



December 2023

Dear MICAP Supporter,

As we wind down the year, we want to thank you for supporting us in our mission to reduce alcohol abuse in Michigan. Our educational tactics to address this include distributing our quarterly newsletter (the MICAP-RECAP), writing op-eds for local and state-wide newspapers, meeting with Michigan Senators and Representatives, and providing testimonies at the Michigan Liquor Control Commission meetings. During our time at the National Alcohol Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this year, we were reminded of some sobering statistics:

- 20% of Michigan adults already fit the CDC definition of an “excessive drinker.”
- Excessive drinking costs Michigan over \$8.2 billion annually.
- 42% of fatal crashes in Michigan involve alcohol or drug impairment.

MICAP believes that our state needs a better public alcohol policy to curb the massive harm inflicted by excessive alcohol consumption. Research indicates that lowering Michigan’s Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) legal limit from .08 to .05 would significantly benefit our community. When Utah – the first state in the country to do so – lowered its BAC legal limit to .05, there was a 19% decrease in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the first year alone.

We are thrilled to share with you that MICAP is forming a coalition to partner with like-minded organizations that also support the lowering of Michigan’s BAC. This past October, we met with representatives from the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Medical School, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP), and representatives from the Michigan state government, among others. Together, our goal is to lower Michigan’s BAC from .08 to .05.

Our target BAC of .05 is not an arbitrary number. When an intoxicated driver has a BAC of only .02 to .04, they already have divided attention, impaired reaction time, and a decreased ability to react quickly. At .05, the driver has lost coordination. As such, **the risk of being in a crash increases significantly once a driver hits a .05 BAC level.**

MICAP is entirely donor-funded. As this year draws to a close, we need your help. Large or small, your donations allow us to educate our Michigan community about the risks of excessive alcohol consumption. Your year-end gift will help us begin our 120th year at a critical time for advancing a better public alcohol policy than that which is presently in place. With your help, we can continue to make a difference.

Many thanks for your thoughtful gift. It is our joy and privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Bill Jones

MICAP President