Michigan Cricket Academy is a nationally and confessionally diverse organization which welcomes anyone interested in making the world’s second-most-popular sport available to Michigan’s children. Our teams play in up to five tournaments a year; we will enter a team in MichCA’s T20 league this year; we play a summer-long series against G.D.C.C. Colts and also hope to travel to Canada again for another cross-border series this year; plans are being made for a tour of Florida later in the year. The Academy practices at Lyon Oaks Park from spring until late fall and then indoors throughout the winter. We also have an outreach program designed to interact with schools, community sports organizations, parks, and rec. and ed. departments. If you would like to support our work through sponsorship, or if your family would like to participate in the Academy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information about MCA contact coaches Shyam Mayasandra (248-342-9305) or Vasanth Krishnaswami (734-223-7586), or information director Michael Makin (734-646-4821; mlmakin@umich.edu).
The host club, Michigan Cricket Academy, a Chappell Way affiliate and an Associate Member of the United States Cricket Association, was founded in 2004 to promote cricket among Michigan’s children. MCA numbers continue to grow: in the last twelve months more than forty children have participated in Academy events. MCA has been represented at tournaments in California (the National Youth Cricket Tournament), Florida, and Chicago, and has held its own summer tournaments since 2004. Last year MCA played the first of what is planned as an annual cross-border series with North Star of Toronto. And this year MCA hosted the first-ever Michigan Sixes Indoor tournament, as well holding this, its first Memorial Day Weekend Tournament. At least five MCA members have already played this year for senior clubs in local leagues, and this summer MCA will enter its own team into MichCA’s T20 league. MCA, which practices year-round, emphasizes not only skills development but also the importance of team play, collective spirit, and respect for the game, the opponent, and the match officials. Chief coaches: Vasanth Krishnaswami and Shyam Mayyasandra.

The MichCA Colts are from the Michigan Cricket Association (www.michca.org), established in 2001, which brings together cricketers from across the state, as well as northern Ohio and Windsor. Most of the Colts play on the Greater Detroit C.C. Colts, one of nineteen teams competing in MichCA’s three main tournaments: the early season Great Lakes Tournament, and the June-September T20 and 40-over leagues. MichCA is also the organizer of an annual tournament showcasing players from the automotive and related industries; last year six teams competed for the trophy, further expansion is planned this year. MichCA conducts annual youth coaching camps in Troy & Lyon Oaks, with 30 participants in 2008 (8-16 years of age). The MichCA President, Shahid Ahmed, is also the Head Coach of the G.D.C.C. Colts.

The Chicagoland Combined XI consists of players from the Mid-West Cricket Academy and the Greater Chicago Cricket Association. The Mid-West Cricket Academy was established in 2004 by former first-class cricketers and operates under the aegis of the Midwest Cricket Conference (www.midwestcricket.org), one of the largest cricket leagues in the USA. From an initial group of seven, MWCA has grown to its current enrolment of some twenty-five young cricketers. MWCA players are perennial selections to represent the Central East Region in US zonal tournaments. Last year MWCA entered a team in MCC’s 30-over league for the first time, and finished as runners-up in Division III. MWCA has been represented at previous MCA tournaments, in the National Cricket Tournament in Cupertino, CA, and at the GCCA tournament in the Chicago suburbs. Chief coaches: Krishna Meluvetttil, Ajit Ramaswamy, and Sridher Jagath. The youth program of the Greater Chicago Cricket Association (www.chicagocricket.com) is led by Coaches Shirish Joshi and Hemant Chavan, whose young cricketers play in local leagues and in the GCCA adult competitions. Several of their players will represent the Central East Region in zonal tournaments this year, and, like MWCA, they contributed to the Michigan-Midwest Cricket Academies side which played in the national U-13 tournament in California last year, and which also included six MCA members.

Toronto’s Famous North Star Academy last year entered two teams in the junior league of the Toronto and District Cricket Association (www.cricketstar.net). North Star’s younger team went unbeaten throughout the season and were champions of the fifteen-team U-13 division, while North Star’s U-15s also had a great season in the thirteen-team U-15 division. (TDCA also boasted seven teams in its U-17 division and ten in its U-19 division last year, and this year has eighty-seven teams in its various adult divisions). North Star were generous hosts (and comfortable victors) when MCA visited Toronto last August, and have kindly suggested that the fixture be repeated this year. North Star are coached by Musa Patel.