

Caren Kaplan Endowed Scholarship Fund

I. Purpose

The Caren Kaplan Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in memory of University of Michigan School of Social Work alumna Caren Kaplan, MSW '80. The Scholarship provides support for an MSW student with a preference for students pursuing a concentration in Children, Youth and Families in Society with demonstrated commitment to child welfare reform with a focus on addressing the issue of chronic neglect.

II. Background on Caren Kaplan, MSW '80

Caren had over 30 years of experience in child welfare policy and practice. Her goal was to implement and sustain systemic change through knowledge development, family and community engagement and collaborative investments.

Caren's passion for constructively helping families included a huge body of national-level work advancing child welfare through Differential Response and other innovative system changes.

Caren endorsed and promoted an expansive differential response framework in child welfare systems to allow practitioners and their agencies to be responsive to the safety, service, and support of individual children and their families.

During her career, Caren directed national initiatives on chronic neglect and differential response, including state-specific training and technical assistance in these areas. She managed multiple efforts that examined and refined the assessment of child safety, risk and comprehensive family functioning by child protection agencies. She also participated in national coalitions committed to strengthening the federal response to the protection of children and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Caren testified before both houses of Congress on the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. In her various roles, she worked with professionals in housing, health care, income assistance, education, law enforcement and the judiciary to forge community-based partnerships with consumers, citizens and child welfare agencies to prevent child maltreatment and better meet the needs of children and their families. Caren also authored and co-authored numerous child welfare-related publications.

III. Form of Support

Support for MSW students. A total of \$60,000 will be allocated in 2023-2024.

IV. *Eligibility*

- Must be a current part time or full time MSW student intending to graduate in December 2023, or April 2024.
- Must have a 3.0 GPA or greater.
- Must demonstrate commitment to strengthening child welfare practice, policy, or research to prevent or reduce chronic child neglect and be pursuing a clearly defined path toward becoming a successful practitioner in this field.
- Must submit a statement that demonstrates interest, experience, academic and field work in addressing chronic child neglect.

V. *Application Materials*

The following application materials are required:

- 1) Application coversheet
- 2) Two-page statement describing interest, experience, academic and field work in addressing chronic child neglect.
- 3) Resume

VI. *Review Process*

The School's MSW Financial Aid Committee will evaluate the application materials. The Committee will assess each applicant's commitment to strengthening child welfare practice, policy, or research to prevent or reduce chronic child neglect.

The review and selection for the Caren Kaplan Endowed Scholarship will take place in November 2023.

VII. *Award Recipients: Required Donor Appreciation*

- 1) Write a thank you note
- 2) Record a thank you video (optional)
- 3) Meet via phone or visit with donors prior to your graduation

VIII. *Application Deadline: September 16, 2023, 5:00 pm*



**Caren Kaplan Endowed Scholarship
Application Coversheet**

Full Name: _____ UMID # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Pathway: _____

Required materials:

- 1) Application coversheet
- 2) Double spaced, two-page statement describing interest, experience, academic and field work in addressing chronic child neglect
- 3) Resume

Application Deadline: September 15, 2023, 5:00 pm

Submit this form with all required materials to:

ssw-finaid@umich.edu