

# IMPACT REPORT

*Together, We Write the Next Chapter*



FISCAL YEAR 2024



# A New Chapter Begins:

## A Message from Leadership

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Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2024, we are deeply moved by the resilience, compassion, and commitment that define The Children’s Center community. Every child who walks through our doors carries a story—and this year, with your support, we’ve helped write thousands of powerful new chapters filled with growth, healing, and possibility.

At The Children’s Center, we believe that no story is too complicated, and no struggle too great, to be met with hope and help. We’ve stood beside families navigating trauma, loss, and systemic challenges—and thanks to you, we’ve been able to provide the care, resources, and advocacy they need to thrive.

This year, we expanded critical mental and behavioral health services, strengthened our support for foster families, deepened trauma-informed practices across programs, and continued to be a lifeline for children facing overwhelming circumstances. And through every success, every breakthrough moment, you were part of the story.

Whether you gave your time, your voice, your resources—or entrusted us with the care

of your family—you helped create lasting impact. Together, we didn’t just serve needs; we sparked transformation. We didn’t just support children; we stood up for their futures.


As we turn the page to a new year, we carry with us the stories that inspire us and the urgent belief that every child deserves a chance to heal, to dream, and to belong.


*“Together, we didn’t just serve needs; we sparked transformation.”*

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we will keep writing the next chapter—one filled with strength, connection, and endless potential.





# The Heart of Every Story





**Desiree Jennings**  
President & CEO





**Dennis Edwards**  
Board Chair

**MISSION**  
To help children and families shape their own futures.

**VISION**  
We envision a health community that helps through meaningful connectedness and support.

**CORE VALUES**  
Can do attitude, Dedicated, Passionate, Accountable, Respectful.

Behind every number is a name, a face, and a future.  
*See the stories inside.*



# How We Bring Stories to Life

## WHO WE ARE

The Children's Center (TCC) is one of the largest comprehensive child serving agencies in the state of Michigan 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 staff provides services to children with diagnosed mental illness and/or intellectual developmental disabilities and children at risk of abuse and/or neglect, and their families. Our specialized services are focused on three main areas:

- Behavioral Health
- Child Welfare
- Community Engagement and Advocacy

## OUR SERVICES

We look at all factors impacting a child's functioning - family, school, social environments, life experiences, and traumatic experiences and exposure. Our services include:

### Behavioral Health Services

- **Clinical Services**- Outpatient and home based individual and family therapy, infant and early childhood behavioral health, supports coordination, social skills groups, and independent living skills development
- **Medical Services** - Psychiatric evaluations and ongoing medication management
- **Psychological Services**- Psychological and neuropsychological testing and evaluation (for cognitive, developmental, social, and emotional diagnosis and treatment recommendations) & Autism Spectrum Disorder testing

### Treatment Modalities Include:

- Child and family centered care
- Intensive care coordination wraparound services
- Motivational interviewing
- Parent peer support
- Trauma informed care across all services
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

### Child Welfare

- Foster parent recruitment & licensing
- Foster home placement, ongoing monitoring, and support
- Adoption services in finalizing a child's forever home
- Independent Living placement, ongoing monitoring, and support

### Community Engagement and Advocacy

#### • Programs & Services

- Tau Beta Family Success Center
- Art therapy
- Boutique with clothing and essentials
- Case management services
- Children's Trust Local Council Child Abuse
- Community events
- Community library and literacy support
- Prevention and education programming
- Summer camp

#### • Advocacy

- Crisis to Connection
- Consumer Advisory Council
- Youth Advisory Council
- Youth United
- Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative



# Stories of Strength



## Turning the Page: Amiyah's Journey with The Children's Center

Ashanti is the kind of mom who will do anything for her children. As a single mother raising three kids under the age of ten, she knew what it meant to carry a lot on her shoulders—but when her oldest daughter, Amiyah, began showing signs of emotional struggle, Ashanti knew she needed help.

After a pediatrician visit led to a referral, Amiyah, just nine years old, began therapy at The Children's Center. It was there, in her very first session, that she finally spoke the words she had been holding in for so long. For Ashanti, watching her daughter begin to open up was both heartbreaking and healing. "Before coming to The Children's Center, I felt hopeless and put a lot of blame on myself," Ashanti reflects. "Everything she was feeling, I thought, was a reflection of me."

Their journey hasn't been easy. The family has faced more than their share of challenges—grief, trauma, homelessness, even nights spent living in their car. But through it all, Ashanti never stopped showing up for her children. And with the help of The Children's Center, she no longer had to do it alone.

Amiyah and Ashanti were matched with a Wraparound Support Facilitator, someone who helped address every layer of their lives. From providing access to an Individualized

Education Program (IEP) that helped Amiyah succeed in school, to connecting Ashanti to career support and meals that ensured no one went to bed hungry—TCC stood by them every step of the way. Today, Amiyah is thriving. And Ashanti has become an advocate, not just for her family,

***"Never give up. I was on the edge of giving up, and I'm so glad that I didn't."***

but for others who may feel like giving up. "Never give up. I was on the edge of giving up," she says. "And I'm so glad that I didn't."

At The Children's Center, we know healing doesn't happen in isolation. It takes trust, time, and the power of a community that cares. Ashanti and Amiyah's story reminds us: when we support one family, we change the story for generations.



# A New Chapter for Santiago

When Rosalia first noticed her son Santiago struggling to express himself, she didn't know where to turn. While his twin sister Angela blossomed with compassion and curiosity, Santiago often battled invisible challenges, daily frustration, outbursts, and a growing sense of isolation from his siblings.

"I wanted to help Santiago, but I didn't know where to start," Rosalia shared. "I was ashamed of my parenting and embarrassed of my child's constant tantrums. I was struggling with his behavior."

After an initial attempt to find answers at a hospital, Rosalia came to The Children's Center, hoping for something more, more insight, more resources, more hope. What she found was a team that not only



saw Santiago's potential, but one that empowered her entire family to support him in meaningful, lasting ways.

Santiago was diagnosed with an Intellectual Disability, Language Disorder, and Adjustment Disorder. With that knowledge, TCC helped develop a holistic treatment plan tailored to his needs. The family's first language is Spanish, so services included a translator to ensure



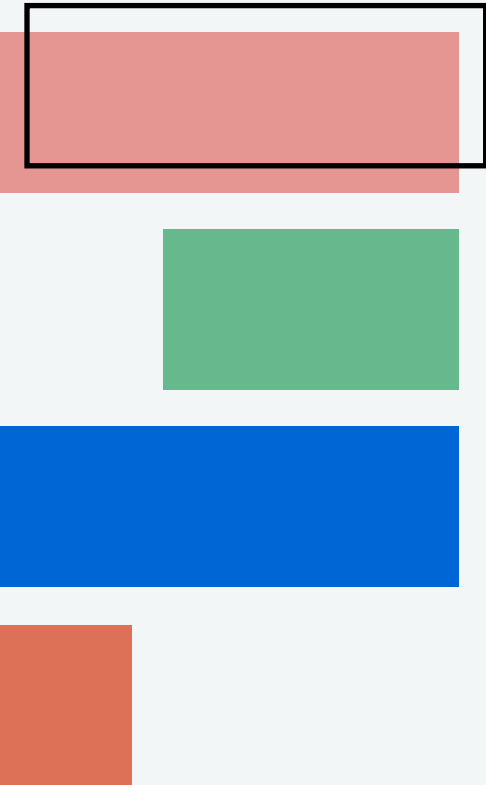
*"The Children's Center has not only helped Santiago, but they have helped our entire family."*

communication was clear and culturally responsive.

Through therapy, resources, and coaching, Santiago has made remarkable progress: reducing his outbursts, speaking in full phrases, becoming potty trained, and finding more ease in day-to-day routines. But perhaps even more transformative is what his mother has found; confidence, connection, and the joy of watching her son's world expand.

"The best advice I can give to parents is to be patient and have perseverance with your children," Rosalia says. "It might be a difficult routine, but you get to witness the change little by little. The Children's Center has not only helped Santiago, but they have helped our entire family."

Together, with The Children's Center support, Santiago's family is writing a new story—one where a child once misunderstood is now seen, supported, and soaring toward a future full of possibility.





# Part of the Story

## Community in Action: Our Volunteers

**287** Volunteers who gave  
**10+ hours** of their time

*more than* **70** of volunteers gave  
**20+ hours** of their time

### Volunteers have supported The Children's Center with:

- Regular activities to bring enrichment and support to TCC kids and families, such as: Boutique & Food Pantry Assistance, Readers & Creators, Dream Builders, Family Art Adventures, Game Nights, Lego Building, Coding Clubs, and Art Therapy
- Special Program Events that reach the community and client families, such as: Trunk or Treat, Back to School Bazaar, Backpack distribution, the Tau Beta Community Baby Shower, Turkey & Ham Giveaway, and the Holiday Shop
- Special events such as: AutoGlow and the Power of Possibilities Breakfast



**5,075** Total Hours

Dollar Value of  
**\$165,763**



# Every Number Tells a Story


Impact Statistics for Fiscal Year 2024

## Client Satisfaction

**82%** of The Children's Center clients are loyal enthusiasts who will keep referring others and fueling growth.

## Overall Success

 **786**  
families were successful in reaching the goals taht they set


 **73%**  
high school graduation rate for youth in semi-independent living  
\*Without support, this drops to 50%


 **67**  
staff trained on equity, diversity, and inclusion



## Behavioral Health

 **100%**  
of children rated as severely depressed last year moved out of the severely depressed category

 **82%**  
of children aged 7-17 that successfully completed treatment had no severe impairments reported after receiving services

 **73%**  
of children aged 4-6 identified as having pervasive behavioral impairments at the start of the year were improved after receiving services

## Child Welfare



**18**  
children were adopted and found their forever homes

## Crisis Intervention



**88%**  
of kids in crisis were diverted from a psychiatric hospital



# Investing in Every Story

## Statement of Activities | FY 2023-24

### Revenue

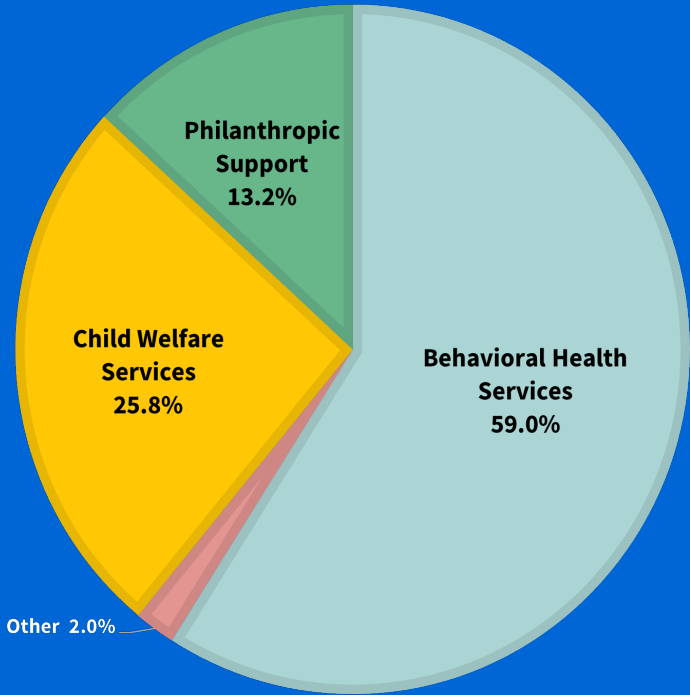
Behavioral Health Services	\$8,333,743
Child Welfare Services	\$3,649,508
Philanthropic Support	\$1,863,131
Other	\$277,102
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$14,123,484</b>

### Expenses

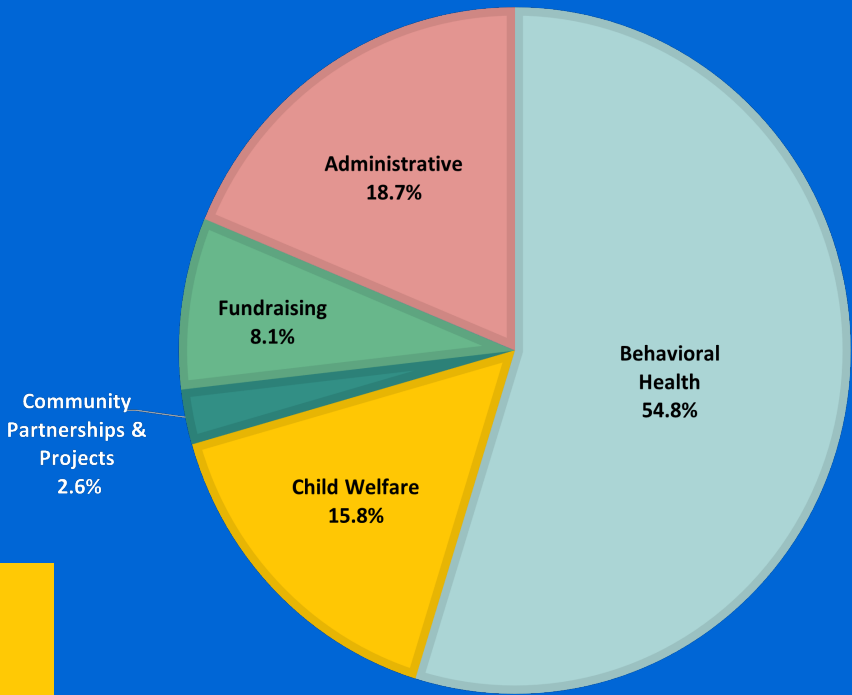
Behavioral Health	\$10,043,848
Child Welfare	\$2,897,029
Community Partnerships & Projects	\$474,230
Fundraising	\$1,479,660
Administrative	\$3,435,148
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,329,915</b>

Change in Net Assets from Operations	(\$4,206,431)
Non Operating Income (Expenses)	\$1,053,191
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(\$3,153,240)</b>

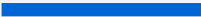
## Revenue



## Expenses







# The Story Builders: Thank You

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

**HEALING THE HURT**

**\$25,000+**  
Mary Ellen Brayton  
Michael Craig & Alison Couzens  
Craig  
Raymond Debates, III &  
Elizabeth Curtis  
Tina & Gordon Ford  
Kenneth & Susan Kirchner  
Marilynn & Gregory Magreta  
Douglas & Carole Maibach  
Erika & Ryan Monroe  
David Reich

**A HEALTHY START**

**\$5,000+**  
Fayssal Akacem  
Deborah Allen  
Adam & Jenny Altman  
Suzanne Antonelli  
Kate Aretakis  
Douglas Bajor  
Jeffrey T. & Lisa Baker

Douglas Barnett  
Dr. Marquita Bedway  
Kimberly Bowden-Adair  
& Bryan Adair  
Joan & Doug Budden  
Shawn & Linda Byrnes  
Karen & Raymond Caloia  
Crystal Coleman  
Kevin Cooper  
Robin D. Couzens  
James Daly  
Lynda & John Dandridge  
Deborah & Richard DiGia  
James & Mary Dunn  
John Ecclestone  
Michelle & Roy Edmonds  
Camille Edwards  
Dennis & Si Edwards  
Nanci Ernst  
Wendi & Jay Farner  
Doreen & Karl Fava  
Darcy Fischer  
Allyson Fiteny  
Denise Fleckenstein  
Francee Ford & Marshall Blau  
Julie Foust  
Eric & Jaclyn Fox  
Kathleen Frank  
Frank Gall  
Myndi & Alan Gallatin  
Marcia Gallegos & Timothy Sullivan  
Cristina & Scott Garberding  
John Garcia  
Ryan & Jennifer Gaul  
Wilhelmina & Paul Giblin

Molly Gole  
Mark & Rebecca Gracey  
Stacey Gray  
Carlton Guthrie  
Donald Hall  
Angela Hardison  
Chris & Michelle Harrison  
Kenton Higgins  
Richard Hyrb  
Desiree & Marvin Jennings  
Julia & Cleven Jones  
Susan Joseph  
Chui & Teusi Karega  
Sean Kelley  
Gevork Khachatrian  
Zachary & Rachel Kulish  
Jason & Kelli Lambiris  
Jessica Lefort  
Tiffany Leid  
Joseph E. Mackey  
Sara Manteuffel  
William & Karen Marsh  
Mike & Diane Marston  
Beth & Peter Martz  
Debora & Danny Matthews  
Anthony & Marcy Mikoy  
Richard & Kathie Miller  
Michelle Mio  
Joann Mitchell  
Monica Moons  
Christian & Jennifer Moran  
Christopher Moyer & Sarah McCuish  
Deborah L. Murphy  
Martha Obringer  
Margaret & Daniel O’Connor

Michelle Pace  
Lisa Perry  
Angela & Gerald Polk  
Adrienne Pumbo  
Cindy & Richard Read  
Kimberly & Douglas Reich  
Denise Reske  
Kirk A. Roy  
Barbara & Donald Runyon  
Christopher Ruth &  
Janet Chrzanowski  
David Sanchez & Meghan  
Martinez-Sanchez

Tina Sappington  
Jill Schumacher & David Kramer  
Cheryl A. Simon  
Simone Smith  
Vinti Sondhi  
Kristin & Mark Sowle  
Michael Steinback & Sharon  
Madison Steinback  
Nancy Stermer & Paul Hoyte  
Melissa Stewart  
Carmen & David Szurpicki  
Renee & Matthew Theunick  
Kristin & Paul Tyll

Bridgette Valade & Kevin Steen  
Brad & Pamela Valka  
Linda Valka  
Brendan & Kelly Walsh  
Jean M. Wersching  
Philip White  
Kristin & Richard Whitney  
Henry & Heidi Wineman  
Bruce & Janet Wyman  
Lorna Zalenski  
Jennifer Zinn & Gus Andreasen  
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  
Christine V. & Gordon T. Ford, Jr.  
Shirley Fortune

**MEMBERS**

Elizabeth Agius  
Jeffrey T. & Lisa Baker  
Megan Bonanni Khoury  
Gordon & Lisa Bradley  
Pamela Brown  
Renee Burns  
Andrew Callery  
Helen G. Coleman  
Tony DeLuca  
Michael Dockeray  
Ann Downey  
Allan Dunlap  
Madalyn M. Eberhardt  
Dr. Walter Everett & Lorene  
Everett  
Susan & William Gilbride  
Mathew Godlewski  
Dan Harrison  
Vivian Henry  
Glenn Hunter  
Mary Jo Johnson  
Ronald Kar

Cara Kennedy  
Erin Krueger  
Brian Lam  
Marjorie Lynn  
Susan & Rob Mason  
Isabel Measzros  
Erin Miller  
Dr. Robyn D. Moore  
Mary Anne O’Sullivan-Reising  
Tisha & Matthew O’Malley  
Mouhamad & Mounira Ozoor  
Laura & Matthew Parvin  
Janet Pasco  
Christine Payson  
Megan & Mike Phelps  
Frank Pino, III  
Pattie Potts  
Phyllis & Dennis Reynolds  
Alicia Schwartz  
Christa Shaw  
Tracy Thomas  
Ramona Thornton  
Justin Van Wyk  
Monique Walthall  
Terrel White  
Kenyada Wilson  
Jamie Wolfe

**THE CHILDREN’S CENTER TEAM**

Shereen Allen-Youngblood  
Melanie Banks  
Brian Bomar  
Asura Burke  
Richard Dusky  
Earl Hairston  
Lee & Donna Koss  
Richard Kryszko  
Jasmine Logan  
Lyndon Mabande, Jr.  
Beth & Peter Martz  
Kevin McAlpine & Fred Huebener  
Jalona Moore  
Deborah A. & Michael Murphy  
Dina Novelli  
Anita Pace  
Patricia A. Phillips  
Tiffany Rambus  
Matthew Sommerville  
Mychele A. Tennille  
Carol Wade  
Pamela Willis



# Annual Donor Listing

## BENEFACTORS

### \$50,000+

The Children's Foundation  
Detroit Auto Dealers Association  
The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation  
Ford Philanthropy  
JDJ Family Foundation  
Paul W Smith Golf Classic  
Tau Beta Association  
The Elizabeth, Allan and Warren Shelden Fund  
The Julius and Cynthia Huebner Foundation  
United Jewish Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit

## ADVOCATES

### \$25,000+

BASF Corporation  
Harry Crowe  
Day Charitable Trust  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
William & Lisa Ford Foundation  
Jackson Dawson Communications  
The Matilda R. Wilson Fund  
The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation  
United Way for SE Michigan  
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC

## FOUNDERS

### \$10,000+

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund  
BHB Operations, LLC  
Detroit Manufacturing Systems  
CJ Dunn  
Natalie Dunn  
Sawyer Gipson-Long  
Gerd & Nancy Keuffel  
Keegan-Michael Key & Elle Key  
Matthew & Stefanie Murphy  
Michael & Donna Oakley  
Rite Aid Healthy Futures  
Sawdogge Sports Foundation  
Schwab Charitable Trust  
T-Mobile

## SUPPORTERS

### \$1,000+

3M Foundation  
AAA - The Auto Club Group  
Albert & Doris Pitt Foundation  
Ally Financial Inc.  
Anschutz Family Foundation  
Robert & Catherine Anthony  
Applied Materials  
The Honorable Jack Martin & Dr. Bettye Arrington  
Arts, Beats & Eats Foundation  
Atlas Copco Tools & Assembly  
Autobridge Inc  
Marianna Bailey  
Tiffany Baker  
Barton Malow Company  
Barton Malow Foundation  
Ashlynn Basile  
Beatrice M. Siwak Living Trust  
Benson & Edith Ford Fund  
Bryan & Karen Best  
Blaze Contracting, Inc.  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan  
Bluestone Communications, Inc  
Bodman PLC  
Jada Bowden  
Bradford Company  
The Chase and Luke Foundation  
The Clarence & Jack Himmel Foundation  
Kevin Coleman  
Alice Combs  
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan  
Consumers Energy Foundation  
Hank Couzens  
Crown Staffing Solutions  
Detroit Chassis LLC  
Detroit Kiwanis No. 1 Club  
Detroit Tigers Foundation  
Eagles for Children, Inc.  
The Elmira L. Rhein Family Foundation  
EW Grobbel  
FedEx Cares  
Fifth Generation, Inc.  
Raechele Gathers  
Gentherm  
Goldman, Sachs & Co.  
Great Oaks Country Club

The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church  
Dr. Anish Gupta, D.D.S.  
Michael Guthrie  
Henniges Automotive  
The Hessling Family Fund  
Hollingsworth Logistics Group  
Foundation  
Hollingsworth Logistics Group, LLC  
Horizon Bank  
Ilitch Charities  
Innovative Ear and Hearing Inc.  
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
Jackson National Life Insurance Company  
The Jacob Best Foundation  
Sharad & Elizabeth Jain  
Julius V. & Alice G. Combs Foundation  
Anke & Hans-Werner Kaas  
Kapnick Insurance Group  
Eric & Patricia Karsten  
KeyBank  
Ghassan Khalaf  
The Kresge Foundation  
Kronlund Foundation Charitable Trust  
Liggett Family Charitable Annuity Trust  
Victoria Liggett  
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Lyon Dental Implants and Oral Surgery  
Maumee Valley Group  
Patrick & Carolyn McNamara  
Meliora Group  
Metro Solutions  
Metropolitan United Methodist Women  
MGM Resorts Foundation  
Michigan Health Endowment Fund  
Mightycause Charitable Foundation  
Wendye Mingo  
Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America  
Mitsubishi Electric Foundation  
Tim & Ruth Monteith  
Robert A. Moore  
National Fleet Services

National Philanthropic Trust  
Nysus Solutions  
Operating Engineers 324  
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Mary Owen  
Pacific Life Foundation  
PMC America, Inc  
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Rariden Schumacher Mio  
Raymond James Charitable  
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Red Run Golf Club  
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The Canton Community Foundation  
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Tito's Handmade Vodka  
Trigan Investments  
UAW Local 600  
UBS Financial  
Utility Reduction Analysts, Inc.  
Venture Solutions  
Lori Washington  
Wayne State University  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Courtney Williams

## FRIENDS

### \$1.00+

313 Ghostbusters  
98Forward  
Paul Abdelnour  
Julie Abear  
Jacob Adams  
Zakery Adams  
AGI Construction  
Kay Agney & Bob Lucas  
Austin Alessandrini  
AJ Al-Jabiri  
Stuart Allan  
Willie Allison

The Honorable and Mrs. Charles W. Anderson, III  
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Anonymous  
Jill Armenteros  
Michael Armiak  
Krystal Armstrong  
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Kisha Daniels  
Ahmed Dannaoui  
Rana Dawod  
Adam Dee  
Raymond Demarti  
The Detroit Unity Association  
Shravan Devulapalli & Sheetal  
Ra-Prathimn  
West DeWitt  
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Megan Donohue  
Tyler Drake  
DTE Energy Foundation  
DTE Energy  
DTROITR



# Annual Donor Listing

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Nyree Faulkner  
Fred Fechheimer  
Matthew Fedor  
Fieger Law  
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Roberto Flores  
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Ford Road Patio Bar & Grill  
Nicholas Ford  
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Della Hawkins  
Emily Hay  
Arlyssa Heard  
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Lives (HEAL)  
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John Henry  
Jayshona Hicks  
Christina Hill Johnstone  
Madeline Holloway  
Patricia & Kenneth Hollowell  
Judith Holtz  
Marilyn Horn  
Stephen Hough  
Bill Houghton  
Maribel Hudson  
Teri Huff  
Thomas Hulse  
James & Diane Hulst  
Juliette Hunt  
Marshall J. Hunt, Jr.  
Scott & Margaret Hunter  
Travis Hunter  
Bill Jarrell  
Frances & Derrick Johnson  
Janice Jones  
Rhoda Jones  
Senthil Kumar Kaliraj  
Srilatha Kaparthi  
Alissa Karbel  
Robert & Hazel Karbel  
Tracy Karbel  
Gilda B. Keith  
Laura Kennedy  
Susan & Guy Kenny

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