



# GREAT START NEWS



September 2010

## Artesia Youth Park's First Annual "Race the Lake" 5k in Houghton Lake, MI

On a wet and brisk autumn day, 15 runners/walkers, 10 volunteers and several spectators braved the weather to mark Artesia Youth Park's First Annual "Race the Lake" 5k on Saturday, September 25, 2010. Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC) provided apples, bananas, water bottles and massagers for the runners, while the volunteers and spectators happily used GSPC branded cow bells and noise makers to motivate the runners during the race.

The Houghton Lake Resorter was present to interview race participants, take pictures of the event and they requested information on GSPC and its involvement in the race and community.

GSPC has been asked by Artesia Youth Park and other community organizations to help host future running and biking events in 2011. Although the weather was not ideal, GSPC certainly had a "great start" as a community partner supporting a healthy and active lifestyle for families and children in the Houghton Lake area.

Article written by: Janna Clark

## Community Happenings

- Oct. 7: "Crawford County Baby's Closet" 1st Year Ann. Guest Speaker Marybeth Hicks 7pm @ Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church
- Oct. 19: MSUE host candidate forum in Oscoda County at the K of C Hall @ 6:30 pm
- Oct. 25: Volunteers needed to help fill candy bags for the Lions Club in Houghton Lake at the St. John's Lutheran Church from 12:00-4:30pm



Crawford-Oscoda-Ogemaw-Roscommon-Iosco Counties

## Northeast Michigan Opportunity Conference with Guest Speaker Donna Beegle

We had 130 participants and 60 volunteers for the Northeast Michigan Opportunity Conference held on 9-23-10 at the Church of God in Mio. All of our GSC counties were represented and GSC took on the HUGE task of running the on-site day care for the event, without which, many of our participants would not have been able to attend.

Submitted by Cindy DeLadurantaye



### Did you know ???

Despite an increase in uninsured adults, access to public health insurance for children allowed the percentage of children health insurance to increase from 2008 to 2009.

"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate." -Anonymous

## Sandbox Party

On August 26, 2010, 6500 parents, children, and early childhood advocates gathered at the Breslin Center in East Lansing, MI for the SEPC. The convention, put on by Great Start and Early Childhood Investment Corporation was a 3 hour child friendly, family friendly event that promoted early childhood development, education, and programs.

The event featured many music and child entertainers such as: Radio Disney, The Verve Pipe, Zippity Two Dads, Juice, and Capital Cheer Dance and Gymnastics. Over 50 exhibitors were in attendance including Michigan Coalition for Children and Families, MSU Extension, Early On, Michigan PTSA and CONNECT.



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