

HEROES OF HOPE

WINTER 2023

The Child is the Center of it All.

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From the CEO's Desk

Greetings!

Since I was appointed President and CEO of The Children's Center earlier this year, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible work being done within our agency to support the social, emotional, and mental wellbeing of children and their families. Our providers never hesitate to go the extra mile to ensure all the vital needs are met, while prioritizing their total wellbeing through trauma informed clinical best practices and provide children the tools to effectively navigate their unique circumstances, their own diagnosis, their evolving emotional states of being, and/or trauma, their interpersonal relationships, and the systems within which they interact. I cannot think of a greater mission or a more impactful purpose.

Over the last several months, I have placed a focus on the impact we can have when we achieve our purpose as an agency.

If as many children as possible, and their families, can easily access comprehensive, evidence-based, clinical therapy that is integrated into and supports their everyday lives then, children will experience an improved quality of life where they have a true sense of agency and empowerment in their lives. This will result in improved well-being and quality of life outcomes for children and their families, which results in improved health and safety outcomes for entire communities.

I believe we all have a role to play in fulfilling our agency's purpose. As we begin to chart our path forward, it is critical that we work together toward building a future that prioritizes health equity for the most vulnerable and ensures equitable access to the critical behavioral health care and wellbeing support services all children need and deserve.

As The Children's Center continues to grow and evolve, your support remains vital. Thank you for your commitment to our mission and for creating a brighter future for children in our community. I am looking forward to furthering our impact together!

Sincerely,



Nicole Wells Stallworth
TCC President & CEO



Leap Into Your Future With a Free Tool!

2024 is a leap year! Want to take an extra step of care for the future of children in Wayne County? Leap into action by creating an estate plan and making a lasting legacy with The Children's Center. Using FreeWill's online estate planning tool, you can utilize the extra day in 2024 to protect the people you love — and protect our progress as a leading resource for children facing behavioral, emotional, educational, intellectual and developmental challenges. Help us continue to ensure children and families can shape a future

with endless possibilities. In just 20 minutes, you can make a difference to:

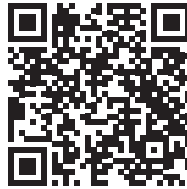
- Complete a significant act of kindness and care
- Secure peace of mind about the future
- Support our community for generations to come

FreeWill's platform will guide you through each step so you can create an estate plan that reflects all of your values.

Leap into action and create your free will, today!

FREEWILL 

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



Corporate & Foundation Partnership

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation to implement developmental screening, assessment, and mental health treatment models in early childhood settings for children (four to six) in Detroit, Michigan. The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation has been using its resources to improve the quality, scope, and delivery of mental health services in Michigan since 1975. We are thankful for vested community partners like The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation to support our children on their journey toward a healthier and more fulfilling life.



ETHEL & JAMES
FLINN FOUNDATION

2023 Hometown Holiday Assist



Thank you to the **Detroit Red Wings** and **Detroit Tigers** for bringing joy and making this past holiday season brighter for children and families! The Children's Center was honored to be selected for 2023 Hometown Holiday Assist. *An annual program that benefits Detroit families and local non-profits during the holiday season.*

Festivities this past year were double the fun! A toy drive held at Comerica Park on November 26 kicked off the celebrations. The toy drive directly supported TCC's Holiday Shop program which annually provides a joyous holiday season for over 1,500 children and their families.

As another part of the festivities, 52 children and their legal guardians were treated to dinner at Meijer and had a personal shopping experience with Red Wings players and their representatives on December 8.

It was a holiday cheer-filled season celebrating with our favorite hometown teams!



DTROITR Coffee

We are excited to share our partnership with DTROITR Coffee - an online store with a coffee shop soon to arise in Detroit. They are dedicated to giving back and transforming the community through philanthropy. DTROITR Coffee has a vision to create a place where every coffee purchase supports the children of our city, our future leaders, and innovators.

DTROITR Coffee has selected The Children's Center as their designated charity, and they have already made a significant impact this past holiday season! We are honored to partner with DTROITR Coffee and look forward to future collaboration. To learn more, check out their website <https://dtroit.com/>.

DTROITR
coffee

Holiday Shop

Holiday Shop has been a success for over a decade at The Children's Center thanks to our partners at Tau Beta! Nearly 350 client parents and guardians joined us on December 4-13 to shop (at no cost to them!) for the children in their homes aged 18 and under. Each child received a large gift item, stocking stuffer, book, and hat & gloves. In addition, each family was provided with a \$25 Meijer gift card and a cozy blanket. We are so appreciative of all our event sponsors and donors who have made this event possible!

Nearly 300 volunteers joined us in their Christmas sweaters, reindeer antlers, and jingle bells in support of the event. After a week of set up, two weeks of shopping, and a week of clean up, we are overwhelmed by the support.

A big thank you to the many volunteers who made the 2023 Holiday Shop a success, including participants from the following organizations:

- 313 Ghostbusters
- Ally Financial
- Apex Digital Solutions
- Bank of America
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Delta Dental
- Detroit Chassis LLC
- Detroit Tap Repertory
- Detroit Manufacturing Systems
- DTE
- Ford Motor Company
- Goldfish Swim School
- Happy's Pizza & Savvy Sliders
- HDT Automotive
- Hollingsworth Logistics
- Horizon Bank
- Mariner's Church of Detroit
- Metro Riverfront Optimist Club
- Order of the Eastern Star – Dorothy Riley #189
- Rariden Schumacher Mio
- Solyco Capital
- Tau Beta Association
- T-Mobile
- w3r Consulting
- Walgreens
- Warby Parker
- WPP Detroit
- WSU Alpha Epsilon Phi
- WSU Procurement & Strategic Sourcing Department

We would also express our gratitude to our **Gold Level Supporters** that made the 2023 Holiday Shop possible:



It's never too early to begin planning for next year! If you'd like to be a part of the 2024 Holiday Shop, please contact *Adrienne Polumbo* at apolumbo@thechildrenscenter.com



Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a dedicated group of youth and young adults up to age 21, who provide feedback to The Children's Center on service practices and policies that directly affect the children, young adults, and families of The Children's Center.



Recently, YAC partnered with The Neutral Zone to enhance leadership skills and operate as a more youth-driven group. Since then, our youth have developed stronger planning and implementation skills, as well as developed deeper connections in the community.

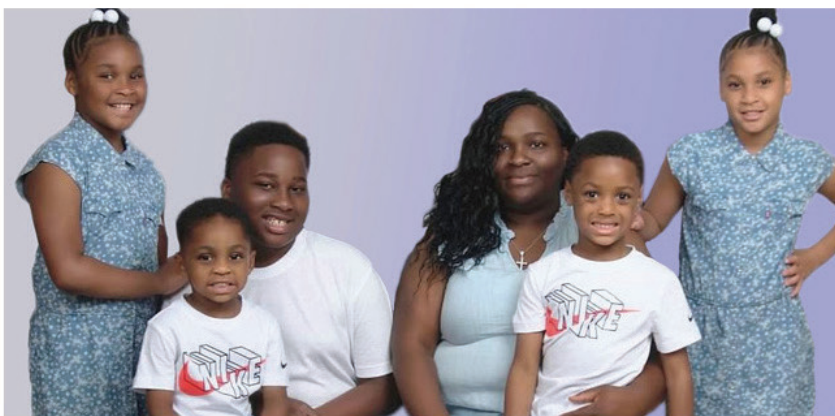
YAC also took part in a panel discussion during the Demystifying Suicide event, leading conversation surrounding the impact of social media and its effects on youth in our community.

Michigan Adoption Day

Michigan Adoption Day is celebrated in November each year. Participating courts finalize adoptions, hold parties for adoptive families, and educate the public about the adoption process. Michigan Adoption Day is co-sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, and the Child Welfare Services Division of the State Court Administrative Office.

Cheryl Jackson, Adoption Specialist at the Children's Center worked diligently with the Carter-Marcus family to secure this adoptive home.

Meet the Carter-Marcus family



"A mother of three with two adult children, Jearlean Carter-Marcus saw the need to keep her family members together, so she came forward when her young relatives needed someone to step up," the family's nominator says. "She worked hard to make sure the children would remain in her care while working on their adoption. Through it all, she has shown the children many new adventures; they have celebrated birthday parties, attended family reunions and enjoyed family outings."

Volunteer Spotlight

On Thursday, November 9, Bank of America celebrated its annual Day of Giving by dispatching employees throughout Metro Detroit to volunteer and make a positive impact in their community. We were grateful to have 18 Bank of America team members join us to sort donations of gently used clothing in our Boutique and prepare items for our Annual Holiday Shop. Cementing their commitment to The Children's Center, another team of 20 volunteers joined us on November 28 to set up our 2023 Holiday Shop, transforming our plain office space into a magical winter wonderland! We are so thankful for the partnership of Bank of America and look forward to having them join us again soon!



Kid's Corner - Coding Club

Through our newly developed Coding Club, children between the ages of 8 and 12 were offered a unique opportunity to learn, explore, and practice computer programming skills. This concept was introduced to them over an eight-week period, which led to this program expanding further. The Children's Center is delighted to begin the new year by expanding the program to offer the Coding Club to children between the ages of 12 and 17. Our hopes are to continue advancing this program through a formal ongoing Coding Club.



Fatherhood Initiative

At The Children's Center we work with children and families to bridge any gaps that may exist. One of the ways we help bridge gaps is through our Fatherhood Initiative. We support fathers and male caregivers in our community in learning how to play a strong role in the lives of their children. It is imperative that everyone in the family plays a part in helping our children succeed, and children with actively involved fathers are more likely to achieve positive outcomes in life. John Miles, *Coordinator-Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative and Fatherhood Champion* hosts monthly sessions for fathers to connect, fostering positive fathering, healthy relationships and economic stability within our community. John is committed to helping men become better fathers, male caregivers and mentors. To learn more contact *John Miles* at [313.262.0944](tel:313.262.0944) or Jmiles@thechildrenscenter.com.



79 Alexandrine West
Detroit, MI 48201

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

Future Events

May

Save the Date! Power of
Possibilities Breakfast
May 7, 2024

Scan the QR to Donate Today!

Start your New
Year off by making
a difference in a
child's life!



Events are subject to change.

If interested in Volunteer Opportunities, please contact Adrienne Polumbo to sign up at Apolumbo@thechildrenscenter.com.