

## RENEWAL

# Issue 17

Portage County  
Child Welfare Levy

## PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!



## Fact Sheet

### How much will the levy cost me?

Portage County voters are being asked to renew Issue 17 which is a 0.75-mill levy. **THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX.** The levy costs the owner of a house valued at \$100,000 four cents per day or about a \$1.20 per month, less than a cup of coffee! The five year levy is not a tax increase.

### What is Renewal Issue 17

Renewal Issue 17 is the Portage County Child Welfare Levy on the fall 2014 ballot. It will maintain services to protect children from sexual and physical abuse and neglect WITH NO NEW TAXES.

### Why is the Issue 17 renewal important?

The service funded by the levy have protected thousands of children from sexual and physical abuse and neglect since the levy was first passed in 1985. It helps maintain services that keep children safe and it also provides help for troubled families and emergency services to support families in crisis. For example counseling, trauma evaluations and parenting education. The levy funds also help licensing of foster homes and finding adoptive homes for children that cannot return home safely.

### What services does renewal Issue 17 Fund?

Renewal Issue 17 funds services through Portage County Children Services. These include investigations of suspected child sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect, and referrals to community services.

### Does the Issue 17 renewal levy fund the CARES Hotline?

Issue 17 covers the cost of the 24-hour CARES Hotline that allows concerned citizens to report cases of suspected sexual and physical abuse and neglect of children.

### How many calls are handled each year?

In 2013, Portage County Children Services received 4,025 calls of suspected abuse or neglect. The agency also provided alternative placements for more than 200 youth in need of safe, stable environments.