

HEROES OF HOPE

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

FEBRUARY 2020



**"I wake up every day with a smile
for Jayden, even if a lot of days
that is so hard to do"**

Jasmine's Story

"On February 13, 2019, my family awoke to a fire blazing through our home, which started from an electrical wire in our basement. My two sons, Orlando (age 9) and Jayden (age 7) were badly injured. Over 80 percent of both Orlando's and Jayden's bodies were covered in burns. All three of us suffered smoke inhalation. But, Orlando didn't respond to the medical care and was removed from life support after two days. Orlando's 10th birthday was just two days after that.

My family was broken. Our home and nearly everything in it was destroyed. We had nothing. The Children's Center came together and raised \$11,300 for us to find and furnish a new home and buy the clothes and housewares we needed.



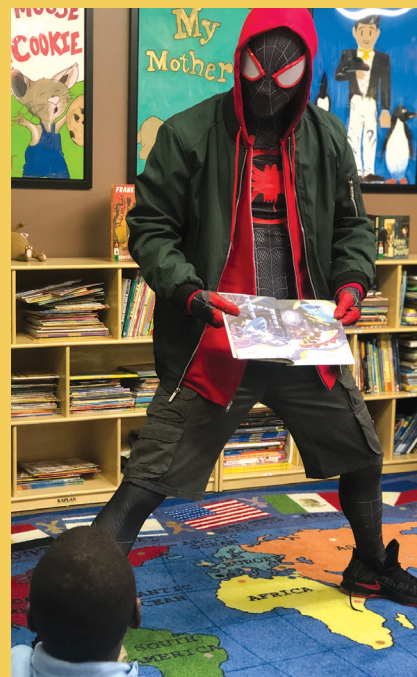
Now, a year has passed and it has been the hardest year of my life. To not know what comes next and feel as if there was more that I could have done to save my child are the worst feelings to have.

The Children's Center is helping us to slowly get through. We look forward to our appointments with our therapist, Lauren. I love talking to Lauren and I know Jayden does too. I am still so deep in my grief for Orlando, but I know I have to move forward. I wake up every day with a smile, and work as hard as I can for Jayden, even if a lot of days that is so hard to do."

Jasmine and Jayden have been incredibly resilient in recovering from such a traumatic event. Lauren, their therapist, shared that she sees them recovering more and more every day.

Recently, Jasmine contacted our Center with some news. She is donating the leftover funds raised for her family, which amount to \$3,000, to purchase fire alarms for The Children's Center families to keep them safe from house fires. Jasmine and Jayden, you are our inspiration.

A Super Spidey Visit



Our children are real-life super heroes in our book. That's why we invited a super special guest to our latest Books and Cookies event. Spider-Man back-flipped his way into our Center, captivated our little ones with a story, and ate cookies and bananas with our families.

Each child received a book and took photos with the superhero himself. It's because of literacy events like this that our children are able to cultivate a love of reading. Thank you to volunteers like you who make Books and Cookies possible!

And many thanks to Tau Beta Association for funding the Books and Cookies enrichment program!!



Thanks for Bringing Holiday Joy to All!

Last holiday season, the smiles on our clients' faces were as big as they could be at our Holiday Shop. And we have you to thank. You gave hope to 1,484 children.

One of those special people was first-time shopper, Michele, who shared: "The Children's Center has been amazing for my granddaughter. The Holiday Shop has gone above and beyond what I ever expected. They are helping our family so much this year."

Special thanks to our Gold Sponsors:

- Populus Group
- Mitsubishi Electric US
- Goldfish Swim School
- MTU America Inc.
- Delta Dental of Michigan
- 3M
- Eagles For Children
- Plum Hollow Country Club

And thank you to our partner, T-Mobile!



Launching Careers in Care

How do you get a job without experience? It's something many young students face coming out of college. That's why The Children's Center has a robust internship program for students to learn the ins and outs of mental health services. Thanks to you, students studying social work at The University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University, and more institutions gain access to learning opportunities at The Children's Center. Master's and bachelor's level students interning at The Children's Center are supervised by licensed social workers, counselors, and psychologists, and can even provide services that our licensed clinicians cannot.

Take Lauren, for example, the young woman who treated Jasmine and Jayden following the passing of Orlando (see Jasmine's story). Because Lauren is a student intern, she was able to provide counseling services to Jasmine and Jayden. Lauren even met Jasmine at the hospital right after her house fire to offer immediate support to the family. Our licensed clinicians would otherwise have to refer Jasmine to an agency servicing adult mental health needs due to billing restrictions.

We are proud to offer both students and families the benefits of our internship program. Nearly every department in our agency offers internships with real hands-on experience in fields from philanthropy to psychology. Moreover, many of our former interns have gone on to become full-time employees of The Children's Center after graduation, including Lauren who began full-time employment in 2020!

Winter Wish List

Our pantry is a popular place for families to turn for necessities in winter. We're running low on some of our most popular items. Will you help us fill it back up?

- Full-sized hygiene items:
 - Deodorant
 - Vaseline
 - Soap
 - Kotex pads
 - Toilet paper (4-packs)
- Cleaning sprays and wipes
- Gloves
- Scarves
- Hats
- Children's socks

Join the Believers Program

When tragedy strikes a family like Jasmine and Jayden's, they need to know someone believes in them. Our monthly giving program, Believers, shows families in their most desperate hours that someone cares about them and believes they can overcome the toughest of hurdles.

Sign up to be a Believer today and make a difference for a family.

TheChildrensCenter.com/believers

