

Saginaw County is a great place. A place full of history and opportunity. A place of diversity and change. And a place filled with America's greatest hope for a bright future: the children of our communities.

But our county also faces the challenges that confront many places nowadays. It faces the challenges of violence, poverty, and apathy. And facing them requires courage and cooperation. It requires people who care enough to stand up and "reverse the slide" . . . before it's too late.

We humbly believe that parents are the key to facing these challenges, and that we can help. Through reaching our youngest citizens, teaching them about good character, and helping them to live virtuous lives, we believe that you, along with our initiative—the TRUE Initiative—can make a difference.



TRUE character is contagious:

Teach, Reinforce, Understand, Engage



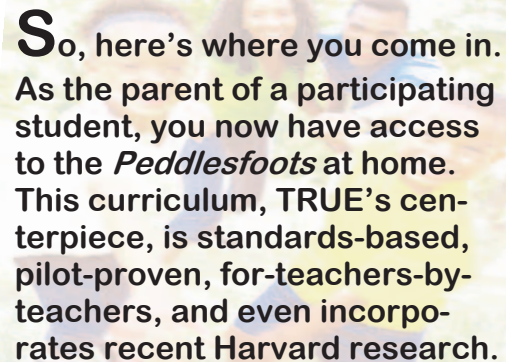
TRUE

and you

The TRUE Initiative is a partnership between the Saginaw Intermediate School District, Saginaw Valley State University, Creating Character—a local curriculum developer—and a host of other educators, schools, and community service organizations.

Since the Initiative's start in 2006, Creating Character's *Peddlesfoots* curriculum has been distributed to organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Women of Color, Saginaw's Rescue Mission, and more. This character education curriculum for early childhood is provided at zero-cost to Initiative participants, with training and evaluation to facilitate proper implementation and success.

The *Peddlesfoots* is also currently being utilized in nearly fifty Saginaw County schools, with parents of the hundreds of students involved—parents like you—entitled to free curriculum for use at-home.



So, here's where you come in. As the parent of a participating student, you now have access to the *Peddlesfoots* at home. This curriculum, TRUE's centerpiece, is standards-based, pilot-proven, for-teachers-by-teachers, and even incorporates recent Harvard research.

Using literature, music, hands-on activities, and more, *Peddlesfoots* teaches nine character traits—such as trustworthiness, fairness, and courage—and is sure to be educationally engaging and fun.

Your parent kit includes:

- Nine *Peddlesfoots* storybooks
- A Parent's Guide with loads of ways to use the curriculum at home
- A read-a-long CD
- A CD of *Peddlesfoots* songs, with mini-lessons
- Scuff, Alexa, and Todd puppets for role-playing
- A convenient tote-bag

Most importantly, as you use the *Peddlesfoots* at home, you'll be given opportunities to discuss and model good character for your child. This will, in turn, reinforce the learning taking place at school, as your child's teacher utilizes the curriculum as well.

The end result will hopefully be children of good character who will grow to understand that showing respect, being responsible, caring for others—in other words, being a virtuous person—is important. And virtuous people, beginning with you and TRUE, are what's needed for Saginaw and its future.

The TRUE Initiative is thrilled to have you as a partner. Please use our website, truesaginaw.org, as a resource. There you'll find links, activities, a forum, and much more to help in this endeavor. Don't hesitate to contact us if we're needed. Thank you, parents, sincerely.