Common Ground's 'Step Forward' loses grant

Tony Rothschild can't imagine what

went wrong.

As CEQ of the Common foround
Sanctusry, a Bloomfield Township-hased
non-profit agency that helps youth and
families in crisis, Rothschild is in a state of
diabellef his organization didn't receive a
federal grant for its A Step Forward program.

federal grant for its A Step Forward program.

The highly regarded transitional living program for homeleas teens has earned the same grant through the U.S. Health and Human Services Department every year since 1989. But when Rothschild received the list of this year's grant recipients from the federal agency earlier this month. Common Grounds name wasn't included. "I can't ever remember being so disappointed about losing funding for a program that has been so successful. I could see if we were cited for some type of violations, but we are a program that is being modeled by others nationwide," Rothschild said.

modeled by others nationwide," Rothschild said.

Because the \$200,000 grant makes up more than 50 percent of A Step Forward's budget, Rothschild said the future of the program, which is open to individuals between the ages of 16 and 20, is in doubt. Losing the program would be a big loss for the area's homeless population, according to Stephen Pollock, the executive director of the Michigan Network for Youth and Families, which works with some 35 homeless agencies in the state.

He said A Step Forward is the only program in the entire Metro Detroit area open to both boys and girls. A program called Alternative for Girls, based in Highland Park, is the only other similar program in the area, but it is only open to girls.

"Common Ground has an extraordinary program. By losing Common Ground we

program. By losing Common Ground we are losing the only shelter in the whole Metro Detroit area that serves homeless boys. And we are talking about an area

Registration opens



TOM HOFFWEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Common Ground CEO Tony Rothschild is dismayed with the federal government's recent decision not to fund the Bloomfield Township organization's A

step forward program.

that has the highest incidences of homelessness in the whole country, he said.

Despite his disappointment, Rothschild
has not taken the news haying down. He
immediately contacted U.S. Rep. Joe
Knollenberg (H-Bloomfield Township) and
Sen. Carl Lewin to find out own with program was overlooked.

Both lawmakers contacted officials with
Health and Human Services, forcing the
department to go back and re-examine the
scoring system used to select recipients. As
a result of the intervention, the agency
contacted Rothschild last week, informing
im A Step Forward is being re-evaluated,
and still might get the grant.

Knollenberg spokesman Chris Close said
everyone should find out the answer in the
next week or so.

Congressman Knollenberg does believe
in Common Ground's mission. He has
weighed in on their behalf, and expressed
his concerns to make sure nothing fell
through the cracks. But there is no guarantee of success. All we can do is wait and
see, he said.

Rothschild and Pollock have several the-

Rothschild and Pollock have several theories why the program was looked over. Pollock said he has heard of other

long-term established programs around the nation that have also lost the grant. He believes the main reason is the Bush administrations focus on faith-based charitable programs, as well as programs designed for young women who are either pregnant or already parenting.

An official with the Health and Human Services regional office in Chicago said she couldn't comment on the lasue.

A Step Forward is just one of more than a dozen programs offered by Common Ground, but it is one of the most important according to Rothschild. Approximately 20 teens a year enroll in the program, with most coming from Oakland County.

Those that are accepted live in a Royal Oak shelter, where they receive counseling and learn how to become responsible adults. The shelter is currently full to capacity, which is not uncommon accord-

and learn how to become responsible adults. The shelter is currently full to capacity, which is not uncommon according to Rothschild.

One of our biggest problems is turning kids away. This is the one program turning kids away. This is the one program that is always full, Rothschild said.

And the programs impact can be profound, if you ask some of the people who have spent time in it.

A man named Steve, who didn't want to give his last name, spent two years in the sanctuary, before moving on in July. Now 20 years old, he said the program offered him the stability he needed after coming out of a draig rehabilitation center.

He now works as a counselor at the same center.

When I came out of drug rehab, I desperately needed a safe place to I ive, and Common Ground gave it to me, It was a good, stable environment. They helped us anot budgeting and Laving and Laving a doubt budgeting and Laving and Laving and common of the common of the proper of the common of the program of the common of

They helped us enroll in college, and taught us about budgeting and saving money. They offer any kind of help you need, he said.

"The Common Ground program helped me out at the time I most needed it."

Legislature approves for CES winter classes do-not-call registry

You can choose from more than 300 Continuing Education Services classes, including 45 new ones, offered during the winter term at Schoolcraft College.

These classes challenge your mid and body, enhance your business or professional skills, nurture a new hobby, help you understand your toddler, and introduce you to some really great recipes.

CES winter classes begin Feb. 3 and make great holiday gifts. Students 60 years or older can take classes at reduced rates. The complete CES winter schedule is available on the Web at wowschoolcraft, edu with: class information; registration forms that may be mailed or faxed; and instructions for touchtone and online registration.

production, screenwriting, advanced Web page creation, the writings of CS. Lewis and of Nobel Prize winners, aging youthfully, CPR for family and friends, Pilates for beginners or fast-track fundraising.

The popular cullurary arts classes include several new offerings such as Saute Like a Pro; Egg-citing Eggiore; Great Culsine for the Great Event; and The Heart of Great Lakes Wines.

In other new classes, you can learn to display digital photos online or how to speed read. Information technology training includes classes leading to certification as a Microsoft systems administrator or an Af-certified computer technician.

For registration information.

registration. Persons who have taken a

tor or an Ar-termine computer technician. For registration information, class schedules or gift certifi-cates, call 734-462-4448. Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads, just west of 1-275.

The Michigan State Senate voted 24-2 recently to create a telemarketing do-not-call registry, sending it to Gov. John Engler, who is expected to sign tinto law.

The Senate action followed Wednesday's 97-0 House vote. According to AARP the compromise legislation broke a yearlong deadlock over the proposal. Vastly different versions of the bill passed the House and Senate Last year, It was sent to

posal. Vastly cliterent versions of the bill passed the House and Senate last year. It was sent to conference committee in mid-December of 2001, where it had been the subject of negotiations. "We've lobbied legislators for ur years to make this happen," said Mary Aikey, coordinator of AARP's state affairs volunteers. "We've written letters to the editors of every newspaper in the state, talke to reporters and issued surveys showing that 88 percent of voltars want this to happen. Well, if finally did." Under the bill, a state do-not-call list would be established, as well as a required code of ethics that

telemarketers would have to follow The Michigan Public Service
Commission would either administer the list itself of use a vendor.
The bill would exempt charities, solicitors for politicals contributions and sales people with
prior relationships with a registry member. Under an
amendment adopted
Wednesday, if a federal agency
established a nationwide list,
the Michigan lis would operate
as the federal list. AARP will
monitor the federal proposal to
make sure that its provisions do
not weaken state law, said
Harvey Hollins, government
affairs representative.
If the MPSC actually estalished the list, then a fund
would be created in the
Michigan Department of
Treasury and the list would be
published quarterly. The PSC
would charge telemarketing
companies for access to the list,
or could charge telephone subscribers up to \$5 over three
years for having their number
placed on the registry.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Velveteen Rabbit

The Narrows Theatre in Northwile pre-ents Velveteen Rabbit now playing through mid Lanuary for times and rescription information, call (248) 349-8100. Group reter available. Art Speaks 2002 farmington and Farmington Hills city halls will be displaying an emerging artists exhibit through Jan. 31. Martin Lather King Jr. Martin Lather King Jr.

EID STOFF

Drawing
Rids A-5 can learn to draw the basic
elements of shapes, lines, curves and
circles beginning Thursday, Jan. 79 at
the Herslape Ran's Stables Studio R-2,
440-610 p.m.: 3-5, 515-610 p.m. Catl
(248)-473-1800.
Framing Your Art
Kids can learn to create and frame
their own artwork 10 am moon
Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Herslape Park
Stables Studio. Catl (248)-473-1800.
Pottery for Rids.

Pottery for Kids

Kids can learn hasic clay techniques and create sculptures 4:30-6 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 7 at the Heritage Park Stables Studio. Classes

are four weeks. Call (248) 473-1800.

Crazy about Clay

Students in grades sizeight can learn basic hand building techniques and create clay pieces beginning Saturday, Jan. N-25 at the Heritage Park Studio. Call (248) 473-1800.

YIMCA Youth Sports
The Farmington YMCA is taking registration for winter youth sports programs through Jan. 4, Call (248) 553-4020.

CLUES

Hill & Dato
Hill & Dato
Hill & Date Garden Club will meet at 7
pm. Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Vagnazal
Visitor's Center in Heritage Park, Guest
speaker Jane Subani will discuss How
to Bloom Anything Tropical

To proom knyrring Propical imbrolderers Farmington Hills Embroiderers Guild will meet at 9:30 Wednesday, Jan. B. at Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Haith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills. The topic will be What does "Regular Stitching Supplies" mean? Ouestions? Call Micrielle Sayre, (248) 348-1931

148-1931

Exchange Club will meet at noon Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Brass Pointe Restaurant in Farmington Kills for a Goodfellows appreciation funch.

CLASSES

Soup Jars
In recognition of National Soup Worth
In recognition of National Soup Worth
Farmington Public Schooks will offer
fun class called Feas in a Jar on
Wednesday, Jan ZZ. Learn how to
make the chilli soup that won the
world championship five times. Bring
one quart jar, tinde, and cutting boarts
SS supply Fee for more information
call (24) 469-3333.

Acoustic/Electric Guitar

Acoustic and electric guitar for begin-ners and intermediates begins Jan. 25 at the Costick Center in Farmington

at the Costlex Center in Farmington MIS Call (248) 477-1900. MISGB Eastern Bance Learn Bully Basics' and discover the beauty of the world's med ancient dance 7.30-8.30 pm. Mondary, beginning Jan. 72 at the Costlex Center in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 473-1900. Portury for Addis Type 1900 pm. Mondary, beginning Jan. 7-at the Heritage Park Stables Studio, Classes are floor weeks. Call (249) 473-1900.

Frank II. Boos Gallers

AUCTION, featuring the Ruth R. and Losis G. Redistone collection of pre-Columbian art. African art. Annian and travals are observed to pre-Columbian art. African art. Annian and travals are presented to the present and travals are presented to the present and protection and travals are presented to the present and presented to the present and presented to the presented to the presented to the presented to the present and presented to the pres

PREVIEW

AUCTION







क्षांच्य DEMETRE CHANGUS (Patronias, 1866-1860) botom and hony Majow Transon of Lon Bower', 18th overall





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