



May 2, 2011

Press Release-for immediate release

John Shaffer, Manager of EMS at MidMichigan Medical Center, covering Midland and Gladwin Counties, was the recipient of the "Power of One: Child Death Review Field Award 2011" at the annual Child Death Review (CDR) Training at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville, Michigan on May 2, 2011. The award was announced in front of over one hundred attendees from around the state, representing law enforcement, public health, social services, the courts, medical fields, mental health and others.

This was an award given to three local CDR team members this year. All three are outstanding individuals who have proven themselves to be truly committed to issues affecting children's health, safety and protection, and have supported the CDR process in their communities.

As a coordinator, Mr Shaffer brings his knowledge and experience to the table as coordinator of the multi-disciplinary Gladwin County Child Death Review Team. He has used this process to help identify how and why children are dying in Gladwin County, to address issues surrounding investigation and service delivery, and to identify where improvements might be made to reduce other such deaths in the future. John also has served for a number of years as a member of the state level Child Death Advisory Committee, bringing both the EMS and rural community perspectives to the table to help make recommendations to policy-makers to reduce child deaths in Michigan.

Honestly addressing the challenges that a community faces in keeping its kids safe and healthy can be a difficult task, especially in these economic times. John's ability to bring local professionals together around these issues, focusing on what positive impact the team's findings can have on the kids in Gladwin County, makes him an effective champion for children. It should be noted that this is the second year in a row that MidMichigan Medical Center has had one of their staff members as a recipient of this award; last year, Dr Dennis Wagner was presented with the award as well.

We are grateful to have the support and efforts of committed individuals like Mr Shaffer partnering with us as we work toward providing healthier, safer communities for our children. For his dedication in going the extra mile, Midland and Gladwin Counties, and the state of Michigan are lucky to have him!