

## Michigan

# 100 BEST COMMUNITIES



### Greater Midland Community, MI

Greater Midland is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because The Midland County Circuit Court-Family Division encourages students to stay in school and out of trouble. Since 2001, the Court has authorized a school official at every county public school to address school attendance problems before they come to the Court's attention. Following a Truancy Protocol, when attendance becomes an issue, the school's truancy officer meets with the student and his/her parents to sign an attendance contract. If truancy continues, Court Services gets involved. Since 2002, truancy petitions in Midland County have declined by nearly 40%. More importantly, juvenile crime has declined by 50% from its peak in 1998 to 2005.

#### For additional information, please contact:

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### Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo is one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People, in part, because of the Kalamazoo Promise. Funded totally by anonymous donors, The Kalamazoo Promise is a 65%-100% tuition scholarship for all students who attend and graduate from Kalamazoo Public Schools. It covers four years of tuition and fees at any public college or university in Michigan. The Scholarship is guaranteed for all students currently attending kindergarten through twelfth grade and is expected to continue indefinitely. The donors will spend approximately 2 million dollars for the first year of Promise graduates.

#### For additional information, please contact:

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### Lenawee County, MI

Lenawee County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of Lenawee's CHILD, a program created approximately 4 years ago to ensure all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. Playgroups highlighting teachable moments for parents and children and home visits are a featured component of the program. Through this effort, eleven of the county's twelve school districts established a Family Resource Center to enable parent's opportunities to obtain resources pertinent to the growth 0-5 and education K-12 of their children.

#### For additional information, please contact:

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### **Marquette and Alger Counties, MI**

Marquette and Alger Counties are being selected as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People, in part, because of how it has recently addressed the issue of teen drinking. A standing-room only Town Hall Meeting to address underage drinking on April 3, 2006, drew parents, professionals, law enforcement officials, and community leaders who attended to learn about underage drinking. The meeting resulted in Safe Prom and Graduation radio announcements with messages from young people urging peers to be smart about year-end celebrations. The Substance Abuse Coalition launched the "0013" Campaign, which gave the community a definition of reasonable alcohol consumption at public events where alcohol is served.

#### **For additional information, please contact:**

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### **Saginaw County, MI**

Saginaw County is one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*, in part, because of the Saginaw County Business and Education Partnership (SCBEP), which works with local organizations and schools to establish programs. Junior and senior high school students can attend an after-school program and earn school credit and the "Career Ladder" program teaches youth about careers in the region that need employees through effort including a job shadow program.

#### **For additional information, please contact:**

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