



# MICAP RECAP

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*Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems  
Celebrating its 112<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017*

## AADIF/MICAP

(517) 999-0013  
[info@micap.org](mailto:info@micap.org)

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## What Will Your Legacy Be? Consider Extending Your Influence

**By Patricia A. Cook, Former MICAP Board Member**

Growing up in northwest Detroit in the Redford Township area, my brother and I learned at a very early age that we were both adopted. Although our parents never flaunted it, we remember growing up hearing over the years about how blessed they had been to have us in their lives.

We grew up in a nice middle-class neighborhood and attended a Catholic grade school that was just two blocks from our home. We both were fortunate enough to attend private Catholic high schools. I went to Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, MI and my brother attended Assumption High School in Windsor, ON. Our parents sacrificed greatly to send us to these schools, knowing that our academic education and experiences would serve us both well throughout our lives. Our mother was a middle school teacher in Detroit, our father was a supervisor for the DSR (Detroit Streets & Rails), the bus transit in metropolitan Detroit.

When I speak about their sacrifices, it wasn't just the financial cost of our high school and college educations. It started when we were quite young. Shortly after I was adopted at age 2 months, my parents noticed during a bath time in my bassinet that my feet each turned to the left side. Frantic that something could be wrong they engaged with a well known pediatric practitioner in downtown Detroit that specialized in this type of condition. Knowing how extensive the adoption process and medical review of soon to be adoptees was back in the early 1950's, it was hard for my parents to imagine that any medical abnormality got past medical reviewers – but indeed it had. I was fortunate enough that my condition was able to be corrected, over time, but with a great deal of sacrifice on my parent's part. At just under six months of age, I was initially put into casts on both legs from the knees down – the casts had to be changed every so often and so began the endless appointments to the doctor. My father transferred to the night shift so he could be available to take me during the day to the doctor for each visit, making it possible for my mother to continue her teaching career. If memory serves, I believe I stopped needing these medical visits at age 5 – many years, many doctor follow-ups.

Finally, at age 1½ I was placed in shoes with a metal splint between them and my parents had to rotate the splint a few degrees each month to aid in correcting the angle of the feet ever so slightly until they were straight.

*Continues on Page 2*

## **WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE? CONSIDER EXTENDING YOUR INFLUENCE**

*Continued from Page 1*

Because baby shoes and the apparatus were quite expensive, they would cut the toes out of my shoes so I could wear them a bit longer as I grew. I remember my parents telling me, and photos confirming that I took my first steps while still wearing that “Dennis Brown Bar”, as I believe it was called many years ago. I would hoist myself up holding onto something and pivot from side to side attempting to walk even with this impediment between my feet. And although I am sure that I really hated having to wear “saddle shoes” as a youngster because they offered much more support for my feet, I know how fortunate I was to have such loving parents who went through so much so that I would walk straight during my lifetime!

As part of our family life education, we witnessed how our parents would always try to help people in need, help with events at our schools and help at our church and how they felt it was their responsibility to give back to the community that they had felt blessed them so amply. They instilled in us the concept of giving back to one’s community not out of a sense of duty but rather making sure that if your life is blessed, you pass that blessing along to others.

As our parents began to age, they shared with us their wishes that because of how fulfilled and blessed their lives were with us in it, they wanted to ensure that a portion of their financial legacy would be bestowed to the adoption center that had placed us. When our parents passed away in 2001 and 2005 at ages 85 (father) and 92 (mother) respectively, my brother and I proudly honored their request to leave a donation to the adoption center in their name. The legacy they left will continue to provide other families with hope and love from people who felt so blessed because of the adoption assistance they received so many years before.

**Have you considered what your legacy will be?** Won’t you consider extending your influence to help fulfill the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems (MICAP) mission?

The endowment program for the Michigan Council on Alcohol Programs was created on May 5, 2000. The program was established to create a perpetual fund to assist in fulfilling the mission of MICAP which is to promote public policies that eliminate or mitigate the consequences of the abuse of beverage alcohol and other impairing drugs.

The funds are administered by the United Methodist Foundation in Michigan, an agency of the United Methodist Church, with local administration the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the MICAP Board of Directors. The committee meets annually and other times as necessary to administer funds, in accordance with both the endowment policy and donor wishes. At least half of income annually is used to support MICAP projects. To maintain the integrity of the General Endowment Fund, up to half of the income earned annually is reinvested in the Fund. Donors are able to designate their gifts if they wish to do so.

A gift to the Endowment Fund of MICAP assures lasting support for the mission of MICAP. Each gift is a lasting statement about a donor’s values in perpetuating the mission of MICAP and in addressing the issues associated with the abuse of beverage alcohol in Michigan. Some contributions would assist MICAP with publication costs for the MICAP RECAP newsletter and allows MICAP to be one of the few voices in Lansing advocating for good public policy that is so desperately needed.

Contributions to the Fund are subject to Committee review and acceptance. This gives donors the knowledge that their gifts are administered in accordance with their wishes and beliefs.

*Continues on Page 3*

## **WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE? CONSIDER EXTENDING YOUR INFLUENCE**

*Continued from Page 2*

Contributions may be gifts or bequests of:

- Cash
- Stocks
- Life Insurance
- Personal Property
- Certificates of Deposit
- Bonds
- Real Estate

Won't you consider making a lasting gift that will "Extend Your Influence" and make a statement of your commitment to end alcohol and drug abuse? This would occur with your gift or bequest to the Endowment Fund of the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems (MICAP). MICAP is an IRS 501(c) 3 charitable organization and all gifts are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. If you would like to have a personal discussion with us about a donation, please call (517) 999-0013 or email us at: [www.info@micap.org](mailto:www.info@micap.org).

## **THE FAILURE AND PROMISE OF LIMITING B/A ADVERTISING**

**by Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen, Treasurer,  
The AADIF/MICAP Board of Directors**

The Center for Alcohol Marketing and Youth has monitored the marketing practices of the Beverage Alcohol (B/A) industry for some time. Since the onset of this monitoring, the industry has seemed to take on a self-regulation code. That code has long been to not advertise where more than 30% of the viewers were under 21. These stats can be ascertained by the Neilson Reports on public activities related to television watching, newspaper and magazine purchases, etc. This call for regulation of advertising came about because B/A is responsible for over 4700 deaths per year in the U.S. among young people under the age of 21. And that is only young persons.

More recently, and because the B/A industry has failed in the self-regulation department, other groups are calling for lower limits on advertising where those watching were under 21. The American Medical Association has called for a total ban on all B/A advertising except for inside retail and wholesale outlets. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) would limit ad placements to audiences where the percentage under 21 is no greater than 10%. The National Association of Attorneys General would move that standard to no more than 15%.

The consequence of B/A advertising is that youth exposure to B/A advertising has been associated with underage drinking initiation, drinking volume and adverse health consequences. Because the patterns in our lives that are established when we are youth continue to affect us as we age, reducing this exposure is an important priority for the prevention of alcohol-related harms to our citizenry.

## **OUR SPEAKER'S BUREAU**

If your group or church or class/school would like to hear something more about MICAP, or Alcohol Problems in Michigan or the USA, please contact Rev. Bill Amundsen at (517) 323-2445. Please leave a message if no one answers. He will return your call soon to arrange a mutually convenient time. We are a temperance organization concerned with under-aged and abusive drinking. We work with the State Legislature to encourage a better social policy on beverage alcohol.



# **MICAP/AADIF**

Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems  
American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 10212, Lansing, MI 48901

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## **A Donation to MICAP Would be Wonderful**

MICAP is a small non-profit organization with a mission to provide information about the consequences of alcohol abuse, and to promote public policies that address these issues. It is a big task, and we are committed to doing our part.

For this work, MICAP depends 100% on gifts from people like you. Our work year-round depends directly on these gifts. MICAP could not do its work without your financial support, which truly makes a difference in this important work.

MICAP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift to MICAP is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the tax code. Please use the enclosed envelope, or send your check to: MICAP, P.O. Box 10212, Lansing, MI 48901. From the bottom of our heart, we thank you.