

“Without the parent support services, it would have been impossible to get through. The Children’s Center helped me give myself grace and become the parent my girls needed.”

Meet Catherine

“I thought I was losing my daughters. I blamed myself. I kept wondering—what did I do wrong? How am I supposed to help them through this?”

Catherine shared these words after both of her daughters experienced crises that nearly shattered her family.

Her oldest daughter attempted to take her own life. Isolated during COVID, cut off from friends, and weighed down by depression, she didn’t see a way forward. Not long after, Catherine’s second daughter began having explosive outbursts. She was hospitalized and diagnosed with multiple learning disabilities and mental health disorders that contributed to how she expressed herself.

Two crises. Back-to-back.

Catherine was overwhelmed, grieving, and full of doubt.

“I felt like I was failing as a mom. I didn’t know how to show up for them anymore.”

Parents of children with mental health struggles often feel isolated and powerless. Without guidance and support, families can break under the weight of crisis.

That’s when Catherine turned to us at The Children’s Center and was paired with Parent Support Specialist, Tabitha, a devoted partner who helped her feel seen, supported, and heard during her family’s darkest moments.

Through weekly sessions, Tabitha walked beside Catherine every step of the way. She helped Catherine navigate IEPs, Individualized Education Programs, break down complicated diagnoses, and find resources to support her daughters. She reminded Catherine that she wasn’t alone and taught her how to rebuild trust and communication at home.



The Children’s Center has been Detroit’s beacon of hope for nearly **100 years.**



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



2,146 children received behavioral health services.

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



“She got me through so much. She empowered me to advocate for my kids—something I didn’t know how to do before. The way we communicate as a family completely changed.”

Through this journey, their family was transformed, and hope replaced the fear that once felt so heavy.

One daughter is now thriving in college—and when she faced a crisis away from home, she knew how to get help and advocate for herself. The other has the right supports in place to manage her learning disabilities and mental health. Most importantly, Catherine no longer feels powerless—she feels confident, connected, and closer than ever to her daughters.

“Without the parent support services, it would have been impossible to get through. The Children’s Center helped me give myself grace and become the parent my girls needed.”



This is the power of your generosity—parents equipped to lead their families through the hardest battles, children who are no longer alone in their struggles, and families made whole again.

At The Children’s Center, we serve over 4,000 children every year. Each one deserves to be seen. Each one deserves to be heard. And every parent deserves the support to help their child heal.

As the year comes to a close, more families will turn to us in desperation.

Will you make a gift today to ensure that no parent has to face their child’s crisis alone?

Because when a child—and their parent— are truly seen and heard, everything changes.

Desiree Jennings

President & CEO

P.S. Right now, there are parents like Catherine, overwhelmed and afraid of losing their children. Your gift can be the support that holds a family together.



Spread the generosity of the season and make a gift today! Just as The Children’s Center helped Catherine and her family shape their own future, with your donation, we can help another family.