

Why We Need Your Help

The Facts in Michigan

- ~ **285,534 children have a serious emotional disorder** - only 31,000 children are treated in the public mental health system- private sector insurance does not fill the gap.
- ~ **In 1985, 22% of the mental health budget was spent on children.** Today, that number is only 6%-even though children comprise one-fifth of the caseload.
- ~ **Without treatment at onset**, children experience more frequent, severe and spontaneous symptoms and co-morbid disorders that may become resilient to treatment.

Untreated emotional disorders often lead to:

- ~ **Entanglement in the criminal justice system** - 65% of children in the juvenile justice system suffer from an emotional disorder—they are subject to excessive discipline, including seclusion and restraint and lengthy commitment to juvenile justice facilities.
- ~ **School failure** - As a consequence of inadequate special education services and zero tolerance policies, children with emotional disorders are vulnerable to lengthy suspensions and expulsion--only 8% of all special education students are certified with an emotional impairment—but they comprise 26% of school removals greater than 10 days among special education students.

How MACED helps children with emotional disorders

Since 1957, the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, the nation's oldest children's mental health advocacy organization has secured necessary treatment and special education services for thousands of children statewide. We are known as the "heavy lifters" in the advocacy world as we accept difficult, exigent cases that help hundreds of children each year, get the treatment they need to be healthy, and safe, stay in school and out of the criminal justice system. We accomplish these outcomes through advocacy by mental health professionals that runs the gamut from referrals to advocating for placement in a mental health facility, assisting with special education plans and advocacy for children facing juvenile justice charges; and public policy advocacy that can result in adequate services to these children in all spheres of their lives.

We Need Your Help to Continue Our Work!

**"Breathlessly paced... live-wire comic exuberance
that crackles across the stage!" - New York Times**

When: Sunday, September 17, 2006
7:00 pm Reception
8:00 pm Performance

Where: The Jewish Ensemble Theatre
within the Jewish Community Center
6600 W. Maple
West Bloomfield, MI 48322