



HEROES OF HOPE

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER

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CORNERSTONE KICKS OFF!

The teenage youth we see in our Center often face enormous challenges as they prepare to become independent adults. Our new program, Cornerstone, which kicks off again in September, provides vital support and guidance to youth ages 14-18, to help them make this critical transition.



Cornerstone youth meet once a week as a group to gain new knowledge, practice skills, improve socialization and engage in new experiences. They're encouraged to share their challenges and difficulties in a safe environment, allowing their peers to provide suggestions, advice and support. In this way, they are able to lead their own therapy, under the guidance of trained clinicians.

Already, youth involved in Cornerstone at The Children's Center have been able to create a resume, participate in mock interviews, practice yoga and mindfulness, attend nutritional classes and more. We're excited that this program is helping teens gain valuable life skills that help them now and in the future.

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HELP SANTA STOCK OUR HOLIDAY SHOP SHELVES

It's about that time again – the holidays. For many of our families that means worrying about how to afford food and gifts to make the holiday special.

Our Holiday Shop offers a beautiful opportunity for these families. At the Holiday Shop, parents and guardians can shop for holiday gifts, new socks and underwear and stocking stuffers for each child in their family. We also provide families with a special blanket and holiday meal gift card. All free of charge.

Every year, donors like you help our children and families by stocking our Holiday Shop with the items our families so desperately need. For example, this year, the Pope Benedict XVI All Girls Sports Tournament, contributes by making blankets. Each year, under Stacy LeVigne's leadership, children from the tournament typically create anywhere between 75-85 blankets to donate to our Holiday Shop.

How you can participate

Consider holding a gift drive, volunteering at the shop or donating new unwrapped items from our wish list. You can even consider team-building activities like making blankets or assembling hygiene kits. For more information, contact Jon Carolin at 313.262.0939 or jcarolin@thechildrenscenter.com.

Wish List Items

- \$25 Kroger gift cards
- Diapers
- Fleece blankets
- Hats and gloves
- Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, brushes, combs
- Socks and underwear
- Stocking stuffer items: nail polish, card games, small craft kits, coloring books, etc.
- Toys and games valued at \$25 for ages 0-18: board games, sports balls, Legos, multi-cultural dolls, toy cars, puzzles, headphones, make-up kits, action figures, soft books, body wash gift sets, etc.

DETROIT YOUTH INSPIRE AT THE SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Youth United celebrated young community heroes at their First Annual Youth Spotlight Awards Banquet. Two of our own Youth Advocates, Christopher Ghaskin and De'Anthony Jefferson, were among those recognized with awards for being agents of change who have created a positive impact in their community.



Christopher Ghaskin received the Perseverance "Rising Star" Award for demonstrating inner strength and overcoming multiple obstacles, all while creating community change.

De'Anthony Jefferson was awarded the Youth Advocate "Achievement" Award for contributing to Youth United, providing impactful and inspiring ideas and being proactive within the community.

In addition, one of our TCC parents, Shadawn Walker, was honored at the banquet with the Adult Youth Champion "Excellence" Award. Shadawn was celebrated for guiding, supporting and being a champion for youth.

The event also recognized youth from Youth MOVE Detroit and Youth United for their hard work, dedication and commitment to community service. We are proud of Youth United for being a part of this inspiring event and look forward to them hosting next year.



ANNOUNCING THE NEW TAU BETA CENTER FOR FAMILY LITERACY

Families who read together, achieve together. We're making more space for families to come together and experience the joy of reading through our new Tau Beta Center for Family Literacy (CFFL). Funded by Tau Beta Association and the Jamie and Denise Jacob Family Foundation, the CFFL, which was formerly located at our Head Start Academy with a focus on early learning, will move to our main campus and focus on birth to older youth and adults as a part of a renovation and expansion to our Boutique and Tau Beta Center for Discovery.

This move will enable us to serve thousands more children and families. What's more, given that nearly 90% of our 7,500 clients are living at or below the poverty level and struggle with transportation, the CFFL has the opportunity to unite an enhanced enrichment program in one location.

Here are just a few things the CFFL will offer:

- A place of respite and fun where parents can read with their children

- An activity-centered space for foster care supervised visitation.
- A resource for skill-building sessions and support groups, allowing clients to work on specific socialization, motor function, educational or development goals.
- The ability for clients to check out books to foster a love of reading that expands beyond campus and into their homes.
- Increased volunteer engagement opportunities including reading, guided learning activities and child enrichment.
- Opportunities for parents to improve their own basic and financial literacy and participate in skill-building sessions.

We need your help! We are still in need of significant financial support to complete this project. If you are able to contribute, please contact us at 313-481-5116.

VISION TO LEARN GIVES KIDS THE GIFT OF SIGHT

This fall, our campus was honored to receive a visit from a very special organization, Vision to Learn. Vision to Learn provides free eye exams and free eyeglasses to students in low-income communities. It launched in Michigan in 2016, partnering with the Detroit Health Department to serve students in Detroit public schools.



Vision to Learn brought its mobile unit to The Children's Center and provided free eye screenings for 38 of our children. Two weeks later, they brought back 38 pairs of brand new FREE glasses, especially made for our kids.

Thank you, Vision to Learn!





DONOR SPOTLIGHT: COMERICA BANK

We love our corporate donors for all they do for our children families we serve. Comerica Bank is one such donor, contributing in so many ways to the well-being of our kids.



Recently, the bank teamed up with the Detroit Lions to create Comerica Bank First Down. Through this program, Comerica Bank will donate \$100 to The Children’s Center for every Lions’ first down. Go Lions!

In addition, Comerica employees regularly contribute their time and talents to our Center. Recently, employees volunteered at our Art Adventure, helping kids and families

recreate their favorite book covers using acrylic paint on loose canvas. It was a fun night for all.

We want to thank Comerica Bank for supporting our youth and families. We couldn’t be more grateful.

TOUR DE FORK RAISES THOUSANDS FOR DETROIT KIDS AND FAMILIES

For the fourth year, Tour de Fork is one of our most memorable fundraising events. Thanks to you, this year was no exception. Hosted in the beautiful Eastern Market, we were proud to welcome more than 260 guests, raising \$100,000. More than twenty-five of Detroit’s hottest chefs created tasty, inventive bites for guests as they mingled and enjoyed entertainment by DJ Prevu and percussionist Jared Sykes. Taking home the peoples’ choice Forkie award was Estos Garage with their incredible spicy tacos. The evening wouldn’t have been possible without Presenting Sponsor Ford Motor Company and Platinum Sponsor Cadillac Asphalt LCC, as well as guests like you who came out to support us. It’s because of your participation that our kids and families are able to dream again.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR KIDS

It was nine months of training in the making, but Barry and Stefania Walton did it. They ran the Detroit Free Press Marathon with one goal in mind – to raise \$10,000 for the children of The Children’s Center. The idea sparked when the Waltons took a tour of our Center and heard incredible stories of courage and triumph. They were moved to do something big

for children who deserve to dream bigger.



See more of their story on their Crowdrise fundraiser, 10K For Autism in 26 Miles, then ask

yourself what you can do to help vulnerable kids. Whether it’s raising money by running, donating your birthday or becoming a Believer by joining our monthly giving program at any dollar amount. For more information on fundraising, becoming a Believer, or donating your birthday, contact Marletta Boyd, II at mboydii@thechildrenscenter.com or 313-481-5116.



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