

HEROES OF HOPE

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

DECEMBER 2021



**"The Children's Center
has taught me how to
understand my son"**

"He wasn't getting the services from the school that he needed so I had to go out and find it"

Amir started going to The Children's Center when he was just 4 years old. Shannon, his mother, had lots of experience with children; her own, working as a daycare attendant, and as an employee at Child Protective Services. Yet, she had never had a baby quite like Amir. Growing up just seemed a little more difficult for Amir. There were many challenges along the way.

Amir's day care teacher recommended Amir be evaluated for developmental delays. She noticed he wouldn't nap, wasn't vocal, and was not potty trained. He was referred to The Children's Center because it was better suited for someone so young. "I was working and going to school and once he got diagnosed, I put everything on the back burner. He wasn't getting the services from school that he needed so I had to go out and find it," said Shannon, describing the first few years after Amir's autism diagnosis.



The Children's Center was able to help coordinate services for Amir to receive in and outside of school to help him flourish. Shannon and Edwin, Amir's father, soon began to connect more with Amir. He was learning how to effectively express himself and his parents were learning how to understand him, simply put: how to let Amir be Amir! Their effort and hard work are apparent when meeting the Nelson Family today. They shared that "we are so grateful to the Children's Center. They were able to help [Amir] learn how to deal with life."

Amir's journey is inspiring and a message of hope to other families that may be struggling similarly. Through their journey, Shannon, Edwin, and Amir demonstrate the values The Children's Center hopes to bring to other families and children; the ability to shape their own futures.

Thanks to You We had 241 Happy Trunk-or-Treaters!



Our annual Trunk or Treat event on Oct. 22 was a spooky sensation. We had 91 cars drive through and we were able to give out candy and treats to 241 kids! Thank you to our 75 volunteers who contributed over 300 hours to help kids have a safe and festive Halloween experience.



This Month's Guest Reader, Jared Goff!

On Oct. 26th, The Children's Center welcomed Jared Goff, Quarterback for the Detroit Lions, as our guest reader for virtual Readers & Creators! He read two books over Zoom to families, The Doorbell Rang and Goodnight Football.

He will be joining us again this month with a new book to share! Thank you Jared!



Adoption Awareness Month

National Adoption Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise the issue about the urgent needs of children and youth in foster care. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), there are approximately 14,000 children in foster care. Of those, 3,000 are available for adoption at any given time.

Michigan has been recognized as a leader in adoption services due to its strong partnerships between public and private agencies responsible for adoption, planning, and permanent placement of foster youth.

Permanency is the goal for adoptions to better benefit the child. A permanent home gives children the opportunity to experience a caring and safe environment to become their best selves.

The Children's Center is proud to facilitate adoptions and thanks to your support, we have an incredible adoptions team of 6 amazing child welfare professionals. In 2018, the adoptions team helped 46 youth find their forever home. In 2019 and 2020, it was 15 adoptions and 26 adoptions respectively. Passion, work ethic, and dedication are just some of the overarching characteristics of our adoption specialists.

We are so grateful to have Amanda Cain, Karelyn Dipple, Princess Gilbert, Cheryl Jackson, Nicole Pilarski, and Carol Wade as our dedicated and talented adoptions team members!

To read more about each member of the adoptions team, please check out our e-newsletter online! And thank you, amazing donors, for supporting this team!



Birthday in a Bag!

At the Children's Center, we want to make sure that every child can celebrate their birthday!

Thanks to you, each month, children with birthdays coming up will receive a birthday card and a coupon for a Birthday in a Bag.

This can be picked up at The Children's Center, during the month of the client's birthday. Each bag will include cake mix, frosting, apple sauce (in place of eggs to make cake), birthday party decorations, and a game for the whole family to play!

Thank you for continuing to make birthdays so special!





Holiday Shop Returns!

Holiday Shop is back! This year we are back to a 'normal' shopping experience, spread over more days to allow for social distancing. Families will receive toys, books, stocking stuffers, hats & gloves, blankets, and a gift card to purchase a holiday meal. We hope to offer 500 families the opportunity to shop with us by appointment.



Make a Difference for a Family in Need

The Children's Center can help more children like Amir flourish in school, at home, and beyond. Today Amir and his family are thriving thanks to your care and support.

Join Believers today to help more parents get the support they need.

TheChildrensCenter.com/believers