

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Caption: Dr. Susan Meston (right) presents the *Champion of Children Award* on behalf of the Michigan Association of School Administrators to Ms. Jane Johnson.

### **Education leaders name local DHS director “champion of children”**

GRAND RAPIDS: On May 22, 2008, members of the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) Region III named Jane Johnson, Director for the Department of Human Services for Muskegon County, the “2008 Champion of Children” award recipient. Dr. Susan Meston, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Superintendent, presented the award on behalf of MASA during a luncheon in Grand Rapids. The award is given annually to an individual who has shown tremendous effort, dedication, and enthusiasm to enriching the lives of children and their achievement in schools. MASA Region III includes school administrators from Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties.

According to Dr. Meston, Ms. Johnson has been the driving force behind developing collaborative “Family Resource Centers” in public schools. These centers, which offer comprehensive resources to children and families, have been established by the Department of Human Services in 10 schools within Muskegon County. Through grant funding, the Muskegon Community Foundation is supporting the goal of expanding Family Resource Centers to all school districts by the end of 2009. Ms. Johnson also serves as the Chair of the Community Coordinating Council, the multi-purpose collaborative body for Muskegon County. In addition, she is a member of the Muskegon Area Children’s Agenda. “Ms. Johnson speaks as a strong and positive voice for public education. She understands the concept of collaborating for the common good and stands out as a spokesperson for doing what is right to benefit children and families,” said Dr. Meston. “We are incredibly lucky to have a person of her caliber at the helm of our county DHS,” she added.

MASA is a professional association serving as a source of advice and support in areas critical to over 700 public school superintendents and first-line assistants in 584 school districts and 57 intermediate school districts. MASA provides technical, personal, and legal services in addition to a wide array of print and electronic publications, government relations, and professional development opportunities targeted especially for Michigan’s top-level school leaders. In total, MASA serves nearly 2,000 members including professionals, retirees, and businesses, helping the leaders of Michigan’s most important public institutions get better results for more than 1.6 million students.

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