

HEROES OF HOPE

SUMMER 2024

The Child is the Center of it All.

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Agency Statement: The Children's Center is committed to ensuring that our community is updated about the recent leadership change within our agency. We wish to inform you, for personal reasons, Nicole Wells Stallworth has made the decision to step down from the position of President & CEO at The Children's Center.

From the CEO's Desk

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am humbled and honored to introduce myself as the new President and CEO of The Children's Center. My journey with our incredible agency began in 2010, during which I served in key executive roles, including Chief Sustainability & People Officer. With a background in psychology and a Master's Degree in Business, I am eager to lead The Children's Center and further our mission to help children and families shape their own futures.

The challenges our children face today are significant and we are dedicated to helping them overcome these obstacles. Despite recent changes, our foundation remains strong. We have a team of experts who devote themselves to our mission and provide exceptional, evidence-based care, making us a pillar of hope for our families.

Looking ahead, we are focused on creating a community where every child and family can thrive. We believe in the power of meaningful connections and strong support systems that promote healing. Our goal is to provide quality care that not only addresses immediate needs but also ensures long-term success for our youth, enhancing the well-being of our entire region. Every child deserves the opportunity to reach their potential. This is what drives our staff every day as they earn the trust of the families we serve.

Thank you for supporting us in our mission. Together, we can continue to make a profound difference in the lives of children across Detroit and beyond. Your continued support means the world to us and our families. I look forward to collaborating with you to further enhance the well-being of our children.

Warm regards,



Desiree Jennings
President & CEO
The Children's Center



Shine Gratitude on TCC this Summer!

Tax-smart ways to shine gratitude on The Children's Center this summer!

Do you have an IRA, Donor-Advised Fund, or appreciated stock or cryptocurrencies? If so, we have a gift for you – an online platform that makes it easy to use these resources and give back to The Children's Center. Tax-smart gifts come with a series of advantages for you while making an immediate impact on shaping children's futures. Take a few minutes this summer to save and give, at the same time.

F R E E W I L L 

Save and give this summer!

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



10th Annual Faces of Trauma

The Children's Center recently marked the 10th Annual Faces of Trauma event at St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center with great pride. This event brought our community together, emphasizing the value of *learning, laughing, and healing*. The 90 attendees who joined us, had the opportunity to access a wide array of resources and participate in activities such as a therapeutic healing jar exercise, reflective journaling, and soothing hand massages. The event experience was elevated with a light-hearted comedic performance by Detroit's own T. Barb, whose humor fostered a sense of connection and relief among attendees, among the attendees, serving as a reminder that even in the face of trauma, moments of levity and joy are essential for healing. Participants left with renewed hope and a toolkit of resources to aid their healing journey. The 10th Annual Faces of Trauma event served as a testament to the strength of unity, empathy, and the human spirit's remarkable ability to overcome adversity.



Youth Advisory Council

In the month of May, members of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) pitched a self-care workshop to over 30 participants at a youth conference held at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. In return, they received a grant of \$955 for their community service project initiative.

Additionally, members of YAC contributed their insightful viewpoints to Children's Trust Michigan at the Child Abuse Prevention Summit held in Lansing, MI. Over the summer, the young participants will focus on defining priorities and projects for the upcoming grant year, which includes finalizing the project plan for the community service project



Eat like a Dinosaur

Our latest community workshop, "Eat Like a Dinosaur," aims to educate children about nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet. Participants will engage in hands-on cooking activities to learn about healthy eating habits and discover the joy of building a nutritious lifestyle.

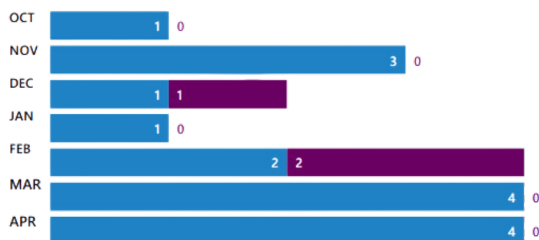
The workshop will cover topics such as meal planning, selecting healthy options, and participating in family meal preparation. All sessions will be led by a chef in the Tau Beta Family Success Center at The Children's Center. We hope that "Eat Like a Dinosaur" will encourage families to instill these healthy habits in their own lives far beyond the workshop, contributing to a healthier and happier community.



Child Welfare



Adoptions and Reunifications that occurred per month during FY24.



19

Children have achieved permanency, fiscal year to date

3

Reunifications

16

Adoptions

Corporate & Foundation Partnership

Detroit Manufacturing Systems has consistently supported The Children's Center in many ways. Their generosity and service are a testament to the power of collective action. They have leveraged human resources through their corporate volunteers, provided backpacks to our clients, and one of their leaders consistently serves on our Sustainable Funding Committee, Donna Schultz. Their generosity and steadfast commitment toward those in need are superb. They were appropriately recognized at our Power of Possibilities breakfast in May for their demonstrated steadfast commitment to enhancing the quality of life for children and families as a Heroes of Hope Champion. Not only did they serve as an Envision Sponsor for our annual event, but they also leveraged their network to secure additional sponsors and donations! These included: Autobridge, Inc., Bluestone Communications, Inc., Bradford Co., Geolean, USA, Maumee Valley Group, Meliora Group, LLC., Nysus Solutions, PMC America, Inc., UAW Local 600, Utility Reduction Analysts, Inc., Venture Solutions, and Wells Fargo Bank. We are grateful to Detroit Manufacturing Systems for their unwavering dedication to elevating the well-being of children and families!



Tau Beta Baby Shower

In April, we were excited to host our community Baby Shower to celebrate and support new mothers, expectant mothers and their families. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Tau Beta members for all the immense support they provided through volunteering, donating essential items, and contributing to the overall success of our event. With their help, TCC showered over 30 families by providing essential items for newborns and creating a safe space for families to connect.

The food, games, and giveaways were enjoyed by all, while our volunteers looked after the younger children. Each family left with more than just prizes; they received a generous laundry bag filled with pajamas, diapers, and other necessities. We are grateful for the continued support from Tau Beta in organizing this wonderful event for our families. It was a memorable celebration as we showered these parents with the love, care, and kindness they deserved on their special day.

Dinner with the Doc

As an agency, we were delighted to bring back our Dinner with the Doc event for the children and families we support. This special occasion involved families gathering on campus for a meal with the Psychiatric Team and Dr. Sarah Witherell.

Sarah Witherell is a Child Psychologist specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorder, developmental disabilities, and trauma. She is also certified as a therapist for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. Additionally, she is an active committee member of the Children, Youth, and Families Committee of the Michigan Psychological Association and offers clinical support and training for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Volunteer Spotlight

We are filled with gratitude as we welcome back our volunteer groups to assist in maintaining the cleanliness and charm of our campus for everyone! Recently, we were fortunate to have the kind volunteers from GE spend a day with The Children's Center, engaging in tasks like weeding, mulching, and pruning. While part of the volunteer group worked outdoors, a dedicated group supported us in organizing donations at our Boutique. They efficiently arranged clothes on racks, sorted through tubs of donations, and stocked our pantry shelves. Whether volunteering regularly or for a one-day event, we are truly thankful for our volunteers who generously share their skills with us.



Do you want to volunteer individually, as a group, or engage your company?

If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Engagement Manager, Alyssa Silletti at asilletti@thechildrenscenter.com for more details.

Dinner with a Doc provided 16 families with dinner and a valuable opportunity to engage with an expert in a safe setting, where they discussed general inquiries about our services and treatment plans.

Dr. Sarah Witherell shared, "It was a wonderful opportunity to engage with parents in a casual informal setting. The parents posed insightful questions and were very engaged. Additionally, the Tau Beta Family Success Center arranged activities to keep the children entertained, allowing parents to have meaningful conversations with me. It was truly a welcoming and heartwarming experience!"



A Client Story

Reshanna, a mother to a 9-month-old son, Reginald, had growing concerns about her son facing hearing loss. She sought out care and received services from School for the Deaf, where they taught Reginald sign language, aided him in communicating his needs, and referred him to The Children's Center for additional services.

The Children's Center helped Reshanna discover that in addition to hearing loss, her son was facing emotional impairment, ADHD, PTSD, and required speech therapy. Our agency promptly provided Reginald with the necessary services, and through home-based therapy, we uncovered the root cause of his behavioral outbursts. Reginald's therapist was able to help Reshanna comprehend his cues, exercise patience, and set realistic family expectations.

As Reginald matured, he received specialized educational assistance, and TCC helped Reshanna ensure that Detroit Public Schools met Reginald's educational requirements. Reginald recognized his uniqueness compared to other children, exhibiting antisocial tendencies, a lack of social connections, and a reluctance to engage with peers. Unfortunately, his learning disability led to his isolation and alienation during his formative years.

Reginald's transformation began when he arrived at TCC and his demeanor noticeably improved. He actively engaged in therapy, enrichment programs, and art therapy

sessions. Sharing his feelings with his therapist marked a pivotal moment, building trust and allowing him to express himself.

The Children's Center took a comprehensive approach in creating a treatment strategy for Reginald. By analyzing elements such as family dynamics and the home environment, our team crafted a personalized plan that helped their family feel successful.

Reshanna shared, "I didn't believe that Reginald would ever have a positive outcome. Witnessing Reginald experience behavioral growth gave me the confidence that the services here work. The Children's Center had hope for me and my family our entire journey."

We are delighted to share the impressive progress Reginald has made since receiving services at our agency. Despite a 20% hearing loss in his

right ear, he has attained a 3.8 GPA and no longer requires speech or language therapy. Reginald now splits his time between a specialized education school and a regular high school. His behavior has significantly improved, and he sets a positive example for his peers at the specialized educational facility.

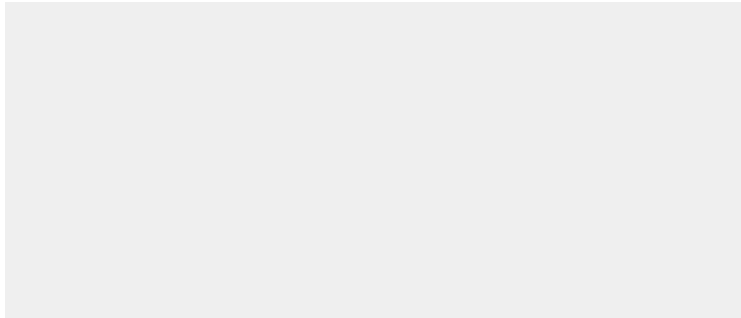
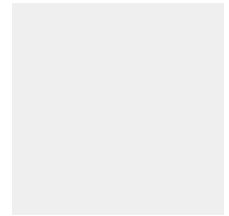
Each child and family our agency supports is unique and valuable. Our goal is to provide them with essential resources, support, and services to pave the way for a positive and healthy future for generations to follow.

We are honored to continue helping children and families as they shape their own future.





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](https://www.TheChildrensCenter.com)

Future Events

August

Community Health & Wellness Fair

August 15, 2024 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The Children's Center, Parking lot of Building 90

October

Trunk or Treat

October 25, 2024 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

The Children's Center, Parking lot of Building 90

Scan the QR to Donate Today!

Strengthen our community 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.