

HEROES OF HOPE

SPRING 2024



The Child is the Center of it All.

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From the CEO's Desk



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we kick off a new quarter, I want to take a moment to say thank you. Your support, whether through volunteering, donating, or even spreading the word about The Children's Center, means the world to us and the families we serve.

Every contribution makes a real difference. It's because of you that we can keep doing what we do, helping young people and families in our community to get the support they need and deserve.

In this newsletter, we're excited to bring you stories that highlight the impact of your support, updates on our programs, and our plans for the coming months. It's your generosity that enables us to tackle the challenges ahead and keep moving forward.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we're making a difference in so many lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Wells Stallworth".

Nicole Wells Stallworth
TCC President & CEO

Readers and Creators

In February, we held our regular Readers and Creators event, highlighting Black History Month. Angela Polk, the Director of Corporate and Foundation Philanthropy, was present to read to the children. The book this month was *How Do You Spell Unfair?: MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee*, by Carole Boston Weatherford. The story centers around a girl who made history as one of the first African Americans to receive an invitation to the National Spelling Bee. However, she encountered prejudice and discrimination once she ventured beyond her home. This tale was complemented by a fun activity where our families engaged in a word search competition and had the opportunity to win alphabet cookies. It was an enjoyable experience for everyone, fostering learning and bonding through play!



Spring into Action with Freewill!

Spring is in the air and is a time of renewal and new beginnings. The Children's Center helps children create opportunities for new beginnings every day by helping develop strong individuals early in life. Help us continue to provide a bright future for youth in need of evidence-based therapeutic mental and behavioral health treatment as well as foster care and adoption services in Detroit and Wayne County through a contribution of appreciated stock.

- Gifting appreciated stock can help avoid capital gains tax and can allow you to claim an income tax deduction for the stock's full market value.
- Whether you do it yourself or get help from your financial advisor, donating stock takes as little as ten minutes using FreeWill.



Maximize your impact!

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



Global Volunteer Month

In honor of Global Volunteer Month, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the incredible volunteers who have generously devoted their time to further our mission of empowering children and families to shape their own futures! Last fiscal year, we were delighted to have 1,438 unique dedicated volunteers who collectively contributed over 9,000 hours to support our clients, programs, and teams. These volunteers engaged in various activities, including assisting at our Tau Beta Family Success Center, participating in client-facing and philanthropic events, and much more, showcasing their unwavering commitment and dedication. We sincerely thank our volunteers for their efforts in supporting children and families in Wayne County to build brighter tomorrows.





Reading Club

TCC is spreading the love of reading through three new reading initiatives:

- Story Quest: 6 – 12-year-old participants can earn a \$5 gift card by checking out books from the TCC library and returning them with two completed story maps (limited to once per month).
- Teen Trailblazers: Teens can request books to enhance their home libraries by filling out an order form.
- Bookish Delights: A program aimed at motivating and inspiring adult readers with books they can keep.

Volunteer Spotlight

Ray Morganti has served as a volunteer at The Children’s Center for less than a year, but in that time has had an immeasurable impact. His interest in computers and coding sparked during a middle-school science fair project and later proved beneficial in his legal career. Upon retiring, Ray aimed to pass on his expertise to young individuals, leading him to volunteer at our 2023 Summer Camp. He conducted a coding drones session that was a hit with the kids, sparking their interest in the coding world. Collaborating with our Enrichment team, Ray developed a comprehensive three-part coding program with varying levels of complexity. Going above and beyond, he generously donated computers to participants who completed the eight-week course. We extend our gratitude to Ray for sharing his skills, commitment, and enthusiasm with us. If you are inspired to volunteer and share your talents too, please contact Angela Polk at apolk@thechildrenscenter.com.



Foster Care

Imagine this scenario... You're a nine-year-old living in a less than nurturing environment, feeling somewhat neglected. As a child, this is your reality, the world you know. Suddenly, Child Protective Services (CPS) shows up at your door and tells you that you have just five minutes to pack a bag because they are taking you to a new, safe home. If you were that child, what would you pack?

In Michigan, around 13,000 children are in foster care or residential placements due to neglect or abuse. Every day, CPS tirelessly works to place children in secure, caring, and stable homes. Although The Children's Center aims for family unification whenever possible, it's not always achievable.

Foster Care provides a temporary home for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, offering a safe and nurturing environment when their parents or relatives are unable to care for them. The Child Welfare Team at the Children's Center remains dedicated to supporting children and families in need.



We are seeking dedicated and compassionate adults to offer a secure and nurturing home for children who have been removed from their families. Becoming a foster parent is a profound way to make a positive impact on a child's life. As a foster parent, you have the opportunity to provide guidance, support, and care to a child who may have experienced trauma or instability. Your role in their life can make a lasting difference and help them thrive despite past challenges. The Children's Center is here to support you every step of the way on this meaningful journey.

For more details on becoming a foster parent, please contact (313) 949-1513. Together, we can create a brighter future for children in need of a safe and nurturing environment.

Corporate & Foundation Partnership

We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Kronlund Foundation to support our Tau Beta Family Success Center-Book Clubs, aiming to enhance the well-being of children and families in Detroit and Wayne County. Their vision and generosity are invaluable in our efforts and align with our desire to drive positive change for future generations. We deeply appreciate their support as we work towards building a brighter future for Detroit.

Faces of Trauma

The Children's Center is celebrating a significant milestone this year as we host the 10th annual Faces of Trauma event. Over the past ten years, this event has provided a platform for mental health advocates in Wayne County to engage with the community in an open dialogue. Faces of Trauma offers an opportunity for our community to delve into the effects of trauma and how individuals, families, and communities navigate through it. Join us for TCC's 10th Annual Faces of Trauma event on Thursday, May 16, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at St. Vincent Sarah Fisher Center.

Power of Possibilities Breakfast

On May 7, we will be hosting our 20th Annual Power of Possibilities Breakfast at Motor City Casino & Hotel, sponsored by Ford Motor Company. The theme for this year's breakfast is 'Your Story Matters', highlighting that every child has a unique story. Each child holds a unique narrative, and as a community, we can empower them to find their voice and drive their story forward. We are excited to have several clients share their powerful testimonials that illustrate how The Children's Center has helped them overcome unimaginable life challenges and shape their own future.

You can join us to help provide support to over 3,500 children and families who face emotional distress, trauma, and adversity. We hope to see you there! For further details on becoming a guest or corporate sponsor, please visit our website at <https://www.thechildrenscenter.com/power-of-possibilities-2024/>.

The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'Your Story Matters' breakfast. It features three children sitting on the ground, each holding a large, colorful book that they are reading. The books have various illustrations, including landscapes, people, and symbols. Above the children, the text 'Your Story Matters' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Your Story' in blue and 'Matters' in green. Below this, it says 'PRESENTED BY FORD MOTOR COMPANY'. At the bottom of the graphic, the event details are listed: '2024 POWER OF POSSIBILITIES BREAKFAST', 'May 7th, 7:00 - 8:30 AM', and 'Motor City Casino & Hotel'. On the right side of the graphic, there is a blue vertical panel with the Children's Center logo at the top, followed by the text 'SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO EXPLORE FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE BREAKFAST!' and a QR code.

Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) kicked off this year with a catalog of ideas and project initiatives to pursue. Following the completion of working with The Neutral Zone, learning its youth-driven space techniques, the youth are excited to explore opportunities to facilitate a workshop and complete a community service project. The participants also look forward to traveling to Lansing to support Children's Trust Michigan's Child Abuse Prevention Summit in April.

DCleated

Detroit artist Trae Isaac hand selected The Children's Center to be featured in a unique art installation called DCleated during the 2024 NFL Draft. City Walls and Spacelab Detroit collaborated with local artists to fabricate and customize 20 larger-than-life colossal football cleats showcased in the heart of Detroit during the NFL Draft throughout the month of April. Each cleat represents a local nonprofit organization to uplift a cause that the artist is passionate about.

Trae Isaac chose to leverage his art to make immense impact for children and families served by The Children's Center. Trae deeply values our mission in supporting the wellness and quality of youth and efforts to improve health and safety outcomes for future generations among our community.

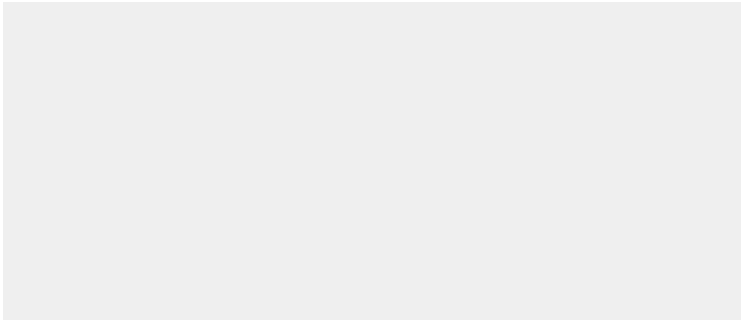
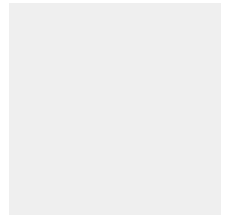
During his mid-teens, Trae experienced the loss of his brother and mother to cancer. Art became his refuge during this vulnerable time, enabling him to express his emotions and transform his trauma into triumph. Having walked a similar path to the children we serve, he empathizes with the children benefiting from the care and support our agency offers.

Trae thoughtfully chose to pay tribute to The Children's Center in his artwork, symbolizing three key elements: Driving, Carrying, and Scoring. In his depiction, Trae showcased children from various backgrounds engaging in the game of football, *driving* themselves towards a brighter future, *carrying* themselves through trial to triumph, and *scoring* through achieving happiness, peace of mind, and the confidence to pursue their dreams and goals.





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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

Power of Possibilities Breakfast

May 7, 2024 7:00 to 8:30 AM
Motor City Casino Hotel

Faces of Trauma

May 16, 2024 5:30 to 8:00 PM
St. Vincent Sarah Fisher
Center

Scan the QR to Donate Today!

Spring into action and
make a positive impact
on a child's life by
making a donation!



Events are subject to change.

If interested in Volunteer Opportunities, please contact the Philanthropy team to sign up at Philanthropy@thechildrenscenter.com.