

Saginaw County's TRUE Initiative

The TRUE Update

truesaginaw.org 6.07

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that has.”

Margaret Mead

To Our Partners . . .

Strange to say that it's been almost a year since our project received funding. Many of you on our Steering Committee will remember having our first meeting—about six months ago now.

At that meeting, we all agreed to strive for a *real* change in the youth of Saginaw County. We all agreed that we wanted to make a

difference, reach our youngest citizens, and instill the good character necessary to ensure a bright future.

Well, partners, we're off. Since we last met, we've been busy. Please read on, see what we've been up to, and hopefully renew your interest and hope in the TRUE Initiative. There's lots more to come—we'll be in touch.

Community Curriculum Distributed

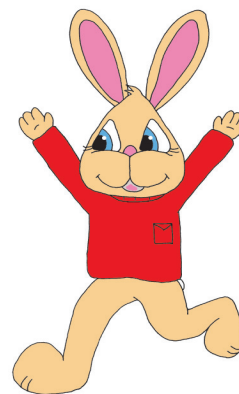
The key component of our character education initiative is Creating Character's *Peddlesfoots* curriculum. This curriculum teaches good character to children—Preschool through 2nd grade—and continues to undergo constant development.

Over the past few months, the first level of this curriculum has been distributed to

our community partners, including:

Big Brothers/Big Sisters, The Underground Railroad, the Ezekiel Project, Habitat for Humanity, Women of Color, Boys and Girls Club, Saginaw's Rescue Mission, the Mexican-American Council, and more.

Community involvement is crucial and will help to ensure our future success.



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TRUE Training

Our TRUE trainers, Anita Collins and Lisa Workman, have been hard at work.

character education philosophy, the curriculum itself, and its use and implementation.

Over the past few months, all community partners who received *Peddlesfoots* curriculum also received training in

This fall, when the curriculum is distributed to local Kindergarten teachers, there will be specialized training for



Collins and Workman

classroom use (see website for dates), as well as possible trainings for parents who will utilize the curriculum.

Evaluation Has Begun

The evaluation piece of the TRUE Initiative is vital. We *must* know whether our project is effective.

who will begin using *Peddlesfoots* in the fall have already started participating in our evaluation by completing pre-surveys. These documents will let us know about the “character environ-

ment” of these classrooms *before* our project is implemented.

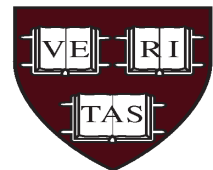
After implementation, we’ll continue to collect data and track change in student attitude and behavior.

To that end, evaluation has already begun. Kindergarten teachers

Harvard and the Future

An exciting addition to our initiative is the integration of our efforts with the efforts of Saginaw ISD Director of Instructional Services Rod Rock. Dr. Rock is initiating his own project to make Saginaw’s schools into “cultures of thinking”—

all part of Harvard’s Project Zero. With the *Peddlesfoots* curriculum becoming an important part of these “cultures of thinking,” our joint-initiative should see some amazing results. And, to facilitate this,



TRUE goes to Harvard!

many of our team will be Harvard-trained by the fall.

Be sure to utilize our initiative website at **truesaginaw.org**

There you’ll find more information about the project, what’s happening, who’s involved, resources, contact information, a discussion forum, and more . . .



A Saginaw Community Partnership

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