



The Child is the Center of it All.





## THE CHILDREN'S CENTER 2022-23 IMPACT REPORT

This has been a transformative year at The Children's Center. Under new leadership, we have continued our mission to help children and families shape their own futures.

In 2022-23, our programs served 3,190 clients with evidence-based mental health care and trauma-informed support. Our community engagement efforts reached 5,744 individuals. We saw a significant increase in access at our Tau Beta Family Success Center Boutique and Food Pantry, serving 4,160 families — indicating the urgent need we are helping to meet within our community.

Our impact is further highlighted by the 556 families reaching the goals that they set with their therapist, and 85% of children aged 7-17 who completed treatment reported no severe impairments afterward. Additionally, 82% of children in crisis were safely diverted from psychiatric hospitals. This year, there was a remarkable 88% graduation rate for foster youth in semi-independent living.

Our dedicated team continues to provide exceptional care, earning the trust of the families we serve. With new leadership, our focus remains on creating an environment of meaningful connections where every child and family can thrive.

Your support makes all this possible. Thank you for being a crucial part of The Children's Center family. Together, we are building a brighter future for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Desiree Jennings".

Desiree Jennings  
PRESIDENT & CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elizabeth Agius".

Liz Agius  
BOARD CHAIR



# WHO WE ARE

The Children’s Center is one of the largest, most diverse and comprehensive front-line child-serving 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  
(Psychological and Neuropsychological Evaluations for Autism Spectrum Disorder, cognitive and developmental skills, emotional and behavioral functioning)
- Clinical Services  
(Outpatient Services, School Based Services, Early childhood behavioral health services 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

- Licensing
  - Engaging families who are looking to open their home to foster children.
- Adoption
  - Supporting children to find their forever home.
- Foster Care
  - Providing safe, temporary homes for children who have been removed from their family home and supporting their caretakers in the reunification process.
- Independent Living (Young Adult Self Sufficiency-YASS)

## Community Advocacy & Engagement

- Community Events and Programs
  - Maintaining a link to our community to support access to services & stigma reduction.
- Crisis to Connection: An Imperative for our Black Boys
  - Helping communities better understand the mental health challenges and needs of black boys.
- Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative
  - Engaging fathers and other male caretakers in the lives and services of all children.
- Youth United
  - Supporting youth voice and choice in service delivery and position youth-led activities throughout Wayne County.

## Family Engagement

- Tau Beta Family Success Center
  - Primary prevention, literacy, concrete supports, and enrichment.
- Children Trust MI- Local Council
  - Child abuse prevention and education.
- Supportive Services
  - Case Management, Parent Support, Art Therapy, Skill Building.



# RESHANNAS STORY: TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY

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 in Detroit, where they made progress by teaching Reginald sign language and aiding him in communicating his needs. As the school noticed Reginald had other issues he was dealing with, they referred him to The Children's Center for additional services.

## DISCOVERY AND EARLY CARE

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.



While TCC helped Reshanna ensure that Detroit Public Schools met Reginald's educational requirements, as he matured he began to recognize his uniqueness among his peers. Reginald started to exhibit antisocial tendencies and a reluctance to engage with classmates. Unfortunately, this led to a lack of social connections during some of his formative years.

## TRANSFORMATIONAL PROGRESS

"She taught him to breathe deeply which is something Reginald still does today."

-Reshanna

Reginald's transformation began when he opened up to his therapist at TCC. He started to become excited about actively engaging in therapy, attending enrichment programs, and joining art therapy sessions.



The Children's Center took a comprehensive approach in creating a treatment strategy for Reginald. By analyzing elements such as family dynamics and his diet, our team crafted a personalized plan that led to their family's success.

"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."

-Reshanna

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Reginald has made impressive progress since receiving services from 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.

## BRIGHT FUTURES

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 families like Reshanna and Reginald as they shape their own future.



# LOVE FINDS FAMILY

## ASHLEY AND DANTE'S ADOPTION STORY

When they married in 2018, Ashley and Dante started discussing their desire to start a family. Their honeymoon conversation laid the foundation for their future: when they asked each other, what does a family unit look like to us? As members of the LGBTQ community, they wanted to find a friendly organization that would help aspiring parents like them create a family.

### DISCOVERING THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Ashley and Dante found The Children's Center through diligent internet searches and personal recommendations. When they discovered our agency's welcoming and inclusive environment, they committed to moving forward with starting their family. They quickly enrolled in the comprehensive foster care classes, which provided them with a clear understanding of the responsibilities and challenges ahead.



A month later, they received their first placement call resulting in Ashley and Dante deciding to foster two girls. They were siblings that were able to stay together. This decision marked the beginning of a fulfilling journey into parenthood for the newlywed couple.

**SUPPORT AND TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE CHILDREN'S CENTER**  
Ashley and Dante's youngest daughter, who was three at the time, enrolled in the Center's Infant Mental Health Services. The family was matched with a dedicated therapist who provided weekly support for over three years. This consistent guidance helped their daughter reach milestones and reassured Ashley and Dante by affirming their efforts and offering valuable developmental insights.



Their eldest daughter participated in a transformative trauma-based therapy program. The therapy allowed her to process past traumas and move forward, fostering her emotional and psychological growth.

### EMBRACING INDIVIDUALITY AND GROWTH

Under Ashley and Dante's care, their daughters flourished. The older sister, a voracious reader, developed a love for tinkering, while the youngest found her passion in dancing and unicorns, proudly asserting her individuality. Ashley and Dante's supportive parenting has encouraged their daughters to discover their identities and explore their own interests. This has been pivotal in their development and has allowed the girls to find their own voices.

**THE POWER OF CHOSEN FAMILY**  
Ashley and Dante understand the importance of the chosen family. Their experience with The Children's Center has allowed them to put this concept into action, providing a stable, loving home for their daughters. As advocates for foster care and adoption, Ashley and Dante continue to inspire others, proving that with acceptance and the proper support, every family can flourish.

"It's transformative to children, its tranformative to adults who care for those children, its transformative to the impact you can have on a community"  
-Dante



# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS | OCT 2022- SEPT 2023

Unique Volunteers Numbers: 1,438

Volunteer Hours: 9,569

Valuation: \$304,294.20

*"I enjoy working hands-on with families staff and other volunteers and seeing the impact The Children's Center has on the community." - Natalia Fanning*

## Group Volunteer Highlight:

Last summer, volunteers joined us on campus in "adopting" their own garden spaces on our grounds. Groups provided plants and maintained their gardens through the summer – weeding, watering, and making sure things were growing well.

Thank you to our inaugural adoptive gardeners: Flowers for Dreams - Detroit, Avani P. & Victoria R., and The Rochester Pollinators for creating a warm and welcoming environment for our children and families!

## Volunteer Award Winners:

Lisa V. Ford Heart and Soul Award winner:  
Kate Bandol

Corporate Friend Award:  
Walgreens

Community Service Award:  
International Academy

Staff Volunteer of the Year:  
Mykahla Frayer

Youth Service Award:  
Natalia Fanning



# QUOTES FROM OUR TCC TEAM

"I like working at TCC because it allows me to practice my calling of caring for children and families within Child Welfare. There is no greater joy than helping to put families together." - Shereen Allen-Youngblood

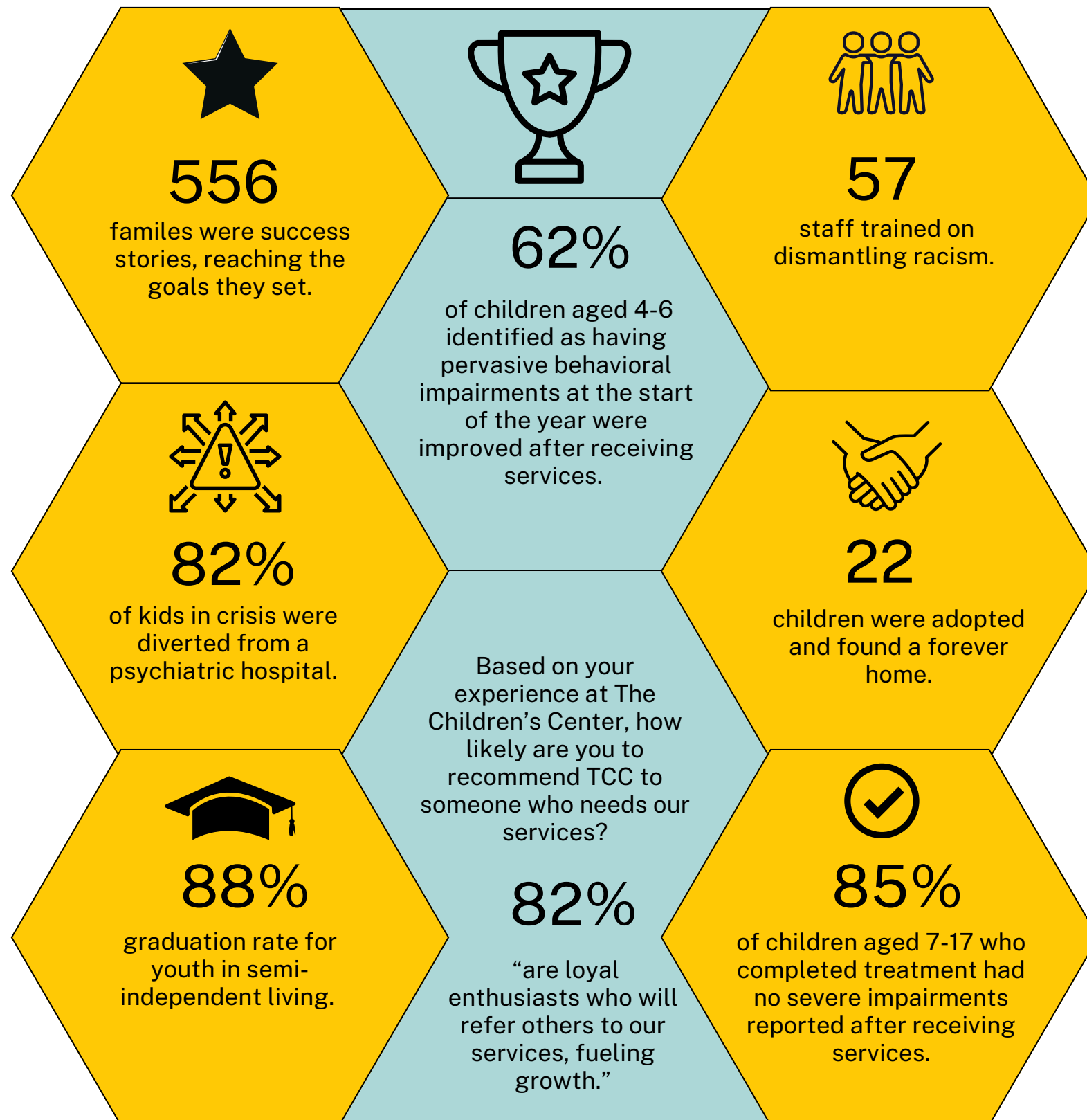
"Ever since I was a little girl, I have always enjoyed serving and encouraging others to give back, and what a greater joy it is for me to do those things in the same community where I was born and raised." -Kimberly Clayton

"I feel that proper early interventions with children prevent long-term emotional suffering as adults. The Children's Center's focus on children has a special place in my heart." -Carron Boyer

"I think the beauty of working with youth is how uniquely different each kid is. Working here gives me the opportunity to collaborate and express creativity with them and help them discover themselves and thrive." -Damon Creighton Jr.

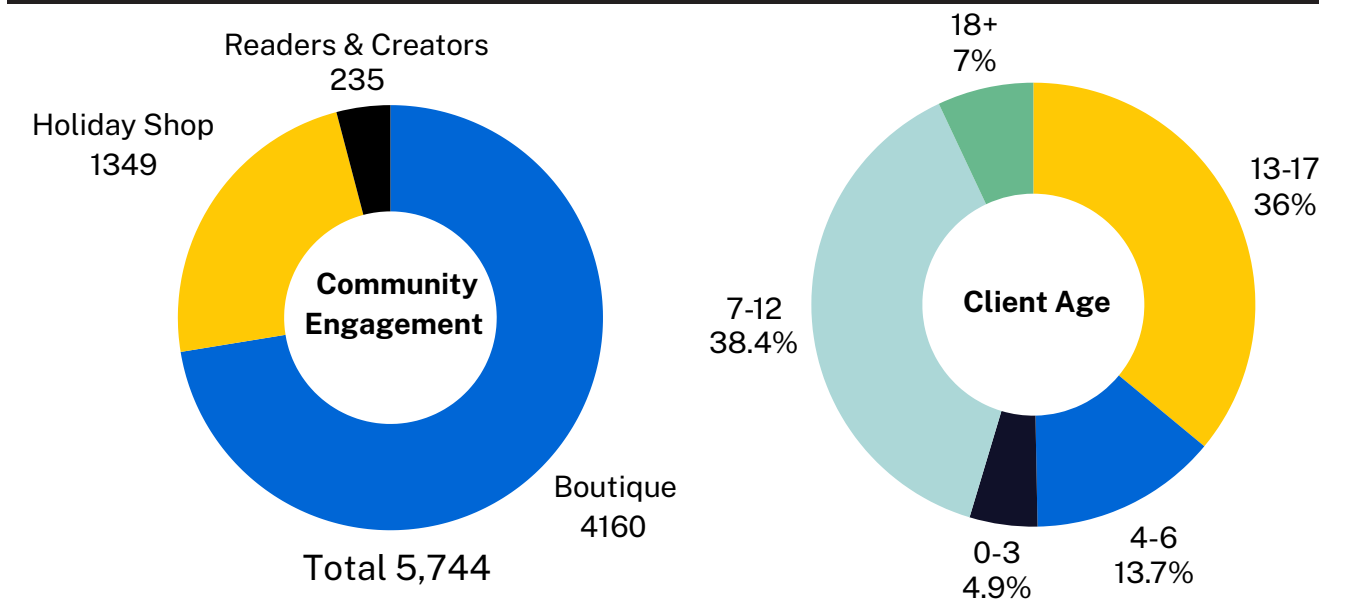
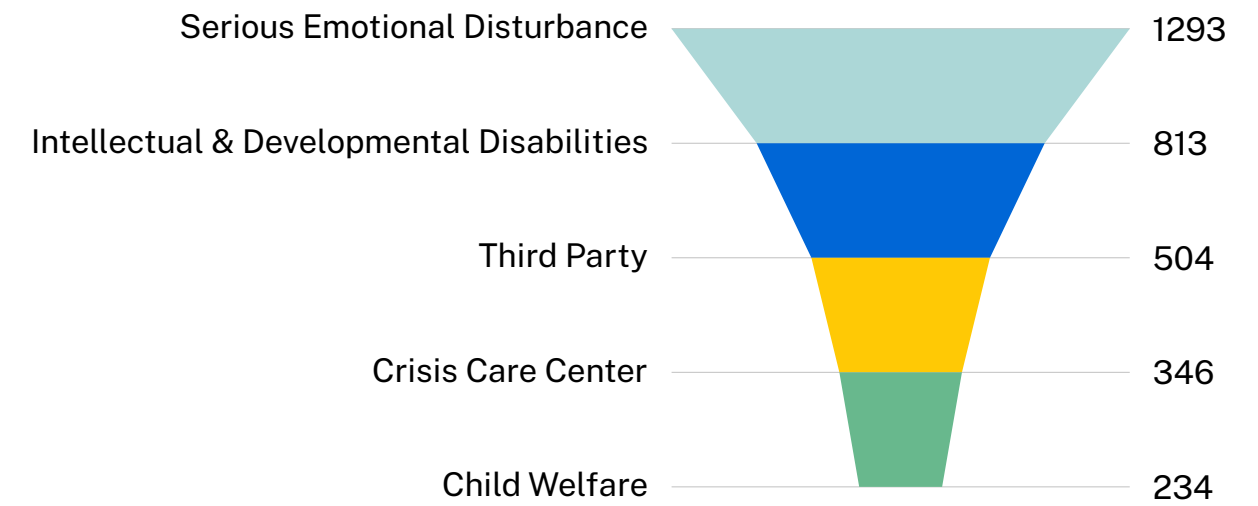
"I love working at TCC because it gives me a sense of purpose and fulfillment. I work with amazing individuals in the Family Success Center who are fueled by passion and commitment to serving, empowering, and motivating our families to heal and thrive." - Wanda Burke

## THE IMPACT WE MADE

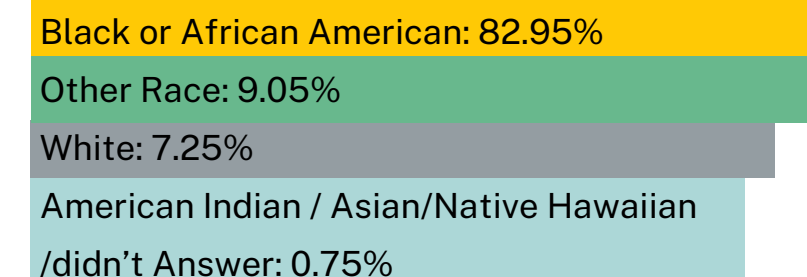


## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED

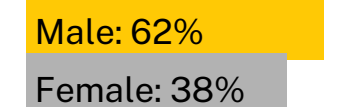
Clients Served by Program  
Total 3,190



### Race & Ethnicity



### Gender



# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES | FY 2022-23

## Revenue

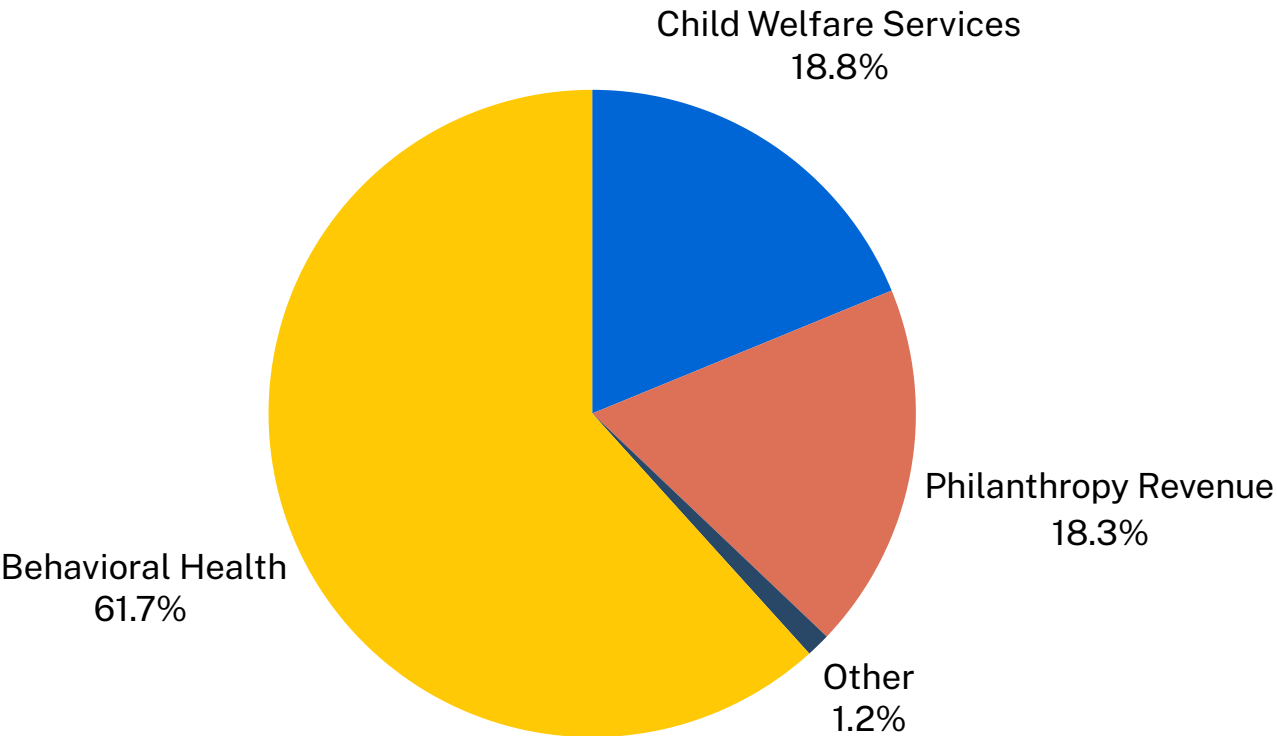
Behavioral Health Services	\$12,208,764
Child Welfare Services	\$3,715,313
Philanthropy Revenue	\$3,609,023
Other	\$240,923
Total Revenue	\$19,774,023

## Expenses

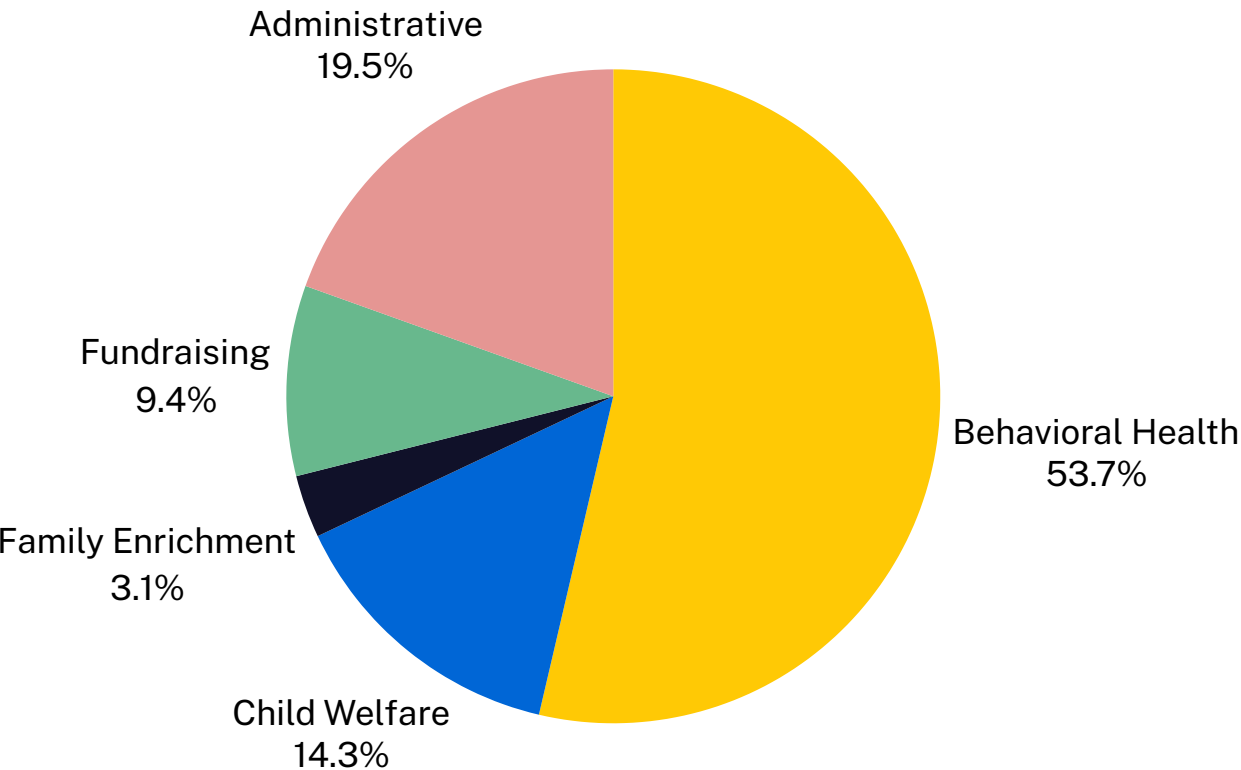
Behavioral Health	\$11,386,293
Child Welfare	\$3,032,363
Family Enrichment	\$660,865
Fundraising	\$2,004,552
Administrative	\$4,147,218
Total Expenses	\$21,231,291

Change in Net Assets from Operations	\$(1,457,268)
Non Operating Income (Expenses)	\$490,455
Total Change in Net Assets	\$(966,813)

# REVENUE



# EXPENSES





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.  
Denise & John Dunn  
Lisa & Bill Ford  
Global Strategic Supply Solutions  
Goldfish Swim  
Denise & James Jacob  
Katie & Thomas Lee  
Lisa Lunsford  
Erick & Lady Susan Reickert

HEALING THE HURT  
\$25,000+

Raymond DeBates, III & Elizabeth Curtis  
Darcy Fischer  
Tina V. & Gordon T. Ford, Jr.  
Alma & Edward Greer  
Kenneth & Susan Kirchner  
Carole & Douglas Maibach  
Erika & Ryan Monroe  
David Reich  
Frank & Ruth Zinn

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 Switer  
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Jeffrey T. & Lisa Baker  
Kyra Baker  
Douglas Barnett  
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Marletta Boyd  
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Dennis Coleman  
Kevin Cooper  
Robin D. Couzens  
Alison Couzens Craig & Michael Craig

James Daly  
Lynda & John Dandridge  
James & Mary Dunn  
Camille Edwards  
Dennis & Si Edwards  
Nanci Ernst  
Jay & Wendi Farner  
Doreen & Karl Fava  
Jess Ferguson  
Allyson Fiteny  
Glen & Lori Flowers  
Francee Ford & Marshall Blau  
Julie Foust  
Eric & Jaclyn Fox  
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Jenny Fruehauf  
Frank Gall  
Alan Gallatin  
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Mike Mcelrath  
Patrick McKeever  
Kathie & Richard Miller  
Michelle Mio  
Joann Mitchell  
Monica Moons  
Deborah L. Murphy  
Carlynn Nichols  
Martha Obringer  
Daniel & Margaret O'Connor  
Michelle Pace  
Angela & Gerald Polk  
Adrienne Polumbo  
Dennis & Susan Potoczak  
Renee Prewitt  
Cindy & Richard Read  
Douglas & Kimberly Reich  
Dennis & Phyllis Reynolds  
Renee Reynolds  
Kirk A. Roy  
Christopher Ruth & Janet Chrzanowski  
David & Laurie Saims  
Tina Sappington  
Cheryl A. Simon  
Simone Smith  
Robert B. Solomon  
Kristin Sowle  
Melissa Stewart  
Carmen & David Szurpicki  
The Craig Family  
Cathy Topf  
Benjamin Tower  
Tranquility Services  
Gayl Turk  
Kristin & Paul Tyll  
Bridgette Valade  
Brad & Pamela Valka  
Linda Valka  
Jennifer VanHorn  
Jennifer Vinch  
Gina Waggoner  
Brendan & Kelly Walsh  
Nicholas Weise  
Jean M. Wersching  
Philip White  
Kristin & Richard Whitney  
Heidi & Henry Wineman  
George & Verita Winn  
Bruce Wyman  
Tammy L. Zonker

BELIEVERS

Believers are 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.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Shelia Donaldson  
Tina V

MEMBERS

Elizabeth J. Agius  
Kyra Baker  
Lawrence E. Banks  
Eric Beaupré  
Scott Benson  
Megan Bonanni Khoury  
Pamela Brown  
Renee Burns  
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Tracy Thomas  
Ramona Thornton  
Justin Van Wyk  
Priya Varadan  
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Kimberly R. Zazula

TCC TEAM

Abagael L. Adair  
Shereen Allen-Youngblood  
Melanie Banks  
Elizabeth Bendure  
Brian Bomar  
Hollie Born  
Asura Burke  
Richard Dusky

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Mychele A. Tennille  
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\$50,000+

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Roeder & Lazar, P.C.  
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JDJ Family Foundation  
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RM Freedman Trust  
Tau Beta Association  
The Elizabeth, Allan and  
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Total Health Care Foundation  
United Jewish Foundation of  
Metropolitan Detroit  
WPP

ADVOCATES  
\$25,000+

Axalta

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Piston Group  
The Pulte Family Charitable  
Foundation  
United Way for SE Michigan

FOUNDERS  
\$10,000+

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Rehmann Foundation  
Rite Aid Healthy Futures  
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Verizon Wireless

SUPPORTERS  
\$1,000+

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Rogue B2B  
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AmazonSmile Foundation  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
The Honorable and Mrs. Charles W. Anderson, III  
Susan Anderson  
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