



Children Trust
MICHIGAN

Beyond Prevention:
Cultivating Resilience
and Hope in Childhood

2024 FALL CONFERENCE

Get Ready to Show Up and Show Out:
Moving from Parent Engagement to Parent Partnership

Family Panel Members



Join us for a personal and interactive moderated discussion with parents and family caregivers. Audience members will hear panelists' authentic experiences and insights highlighting their journey from participating in programs to leading child abuse prevention efforts. Together, we'll discover the richness that results as families evolve from showing up to showing out for child abuse prevention and experience how parents make a difference in their families, prevention programs, and communities through ***small but significant leadership opportunities!***

Christina Pocklington

Christina Pocklington is a parent from Kent County. Her children, Riley (7), and Amy (3), are what inspired her to become a parent leader and advocate. Both children received services from Early On. Amy received services from Infant Mental Health, Moms Bloom, and Healthy Families America. Christina is a former Preschool and Kindergarten teacher and has her masters in Early Childhood Education with her capstone being focused on home visiting. She has been a member of the Local Leadership Group as a Parent Representative since 2020, in addition to being a member of Family Future's Family Advisory Board since 2023. Christina has been in the Michigan Parent Impact Network since 2022. She is a 2022 Parent Partnering for Change certificate holder. In 2022, she was on the committee that revised the Core Knowledge Framework for Home Visiting. Her vision for the future includes universal home visiting and Pre-K for all children.

Why: I want to live in a world where all families have access to the support and resources they need. Children deserve to be set up for success, eliminating barriers for families. We need universal home visiting and paid parental/sick leave to best support families. My goal is for Michigan to have universal home visiting by the time my kids are having children.



Curt Collins

Curt Collins is a multi-generational parent of six. He and his wife Christine of 38 years are Hartland, MI residents and have three biological daughters together ages 26, 28 and 34. Each is married and the oldest with two sons: 2 and 4 years old. When the girls were in their early teens Curt and Christine were influenced by a group of parents at their local church active in fostering and adoption. They became part of the second wave of church families to foster and adopt kids and welcomed Chris at age 20 months and is now a freshman in high school and shortly after Madison at three month of age and now in the eighth grade. A year later Madison's biological half brother came into the world and needed a foster home. Isaac was part of the Collins family for four years when he was reunited with his biological dad. Isaac continues to have regular visits with the Collins' and considers them his second family. Curt and Christine have mentored many families through the fostering and adoption process and enjoy supporting and encouraging young parents. Curt is presently beginning his second year of retirement after 30 years of pharmaceutical account management and field marketing and now has plenty of time to devote to raising two teens and playing with the grandkids. Curt volunteers as a CASA (Court Appointed Child Advocate) in Livingston county through LACASA. For fun Curt enjoys golf, fly fishing, running and taking Max the beagle for regular walks.

My why for having a passion as being a family leader:

1. Parenting is hard. It's the most important job/roll an adult can pursue and it's challenging as a couple let alone a single parent. I am blessed to have had positive experiences with raising children and feel lead to support and encourage young parents.
2. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." James 1:27 NIV



Kristine Licavoli

Kristine Licavoli is a wife and stay-at-home mother who lives in the small village of Otter Lake, Michigan. She has been married to her husband for 7 years and they have a beautiful 3-year-old daughter. She is actively involved with the Great Start of Tuscola County Enrichment Center. There, many playgroups are offered for their family to enjoy and the environment is perfect for her daughter to learn, play, and socialize with others her age. Also at the center, Kristine is a member of the Family Advisory Board (FAB) and works with other parents to organize ways to engage and empower families in the community. She is also a leader in the Homeschool Support Group. Being a homeschooled parent herself, it is a great opportunity to have a place to meet with others and discuss the challenges, find resources, and just lean on other homeschooling parents. Kristine also runs a Parent/Caregiver group on Facebook that shares local free events in the county, and free resources and she also organizes playdates to meet up with others and have some fun with their families. In her spare time, she loves crocheting, watching football, and camping with her family. While navigating motherhood, Kristine hopes to be as involved in her community as possible to help provide positive relationships and build a place where children can flourish.

Why: Being a family leader helps to foster growth and learning which can increase the development of family members. It can also encourage community members, friends, and many others by setting the example. In order for positive growth to happen, I need to set the stage for my family and others.



Kederick Davis

Besides my four years of higher education at Madonna University, where I received my Bachelor's and associate's degrees while competing as a full-time NAIA Track and Field student-athlete and team captain. I've developed a diverse background that spans radio broadcasting, coaching, and content creation.

I've recently transitioned to focus more on coaching and family. This move has allowed me to balance my passion for athletics and writing with the importance of family, making me more driven and purposeful in my work, with a role in high school athletics I can continue supporting young athletes and contributing to their success both on and off the field.

WHY: I understand the dynamics of trying to balance a family and work life, giving me unmatched insight into the challenges of both, which are essential for stability in any household. This stems from learning well-rounded skills, experience, and passion; that not only align directly with the needs of my family but are crucial for my own well-being. In short, I want to help families learn adaptable skills to succeed in different environments, from the workplace to home life.



Cara Sutliffe

Cara has four children, whom she describes as “my precious pride and joys (pp&j), all have strong unique independent awesome personalities.” Some of her children were born with special needs their own superpowers” while others were born neurotypical, and she is proud to advocate for all four of them and help teach them to voice their needs to win the race with whatever “crutches” they need or don’t need in life.

Cara has been a parent leader since August 2018, but she feels that once you become a mother you immediately step into a family leadership role. Cara is especially proud of one presentation she took part in with WIC, which prompted the organization to include actual parents on their board of directors so that they would have an actual voice and opinions of the people who use their services.

Cara gets excited for any project that involves working with other parents and families finding out what programs work or don’t work, where they need more resources, and trying to find ways to help find them. She strongly believes in “Nothing for Us without Us!”

Cara’s unwavering devotion to her children, community, and fellow parent leaders has garnered recognition throughout Michigan’s early childhood system. Her exceptional commitment has propelled her into leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels. Cara’s voice resonates as an inspiration, motivating others with her advocacy and making a positive impact on the lives of families and programs in the early childhood arena.

Why: “I have seen and been a part of the impactful change parent voice has made and can make. I stay committed to uplifting my community voice and advocating for change, without our lived experience how can we fix a broken system.”



Ashley Lendon

Ashley Lendon is a mother to a 2-year-old daughter and lives in Sparta, MI along with her husband of 7 years. She grew up in Marshall, MI, and attended Michigan State University, majoring in Food Science. Her career has taken her across the United States and Europe, settling back in West Michigan 5 years ago.

Her belief is that everyone has permission to tell their story and that they are not alone. In 2018, she suffered a miscarriage, and through sharing her experience, she learned that numerous women in her “circle” also suffered a miscarriage. This was the first of many times that she learned she was not alone. Other times include infertility, corporate layoffs, the premature birth of her baby, and a stint in the Helen Devos Children’s Hospital NICU.

In 2022, she connected with Family Futures for ASQ’s, which led to volunteering, and ultimately joining the Family Advisory Board. Additionally, she was recently selected to the Policy & Advocacy workgroup with the National Center for Family and Parent Leadership.

Ashley’s experiences are summed up in this story: Recently, her daughter was afraid to walk in the dirt and she wanted someone to hold her hand. As her mom, Ashley stated: “Everyone deserves to have someone hold their hand through the dirt piles in life”

