

HEROES OF HOPE

YOUR IMPACT ON THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

MAY 2019



**“I felt like I was failing as a mom,
but we came here and were
accepted with wide-open arms.”**

Meet Beatrice and Laurene

After 10 failed pregnancies, Beatrice gave birth to Laurene, her miracle baby. Beatrice quickly learned that having a child did not come without challenges. Laurene could not hear until she was two and a half. Her speech and behavior were impacted as a result. Beatrice felt helpless and alone, until she found The Children's Center:

“Several changes happened in Laurene’s life very quickly. I delivered a son who did not survive infancy. Her father left home for the Navy. We moved to Michigan. These changes took a huge toll on her. She reacted hysterically to change, no matter how small. If she was in daycare and a teacher left her side, Laurene would have a screaming tantrum. I was at my wits end.



That’s when we heard about The Children’s Center. We were put into the Home Based program where our therapist, Marcia, comes to our house to work with us there. She plays games with her, teaches her numbers, colors, and how to share. These activities help Laurene to develop her speech as well as behaviors. Marcia also gives me resources to help me be the best mom I can be.

Laurene has had a 180-degree change. She’s hearing, talking, and joins every activity with full-force. I was so afraid of my child being labeled as “special-needs;” I didn’t want her to be trapped in that box and seen as a problem. **But The Children’s Center has given us the tools to overcome our challenges. I felt like I was failing as a mom, but we came here and were accepted with wide-open arms. It’s the best thing I could have done for my family.”**

Our Parents Are Building New Skills, Thanks to YOU!



Our DIY class, made possible because of YOU, focuses on a new activity every month: extreme coupon cutting, herb gardening, and make-your-own laundry detergent to name a few. What’s more, the first ten parents get to take home all the supplies they need to do the project on their own!



We’re Cooking up a Healthy Storm!

Every Tuesday, thanks to YOU, families learn how to cook a healthy dish, and then pack up all of the ingredients to try it out at home. From egg fried rice to black bean quesadillas, you are teaching children that eating healthy can be as delicious as it is nutritious.



Caring for Children Early through Behavioral Health Services

Sometimes life circumstances and family dynamics can threaten a child-parent attachment. These issues can also interfere with a child's social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive development, like with Laurene and Beatrice's story.

That's when our Early Childhood Behavioral Health program can step in. It's just one of the many programs you generously fund that provide critical home-based and community-based services for families. When our clinicians go into a family's home to provide therapeutic care, it can increase stability within the household and improve their existing strengths. These programs help:

- Clinical engagement with children experiencing behavioral, emotional, and social issues.
- Reduce abuse, neglect, developmental delays, and behavioral and emotional disorders.
- Foster a positive attachment between caregivers and infant.
- Reduce the parent's mental health issues.
- Promote optimal growth and development of the child within the family.
- Help with early detection of mental health and developmental disorders.

It is because of you that these programs exist and thrive. Thank you for continuing to support children and families in need. There is so much more work to do!

Celebrating One Year of the Tau Beta Center for Family Literacy

Wow, it's been a year! The Tau Beta Center for Family Literacy celebrates its one-year anniversary this month. And so much of the success of the Center is possible because of you.

Many children utilize the library to read required books for school that they cannot afford to purchase. You are making it possible for children to fully participate in school with no worries of the financial burden books may bear on a family.

In the last year 498 library cards have been issued, over 700 books have been checked out, and we now have over 10,000 books and manipulative learning toys available thanks to your amazing support. Thank you!





New Parent Wishlist

Being a new parent is tough work. Families like Beatrice's could use a helping hand with a few basic, yet essential needs. Won't you consider donating one of these items on our wishlist:

- Bedding
- Towels and washcloths
- Pack-n-Plays
- Car seats
- Booster seats
- Strollers

Become a Believer



Parents like Beatrice are scared to reach out for help for their children. But when Beatrice brought Laurene to The Children's Center, they were welcomed with open arms. She began to trust because she saw that we believed in her potential. Join our Believers monthly giving community and become a champion for families like Beatrice's. **We need you. Beatrice needs you. Sign up to give a monthly donation and bring hope back to life for families.**

TheChildrensCenter.com/believers

