



## THE CHILDREN'S CENTER NEWSLETTER

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### CELEBRATING YOU, OUR HEROES OF HOPE

You continue to amaze us. As we celebrate you and the first full year of publishing our **Heroes of Hope** newsletter, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for the incredible difference you've made in the lives of our children and families.

When we look back at the past year, we're nothing short of astonished at how much you've given. From sponsoring holiday dinners, craft nights, birthday parties, and skill-building sessions to contributing basic necessities and clothing –not to mention your loyal and generous support of our clinical programs. It's because of YOU that our children's lives blossom with promise.

We couldn't be more grateful for the stories you've shared and the hope you've given children and families. It is a privilege to lift up our **Heroes of Hope** and share the impact you are making in thousands of young lives.

Thank you!

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Celebrating You, Our Heroes of Hope
- Birthday Bash with the Detroit Lions
- More Room for Reading
- Our Kids Enjoy Holiday Fun, Thanks to You!
- Holiday Shop Warms Hearts and Homes
- Meet Our New Believers



The holidays weren't going to outshine our December birthdays, no way! The Detroit Lions made sure of it.

## BIRTHDAY BASH WITH THE DETROIT LIONS

Our children with December birthdays got a special treat from some very special people — the Detroit Lions! The Lions hosted our December Birthday Party and the festivities did not disappoint.



More than 178 children and family members attended and were greeted by players Andy Jones, Don Carey III and Nick Bellore, who happily signed autographs. Lions' volunteers made sure the party was in full swing with face painters, a balloon maker, DJ, a caricature artist and two Xbox gaming systems.



You too can help make children's birthdays memorable by sponsoring a birthday party. To learn more, please contact Cindy Read at 313-262-1167.

## MORE ROOM FOR READING

Books enrich us, grow our imagination and help us expand our horizons. Aside from therapeutic treatment, we believe there's no better gift to give our children and families than more reading and learning resources.



That's why in February, we're opening the Center for Family Literacy (CFFL), funded by Tau Beta Association and the Jamie and Denise Jacob Family Foundation.

CFFL will focus on literacy from birth to older youth and adults. Given that nearly 90% of our 7,500 clients are living at or below poverty and struggle with transportation, the CFFL has the opportunity to unite an enhanced enrichment program in one location.

The addition of the CFFL is part of the exciting renovations we're making to our Boutique and Center for Discovery, offering families an array of resources. Due to these renovations the lower level of Building 90 will be closed temporarily. During this time we are unable to accept Boutique donations. Stay tuned for more information on when normal operations will resume.

Questions? We'd love to hear from you! Contact Holly Gorecki, at 313-262-1220 or [hgorecki@thechildrenscenter.com](mailto:hgorecki@thechildrenscenter.com).



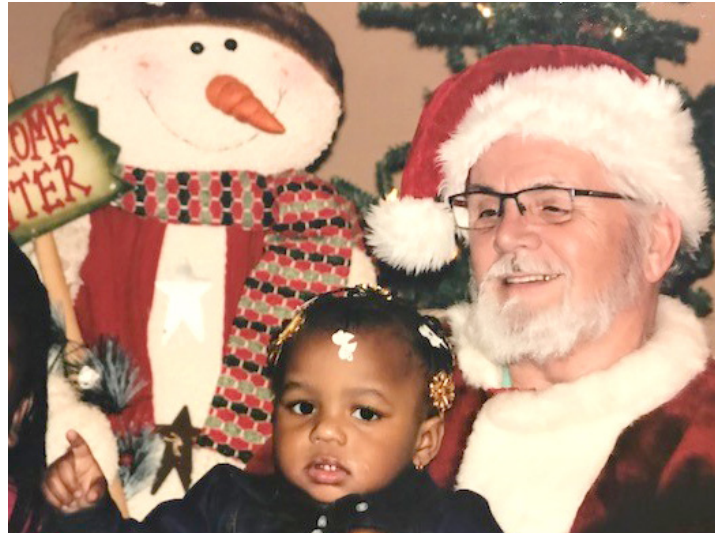
# OUR CHILDREN ENJOY HOLIDAY FUN, THANKS TO YOU!

We love seeing the joy your bring our children and families during the holiday season. Thanks to you – our amazing donors – our children enjoyed everything from caroling to cookie decorating and so much more.

Here are a few holiday highlights:

## Michigan Paving & Materials Co.'s Holiday Dinner

Dedicated supporter Lisa Evans spearheaded Michigan Paving & Materials Co.'s holiday dinner for our children. The company arranged for a coach to take 50 children and parents to Novi to meet with Santa, decorate cookies and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner. Each child received a teddy bear and gifts to take home. A great time was had by all!



## ABA Caroling

Our children receiving Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) had a blast singing and dancing for their parents. Some of the kids in the social skills group even caroled to the different offices on our campus. They especially enjoyed shaking the shakers they made. Our goal was to teach them how to walk in a line and stay together as a group, a skill they will need when they go to Kindergarten. They also learned how to work together to accomplish a goal and be in a larger group while participating in a single activity. At TCC, fun always has a skill-building purpose!

## Ford Motor Company's Festive Holiday Party

Amazing Jennifer Crippes, from Material Planning and Logistics at Ford Motor Company, once again took charge and planned a holiday party for families in the Early Childhood Behavioral Health (ECBH) program. Our friends at Ford sponsored 35 children for a fun-filled party of pizza, cookies and lots of presents. There were many woops of joy!



# HOLIDAY SHOP WARMS HEARTS AND HOMES

It might have been a cold holiday season in Detroit, but we were warming hearts in our Holiday Shop. Thanks to your support, more than 1,650 kids and 600 families benefited from Holiday Shop. That's 200 more children and 75 more families than last year!

Every child received a hat, a pair of gloves, three pairs of socks, three pairs of underwear, a toy or age appropriate item of their parent or guardian's choosing and a stocking-stuffer. In addition, each family received a blanket and a \$25 Kroger Gift card to help provide a holiday meal.

## Special thanks to our volunteers and sponsors!

Volunteers like you came out in full force — more than 316 people contributed 1,370 volunteer hours. That's worth \$32,000 in time based on the IRS' evaluation of volunteer hours!

Volunteers were paired with parents, helping them pick out goods for each of the children in the home (not just those receiving treatment).



The Great Lakes Water Authority brought in 31 volunteers to participate. They held donation drives at nine of their facilities, collecting four truck loads full of donations. Employees got creative too! Their Finance Team created care kits for young children with a winter hat, scarf (hand made by a team member!), a toy and stickers. A chemist crocheted homemade gifts for babies and young children. Another team member donated winter hats for teenagers because she wanted to make sure the teens weren't forgotten. Together, you made the holidays special for vulnerable children and families!

We also want to give a big thank you to all our Holiday Shop sponsors, and partners. We couldn't have done it without you! A special shout out to our Gold Sponsors:

- 3M
- Ally Financial
- The Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America P.E.A.C.E. Committee
- Populus Group
- MTU

# MEET OUR NEW BELIEVERS

They're generous, they're committed and they believe our children deserve to heal, grow and become the amazing people they were born to be. The 50 newest Believers in our monthly giving program also have another thing in common – they are all team members of The Children's Center.

These employees not only give their time and professional experience, but now they are making a monthly financial contribution to help our children and families.

We want to thank these staff members who give so much to our Center. These are the gifts that will help ensure we can serve children well into the future.

We need your help too! Become a Believer by signing up to make an automatic monthly donation of any dollar value. Learn more by visiting our [website](#).



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