Can Anybody Out There Hear Me?
The Hidden Struggle of Young Caregivers

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Each day, millions of US young people under the age of 18 provide care to physically or mentally ill family members. The aging of the US population, the increase in the number of grandparents raising grandchildren, and the prevalence of substance use/abuse have led to greater numbers of young people providing assistance to adults. However, they are doing so in the shadows. Young caregivers have largely been ignored in the US, leaving them vulnerable and ill-prepared to confront the issues inherent in illness and end-of-life care. But there is hope. Whereas my research on high school and college student caregivers has shown that caregiving is related to negative outcomes for mental health, academic achievement, and substance use, it also provides opportunities for growth when adults offer support. This presentation describes this research and the Youth Resiliency Project, a program designed to help peer counselors and school staff deliver the much-needed support these caregiving students – and their families – need to thrive.

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When: Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Time: 5:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Location: McMahan House