

HEROES OF HOPE

WINTER 2025



The Child is the *Center* of it All.

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From the CEO's Desk

Greetings!

On behalf of the children and families served at The Children's Center, along with our dedicated staff, volunteers, board members, I warmly wish you a joyful New Year.

As we reflect on the past year, your unwavering dedication made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve. Your commitment to prioritizing mental health will positively influence future generations, and for this, we are profoundly thankful.

Looking ahead to another year, your support fills us with excitement and hope. Together, we will continue to create a nurturing environment where children can thrive, and families can access the resources they need to build a brighter future. Our initiatives and programs aim to provide comprehensive care and support tailored to the diverse needs of our community, all made possible through your generous support.

Your partnership is essential for making our services possible, and we sincerely appreciate your generosity and trust in our mission. We welcome the opportunities of the new year with hope and determination, confident that we can create positive outcomes in the lives of those we serve together.

Thank you once again for your support. Here's to another year filled with growth, healing, and positive transformation. Wishing you a Happy New Year!

With gratitude,



Desiree Jennings



Kick off the New Year with a Planned Gift!

Kick off the new year by adding The Children's Center of Wayne County to your Will, Living Trust, or as a beneficiary. Your contribution will provide children and families with access to transformative behavioral and mental health services long after your lifetime, ensuring that you leave a lasting legacy and make a meaningful impact for future generations!

To learn more about Planned Giving contact Deborah Murphy at DMurphy@thechildrenscenter.com today.

AutoGlow 2025

AutoGlow 2025, Inspire Detroit, was a wonderful evening capturing the impact of people in our community. Our event attendees inspired hope, inspired change and inspired Detroit!

AutoGlow was held at Michigan Central on January 10th in conjunction with the Detroit Auto Show Charity Preview. The Children's Center was once again delighted to be a beneficiary of the Detroit Auto Show Charity Preview event, sharing this honor with five other charities in Southeast Michigan.

Over 700 attendees joined us to partake in the celebration sponsored by Ford Motor Company and hosted by Lisa and Bill Ford, along with Lia and Jim Farley.

The night was filled with elegance and beauty capturing the Beaux-Arts Architect with modern vintage decorations, cars, and delicious food and drinks. Bluewater Kings Band and DJ Prevu kept the ambiance high while attendees enjoyed their night of charm with their generosity and support. This unforgettable evening had a lasting impact on children and their families, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who was part of it. A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Ford Motor Company for continually partnering with TCC and our volunteers who made this event possible! Thank you for helping inspire children and families in Detroit and Wayne County.



A Heartfelt Turkey & Ham Giveaway

This Thanksgiving, we were thrilled to host our annual Turkey and Ham Giveaway, making it possible for numerous families in our community to enjoy a festive and fulfilling holiday meal.

Each family received either a turkey or ham, accompanied by mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, butter, mac and cheese, yams, marshmallows, brown sugar, stuffing, and a delicious apple pie!

This remarkable event not only provided essential resources to our families but also infused the season with warmth and happiness. The success of this initiative was made possible through the generous contributions from Tau Beta and the support of the Detroit Red Wings in delivering meals to our families!

As we look back on this heartwarming occasion, we are reminded of the genuine spirit of Thanksgiving—a time for unity, sharing, and gratitude. The smiles of those we served reflect the profound impact that community efforts can have. Together, we are making a difference, one family and one child at a time, as we strive to uplift and support the local community.



Celebrating Moms

The Children’s Center was thrilled to host a Baby Shower event that left a lasting impact on the lives of the mothers we serve, all thanks to the generous support of Day Charitable Trust. The event was a beautiful celebration of motherhood, providing essential resources and fostering community connections.

Our mothers enjoyed a warm luncheon, participated in engaging activities like baby trivia quizzes, and gained valuable insights on safe sleep practices for their little ones. Beyond the joyful connections formed, the mothers left equipped with much-needed essentials such as pack-and-plays and strollers, items that make a world of difference during this special time in their lives.

The Baby Shower exemplifies the importance of supporting families at every stage of their journey. It’s through events like these that we continue to make a meaningful impact, ensuring parents feel prepared, supported, and celebrated.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Day Charitable Trust for making this event possible. Together, we’re shaping brighter futures for families in our community!



Helping Young Adults Thrive

The Rehmann Foundation granted The Children’s Center a generous \$10,000 gift to support our Young Adult Self-Sufficiency (YASS) Program. YASS is aimed at helping build self sufficiency in young adults aged 16 to 21 as they transition from foster care to independence.

Each year, thousands of youth age out of foster care without a home. The Children’s Center Young Adult Self-Sufficiency Program provides them with the services they need when they don’t have anywhere else to turn.

The Rehmann Foundations commitment is vital to empowering youth through services like independent living, life skills training, mentorship, education support, and a monthly stipend—ensuring they thrive in adulthood and build a successful future. Together, we’re making a lasting impact and transforming lives!



Maggie's Adoption Story

At just five years old, Maggie entered foster care under unimaginable circumstances. In the summer of 2021, she tragically lost her father, who was murdered in a highly publicized case. Maggie was kidnapped by a neighbor, but she was found days later, bravely calling for help from a balcony. Having lost her mother to cancer four years earlier, Maggie was left without either parent and placed into foster care.

Despite the heartbreak, hope was not lost. A dedicated search by DHHS brought forward several family members and close family friends eager to provide Maggie with a home. Among them was her uncle from Texas, who visited her multiple times in Michigan and quickly became a source of comfort and stability. Approved as a relative placement, he welcomed Maggie into his home just before Christmas in 2021.

Over the next two years, Maggie blossomed in her uncle's care, building a strong bond and finding joy in a loving, stable environment. On March 5, 2024, her adoption was finalized in Wayne County Court, marking the start of a new chapter. Maggie is now officially part of her uncle's family in Texas, where she continues to thrive.

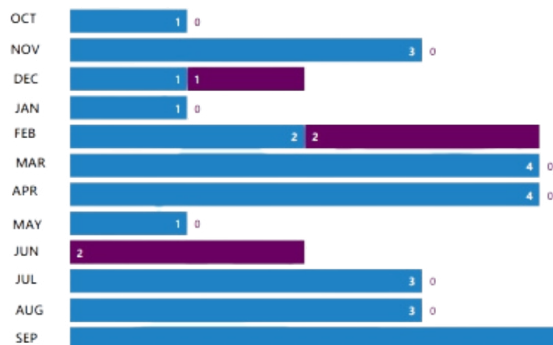


Maggie's story highlights the resilience of children and the profound difference that a caring community can make. With dedication and support, children like Maggie are able to find the stability, love, and permanency they deserve. It's through collective effort that these life-changing outcomes become possible.

Child Welfare



Adoptions and Reunifications that occurred per month during FY24.



34

Children have achieved permanency, fiscal year to date

6

Reunifications

28

Adoptions

Holiday Shop

The holidays were once again made magical for children and families who receive services from The Children’s Center. Thanks to Tau Beta, the Holiday Shop has been a cherished tradition at TCC for decades!

During the second week of December, approximately 474 parents and legal guardians participated in our Holiday Shop program, where they were able to shop for their children aged 18 and under, all at no cost.

Each child received a large gift, a stocking stuffer, a book, and gloves. Every family was also provided a \$25 Meijer gift card and a cozy blanket. We are immensely thankful to all our Holiday Shop sponsors and donors who made this event a reality to support nearly 1,500 children!

We were joined by over 30 unique community groups and organizations along with 329 individual volunteers who arrived in their festive attire, ready to spread holiday cheer and support this wonderful initiative, making the season brighter for our families.

Thank you to our Silver Sponsor Rariden Schumacher Mio and our Bronze Sponsors Cass Sheet Metal, EW Grobbel, Operating Engineers 324, and Deb Allen for making Holiday Shop 2024 a success!



Corporate and Foundation Partnership

We are immensely grateful to the AmeriHealth Caritas Foundation for their generous contribution of \$75,000, which will support our community efforts related to mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the community.

This funding will enable our agency to offer trauma-informed training and education, as well as create and implement programs aimed at fostering protective factors and building resilience in Michigan’s children who have faced trauma and adversity.

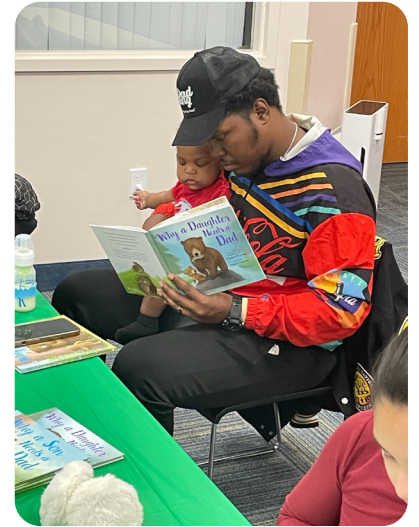


Pairing Fathers - Fatherhood Initiative

The Children's Center was thrilled to host a Readers and Creators event in collaboration with our Fatherhood Initiative. Nearly 15 fathers participated alongside their children in this special occasion, which was specifically designed for dads. The event highlighted two books, one focused on daughters *Why a Daughter Needs a Dad* and the other on sons *Why a Son Needs a Dad* both by the Author Gregory E. Lang.

Through our Fatherhood Initiative, The Children's Center provides free sessions to assist dads in their parenting journey, helping them understand different parenting styles and techniques, while fostering the growth of their relationships with their children. One of our resource offerings is Wind Down Wednesdays, an eight-week curriculum that awards dads a certificate upon completion. Additionally, we have Fatherhood Conversations, a monthly gathering open to the entire Wayne County community.

Mothers are also included in our efforts through our Parent Café, a group that creates a nonjudgmental space for both parents to learn how to overcome challenges together and individually. These groups present an excellent opportunity to invest in your child's life while ensuring you have the support and resources necessary to parent in a way that best supports your child's development and fosters positive interactions between parent and child. If you are interested in learning more surrounding this initiative or groups, please contact John Miles, Coordinator-Wayne County Fatherhood Initiative, JMiles@thechildrenscenter.com.



Strengthening Connections

The Children's Center hosted our Annual Town Hall, a meaningful gathering dedicated to encouraging open communication and deepening connections with our community. Families and community members came together to engage directly with our leadership team, including CEO Desiree Jennings, Chief Program Officer Crystal Coleman, and Chief Philanthropy Officer Kevin McAlpine. The event was hosted by Laura Lefever, our Director of Community Partnerships and Projects, who guided the discussion and presented thoughtful questions from attendees.

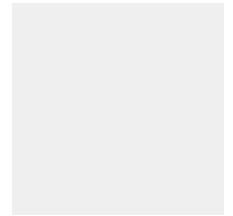
This event served as an opportunity to shine a light on the impactful work happening across The Children's Center, particularly within the Family Success Center. From parenting workshops to the Fatherhood Initiative, attendees gained valuable insights into the wide range of services we offer to support children and families. They also learned about the scope of our mental health services, which address diverse needs and play a vital role in creating strong and resilient families.

The evening was filled with warmth and understanding, as questions were answered, stories were shared, and partnerships with our families grew stronger. Events like these remind us of the power of community and the importance of working together to create brighter futures for all. We are grateful to everyone who participated and look forward to continuing to serve and uplift our community.





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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

Future Events

May

Save the Date:

Power of Possibilities Breakfast

May 6, 2025

Motor City Casino & Hotel

Scan the QR to Donate Today!

Start the New Year by making a meaningful difference in a child's life and enhancing our community through your generous donation!



Events are subject to change.

If interested in Volunteer Opportunities, please contact the Philanthropy team to sign up at Philanthropy@thechildrenscenter.com.