

HEROES OF HOPE

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

AUGUST 2022

**"Bring on the Sunshine
it's Summer Camp Time!"**





Congratulations Graduates!

The Children's Center hosted the 1st Annual Graduation Celebration in June to celebrate new high school graduates and their support systems.

At the breakfast, graduates and their families were greeted by a special guest, Will Bradford, founder of Creating Articulate Reach, a creative shop for marketing and social content, as well as branding for athletes and social influencers. Bradford spoke about his childhood, how he grew up on the east side of Detroit, and that he came from a family with few high school graduates. He advised the young adults to "choose your relationships wisely," and surround yourself with those that will help you succeed. He shared, from his own experience, that it may feel like "people are going to count you out, but it's up to you to decide your own life."

Graduates received certificates from Carlynn

Nichols, Chief Clinical Officer, heard other words of wisdom from Cindy Read and Andi DeShields, and took photos with their families.

When asked about their post-graduation plans one student shared that he's "been motivating [himself] a lot to continue to wake up every day and strive to get better." Another student shared that they "feel very proud of [themselves], because it was a long 12 years of high school, elementary and middle school." One parent spoke about their recent graduate's experience these past two years finishing high school during the pandemic that though "it was a long hard road, it was worth it."

These young adults and their families are deeply grateful for the support The Children's Centers and our dedicated supporters have provided to help them reach this milestone!



Beat the Summer Heat at Camp!

Summer camp is back in person at The Children's Center! This year's summer camp will be running for 5 weeks and Camp is completely FREE for our families! Each day includes tons of fun-filled activities, field trips, swimming sessions and so much more. Children can choose from STEM projects to art lessons, healthy eating classes, fitness and a wide range of activities that interest them.



Annual Fatherhood Forum with Shaka Senghor

Recently The Children's Center hosted the 10th Annual Fatherhood Forum, an event aimed at helping dads and male caregivers become strong role models for their children, families, and community.

This year's event was conducted virtually and there were six guest speakers in the breakout sessions. The keynote speaker at this year's Forum was Shaka Senghor, author of *Writing my Wrongs* and *Letter to the Sons of Society*, who spoke about his book and the role he has played as a father to a black child. During his interview, Senghor shared about the time he spent in prison, away from his newborn son, who had been born just 6 months after his arrest.

"For 19 years my dad would bring my son to the prison to see me, and I'd write letters home and do phone calls and I thought I was doing the best I could given the circumstances," says Senghor. "But what I discovered when I got out, was that was not even close to being enough."

The 2022 Visionary Award winner, given by the Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative, is Calvin Mann of Encourage Me I'm Young, Inc. and Good Fathers Only. This award is given to someone who not only has a vision for change, but advocates for change as well. Through his work Calvin is dedicated to the support and encouragement of boys, men, husbands, and fathers.



Celebrating our Incredible Volunteers

After a long three year hiatus due to Covid-19, we celebrated our volunteers in person at the 13th annual Lisa V. Ford Heart & Soul Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in June! Our incredible volunteers (like you!) help us provide programs and opportunities for our families to heal and grow.

Thank you to all of our awesome supporters that move our mission forward. And a special shoutout to this year's award recipients: UNICEF - UofM Dearborn (Community Service), Detroit Chassis LLC (Corporate Friend), Jackie Ambrose (Youth Service) and Kathy Northcutt (Lisa V. Ford Heart & Soul). You are AMAZING!





Back to School Already? Almost!

To ensure our children start the school year on the right foot, we need your help! The Children's Center's Back to School Bazaar will equip children with needed back to school supplies including a fully stuffed backpack. For only \$50 you can send a child ready to go back to school! To donate, please scan or click the QR code below.



Believers Like You Inspire

Children deserve to dream and envision a better future for themselves. Help us see that vision through. By showing children they are not alone, you can help them build their confidence and feel a sense of belonging. Join our Believers monthly giving program today to empower children to dream bigger than they ever imagined.

TheChildrensCenter.com/believers