

# HEROES OF HOPE

FALL 2023



The Child is the Center of it All.

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# From the CEO's Desk

Greetings!

At The Children's Center, we fulfill our mission by keeping children at the center of it all.

Your support is incredibly important in this endeavor, whether you have made a financial contribution to support our programs or have committed your time as a volunteer. Without your help we would not be able to make half the impact we have made in our 94 years of service. THANK YOU! Your involvement is what continues to drive our work forward and we appreciate your contributions.

This newsletter is not only intended to inform you, but also to celebrate you. Thank you for being our Heroes of Hope.

Sincerely,



**Nicole Wells Stallworth**  
TCC President & CEO



## What Will Your Legacy Be?

Since 1929, supporters like you have shared our vision of a healthy, thriving Detroit where every child can reach their highest potential. We're proud to share a new way to give with this free tool from our friends at FreeWill. The tool can be used to create or update your estate plan online in about 20 minutes:

- Complete an important act of care.
- Gain peace of mind about the future.
- Secure your legacy and care for your loved ones.

FreeWill's platform will guide you through each step so you can create an estate plan that reflects all your values. Planning your estate is one thoughtful action that puts you one step closer to achieving your goals, taking care of yourself, and finding peace of mind.

**FREEWILL** 



<https://www.freewill.com/thechildrenscenter>



# AutoGlow 2023

AutoGlow 2023 was a night to remember! The evening was filled with bright colors and unforgettable memories as the community celebrated the city that put the world on wheels. We are honored to be one of the six charities to benefit from the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) Charity Preview proceeds for 30 years. The Children's Center has been a guiding light for children and their families in Wayne County since 1929. AutoGlow, held in conjunction with Charity Preview captured our services, mission, and vision of creating pathways to brighter futures through the extraordinary theme of "Let's Glow!"

The night was filled with luminous decorations, cars, displays and delicious vibrant food and drinks. Bluewater Kings Band and DJ Prevu kept the ambiance high while attendees illuminated the night with their generosity and support. This unforgettable evening had a lasting impact on the children and their families, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who was part of it. A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Ford Motor Company for continually partnering with TCC and helping children find their spark.



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## Corporate & Foundation Partnership

The Children's Center is honored to partner with the **Pulte Family Charitable Foundation** to improve the lives of children and their families in Detroit and Wayne County. Since 1990, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation has sought to meet the basic human needs of the most marginalized members of the human family. Their vision and generosity are an invaluable asset in our efforts to make a meaningful impact. We are grateful to have their support as we continue to strive to create a better future for Detroit.



**PULTE FAMILY**  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



## Developmental Disability Services

The Children's Center is home to many services! Diagnostic evaluations for autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders have nearly doubled since before the pandemic. Our doctors have grown from completing 250 evaluations to now completing nearly 450 evaluations per year. We are 1 of 3 DWIHN providers that offer independent evaluations for children facing disabilities. It is our doctors' expertise and vast experience that makes them highly qualified in their field.

Every child undergoes a comprehensive evaluation, which can include interviews, assessments, social observation, testing, and autism assessments. Evaluations are conducted while maintaining a successful path for children under 2 and up to 18 years old, taking anywhere between 2 - 7 hours to complete.

Our team offers case management to coordinate services within the child's individualized treatment plan and is committed to providing the best possible care and support for our clients. We believe that every child deserves a chance to reach their full potential.

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## Community Health & Wellness Fair

The Tau Beta Family Success Center was proud to hold TCC's first Community Health and Wellness Fair in partnership with DWIHN and Youth United this past August. This opportunity provided TCC families and community members with access to free healthcare and a chance to gather as a community. Vision To Learn and Wayne State University's Mobile Health hosted units on our campus to provide wellness checkups, eye exams, and eyeglasses. Several community partners joined us to equip parents with resources, tools, and knowledge surrounding healthcare access and initiatives. On top of routine care, children also enjoyed playing in the bounce house, participating in Art Therapy, ice-cream, and meeting Clifford the Big Red Dog!





# Holiday Shop

Holiday Shop returns this December, providing a happy holiday for over 1,500 children and their families! This annual event gives parents and guardians the opportunity to pick out gifts for all of the children aged 18 and under in their family.

Each child will receive a large gift item, a stocking stuffer, hat & gloves, and a book. In addition, each family is provided with a cozy blanket and a Meijer gift card to purchase ingredients for a holiday meal.

YOU can be a part of this annual holiday giving event through your volunteerism, in-kind donations, or financial support.

**For more details, visit <https://www.thechildrenscenter.com/donate/holiday-shop/> or contact Adrienne Polumbo at [apolumbo@thechildrenscenter.com](mailto:apolumbo@thechildrenscenter.com)**



# YAC Life

Our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) ended the summer on a high note! TCC's Youth Group Open House was led by YAC members in June drawing in over 80 youth and their parents to learn about our services and our unique involvement opportunities. YAC set up an interactive painting activity, along with several informational tables providing education about our youth initiatives such as, YAC, Cornerstone, Youth United, Detroit Youth Corner, and YASS. YAC looks forward to offering ongoing activities to continue education of youth services and involvement.

# Giving Tuesday Nov. 28

Giving Tuesday, a Global Day of Generosity, is just around the corner!

We invite YOU & your companies to partner with The Children's Center in making a difference on November 28. This day is a remarkable opportunity to unite together and create a profound impact on children's lives. Your generosity supports TCC's impactful programs, creates lasting change, and strengthens our community!

By becoming a beacon of hope, you ensure that every child has access to essential services and the support they need to grow and thrive. Your help makes a difference in the lives of families like Marie's! Marie shared, "Dr. Elkhail is more than just a doctor or psychiatrist. She reached my grandson when no one else could - she was our breakthrough. She genuinely cares about him and his future career. Doctors like her are hard to come by!"

**Join us on this mission and help us create a world where every child can reach their full potential. Mark your calendars for Giving Tuesday, where together we can make an impact on future generations!**

**GIVINGTUESDAY**

## Kid's Corner

TCC continues to serve and celebrate children and families in many ways! The summer began with excitement and happiness for one family in particular. After a 5-year journey, the family completed their adoption! To celebrate, TCC partnered with the family to host a celebration for their family and friends in our Tau Beta Family Success Center. It was a joyous occasion to celebrate their road to a brighter future!



*Featuring GDYT Philanthropy Annual Programs Intern at Ford Field AutoGlow Event Walkthru.*



## Robert M. Freedman Charitable Trust

We are thrilled to announce that The Children's Center received a substantial gift from the Robert M. Freedman Charitable Remainder Trust.

Mr. Freedman set this trust up in 1971 and TCC was one of 32 charitable organizations named as beneficiaries. He passed away in 2008, and over the past 15 years we have been receiving gifts from the trust. TCC received the last gift recently, and it is already being put to use in moving TCC forward and advancing our mission.

## GDYT Interns

The Children's Center is proud to partner with Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) in offering youth educational opportunities. TCC took on 8 students for a 6-week summer internship program. Interns were placed in Philanthropy, Tau Beta Family Success Center, and Quality and Compliance! Hear how beneficial the program is from Elizabeth, a Philanthropy Intern herself...

"As a 19-year-old college student studying Pre-Mortuary Science at Wayne State University, GDYT became my gateway to diverse career exploration. I had the chance to complete a summer internship with The Children's Center. I have always heard great things about The Children's Center and despite my unfamiliarity with the role, I dove in, driven by the prospect of learning and growth. Interning in the Philanthropy department felt like a leap of faith, but I wanted to seize the opportunity. Over the span of 6 weeks, I gained new skills and immersed myself in networking."



# Volunteer Spotlight

We annually celebrate the achievements of our dedicated

volunteers at the **Lisa V. Ford Heart & Soul Volunteer Award Luncheon**, this year held June 27, 2023. The following were honored for their unwavering support over the past year: Natalia Fanning (Youth Service Award), International Academy (Community Service Award), Walgreens (Corporate Friend Award), and Mykahla Frayer (Staff Volunteer of the Year). Also presented at the event is the Lisa V. Ford Heart & Soul Award, awarded to an individual that embodies a generous spirit and commitment to the children and families we serve.

**We were honored this year to present the award to Kate Bandol, recognizing her contributions to our annual Holiday Shop and in the design and implementation of the Tau Beta Family Success Center.**

Congratulations to Kate and all of our 2022 award winners!



## Youth United

On July 21, 2023, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) hosted their Annual Board Meeting & Community Reception. During the reception they highlighted goals, accomplishments, and efforts that they were making to build a better community while assisting youth, adults, and families in integrated services. Various awards were given, and multiple speakers engaged in success stories and achievements. Amongst those speakers was Ja'Lynn Jones, a Youth Advocate from The Children's Center's Youth United Team. Ja'Lynn shared her lived experience of being involved within the System of Care and how it led her to become a Youth Peer Support Specialist, who then transitioned to a Youth Advocate. Ja'Lynn enjoys planning engagement opportunities for youth and aims to continue assisting with identifying new outlets for youth as well. In addition to Ja'Lynn's story, US Senator Debbie Stabenow was the Keynote speaker and Josh Landon from Fox 2 News as the Masters of Ceremony. DWIHN celebrates and honors all providers and partners for success in helping families build a better future.



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The Children's Center of Wayne County, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, IRS tax I.D. number 38-1359505.  
No goods or services were provided in consideration of this contribution, which is tax-deductible as allowed by law.



The Children's Center | 79 Alexandrine West, Detroit, MI 48201 | 313.831.5535 | [TheChildrensCenter.com](http://TheChildrensCenter.com)

## Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

### October 2023

#### C2C Quarterly Meeting

10/18/2023  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Zoom

#### Trunk or Treat

10/20/2023  
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
TCC Bldg. 90 Parking lot  
*Volunteer Opportunitiy*

### November 2023

#### Giving Tuesday

11/28/2023  
All Day

#### ThanksGiving Break

11/23 - 11/24 2023  
TCC Closed

### December 2023

#### Holiday Shop

12/4 - 12/7  
12/11 - 12/13  
TCC Campus Bldg. 90  
*Volunteer Opportunity*

#### Holiday Break

12/24 - 12/25 2023  
TCC Closed

#### Holiday Break

12/31/2023  
TCC Closed

Events are subject to change.

If interested in Volunteer Opportunities, please contact Adrienne Pumbo to sign up at [Apumbo@thechildrenscenter.com](mailto:Apumbo@thechildrenscenter.com).