

# HEROES OF HOPE

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

OCTOBER 2019



**“It’s not that I can’t do these things on my own, but with The Children’s Center I can figure them out confidently.”**

# Martisha's Story

Martisha always dreamed of attending college, but in the summer of 2015 her dream seemed impossible when she once again became part of the State of Michigan Foster Care system.

"I lost my dad at an early age and my mom and I were close for a while after that. But alcohol and anger took over my mom's life and forced my sister and me to grow up fast. We used to take shifts sleeping at night. One of us would stand guard in case my mom tried to enter our room in a rage. It was difficult but I realized my mom didn't want to get better, and I had to move on from her in order to get on with my own life.

My dream of going to college started to seem more possible once I joined the Young Adult Self Sufficiency (YASS) program at The Children's Center. YASS helped me realize that I am not the only youth going through this. We were all trying to graduate high school and get into college, and we supported each other through that.



I loved the life skills classes through YASS. Bank employees and mortgage lenders would come in to talk about how to save money and apply for a mortgage. My YASS worker helped me navigate the college application, scholarship and financial aid processes. It's not that I can't do these things on my own, but with The Children's Center, I can figure them out confidently.

Now, thanks to my YASS support system, I am attending Michigan State University this fall. I even earned a scholarship from The Children's Center to help fund my education and re-start my life on the right track. I am so excited."

## Back-to-School Success!

This August, you helped more than a thousand children prepare for school at our Back-to-School Bazaar.

The Back-to-School Bazaar, presented by Delta Dental of Michigan, was also made possible thanks to supporting sponsor, Tau Beta Association.

Over 800 families attended, welcomed by 25 community resources. We distributed 1,532 backpacks, stuffed with school supplies, and hygiene kits powered by T-Mobile. What's more, Mosaic Midtown Church provided free haircuts and manicures for our children, with support from DTE volunteers, making sure our children were looking and feeling their best. Thank you for supporting our children and this wonderful event!





## YASS Helps Foster Care Young Adults Succeed

Each year, thousands of young people age out of foster care without a home. Thanks to your support, The Children's Center provides them with the services they need when they don't have anywhere else to turn.

YASS gives young people ages 16-21 support to thrive after foster care. The program provides young adults with independent living assistance, individual treatment to identify strengths and set goals, mentors who teach living skills, transportation to appointments, education monitoring, tutorial services, an active and positive support network and a monthly stipend. This is all possible because of you!

Young adults also take an 18-week course on applying for jobs, interviewing, relationships, finances, safety and community activism. YASS is committed to setting young adults up for success in high school, college and beyond. Many of you make this possible by teaching sessions on your field of expertise. Thank you for investing in young adults who need you most!

You have made all of this possible:

- 85% of YASS youth graduate high school.
- 84% live independently or with family two years after program completion.
- 83% are in school, have graduated, or are employed two years after completion.
- 77% of YASS youth had no involvement with law enforcement two years after completion.

Thank YOU for supporting these amazing young people!

## Eating our way through Detroit at Tour de Fork

This September nearly 400 guests flocked to Eastern Market to tour Detroit's foodie scene at the 6th Annual Tour de Fork Presented by Ford Motor Company. Chefs from all over the area brought their best dishes to compete for the coveted Forkie award. And new this year, Pastry chefs also competed against each other to win the Spoonie award! The winner of the 2019 Forkie was Go Cheez food truck for their delicious Tacos Al Pastor; and the winner of the first inaugural Spoonie award was Spun Sugar for their fantastic organic cotton candy! Sweetest of all, more than \$117,000 was raised to support our children and families.

Thank you generous sponsors, restaurants and chefs, wineries, breweries and distilleries. And of course, a big thanks to all the great people who purchased tickets. You are changing lives!!





## October Wishlist

Winter is around the corner and our foster care and YASS young adults are in need of items to prepare for the season:

- Winter coats
- Hats
- Gloves
- Blankets
- Hygiene kits for boys and girls

Check out our Amazon wish list to order and send items directly to our campus:

<http://a.co/dOufnWz>

## Believe in Young People with Us



When it felt like she had to make it on her own, The Children's Center believed in Martisha. Our monthly giving program, Believers, helps young people like Martisha graduate high school and make their college dreams a reality. Martisha and other young people like her continue to need support as they become successful adults. **By becoming a Believer you are showing young people they are worth believing in and that their dreams are important. Sign up for a monthly donation today.**

[TheChildrensCenter.com/believers](http://TheChildrensCenter.com/believers)

