

HEROES OF HOPE

SUMMER 2023



The Child is the Center of it All.

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From the CEO's Desk



From one passionate leader to the next, The Children's Center is proud to introduce you to **Nicole Wells Stallworth** as our next President and CEO.

Nicole is a proven social impact executive having spent more than two decades on the front lines of advocacy for some of the most significant issues that impact equity and quality of life outcomes for all people. Her expertise spans a range of disciplines that include issue advocacy, legislative & government affairs, communications, philanthropy, nonprofit management, electoral strategies & campaigns, behavioral health, child welfare, and public education. Nicole knows our work well and has the knack to build on the already strong foundation. We are thrilled for her to lead TCC into this new chapter of creating brighter futures for children and families within our local community. Look for her voice here in upcoming issues of Heroes of Hope!

Corporate & Foundation Partnership

The Children's Center is privileged to serve as a seven-year partner with the **Ignite A Better World Foundation**. Since 1993, Ignite a Better World Foundation has been improving the lives of at-risk children and their families through solid support of passionate & committed youth-focused organizations. We are grateful to our champions at Ignite A Better World Foundation. Their vision and focus for our world is absolutely igniting a brighter future for children!



CRISIS TO CONNECTION:
**AN IMPERATIVE FOR
OUR BLACK BOYS**

Healing Through Connection

On June 1, TCC hosted the 9th annual Faces of Trauma (FOT) event supporting the work of Crisis to Connection: An Imperative for Our Black boys. This year's theme, Healing through Connection featured spoken word, engagement activities, and a panel discussion with local experts and advocates who remain focused on improving community outcomes.

Special thank you to the InsideOut Literary Arts, Citywide Poets for their powerful youth voices and AleshaNicole for her therapeutic talents to lead the audience through movement and activity using connection, reflection, and creativity to heal.



Back-to-School Bazaar

The Children's Center works to provide a safe space for children to learn, heal, and grow! At our Tau Beta Family Success Center, we offer tutoring to children, and have a library full of books for the children of Wayne County. We work to ensure children have access to education and resources to help them excel in their future.

Another fun way to encourage learning is ensuring children start the school year loaded up on supplies! So, while we are basking in the summer sun, preparations for the 2023/24 school year are already underway! The Back-to-School Bazaar is in full swing, and The Children's Center is working to fill backpacks with all the supplies necessary for a successful school year for students of all ages including elementary, middle, and high school.

Last year, The Children's Center partnered with community members like YOU to provide over 1,100 fully loaded backpacks to students. This year, we hope to extend our reach and provide 1,500 children with a brand-new backpack and supplies. YOU can help make this goal a reality through your support with a financial contribution or an in-kind donation to The Children's Center! For more details and information, contact Adrienne Pumbo at apumbo@thechildrenscenter.com or visit www.thechildrenscenter.com/donate/back-to-school-bazaar/

Foster Parent Salute

Gena Benson has been a foster parent at TCC since 2014. She has made an incredible impact by fostering over 10 children from our agency. As a foster parent, she provides a loving and nurturing home for children in need. She is passionate about advocating for foster parents' rights and helping foster parents find the resources they need.

Ms. Benson is a dedicated advocate for foster care reform, and she believes that every child deserves a safe and loving home. Also, she is active in the foster care community with various agencies and programs. She is well known in Wayne County! Ms. Benson actively supports other foster families and agencies in her day-to-day work. TCC is grateful for the work she does to impact the agency, our children and families, and the local community!

Baby Showers and May Flowers

The Children’s Center held a community baby shower on May 3 to celebrate expectant and new mothers and their families. Our sincere thanks extend out to Tau Beta Members for volunteering, donating, and contributing to this event’s success. With the help of many, TCC showered over 30 families with the essential items needed for a newborn baby! Games, giveaways, and food were among the highlights of the event. Most importantly, every family took home a large laundry bag filled with PJs, diapers, baby formula, and other necessities. Continuing the celebration, Tau Beta members provided 40 car seats and developmental walkers, as well as gift baskets for the families. One mother said that “the kindness shown to everyone that attended the shower and knowing that there are people in the world that care and are concerned about others in need” was the highlight of the event. We are grateful for Tau Beta’s assistance in providing our families with a dignified and memorable opportunity to be recognized as parents and showered with love on this special day.



TCC Helps Families Beat the Heat!

Summer camp is in full bloom at The Children’s Center! Camp keeps our children busy and stimulates their learning and development during the summer months. The past few weeks have been filled with fun activities for children and the discovery of new experiences. As part of our program, we incorporate fun lessons into the day, work on bridging gaps to brighten futures, and take part in field trips throughout Metro Detroit.

Through all our work at TCC we build our activities and programs around strengthening families by focusing on the five protective factors:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

TCC Helps Families Beat the Heat! (cont.)

As part of Child Abuse Awareness Month in April, we highlighted the importance of protecting children. In addition to providing hundreds of pinwheel coloring sheets to families, the Children's Center also placed blue pinwheels on campus in order to create awareness. For many children, summertime is filled with fun activities, however, for some, summer is filled with excessive time spent at home, hot weather that will increase agitation, and a lack of nutrients that are normally available at school.

The Children's Center is dedicated to protecting our children and providing them with necessary items for the summer. In order to keep families cool and protect our children, we provide fans, air conditioning systems, baby pools, as well as other useful resources that can help keep the heat at bay physically and mentally. Please join us in this effort by donating the extra items listed above! We strive to ensure that children are safe, happy, and healthy during the summer months.



Adoption Update

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) is a website that hosts photos and descriptions of children who are waiting to be adopted in Michigan. Meet Andrian, a smiling young 9 year old boy who “is looking for a family that loves him unconditionally.” Andrian loves pizza, school, and spending time with family! When Andrian grows up he wishes to be a sports commentator. Andrian states, “I witnessed and have been through a lot in my young life, and some of the things were and are hard to deal with. Just remember I am a child who wants to be loved like everyone else, without being judged on my past, present and future. I am only looking for someone to give me a chance and have patience with me.” Learn more about adoption and visit their website at www.MARE.org.



Cheers to our 'Dear Debora'!

On June 6, Debora Matthews' legacy was honored at an intimate gathering at Huntington Tower in Detroit. The event was graciously supported by **Huntington Bank** and **Ford Motor Company** to celebrate Debora's retirement as our longstanding CEO of 17 years and 37 years in total with our agency. Debora was able to cherish stories of her leadership and celebrate the journey with the executive team, board members, community leaders, and funders. Debora shared, "I am grateful to be able to serve our children and families for so long, and look forward to passing the torch to our new CEO, Nicole Wells Stallworth. Her abilities and experience make her well qualified to build on the momentum we've had together for 37 years. I ask that you run with her with the same faith and fervor that you have had with me all these years." Debora is forever grateful of her journey with you and looks forward to the future with the child at the center of it all!

Kid's Corner

The Children's Center is an excellent way for children and families to explore learning and creativity. On May 15, we held our Readers and Creators family event. Our amazing former **CEO Debora Matthews** read ***No Mirrors in My Nana's House* by Synthia Saint James**. This was a special time for the community to come together at the Tau Beta Family Success Center to form lasting memories together.



YAC Life

Our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) attended the Youth Driven Spaces Conference at Eastern Michigan University on April 15. This event was hosted by the Neutral Zone, with whom YAC is involved in a youth leadership program. Our YAC members had an excellent time meeting other youth and participating in team building exercises and educational workshops on oppression and identities. In addition, YAC attended the Detroit Pistons Youth Mental Health Summit on May 11. The youth networked with mental health organizations and participated in round table discussions on how to better support youth mental health.



Volunteer Spotlight

Gardening season is here! Volunteer gardeners are an integral part of keeping our campus in tip top shape, creating a warm and welcoming environment for our children and families. Adopt-a-Gardeners, like Flower for Dreams Detroit and the Rochester Pollinators, join on a regular basis to plant and maintain their designated garden throughout the season. Additionally, community partners like Horizon Bank, DTE, and Ford Motor Company pop in for a day to help campus operations in pulling weeds, pruning, spreading mulch, and bringing sunshine to our grounds. Whether an ongoing commitment or a one-day event, we are appreciative of our volunteers that share their green thumbs with us at TCC! Interested in sharing your gardening skills with us? Contact Adrienne Polumbo at apolumbo@thechildrenscenter.com for more information.



Plan Your Legacy with FreeWill Today!

August is National Make-A-Will Month, and as the saying goes, “where there’s a will, there’s a way.” Our work focuses on nourishing seeds we plant today so they can thrive tomorrow. That’s why we’re highlighting writing your will as a way to protect your loved ones and support the future of The Children’s Center.

In just 20 minutes, you can create your own will with the help of our partner, FreeWill. It’s completely free in thanks for your support of our work!

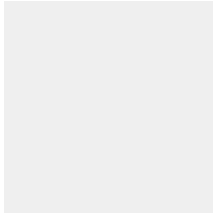
Join thousands who are making a will this month to:

- Dictate your vision for the future, and your assets
- Show your loved ones just how much you care about them
- Create a lasting, generational impact on The Children’s Center.

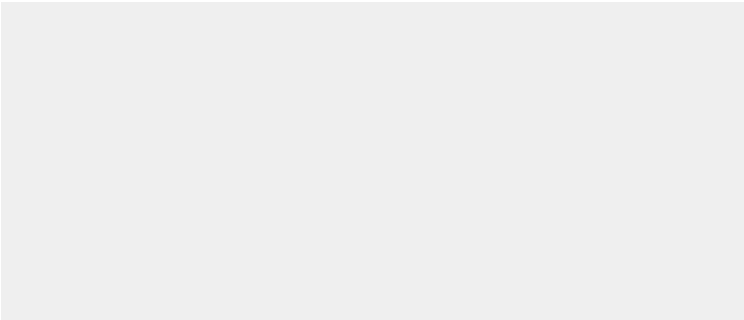
Scan the QR to learn more!



<https://www.thechildrenscenter.com/donate/make-a-bequest/>



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The Children's Center | 79 Alexandrine West, Detroit, MI 48201 | 313.831.5535 | TheChildrensCenter.com

August 2023

Back to School Bazaar
8/17/2023
@ The Tau Beta Family Success
Center

September 2023

AutoGlow
9/15/2023
@ Ford Field

October 2023

Trunk or Treat
10/20/2023
@TCC Campus

Upcoming Events

Events are subject to change.