

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 six to eight MSW students 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

Scholarship for 6-8 MSW students. A total of \$100,000 will be allocated in 2020-2021.

IV. Eligibility

- Must be a current MSW student intending to graduate in August 2020, December 2020, or April 2021.
- 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 (double-spaced) statement describing interest, experience, academic and field work in addressing chronic child neglect.
- 3) Resume

VI. Award Recipients: Required Donor Appreciation

- 1) Write a thank you note.
- 2) Record a thank you video (optional).
- 3) Meet and visit with donors at the March 2021 SSW Student Award Ceremony Reception.

OR

Meet and visit with donors prior to graduation (summer or fall).

VII. 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 July 2020.

VIII. Application Deadline: August 15, 2020, 5:00 pm



**Caren Kaplan Endowed Scholarship
Application Coversheet**

Full Name: _____ UMID # _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Practice Method/Practice Area: _____

Faculty Advisor _____

Required materials:

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

Application Deadline: August 15, 2020, 5:00 pm

Submit this form with all required materials to:

ssw-finaid@umich.edu