

## Reverse the Slide

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 Saginaw 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 we have part of the answer—part of what is needed to reverse the slide of our communities. Through reaching our youngest citizens, teaching them about good character, and helping them to live virtuous lives, we believe that our initiative—the **T.R.U.E.** Initiative—can make a difference.

“Nothing is more important for the public wealth than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue.”

Benjamin Franklin



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Help us . . .

## Take the Initiative

The TRUE Initiative is a Saginaw County-wide collaborative partnership between the Saginaw Intermediate School District, Creating Character—a local curriculum developer—and a unified front of county schools, organizations, and agencies.

In July of 2006, the TRUE Initiative met with federal support and endorsement when it was selected as a Partnerships in Character Education Grant winner. This four-year, million-dollar-plus award will enable the TRUE Initiative to succeed at its vision to:

- T**each children about good character and
- R**einforce that teaching in various ways so children will
- U**nderstand the importance of good character and
- E**ngage their lives in the best way possible

## Meet the Goals

The centerpiece of the TRUE Initiative is Creating Character's *Peddlesfoots*. This curriculum is based around storybooks featuring a family of rabbits named the Peddlesfoots, and is designed to teach good character at the early childhood level. Being developed by local teachers, for teachers, the *Peddlesfoots* is easy-to-implement, standards-based, pilot-proven, and includes multi-media resources for teachers, parents, and providers.

The first goal of the Initiative will be to begin distributing this curriculum to local agencies such as Big Brothers/Sisters, the YMCA, and Saginaw's Rescue Mission, for use with their families. As implementation continues in the community, we will provide periodic training for parents and providers. Also ongoing will be SVSU-facilitated evaluation of the Initiative.

In the following three years, *Peddlesfoots* curriculum will be further integrated into our local schools and community, all under the guidance of our Advisory Council.

## Get Involved

Year one of this important undertaking promises to be an exciting one. With hoped-for success, the TRUE Initiative will move through its four-year cycle, provide character education curriculum and training to its valuable partners, and produce a revolutionary change in the character of Saginaw's youth.

There are many ways to get even more information about TRUE, the *Peddlesfoots*, and how this project is progressing. Don't hesitate to visit:

[www.truesaginaw.org](http://www.truesaginaw.org)

[www.sisd.cc](http://www.sisd.cc)

[www.thepeddlesfoots.com](http://www.thepeddlesfoots.com)

[www.svsu.edu](http://www.svsu.edu)

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)