

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**OAKLAND FRIEND OF THE COURT AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Oakland County, MI** (December 2, 2005) – An outstanding Oakland County Circuit Court manager, Kathleen (Kathy) Cox, was honored with the “2005 Friend of the Court Manager Award” by the Michigan Family Support Council at its annual training conference in Harbor Springs, Michigan. The award was given to recognize the individual who best signified leadership and dedication to the Michigan domestic relations field throughout the year.

It is with selfless dedication that Ms. Cox has been able to guide Friend of the Court staff through two major conversions to state systems and prior to that in writing their own program and converting it to meet federal regulations. She has had the ability to work and get real results, to create vision, and to maintain high work standards. Her staff describe her as a person of integrity, who has outstanding judgment and the ability to “keep her cool” during some of the most stressful situations. She is someone others choose to follow.

“We are extremely proud of Kathy and glad that the Michigan Family Support Council has recognized her extraordinary talents,” exclaimed Judge James Alexander, Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court Family Division.

Ms. Cox has been actively committed to helping Michigan’s families work through the child support process for over 30 years. She came to Oakland County with a long history of experience and wide range of knowledge. Beginning her career in 1973 as a liaison with the Department of Social Services and Wayne County Friend of the Court, she then became district manager in Oakland County for the Office of Child Support (then DSS, now DHS). In this capacity, she supervised child support staff in five different counties: Oakland, Livingston, Macomb, Clinton, and Gratiot. Hired as Chief Assistant Operations with Oakland’s Friend of the Court in 1998, Ms. Cox has successfully established herself as a strong administrator and effective leader in a highly stressful work environment.

In accepting the award, Ms. Cox stated: “I was overwhelmed with the show of support from my co-workers who nominated me. I love working in the child support arena and feel that all child support workers collectively have made a huge difference in the lives of Michigan’s children.”

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