

The only thing we love more than a fresh new fiscal year, is reflecting on all that our children and families accomplished in the past year.

Because of you and our dedicated staff, children and families are growing strong, and becoming the amazing people they were born to be. Youth in foster care are graduating high school and going on to university and vocational school. Once non-verbal children diagnosed with Autism are speaking and entering mainstream kindergarten. Children and youth who were self-harming or threatening suicide, are now equipped to recognize and deal with negative feelings in a positive manner.

A surprise visitor arrived at The Children's Center a few months ago. In walked Javien, who had received services at age 15 from an a staff member who had recently graduated from Wayne State University. At the time, Javien's mother was working through severe depression which was negatively impacting Javien and his two sisters.

Javien is now forty years old. He brought his wife and two children to The Children's Center so that they could meet his clinician from long ago. They reminisced about all the fun things they would do together through treatment – and he remembered every detail! It was remarkable to see how well Javien had done for himself and his family. And it was touching to hear him share how The Children's Center had changed his life.

Javien's success, and the successes of thousands more children and families just like him reflect your love, compassion and generosity. Thank you for investing in the potential of Detroit children and families – so that they may grow strong. Your investment is not only strengthening children and families. It's strengthening Detroit. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

For the children and families,

Debora Matthews

PRESIDENT & CEO

Chui Karega, Esq.

BOARD CHAIR

BECAUSE OF YOU. THE BURCH FAMILY IS GETTING THE HELP THEY NEED

Hello, my name is Vanessa Burch.

The Children's Center has made a big difference for my family and me. I don't know what I would do without them. They are a source of strength.

My niece struggled with raising her children. Her oldest daughter passed away three years ago at age 12. That same year, one of her 6-month old twins died of malnutrition.

"The Children's
Center has made
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"The Children's Drinking kept her from being the mother her children needed. All of her children were taken from her by Child Protective Services. I knew the children wouldn't stay together in the system. So, I said I would take them.

a big difference
I took six children (now ages 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, and 12), and my daughter took
the 11-year old girl. She was old enough to know what was going on – and
she was angry to be stripped from her mother, and her father just stopped
coming around. She was a daddy's girl.

The younger children call me mommy, and the older call me Grandma.

What I Would do

One of the older girls tries to help me care for the young ones. She says,

"I'm going to be the best big sister – because I had the best big sister until she passed." But I tell her, "It's okay to help me, but your job is to be a kid."

The oldest boy is now ten. It's taking him a while to catch on, but I believe he'll get there eventually. He's a sweetheart and loves to give hugs. The first time I went to change his bedsheet, I found hundreds of food wrappers. He was hoarding food and hiding the wrappers. I tell him, "You don't have to do that no more. I won't let you go hungry."

The 5-year old girl gets help with her speech at The Children's Center. It's really helping. The baby twin that lived is four now.

The youngest baby born weighed less than two pounds when he was born. Now he's walking and talking. He was tube fed until four months ago. Now he takes a bottle and eats a bit. He can also sing his ABCs from watching the baby channel on TV.

One of the older girls made me a Mother's Day card the first year. Here's what she wrote:

I am going to let you know some of the reasons that I love you.

I love you is because you love us all.

I love you is the way you care about me.

I love you is the way you support me.

I love you is because you take care of us.

I love you is because you give me a place to live.

I love you is because of the way you buy us food.

I love you is because you buy me clothes.

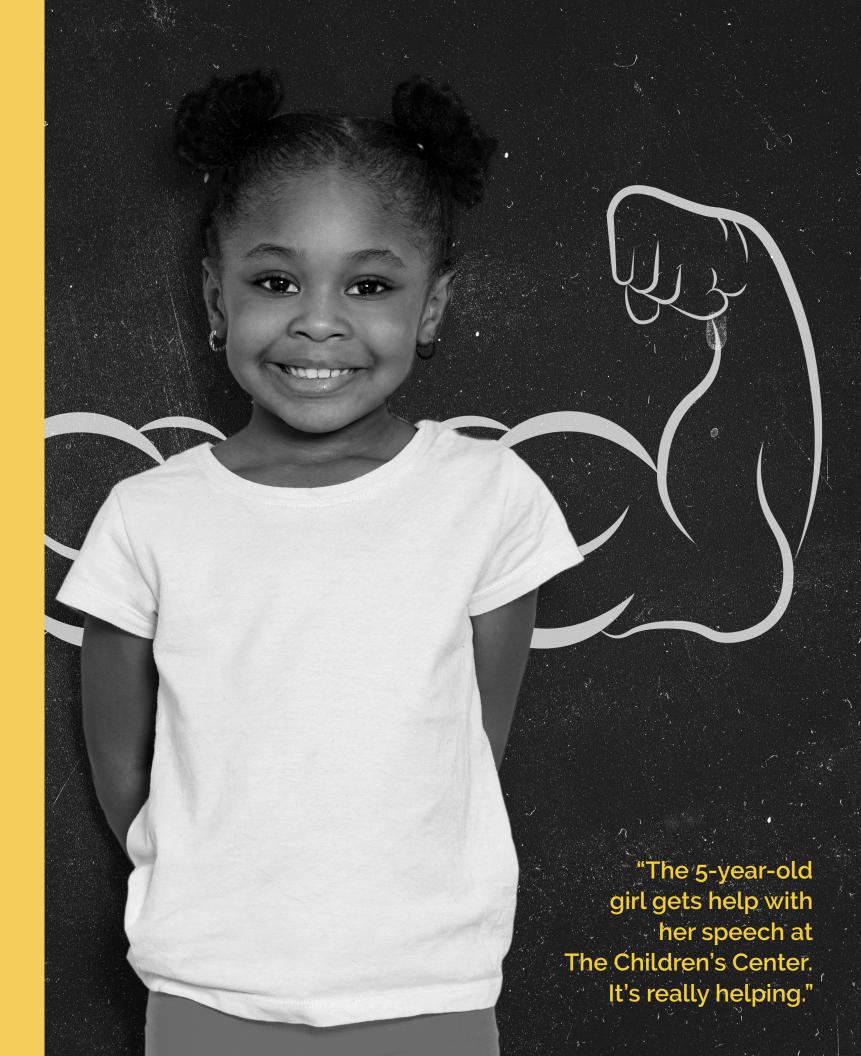
I love you is because you bought us beds.

I love you is the way you take us places.

I love you is the way you put me in school to learn.

I went through a whole box of tissue reading that. They have been through a lot. The Children's Center helped us when we needed it the most. Even me. I've learned I don't have to do it alone.

I just turned 61. I just pray the Lord will let me live long enough to see these children grown. I have to keep a strong faith in the Lord. And to have the wisdom to accept all the help The Children's Center has to offer. Thank you for helping my children.





Hello, my name is Nijeria Peterson.

When I was 12 years old, I was molested by my mother's boyfriend. He lived in our home, and when my mother would go to work or be in some other place in the house, he would touch me inappropriately. Or late at night, he would creep into my room, and bad things would happen.

I knew what he was doing was wrong because I felt uncomfortable. I felt confused and powerless. I felt my voice was stripped from me. It became extremely hard for me to talk about what was happening to me or to think about it myself.

I eventually told my pastor, and while others saw it as a move of bravery, I was afraid. I knew my mother would not believe me. When I did tell her, she tried to convince me that he blacked out, and it wasn't what I thought.

The molestation came to an end when the police arrived and took him to jail. But just a few days later he came back to live with us. While I was hiding in my own shadow, I knew there was nothing I could do because it was something my mother allowed. I grew used to him being there.

"That was the first time I felt the foster care system was working for me and not against me."

Years later, I was 17 years old, and while my abuse had stopped, I learned that he started molesting my younger sister.

I connected with one of my mentors, who anonymously called Child Protective Services, about what was happening to my sister.

Immediately I knew our lives would change drastically. I felt scared of the unknown but secure in the fact that my siblings and I would be safe. I knew almost anything would be better than us I living in that house, and not knowing what he might do to us next.

My younger sisters and I were soon placed in a girls' home together, and my brother was placed with a foster family. We had a lot to figure out, but at least I knew we were finally safe.

After several weeks, my friend's family, the Williams, asked if I wanted to live with them. I was afraid to leave my sisters. I worried that they would feel betrayed by leaving them at the girl's home. My friend's family assured me they would make sure my sisters would be placed in a good home.

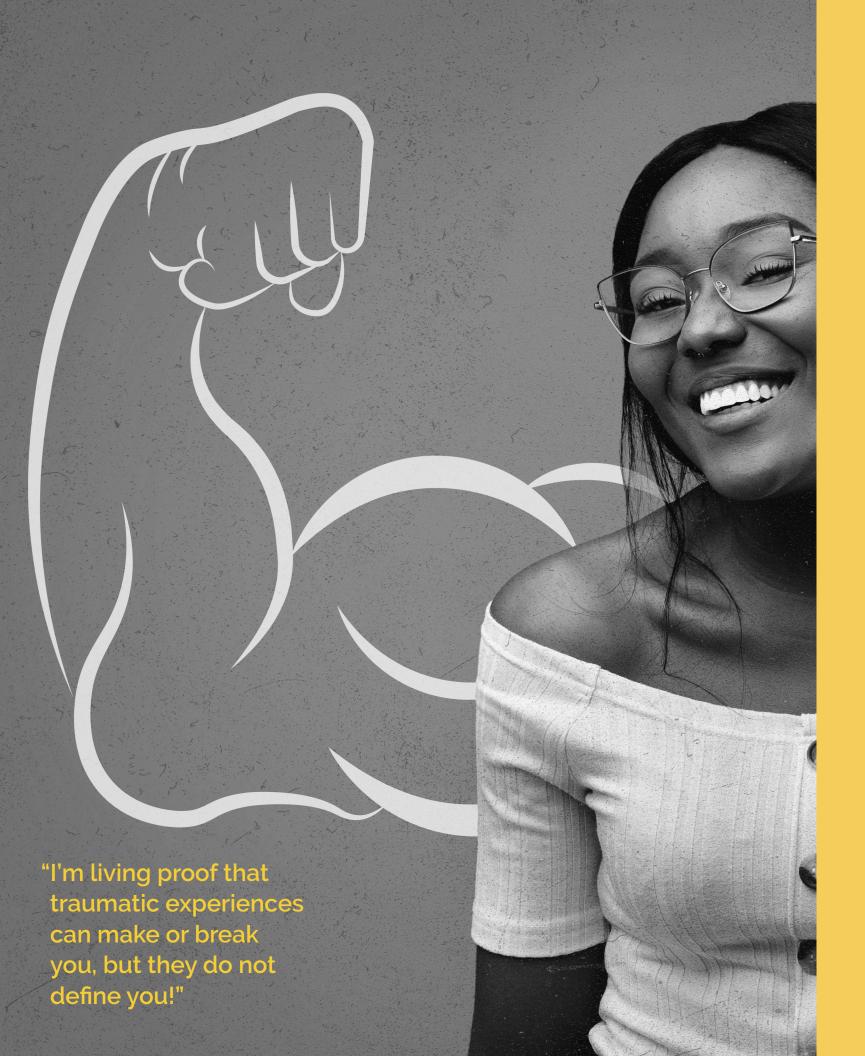
Eventually, the Williams Family officially became my foster family. But in truth, they are the family that I had always hoped and dreamed of.

At last, I had found a place that really cared for me. They welcomed me with open arms and took care of my needs financially and helped me with college. That was the first time I felt that the foster care system was working for me and not against me. The Children's Center did not fail me.

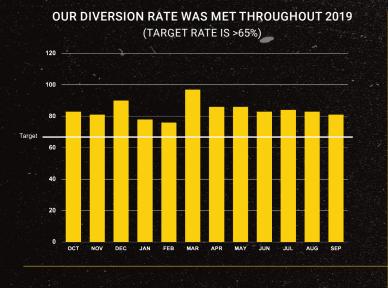
I began going to bi-weekly life-skill sessions at The Children's Center. They taught me about financial literacy, college life, and personal daily living skills – like healthy cooking, organizing myself, and creating a schedule. They helped make me strong and prepared me for life.

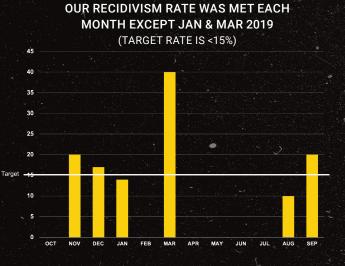
I'm now a junior at Western Michigan University. I study Business Law. And I plan to go to law school upon graduation and become a powerful attorney. I've remained on the dean's list and earned the opportunity to study abroad for the Fall 2019 semester through foster care scholarships. To those struggling and feeling alone in foster care, I say there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

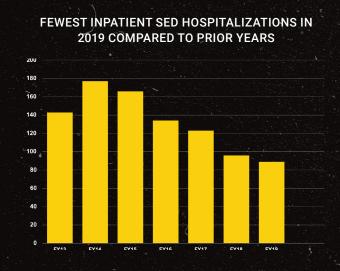
I'm living proof that traumatic experiences can make or break you, but they do not define you! I have you to thank for that.

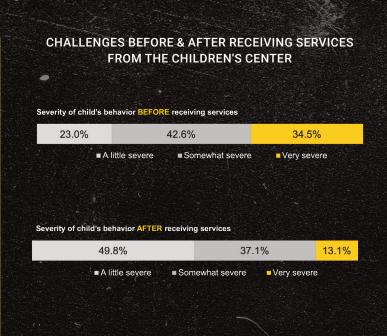


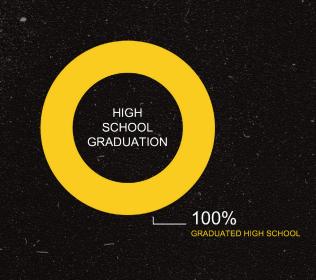
Your influence is as broad as it is personal. We are proud of the difference we have made together with you for the thousands of children and families we serve every year.





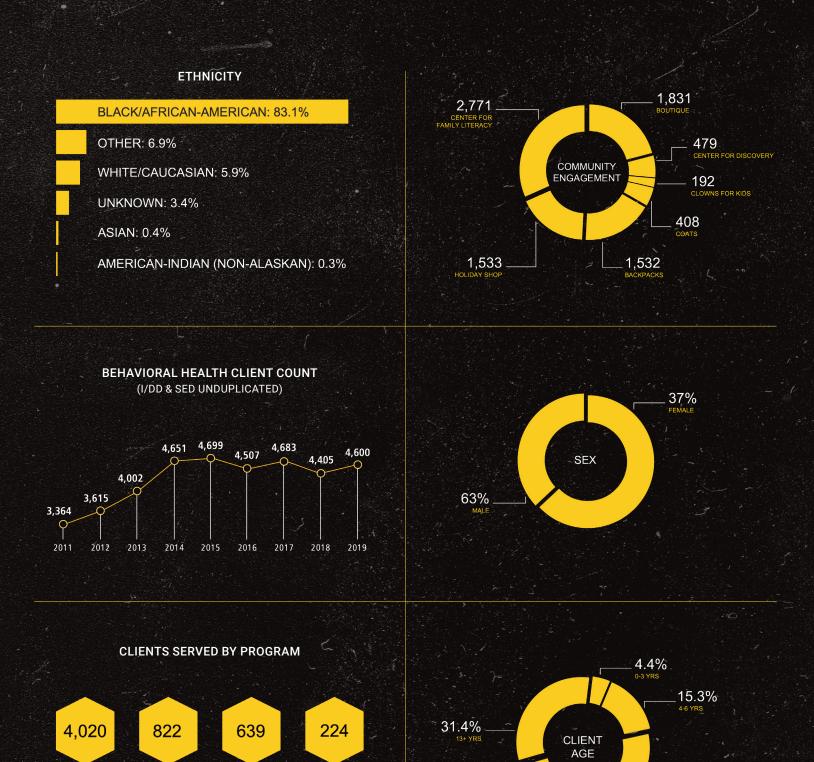






YASS CLIENTS 100% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Below are some of the ways you helped heal and empower the children and families we served in 2019.



CHILD WELFARE

48.9%

HEALTH

HEALTH

"I receive services and assistance in a timely manner."

"The Boutique has helped my family meet their basic needs."

"Since coming to TCC, there have been positive improvements."

> "I feel that I can talk with my caseworker and clinical staff about anything."

What our families are saying

"The staff listens to me, I feel my voice is heard."

"TCC is
welcoming
to people
of all
cultures
and
backgrounds."

"The Psychiatrist is helpful and available."

"The enrichment activities (Birthday Parties, Game Night, Art Adventures, Homework Help, etc.) are beneficial for my family."

"The TCC staff works well together to meet my family's needs."

Statement of Activities

Year ended September 30, 2019

Revenue

Total Revenue	\$26,189,993
Philanthropy	3,066,636
Child Welfare	4,055,587
Behavioral Health	\$19,067,770

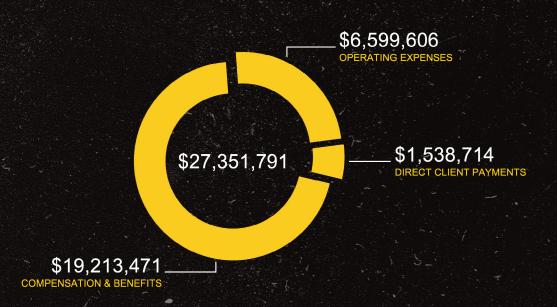
Expenses

Total Change In Net Assets	\$ (760,549)
Investment & Rental Income	401,249
Non-Operating Income (Expenses)	
Change In Net Assets From Operations	\$ (1,161,798)
Total Expenses	\$27,35 1 ,79 1
Direct Client Payments	
Direct Client Payments	1,538,714
Operating Expenses	6,599,606
Compensation & Benefits	\$19,213,471

Operating Revenue



Operating Expenses



The Village of Giving

Helping children and families dream again takes an entire village. Our Village of Giving members make a five-year pledge of \$1,000 a year or more to help heal the city's most vulnerable children. It doesn't happen overnight, which is why our Village is so critical to our mission.

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Global Strategic Supply Solutions
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Katie Lee

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Laura Hindle

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Serene K. Zeni

Tammy L. Zonker

Jennifer Zinn & Gus Andreasen

James Couzens Legacy Society

Just as our founder James Couzens left a legacy of making a difference for generations of Detroit children and families in need, the individuals recognized below have included The Children's Center in their legacy plans through a bequest or life insurance policy. Some things do last forever.

Karen & Raymond Caloia Denise Fleckenstein & Dave Richards Tina & Gordon Ford

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Believers

Believers is a community of life-changers who commit to a recurring monthly gift of any amount to help children overcome unimaginable challenges and grow into strong, healthy, productive adults.

OUNDING MEMBERS

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