

**FIRST CHOICE CONTINUES TO NEED YOU!!!**

First Choice of Saginaw is a small, non-profit organization affiliated with SCCMHA that raises funds annually to provide holiday gift cards for adults being served by SCCMHA who have limited discretionary funds and reside in licensed residential settings. This is a serious hidden need in Saginaw County for these adults with disabilities who are often impoverished and have not had the opportunity to have even a small amount of discretionary funds to spend as they wish. In FY2018 First Choice again raised funds to provide gift cards to 300 consumers of SCCMHA services. 2019 fundraising is underway now, the 14th year of this program. Gift cards are annually disseminated in December.

Any interested person can support First Choice fundraising efforts in a variety of ways, whether you have an hour or two to donate your time, can offer some in-kind resources or want to get more involved in the annual fundraising efforts. All SCCMHA staff and providers are invited to participate.

**VOLUNTER YOUR TIME**

The Friends of First Choice Committee sponsors various fundraising efforts. Watch for these notices, and offer your time to help with an event. Even a brief amount of volunteer time is meaningful for the long range success of First Choice. You can also join the planning committee. We always welcome new planning committee members as well as new and ongoing volunteers.

**PROVIDE IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Are you too busy to volunteer your time? Most fundraising events invite donations of food or items to sell. Watch for these notices and offer a small in-kind donation to support a planned event when you are able. Used books for book sales, or good condition costume jewelry for jewelry sales, and unused greeting cards of any type are just several examples of the periodic events where you can donate items to help the annual campaign. You can donate jewelry and cards year round. From time to time some staff members have donated event tickets that they have and cannot use for First Choice to offer in a silent auction, with all proceeds going to First Choice. We are also always looking for donations of napkins, paper products and plastic silverware for the various events throughout the year. You can also help promote and participate in fundraising events at any time.

**OFFER YOUR RESOURCES**

Every increment of support helps the organization. For example, did you know that there is a pop can collection in the lower level break rooms at the Hancock and A&W buildings for First Choice? Some staff donate small amounts of money throughout the year, at various events, at various times or through payroll deductions. Donations from individuals and companies are always welcomed year round. You can also designate First Choice of Saginaw to routinely receive support through www.smile.amazon.com for any purchases you order online. This is Amazon’s charitable organization site & is just like their regular site only a portion of your purchase goes to the non-profit that you select at no additional cost to you!

**GET MORE INVOLVED**

New members for the monthly noontime meetings of Friends of First Choice Committee are always welcomed. Typically, meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon in Room 222 conference room at the Hancock Building or Room 127 conference room at A & W. Contact First Choice of Saginaw at info@saginawfc.org to be added to the meeting notices and reminders for First Choice meetings. Or if you have an idea for an event that you would like to lead or suggest, great! Contact First Choice of Saginaw ([info@saginawfc.org](mailto:info@saginawfc.org)) if you would like more information at any time. We would love to have you involved in this important endeavor.

***First Choice of Saginaw is a 501c3 organization.***

***Donations are tax deductible.***