JOIN US FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE MICHIGAN'S STRATEGY TO IMPROVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

BE INSPIRED. Michigan Communities in Schools is providing policy makers, opinion and community leaders, and other advocates for young people with an extraordinary opportunity to talk with Bill Milliken, founder of Communities in Schools, and author of *The Last Dropout: Stop the Epidemic!* In this book, Bill documents key principles for school success that have been tested over the past thirty years in Michigan and around the country. Communities in Schools has nearly 200 affiliates in 27 states, including seven in Michigan, reaching tens of thousands of students.

Bill will be working with Michigan Legislators while he is in Lansing, and will be meeting with us for lunch to talk about his vision for increasing high school graduation, which includes developing better partnerships and garnering commitments from many sectors of the community.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION IN MICHIGAN. Leaders from all sectors understand that we need to reinforce existing work, and encourage innovative strategies in Michigan to ensure that more of our young people leave high school with a diploma. A group of leaders from education, workforce development, human services and business are coming together to develop a comprehensive Michigan strategy to address this issue. This strategy includes a one-day summit in the fall of 2008 that will help to bring those interests and sectors together to define our state's path. Following the book signing, we will be meeting with Bill to further discuss existing Michigan work, how it feeds into the fall summit, and continues the momentum for change in Lansing and around the state after the summit.

JOIN US. We will be gathering on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 in Room 428 in the State Capitol Building, Lansing.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Book Signing
(Lunch will be provided at a cost of $7.00 to those who have RSVPed)
1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Improving Graduation Strategy Session

Please RSVP attendance to both or either to Barb VanderVeen, Michigan Communities in Schools at barbarav@lifeservicessystem.org or Michele Corey, Michigan's Children at corey.michele@michiganschildren.org and indicate if you need lunch or not.