

# News

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## **“Macomb Together” saves Grandparents Raising Grandchildren camp**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Macomb Together – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren fundraising effort today reached the \$10,000 goal it needed to fund this year’s annual trip to Camp Copneconic. State funding for the program had recently been rescinded and the call for help to save the camp was made less than a month ago.

According to Karen Bisdorf, deputy director of Macomb County Senior Citizen Services Department, “We are all breathing a collective sigh of relief and gratitude. Camp has been notified, plans are rolling and all is right with the world - thanks to all who made this effort possible!”

Donations of all denominations poured in throughout the last few weeks. A special web site had been established to inform the public of the program, how they could help and to keep track of the progress toward the goal. A donation of \$1,800 contributed by Warren businessman John Falk helped to put the effort over the top.

Macomb Together made it possible for residents and business owners to donate funds by visiting one of several collections sites throughout the county or by mailing a check using a special abbreviated address that was prearranged in collaboration with the U.S. Postal Service.

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“We are so pleased that this year’s camp has been saved, “ said Dana Camphous-Peterson, vice-chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. “The generosity and support of this cause by our employees and the community is overwhelming; it goes to show the value we have for what these grandparents and kinship caregivers are doing.”

In Macomb County, more than 7,500 grandchildren were living with 3,800 grandparents at the last census in 2000 – a 20 percent increase in 10 years. The increase tracks data for Michigan and the United States.

Grandparents taking responsibility for grandchildren saves the foster care system about \$13,534 per year, per child.

### **About Macomb County**

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state’s fastest rates of growth. Its 841,000 residents make it Michigan’s third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan’s second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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