	10/09-9/09		138		
Trade Act	10/08-9/09		1,504	-22%	60.30%
JET	10-08-9/09		1,695	-28%	25.20%
Food Assistance	10/08-9/09		21	5%	

## **Funding Source**

Food Assistance	\$103,753
GF/GP Proposals	437,699
Jobs, Education, and Training	1,984,912
No Worker Left Behind	110,719
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families - Supportive Services	146,000
Trade Act	1,104,378
Wagner-Peyser	443,462
WIA Administration	914,873
WIA Administration - ARRA	407,884
WIA Adult	2,354,691
WIA Adult - ARRA	636,408
WIA Dislocated Worker	1,759,425
WIA Dislocated Worker - ARRA	1,070,512
WIA Incumbent Worker	115,712
WIA National Emergency Grant	48,386
WIA Statewide Activities - Capacity Building	24,000
WIA Statewide Activities - One Stop Operation	104,080
WIA Statewide Activities - Performance Incentive	104,456
WIA Youth	1,956,941
WIA Youth - ARRA	1,964,031
<b>Total Funding Availability</b>	<b>\$15,792,322</b>

# Central Area **Michigan Works!** Consortium

## **Gratiot County Service Center**

327 East Center St.  
Alma, MI 48801  
Phone: 989-466-4832  
TTY: 711

## **Ionia County Service Center**

307 West Adams St.  
Ionia, MI 48846  
Phone: 616-527-1360  
TTY: 711



## **Isabella County Service Center**

1803 South Mission St.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: 989-772-5304  
TTY: 711

## **Montcalm County Service Center**

114 South Greenville West Drive  
Greenville, MI 48838  
Phone: 616-754-3611  
TTY: 711