

The Children's Center 2022 Annual Report

The Child is the Center of it All.



THE CHILDREN'S CENTER 2022 IMPACT REPORT

After 94 years of helping children and families shape their own futures, The Children's Center has become a beacon of better and brighter outcomes. The institution we have formed has grown beyond being an agency, becoming one the community trusts and looks to as a leader. The behavioral health and child welfare landscape is not the first place many leaders start to look at in their plans to change the world. With a macro view, most focus on getting tough on crime, eradicating poverty, or healing and protecting the environment. Each of these are major problems to solve.

But we submit to you that there is something more worthy of addressing that can help stem the tide of each of these major challenges: changing the life of a child. Providing an environment to grow, learn, heal, and develop into healthy, whole individuals with the potential to change the world is the most important thing we can do.

We believe that the child is the center of it all; they are the nexus of all we do. If we can build them with the tools to navigate a complex world with confidence, they will become leaders. If we can heal them from the pain that was passed to them through generational trauma, they will be champions. And if we can fill them with the love they deserve, they can be world changers, able to face every issue that arises.

From our clinicians and social workers to our program and support staff, the TCC family is determined and devoted to our mission, pushing through these obstacles. They take the extra steps and put in the extra time to bring back the smiles on children's faces, opening their world to endless possibilities.

From their courage to untangle injustices and disparities, we have become a vanguard blazing a trail of systemic change that can turn the endangered futures of black boys in Detroit to promising foundations of strength, stability and success. Crisis to Connection: An Imperative for Our Black Boys is the tip of the spear that will pierce the darkness in their lives, as they bring the community together, and raise youth voice as a top priority for policy makers.

From their desire to heal the broken hearts of children, we have become an extended family for those we serve. This was made official as our midtown campus has become a resource, a refuge, and destination with our Family Success Center. It is now recognized by Children Trust Michigan as the first and only local council in Metro Detroit.

The Children's Center would not have become so much to so many without you. Our teams would not have the tools needed to foster change without you. And, above all, our children would not have the opportunities to change the world without you. They are the center of it all, and your support keeps them in focus.

Thank you,

Debora Matthews PRESIDENT & CEO

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BOARD CHAIR

Who We Are

The Children's Center is one of the largest, most diverse and comprehensive front-line childserving agencies in the State of Michigan. We've been serving metropolitan Detroit's most vulnerable children and families since 1929 who have been impacted by:

- Abuse and neglect
- Behavioral health challenges at home, in school and in the community
- Emotional and psychological challenges
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Autism

Our dedicated team provides specialized services primarily to children with diagnosed mental illness and/or intellectual developmental disabilities and their families, and children at risk of abuse and/or neglect, and their families. Our specialized services are focused on 4 main areas:

- Behavioral Health
- Child Welfare
- Family Engagement
- Community Advocacy and Engagement



Our Services

We don't just treat a child's specific issue. We look at all factors – family, school, and social environments - so we can treat the whole child. As a result, each service area includes specialized offerings:

Behavioral Health Services

 Medical Services (Psychiatry and Medication Monitoring)

 Psychological Services developmental skills, emotional and behavioral functioning)

 Clinical Services (Outpatient Services, School Based Services, Home-based, Infant / Early Childhood and Social Skills building)

• Treatment modalities include: Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Substance Use Disorders

• Family Support (Support Coordination, Wraparound, Parent Support)

Child Welfare	Community Advoca Engagement	
 Licensing 	Community Events and	
 Adoption 	• Trauma Care Team	
 Foster Care 	• Crisis to Connection:	

 Independent Living (Young Adult Self Sufficiency-YASS)

Youth United

(Psychological and Neuropsychological Evaluations for Autism Spectrum Disorder, cognitive and

acy and Family Engagement • Tau Beta Family Success Center d Programs (Basic Needs, Boutique, Literacy, *Summer Camp, Community Programming)* Children's Trust Local Council An Imperative for our Black Boys (Child abuse prevention and education) • Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative • Supportive Services (Case Management, Parent Support, Art Therapy, Skill Building)

It's a Family Reunion: **The Tau Beta Family Success Center**

On November 16, 2022, The Children's Center commemorated a remarkable comeback from one of the most unlikely of circumstances with a Grand Re-Opening of our beloved community gathering place in building 90.

Because of our incredible relationship with the Tau Beta Association, numerous corporate and individual donors, volunteers and community members as well as friends in Lansing we were able to recover from the heavy summer rains of 2021 that caused flooding throughout the city and in our own Family Success Center.

These benefactors wrapped their arms around the prized program space we've enjoyed for over 20 years. In-kind contributions from interior designers to builders and furniture stores came through to help repair the damage and replace what was lost to open the doors again to one of the most comprehensive youth centers in the city.

The team – led by longtime TCC veterans, community bridge builder, Laura LaFever and the dynamic, Cindy Read - engaged youth who helped redesign the space with a new library, gaming area, art studio and gathering space. Youth and volunteer-painted murals and art adorn the Center.

The Boutique was able to reopen, our Summer Camp and Readers and Creators series were able to return from virtual activities and sessions back to the enriching experience of in-person programming where we can strengthen families and build community among those we serve.

We've not only renovated our space, but we've strengthened our partnership with the women from the Tau Beta Association, bringing all services in the space under one banner. The Tau Beta Centers for Discovery and Family Literacy are now rebranded as The Tau Beta





Family Success Center. Volunteers from Tau Beta and Tau Beta Juniors can resume hosting the Community Baby Showers, Thanksgiving Food Drives, tutoring and more with grace and goodwill that we have enjoyed for so long.

The TCC team has a renewed purpose to address the essential life needs of our children and to ensure they are safe from unhealthy and harmful environments by shaping programming to align with the Social Determinants of Health and the Five Protective Factors of Prevention.

By embracing these focus areas, the center has been designated as the first and only Family Resource Center in Wayne County by Children Trust Michigan, the leading voice for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. With their backing, we are able to widen our scope of service and further pursue our mission.

This celebration felt like a family reunion, as we returned unified and stronger together - for the children and families of TCC.





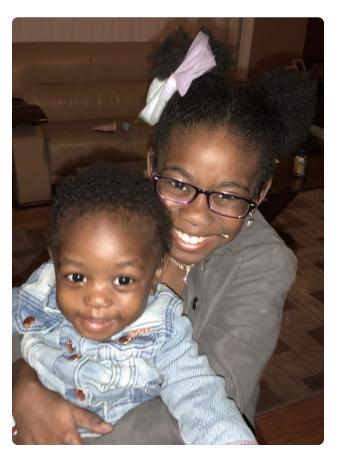
Cheyenne's Story: A Transformational Trip

Chrishanna's 12-year-old daughter, Cheyenne has bright eyes with a big smile and little afro puff pigtails. She loves to draw and really likes history. She has a polite and polished presence and speaks with sparks of wisdom mixed in with the cheer of a child.

But she is not without her challenges. Cheyenne was born with polydactyly on both hands and, in turn, was bullied from the first to third grade. Her classmates teased her, some even suggested cutting the extra fingers from her hands. At six years old, that meant paralyzing fear, endless tears and nightmares.

Even after her extra digits were surgically removed, the trauma still weighed heavily on her. Cheyenne's once bright smile was dimmed. Seeing that her daughter struggled with those negative emotions, Chrishanna acted, seeking support from The Children's Center, where resources and services were available to help her daughter cope with these disturbing memories.





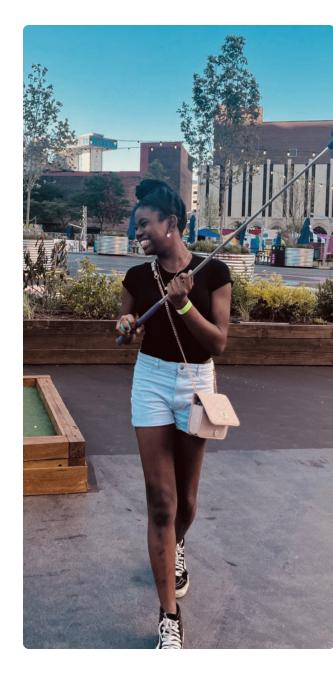
Without her mother's concern and proactive care, the pain could have had a lasting effect well into her teenage years and beyond.

"A lot of what my daughter experienced I experienced. But my parents never got me help," she recalled of her own childhood. "I spent my early adult life trying to recover and repair myself and I don't want that for her.

"I think mental health in our community gets overlooked. It's not valued enough," acknowledged Chrishanna. Lack of access and stigma to even seek help limit the potential of many in communities across the country.

Chrishanna knew what it felt like and wanted Cheyenne to be her 'whole self'. Without getting the proper care and support to heal it can cause collateral damage further on in life.

"I can't give her the steps to move past the trauma," she concluded, choosing The Children's Center as the best place to meet



those needs. After an assessment, they were introduced to the Tau Beta Family Success Center, where staff shared additional enrichment services and support.

Cheyenne's face lit up like the neon lights in the center's 'Bubble Room' when she walked through the brightly painted hallways where words of affirmation hung like rainbows, and pictures of cultural heroes framed the space with history. When she was escorted into the art room, she realized that this was not your average clinic.

The Children's Center

"This isn't the doctor's office," she said in awe as she walked through the room where the Van Gogh-themed Starry Night Mural swirled before her and easels with colored canvases stood tall like towers above her. While in a state of wonder, she participated in a complementary art session that is typically paired with thoughtful dialogue with a clinician.

For Cheyenne, The Children's Center's work was more than a doctor's visit or a therapy session; it was transformational. "Art and adding therapy to it. I'm like wow, that's life changing."



Volunteer Highlights | Oct 2021 - Sept 2022

Total Volunteers: 1,061 Volunteer Hours: 6,794 Valuation: \$203,480

(This figure is calculated using the national value of a volunteer hour assigned by the Independent Sector for 2021)

"I really enjoyed cleaning out the parking lot with my classmates. Seeing the before and after of how much our work had improved the landscaping really made me feel like I'd made a difference!"

Volunteer Award Winners:

Lisa V. Ford Heart & Soul Award: Kathy Northcutt

Youth Service Award: Jackie Ambrose

Corporate Friend Award: **Detroit Chassis LLC**

Community Service Award: UNICEF - University of Michigan - Dearborn Chapter

"I think I deeply underestimated the amount of meticulous work that goes into creating a safe space for those that don't always have one... I was consistently in awe of how much care and effort has been put into this facility." Because of the passionate souls of our volunteers, the lives of our children and families are enriched with love. We are tremendously grateful for their time and talents. Here are some snapshots of support from our volunteers for the year.

"Volunteering is a window into the passions of the soul." – Patrick Dixon



Group Volunteer Highlight:

International Academy – 216 volunteers; 889 hours of service over 5 days.

International Academy is a magnet school with three campuses across Oakland County. As a part of its International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, students are encouraged to contribute and engage with the local and global community through an environment of service learning. In the fall of 2022, 216 students and their chaperones joined us at The Children's Center over 5 days as a component of their service learning and enrichment. Students sorted through donations in our Boutique, hand wrote birthday cards to send to our children, and supported our campus operations team outdoors with campus beautification projects (weeding, mulching, and cleaning areas of debris). Their efforts created a warm and welcoming environment to set the tone for our children and families to heal.



TCC by the Numbers | Oct 2021 - Sept 2022



383 Families Were Success Stories* *reaching the goals that they set



83% Of Kids in Crisis Were Diverted from a Psychiatric Hospital

44 Staff Trained on Behavioral Health Equity



92% of children that successfully completed treatment had no severe impairments reported after receiving services

The Children's Center

WHEN ASKED: Based on your experience at The Children's Center, how likely are you to recommend TCC to someone who needs our services?





Of our families refer others to The Children's Center







82%

High School Graduation Rate for Youth in Semi-Independent Living

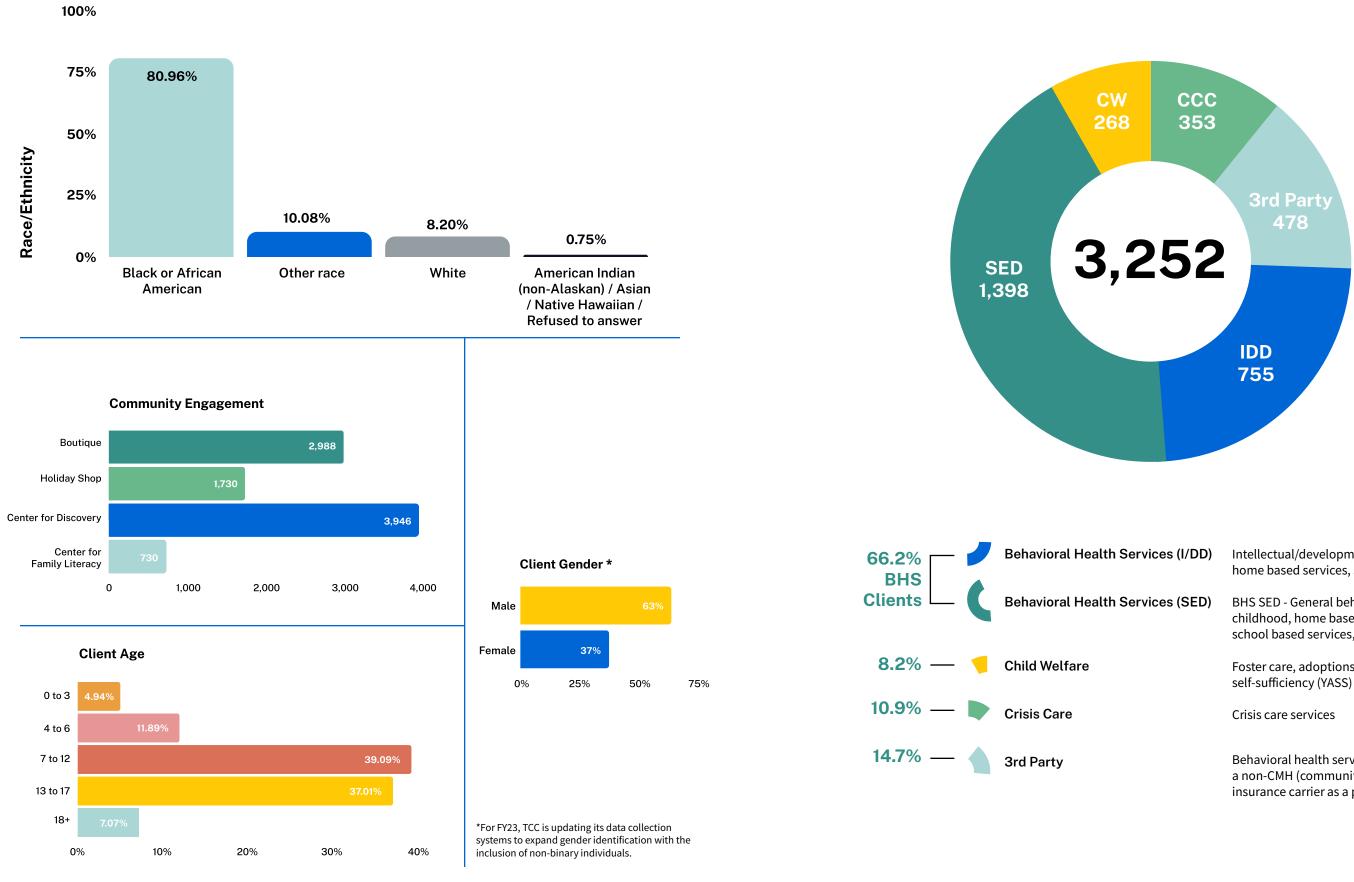


2,810

Unique Clients Received a Behavioral Health Service from TCC

Children & Families Served | FY 2021-2022

Clients Served By Program | FY 2021-2022



The Children's Center

- Intellectual/developmental disabilities services, home based services, supports coordination, autism
- BHS SED General behavioral health, early childhood, home based services, hospital liaison, school based services, wraparound

Foster care, adoptions, young adult

Behavioral health services covered by a non-CMH (community mental health) insurance carrier as a primary insurer

Statement of Activities | FY 2021-2022



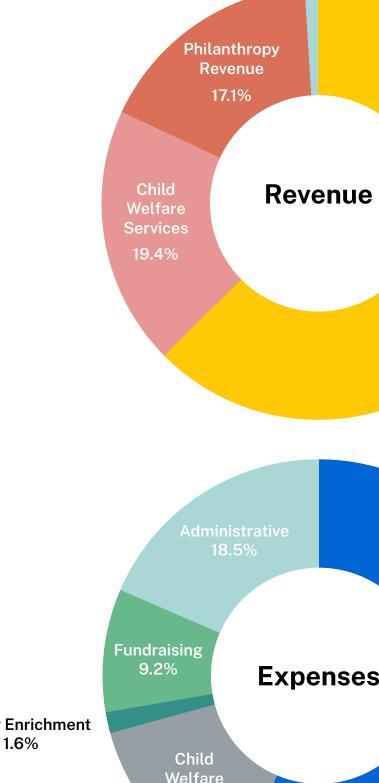
Behavioral Health Services	\$12,765,287
Child Welfare Services	\$3,946,581
Philanthropy Revenue	\$ 3,478,140
Other	<1%

Total Revenue

EXPENSES

\$128,611	
\$717,608	14.4%
(\$588,997)	Family Enrichment 1.6% Child Welfare
\$20,873,764	Fundraising 9.2% Expe
\$3,862,998	
\$1,917,487	10.370
\$327,021	Administrative 18.5%
\$3,000,720	
\$11,765,538	
	\$3,000,720 \$327,021 \$1,917,487 \$3,862,998 \$20,873,764 (\$588,997) \$717,608

\$20,284,767



Other 1%

62.6%

enses

Behavioral Health 56.4%

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.

ENSURING A SAFE HOME (\$50,000+)

Deshler Group, Inc. **Global Strategic** Supply Solutions Goldfish Swim School Katie & Tommy Lee

HELPING TO HEAL THE HURT (\$25.000+)

Raymond DeBates, III & Elizabeth Curtis Darcy Fischer Christine V. & Gordon T. Ford, Jr. Alma and Edward Greer Kenneth & Susan Kirchner Carole & Douglas Maibach Erika & Ryan Monroe

CREATING A HEALTHY START (\$5,000+) Bryan Adair

& Kimberly Bowden-Adair Fayssal Akacem Deborah Allen Gus Andreasen & Jennifer Zinn Andreasen Suzanne Antonelli Kate Aretakis Dr. Cecilia Astorga-Switzer & Dr. James Switzer Jeffrey T. & Lisa Baker **Douglas Bajor** Kyra Baker **Douglas Barnett** Dr. Marquita Bedway & Alger LaHood Jared Bollaert Marletta Boyd Lori Brown-Platts & William Platts Raymond Byers & Eve Crandall Linda & Shawn Byrnes

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Benevity Community

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.

Alicia Schwartz Christa Shaw Vinti Sondhi Tracy Thomas Ramona Thornton Justin Van Wvk **Terrel White** Jamie Wolfe Kimberly R. Zazula

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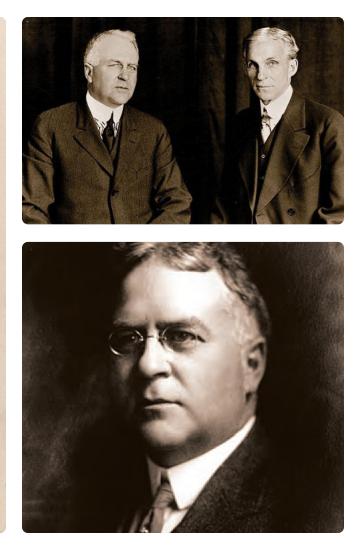
James Couzens Legacy Society

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 and Raymond Caloia Denise Fleckenstein Christine V. Ford Daniel M. Frank R. M. Freedman (Deceased) Angela Hardison Margaret J. Hawthorne *(Deceased)* Jennie V. Kerr Trust Allan B. Levy



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In honor of The Solomon &

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In honor of Diana Weyand

Making a tribute gift is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special. These caring individuals have done just that through their philanthropy.

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In memory of Benjamin L. Smith from Kelly Spencer

In memory of Mildred Worthy from Dearborn Figure Skating Association from Joanne & Lyle Duke from Joe Jansen from Joint Heirs Adult Bible Fellowship from Mary Sprague from Robert & Mary Stephenson

from Dona Trudell

compromising our long-term vision.

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The Children's Center

We are grateful to our board members for their passion, discipline, and leadership – guiding us successfully through the year without

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