

A family torn apart by addiction finds hope, healing, and a new beginning through the support of loving grandparents and The Children's Center.

Meet the Harland Family

A family shattered by addiction, and children left to face a silence they never asked for.

The Harland children experienced the unimaginable when they lost the one person who anchored their world despite his struggles: their father, who died suddenly from a drug overdose.

Their mother, battling substance use herself, was unable to care for them—leaving the five young children without either parent, without answers, and without a safe place to call home. The pain and confusion addiction brings

often fractures families and silences the voices that need to be heard

most. The weight of their grief was overwhelming, and the children desperately needed someone to listen.

Their paternal grandparents stepped

in—heartbroken themselves, but determined to keep the children together and safe.

What followed was a long journey. The grandparents had to navigate the loss of their own son while taking on the full-time care of five grieving children. It was overwhelming. Emotional. Messy. And hard. But the Harland Family wasn't alone.

Because of you, The Children's Center was able to hear them, see them, and stand beside them.

For more than two years, our dedicated Child Welfare specialist, Anita, walked every step of the journey with them.

She was patient when life felt chaotic. Persistent when things got hard. And fully present through it all—every court delay, every counseling session, every tearful milestone.

Then, one day, after years of waiting, worrying, and holding on with hope, the adoption was finalized.



The Children's Center has been a beacon of hope in Detroit since **1929**.



We serve nearly **4,000** children and families each year in the Detroit area and Wayne County Community.



231 children supported through foster care, young adult self-sufficiency, and 37 adoptions.

Every Child. Every Voice. Every Future—Your Gift Changes Lives.

Carter & Murphy



Ava & Addison



The very next morning, the grandmother, Renee, called Anita. Her voice, once filled with uncertainty, now filled with relief and joy:

“Thank you, GOD. They’re finally home. It’s been a long journey.”

Reflecting on everything they faced, Renee and her husband Douglas shared, **“Addiction stole so much from our family—hope, stability, and peace. But through all the pain, we never gave up on our grandchildren. Thanks to the support we received, they now have a chance to heal, to belong, and to build the future they deserve.”**

That’s what your generosity makes possible—homecomings, healing, and hope for children who have endured unimaginable loss.

At The Children’s Center, we walk alongside families in their most vulnerable moments. Each year, we serve over 4,000 children like the Harlands, providing trauma-informed therapy and compassionate emotional support.

This year alone, our Child Welfare team has helped 33 children find their forever families—each story unique, yet all a powerful testament to what happens when a child is seen, heard, and supported.

As the year comes to a close, more children and families will turn to us—longing to be heard, longing to heal.

Will you make a gift today to ensure we can keep showing up—for every voice, every child, every future?

Because when a child is truly seen and heard, everything changes.

President & CEO

P.S. To read more about Harland’s story, please go to: TheChildrensCenter.com/Harland-Story

Tylen & Amari



You helped the Harland Family — now Tylen, Amari, and other children need heroes like you. Your gift can help them heal from trauma and take steps toward a brighter future. Be a hero and give today to change a child’s life.