

History of the MCFARES Coalition

The MCFARES Coalition came about as a result of a call to action by Barb Wybrecht, parent of the first child in Michigan to be diagnosed with an FASD. In the spring of 2003, agencies and families came together to develop a plan to address the issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders in Macomb County.

Since 2003, the MCFARES Coalition has succeeded in gaining local, state and national attention by providing training, support, information and services for anyone impacted by FASD.

Donations can be made to the MCFARES Coalition

(Checks may be made to the Arc-Macomb w/ MCFARES in the memo line)

- A \$10 donation will help maintain a phone line for the MCFARES Coalition for 6 months
- A \$15 donation will purchase the "FASD Big Book" for a family or school
- A \$25 donation will pay for a child to attend "Super Kids, Smart Choices" socialization camp
- A donation of \$30 will keep the MCFARES website running for three months
- Donations to Project SAFE can be made to support holiday parties and to bring in speakers.

Member Agencies:

Arc Services of Macomb*
Macomb Intermediate School District
Fraser Public Schools
Devon Behavioral Consulting
Macomb Family Services
Macomb County Health Department
Oakland University School of Nursing
Department of Human Services,
Macomb
Macomb Community Mental Health
Macomb County Office of Substance
Abuse
Downriver Community Health
Abstinence Partnership, Macomb Family
YMCA
Parent and Child Services, Inc.
Macomb County 4C's
Madonna University

*fiduciary

MCFARES

Macomb County Fetal Alcohol Resource
Education and Support

Coalition

Established 2003



Contact:

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Web Page:

www.mcfares.org

Mailing Address:

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Clinton Township, MI 48036

Phone:

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“What is FASD? FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications.

The term FASD is not intended for use as a clinical diagnosis. It refers to conditions such as fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS), fetal alcohol effects (FAE), alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder (ARND), and alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD). Each year, as many as 40,000 babies are born with an FASD. The cost to the nation for FAS alone is about \$6 billion a year.”

SAMHSA FASD Center for Excellence
(information recent as of July, 2008)

<http://www.fascenter.samhsa.gov/>

Available Resources:

- **Super Kids, Smart Choices Summer Socialization Program:** A collaboration between the MCFARES Coalition and the Macomb Intermediate School District. Helps kids affected by FASDs to learn how to make appropriate choices in social situations.
- **Annual International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day (FASDay):** Events held on or around September 9th each year to raise awareness of FASD in Macomb County.
- **FASD Big Book:** Resources and information mainly for Macomb County.
- **Fetal Alcohol News and Views:** Quarterly newsletter focusing on topics relating to parenting and FASD
- **Speakers bureau:** Family members and professionals available in Macomb County to speak on a variety of FASD-related topics.
- **Family Support:** Assists families in learning about FASD, obtaining a diagnosis, linking to services.
- **Parents Supporting Parents at IEPs:** Volunteer parents who have attended training sessions on how to provide

support to other parents during IEP meetings.

AFFILIATE SERVICES:

- **Project SAFE (Supportive Activities for Everyone):** Meets monthly in Macomb County; families come together for a pot-luck dinner, supervised play for children and a time for adults to enjoy conversation and support.
- **Brunch Bunch:** Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday in Macomb County; gives parents the opportunity to speak with other parents about the challenges and triumphs of raising children affected by FASDs.
- **Families and Supports Affected by FASD Yahoo group:** (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FaSAFASD/>) Yahoo information and support group for families affected by FASD.
- **Emergency Telephone Network:** List developed by and for Yahoo group families for support persons to call in time of need.
- **Planned:** Sibling support
- **Planned:** Family Camp