



## KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Irene Betz, President KCMS Alliance

269-506-0557

### **ANNUAL KCMSA CHARITY BALL FOR CHILDREN TO BENEFIT LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Kent County Medical Society Alliance (KCMSA) is hosting their annual Charity Ball for Children on February 7, which this year will benefit The Children's Assessment Center and Camp Blodgett. "The Alliance sponsors many fund-raising events throughout the year, but the Charity Ball is by far our largest and most entertaining," said Irene Betz, president of KCMSA. The Alliance uses the proceeds from events such as the Charity Ball to support local non-profit organizations and to provide mini-grants for groups involved in improving the health of children and women in West Michigan. "We have an opportunity to affect the lives of many children in our community, and they need our help now more than ever," Betz said.

The Children's Assessment Center was established in 1992 to assess and support child victims of suspected sexual assault in Kent County. Over 1,200 child sexual assaults are reported to Kent County law enforcement agencies every year, and experts agree many more cases still go unreported. The Center provides interviews, assessments, medical care, short-term counseling, and legal protection for these children. All of their services are offered free of charge in a child-friendly, sensitive, and safe environment.

For over 87 years, Camp Blodgett has provided life-changing experiences for the underprivileged children of West Michigan through their summer camp and year-round outreach programs. The camp's curriculum has changed over the years from fresh air and fun to become more of an educationally based recreational experience, one that encourages learning through

teamwork and trust. Their outreach programs are designed to continue this experience throughout the year. One of these programs is Camp Blodgett Club, which meets in Sparta, Wyoming, Kentwood, Cedar Springs and at Henry Paideia School in Grand Rapids.

This year's KCMS Alliance Charity Ball for Children will be held at Cascade Hills Country Club and begins at 6 pm. The event is a black tie optional dinner and dance. A live and silent auction will feature items donated by local artisans and businesses of West Michigan. "We are fortunate to live in a very caring community here. The Alliance has always been able to acquire a perfect blend of beautiful and practical items to auction, and everyone who attends the Charity Ball has a good time socializing and bidding on them," Betz said. Tickets are \$150. For more information about purchasing tickets for the Charity Ball, telephone the KCMS Alliance office 616-458-4157 weekdays between 9 am and 5 pm.

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The Kent County Medical Society Alliance was founded in 1932 as a non-profit service organization whose members are the spouses of physicians of the Kent County Medical Society. The Alliance is dedicated to improving the health of the West Michigan community through the sponsorship of educational programs, legislation and advocacy initiatives, with special emphasis on women's and children's health.