


# HEROES OF HOPE

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

AUGUST 2021



**"I have a better relationship  
with my children because of  
The Children's Center."**



# Kiyuanna's Journey from Homelessness to Happiness

"We were homeless and staying at the COTS shelter, when I decided I needed to do something. My kids had been through a housefire, my son was being bullied, one daughter had experienced the death of her father, and another daughter was abused by a family member. I knew I had to get help and to make sure my children were OK."

This wasn't the first time Kiyuanna struggled with trauma. She experienced abuse and neglect as a child herself and was eventually diagnosed with schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorder. "A lot of things my children were going through were things I experienced too. Most other people wouldn't understand how to deal with these kinds of things."



Kiyuanna didn't want to be around other people because she felt like her kids' mental disabilities were an issue. The shelter told her about The Children's Center, which ended up being a lifesaver. She found critical support and a supportive community. "I was able to meet more parents that have kids like mine. I started not to feel so alone and I came out of my shell. This enabled my kids to start coming out of their shells too."

"Because of The Children's Center, my kids have grown so much," she says. "My 10-year-old read her first book last week. She's so excited about reading and that was something I could not get her excited about by myself. I'm thrilled to see my children grow in a way that I couldn't provide on my own."

## Teaching Teenage Girls About Their Changing Bodies



In June, we held a training session on periods for our teenage girls to provide information and answer questions. Thanks to your support, the girls left with a purse stuffed with goodies and helpful information. Now these young ladies can feel ready to take on their teenage years!



## Arts, Beats & Eats is Back! You In?

The Soaring Eagle Arts Beats & Eats festival is back! We've been participating for over 10 years as a gate charity partner, and we couldn't be more excited. Join us in Royal Oak for this annual festival Sept. 3rd - 6th to enjoy over 200 musical acts, great art, and fabulous food. See you there!



## Recovering from the Flood, Together!

On the evening of June 25, 2021, the equivalent of more than two months of rain fell in one day, overwhelming our roads, water systems, homes and businesses. Like many others in Detroit, The Children's Center experienced significant damage. The lower level of The Paul D. Marsh Building 90 Selden flooded. We lost much of the packaged supplies for our 2021 Summer Camp, which was scheduled to start July 6. When we realized the extent of the damage, we had to postpone the camp. You can imagine the campers' disappointment.

Our lower level sustained massive water damage to the floors, walls, elevator, and more. This required the temporary closure of the entire floor, which houses our Activity Room, Boutique, Center for Discovery, and Family Literacy Center. This was devastating news for our Center, but our recovery and rebuilding began right away. And YOU were there to help us from the beginning. We immediately secured a restoration contractor who pumped out water, tore out walls, removed debris and sanitized salvageable items. Early estimates indicate that our remediation will cost a minimum of \$225,000!

As always, YOU helped us raise over \$26,000 in less than two weeks for this project and restored faith for our families and children. Thanks to you, we were able to replace the summer camp supplies! Summer camp resumed only a week later than planned. For many of our clients, this is the only summer camp activity they will have. Thank you for making it possible, we couldn't be more grateful.

## Help Students Soar with Our Back to School Bazaar!

Join The Children's Center for our 5th annual Back to School Bazaar! We need your help to ensure our children start the school year ready to learn.

The Back to School Bazaar will equip them with the school supplies they need to thrive, both in the classroom and online.

Please consider making a monetary donation by **August 19.** Thanks to your support, this program is entirely free for The Children's Center families!

Questions? Please contact Adrienne Pumbo at [apumbo@thechildrenscenter.com](mailto:apumbo@thechildrenscenter.com).





## Thank You for Being Our Biggest Believers

We never know what surprises life is going to bring us. On the heels of the COVID-19 crisis, flash flooding caused major damage to our building and the supplies within it. We know we will get through this because of you, our amazing supporters. We can't thank you enough for sticking with us during this past year of major unknowns. We are deeply grateful for you.

## You Can Transform Lives



Kiyuanna's family experienced several severe traumas. Kiyuanna knew they needed help and turned to The Children's Center to get her children healthy again. You showed her that people believe in her family and their ability to heal and grow.

Help more parents get the support their children need. Join Believers, our monthly giving program, to bring better days to families.

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