



Kalamazoo Wraps News

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH COLLABORATION

December 2007/January 2008

This column was written by a member of the Parent Advisory Group, Vickie Hartness. Look for other parent stories in future newsletters.

Several years ago, I became involved in systems change with an agency called the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders (MACED), before Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK) was established. I attended the parent support group there and met other parents who faced the same challenges I did.

It was at MACED that I first met Pauline Becker, who hosted monthly “professional luncheons” for parents to meet with professionals and discuss what was, and what wasn’t, working for families whose children received services. It was at those luncheons that I met Pat Weighman, the Co-Principal Investigator of Kalamazoo Wraps, and staff from other agencies, as well as the school system.

The more I learned, the more involved I became. I learned as much as I could to help my son, and now I am interested in helping other parents too.

Being involved gave my son and I, both, a greater understanding of our system of care, and empowered us. It gave us both a better sense of control throughout my son’s treatment.

To join others like me in improving the lives of children with serious emotional disorders and their families, call ASK at 269-343-5896 and ask about joining the Kalamazoo Wraps’ Parent Advisory Group or attending the family-provider lunches.