

HEROES OF HOPE

SPRING 2025



The Child is the Center of it All.

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From the CEO's Desk

Greetings!

As nonprofit organizations navigate the uncertainties surrounding policy changes, we remain dedicated to our mission of empowering children and families to shape their own futures.

By cultivating robust community partnerships and advocating for policies that support our mission, we strive to establish a resilient framework capable of withstanding change. Our collaboration with local leaders, educators, and volunteers is central to our work, allowing us to adapt our programs to the changing needs of those we serve. Together, we are devoted to creating a brighter tomorrow, ensuring that every child and family has the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.



On behalf of the children and families served at The Children's Center, along with our dedicated staff, volunteers, board members, I thank you for your continued support!

Your commitment and generosity make a profound impact, enabling us to continue our vital work in the community. Your support not only helps to sustain our current programs but also empowers us to innovate and expand our reach, ensuring that more children and families benefit from our services. As we look to the future, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and are grateful to have you by our side on this journey.

Whether through your time, resources, or advocacy, your involvement plays a crucial role in our success. We invite you to stay engaged, share our mission with others, and continue to be an advocate for positive change. Together, we can overcome challenges and create lasting change, building a world where every child has the chance to dream, grow, and achieve their fullest potential. Thank you once again for being a vital part of our community and for believing in the power of hope and opportunity.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Desiree Jennings'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Desiree Jennings

Spring into Action with a Planned Gift!

Spring into action 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.

2025 Power of Possibilities Breakfast



Power of Possibilities Breakfast Hosted by The Children's Center

May 6, 2025 • 7:30 to 9:00 am MotorCity Casino & Hotel Grand Ballroom
2901 Grand River Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201



RSVP by April 14

Philanthropy@TheChildrensCenter.com
or by scanning the QR Code!



Pinwheels for Prevention

Did you know that April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month?

This month aims to underscore the essential need to safeguard children and support families. During this time, The Children's Center prioritizes promoting child well-being and educating the public on how to recognize and prevent abuse. One powerful way we raise awareness is through our Pinwheel Campaign, which beautifies our agency grounds, fostering understanding and highlighting how everyone can play a role in creating a safer future for children everywhere.

The Pinwheel Campaign represents hope and resilience, symbolizing the bright futures every child deserves. Laura Lefever, Director of Community Partnerships & Projects for Community Advocacy & Engagement, emphasized, "We can no longer wait for news stories on TV and social media to spotlight what should have been done – action is needed now." We invite you to join our agency in raising awareness for Child Abuse Prevention. Together, we can unite in a concerted effort to prevent child abuse and maltreatment while providing vital resources for those impacted. Your voice is important!



Real-Life Learning

The newly launched Real-Life Learning Program is specifically tailored for youth diagnosed with at least one childhood mental disorder, such as Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), Serious Mental Illness (SMI), or Intellectual Developmental Disability (I/DD). This initiative aims to enhance real-life outcomes for young individuals receiving services at The Children's Center, serving as a therapeutic complement to our General Behavioral Health Services. The program encourages hands-on learning experiences that promote independence and boost confidence, allowing children to explore their potential, build self-esteem, and develop resilience in a safe and supportive environment.

In February, The Children's Center proudly held our first Real-Life Learning Session. During this session, a child worked alongside their clinician to acquire essential kitchen skills, including stove operation, measuring cup usage, and dishwashing. Together, they prepared mac and cheese to practice these valuable tools.

The success of this first session has opened the door for future workshops that will cover a range of life skills, from personal hygiene and laundry to building skills in the kitchen. By continuing to provide these enriching opportunities, the Real-Life Learning Program strives to offer lasting benefits that help each child confidently manage the complexities of everyday life.

As the Real-Life Learning Program continues to grow, The Children's Center plans to incorporate feedback from families and participants to ensure that the curriculum remains relevant and engaging. By adapting to the needs of each child and providing personalized support, the program aims to empower young individuals to lead fulfilling and independent lives.



Early Childhood Behavioral Health

The Children’s Center is committed to offering Early Childhood Behavioral Health services for expectant mothers and children up to five years old. This program works closely with the child’s legal guardian to cultivate healthy attachments, ensuring the child grows up in a safe, nurturing, and stable environment.

Our team delivers home-based care and develops personalized plans that prioritize the child’s needs. This includes conducting early assessments and empowering the legal guardian with the knowledge to access programs like The Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program. The WIC program offers nutritious food, nutrition education, individualized counseling, breastfeeding support, and healthcare referrals.

We also provide workshops and support groups for parents and caregivers, equipping them with the skills and understanding necessary to nurture their child’s emotional and mental health. Through play therapy, developmental evaluations, and family counseling, we focus on addressing concerns early, fostering resilience and positive outcomes.

The staff at The Children’s Center collaborates closely with Family Court, often known as Baby Court. Here, referees, guardian ad litem, attorneys, parents, foster parents, and clinicians unite to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard and access to services is available for successful reunification, while striving to keep babies in their homes.

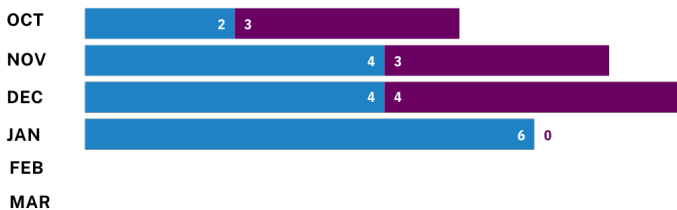
We emphasize the importance of community engagement, collaborating with local organizations to build a support network that reaches beyond individual families. By promoting a culture of collaboration and understanding, The Children’s Center aims to establish a foundation for lifelong mental and emotional well-being, ensuring every child has the chance to flourish.



Child Welfare



Adoptions and Reunifications that occurred per month during FY25.



26

Children have achieved permanency, fiscal year to date

10

Reunifications

16

Adoptions

Art Adventures

Art Adventures organized a special event to honor Black History Month! Children received cards showcasing Black inventors and explored their remarkable contributions. Here are some of the innovators featured and the super power the children created for them:

Madam C.J. Walker developed hair care products such as Wonderful Hair Grower and Glossine, designed to help Black women grow, strengthen, and style their hair. The kids used their creativity to grant her the superpower of Hair Magic, enabling her to instantly grow and style hair with just a touch.

Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light and a safety mask that saved lives. Inspired by his creations, the children imagined his superpower as Life Saver, capable of halting danger in its tracks and protecting people from harm.

Marie Van Brittan Brown created the first home security system, providing peace of mind to homeowners. The kids envisioned her superpower as Guardian Vision, the ability to detect and prevent danger before it occurs.

This imaginative activity not only strengthened the bonds between parents and children but also encouraged kids to think about innovation in a fun and engaging manner. To conclude the event, children filled out love letters and Valentine's Day cards for their parents, making it a wonderful celebration of history, creativity, and connection!



Corporate and Foundation Partnership

BASF Corporation has supported the Children's Center for over 28 years. Their leadership is invested in improving the lives of children and helping them thrive.

Through their unwavering commitment to children, every year they have sponsored our AutoGlow event. Their commitment has provided over \$1M in revenue for programming for children.

We are grateful and honored to be long-standing partners with BASF and sincerely appreciate all they do for children!



Michigan Central Station Kids Forever

“For decades, Michigan Central Station sat as a symbol of Detroit’s struggles, but in June 2024, after a six-year renovation by Ford Motor Company, this historic landmark reopened, serving as a proud testament to Detroit’s resurgence now serving as a symbol of the city’s bright future,” as shared by the Children’s Foundation.

Bill and Lisa Ford launched the Michigan Central Station Children’s Endowment Initiative in collaboration with the Children’s Foundation, initiating a fundraising campaign coinciding with the Station’s grand opening. This campaign successfully raised over \$19 million to benefit eleven youth-serving organizations within a ten-mile radius of the station.

The Children’s Center has been selected as one of the eleven charities, and we are thrilled to embark on a transformative journey toward lasting impact through the Michigan Central Station Children’s Endowment Initiative. We were selected through a transparent, equity-driven process led by a diverse selection committee comprised of sixteen local leaders and input from forty-four youth advisors. In the coming two years, our agency will concentrate on enhancing our sustainability and establishing a permanent endowment to better serve children.

We extend our heartfelt thank you to our community for supporting our mission, ensuring that we provide assistance to today’s youth and future generations. Together, we will collaborate with the community and the other ten selected charities to forge a legacy of hope and opportunity that uplifts every child we reach. Our dedication to nurturing young minds and creating a brighter future remains steadfast, and your involvement is crucial. Join us on this journey to forever as we lay the groundwork that will empower children for years to come. Every contribution, big or small, helps pave the way for a community where every child has the opportunity to thrive. You can help us ensure that our vision of a better tomorrow becomes a reality. We are thankful for your ongoing support and commitment to making a positive difference.

Learn how you can contribute to the endowment by visiting: www.YourChildrensFoundation.org/MCSKidsForever
#MCSKidsForever

A graphic with a blue and green background. On the left, there is a white logo consisting of three overlapping circles forming a stylized 'M' shape, followed by the text 'MICHIGAN CENTRAL STATION CHILDREN'S ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE' in white. In the center, a large blue rounded rectangle contains the text 'Endowment Recipient' in white. Below this, another white text block reads 'Empowered by this community – for this community – to support our young people, forever.' On the right side, there are several circular images: a group of people, a heart icon, a leaf icon, and a close-up of a smiling baby. At the bottom right, there is a photograph of the Michigan Central Station building at night.

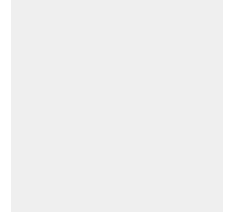
MICHIGAN CENTRAL STATION CHILDREN'S ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

Endowment Recipient

Empowered by this community –
for this community – to support
our young people, forever.



79 Alexandrine West
Detroit, MI 48201



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

7:30 - 9:00 AM

MotorCity Casino & Hotel

Scan the QR to Donate Today!

Spring into Action by
making a meaningful
difference in a child's
life. A Small gift makes
a huge impact!



Events are subject to change.

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