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www.orchards.org

Summer fun at Camp Tanuga!

Save the Date!

MAY 12, 2012
AT THE DETROIT MGM HOTEL
Orchards Champions for Children Event

Celebrating 50 years of services to kids, families and communities

Call Pamela Ayres
248-593-1576 for details

Top Left - On the way to Camp Sea Gull

Top Center - Adrian Tonan talks about healthy eating in our Community Garden

Lower Left -Alex Hardacre helps pick food for our families from the Orchards Communitiy Garden

Orchards 50th Anniversary
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1962-2012
Celebrating fifty years of helping children and families

FALL 2011

THIS IS ORCHARDS...

Always for Children and Families!

I had the chance to spend a few minutes in the car last week with Bailey, a member of Orchards Youth Board. I looked over at her as we drove back to the office and said, "So, are you ready for school?"

Barbarba Osher

"Oh, yeah!" she said, "I love school. I want to be a doctor."

I continued to make small talk, trying to fill what would otherwise be an awkward silence. "Really. What kind of doctor?"

"I want to deliver babies," she said definitively.

"Oh, an OB/GYN? What made you want to do that?" I inquired further.

"Well, over the summer this lady came out and talked to us. She goes over to Africa and helps set up clinics that help women when they're pregnant. They have all kinds of things for when they're still pregnant and after they give birth, and they teach the women how to take care of themselves and their babies, and they give them blankets and different stuff to feed them and give them medicine. After I become a doctor, that's what I want to do."

That lady was Barbara Osher, long-time Orchards supporter, who had come to talk to the Youth Board and share her stories of helping women in Liberia. Like dropping a pebble in a pond, her good deeds sent out ripples of inspiration that helped set a young person on a path. It was faith made real, a living example of everything we strive for here. Thank you Bailey. Thank you Barbara. Perhaps your story will inspire others as well.

A Message from Our Leadership

The dictionary defines poverty as "a deficiency of necessary or desirable ingredients, qualities, etc. insufficiency." We often talk about economic poverty, and overlook the growth of poverty in the areas of tolerance and empathy and compassion. Messages to our young people are too often negative. If we tell them enough times that they are failures, we create poverty of the mind. If we demonstrate an unwillingness to lend our hearts and our spirits to fulfilling their goals and dreams, we create poverty of the soul.

Orchards is fighting poverty on every front. We have no desire to be on the liberal or conservative side of the issue. We are firmly on the CHILD and FAMILY side of the issue. We are committed to educating young people. Over 90% of the children we serve graduate from high school – many of them first time graduates bound for college. They are not in the top 1% of wage earners. They aren't part of the discussion about tax breaks. They are just children who have overcome poverty – in their relationships, in their neighborhoods, in their hearts and minds – and are setting out on a path to become productive adults.

Orchards has committed to changing their lives for the better. We have, for 49 years, continued to champion the cause of underserved and underrepresented children and families. We see their potential. We value their contributions to our lives. We will continue in our support of their goals and reward them with even higher expectations. We must continue to invest in these future leaders, because we know that this investment lifts us all out of poverty in all its forms.

Carol Klein
Board Chair

Michael E. Williams
President/CEO

Board Bulletin...

It is our distinct pleasure to officially welcome a new colleague to our esteemed Board of Directors...

We welcome back to the Board Mr Eric C. "Rick" Oppenheim, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer of Telemus Capital Partners, LLC. Rick's experience in legal, regulatory compliance and operational matters with respect to financial management is a welcome addition to our governance array.

Rick is a long-time Michigander, and a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School. He previously served on Orchards' board in the mid- to late-90s. His many relationships here in the Detroit area, and his wife Arlene's connection with the National Council of Jewish Women, create a meaningful bridge between our history and our future. Welcome back Rick – and Arlene – to the Orchards family.

$25,000
Akers Family Foundation
Dora Lee and Irving Goldman
Orchards Support Foundation
Julie and Joseph Serra
Summer Adventures Steering Committee

$10,000 - 24,999
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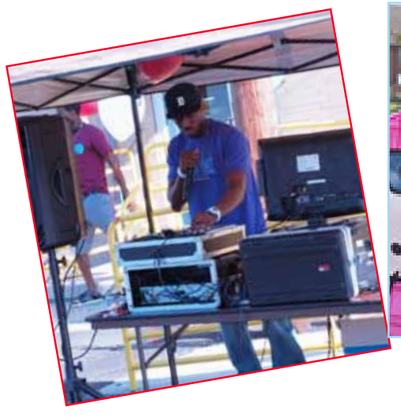
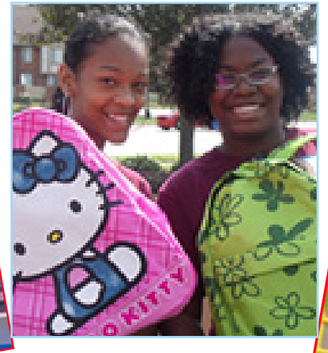
Bank of America Invests in the "O"





Back to school for the kids at Orchards takes on a whole new meaning. With a generous $20,000 gift from Bank of America, we were able to provide over 700 young people – the largest number of kids we've been able to help in the history of this event – with the dignity and confidence that comes with being prepared.

Backpacks in all shapes and sizes were provided to kids at every grade level, packed with the tools they'll need to succeed in the coming academic year. Support from the Pistons, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham and Bank of America, the Orchards Youth Board and our dedicated staff helped kids see going back to school as a fun and exciting opportunity.

Above L-R Our DJ from Star Trax, Volunteers and Pistons Mascot Hooper participate in our Back-to-School Extravaganza

Right - Bank of America Representative, Tiffany Douglass, presents Board President Carol Klein and CEO Michael WIlliams with their generous gift

VISITING WITH FRIENDS

The Pizza Garden Cooking Crew made a pit stop in Southfield this past August. An educational program through Visions of Love in Albion, the group teaches elementary and middle school age children about gardening and cooking. Nine students from Albion joined two families from Orchards for a day that included some tasty snacks, snippets of nutritional information, and hands-on activities. The experience was inspired by Gwen Tabb – wife of Orchards Capital Campaign Steering Committee member Willie Tabb – and exemplified all that Orchards strives for.

Gilda Hauser welcomes the Pizza Garden Cooking Crew to Orchards Community Garden

Orchards Youth Board member Will Guerin led a tour of the garden, where kids (and the adults) looked for cucumbers hidden under leafy vines, and picked tomatoes, kale, and even some spices.

Nutrition experts from Beaumont Hospital shared lessons about how to make healthy food choices, and kids got to learn about foods like Ginger, Dragon Fruit and Star fruit.

For the "piece de resistance" Adrian Tonon, proprietor at Cafe Cortina, prepared a delicious pasta dish using vegetables and spices straight from garden, and helped participants prepare a salad. A good time – and a great meal – was had by all.

Thanks to Chef Adrian, Orchards' summer interns Will and Ian Guerin and Ami Venkataraman, volunteer and contributor Amy Kovan and Christine Eagle and her colleagues from Beaumont Hospital's Nutrition Department. And special thanks to Gwen Tabb and the folks from Visions of Love for making the day possible.

SWITCHING GEAR

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni continued their support of Orchards and other local charities when they hosted their Joe Kocur Celebrity Softball Game at Duck lake Pines Park in Highland. Competing against law enforcement and fire safety personnel from Milford, Highland Township, White Lake and Oakland County, hockey guests included Joe Kocur, Dino Ciccarelli, Darren McCarty, Kirk Maltby, Manny Legace, Eddie Mio, Wayne Presley, Brian Smolinski, Jason Woolley, Steve Avery, and notable Detroiter Jeff Daniels. Teams played to a packed house, and kids got to enjoy games and activities and experience the fire fighting smoke house. Orchards was the recipient of yet another generous contribution from the Red Wings Alumni, now in their fourth year of supporting our mission.

Detroit Red Wings and Orchards supporters enjoy the Joe Kocur Celebrity Softball Game

Program Highlights

What We Aspire To

Jonathan Holmes said, "There is no greater exercise for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." Shirley Brown was lifted up – adopted through Orchards, along with her brother Tim, by Tim and Mia Brown. This past spring, Shirley rose up to help lift others. She organized a clothing drive at her school – Johnson Upper Elementary in Westland – and collected literally hundreds of items for foster kids served by Orchards. This selfless act garnered media attention from WDIV, and Shirley will be the recipient of the Sparky Anderson Award for Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy at the Association for Fundraising Professionals' National Philanthropy Day ceremony in November. Shirley's actions speak louder than any words could about how we all can be the change we wish to see in the world. Congratulations, Shirley, and thank you.

Shirley Brown and Orchards Capital Campaign Director, Gilda Hauser

Camp Seagull and Camp Infinity participants

Summer? Add Ventures!

Our sixth year of Orchards Summer Adventures included some new opportunities that enhanced the educational elements of the program. Of the eighty-seven youth attending overnight camp, five had the opportunity to "rough it" at Sleeping Bear Dunes. Their stories of camping in their tents under the stars describe transformational moments.

Sixteen youth participated in new program offerings:

Camp Cosmos, held at the Wayne State Planetarium, exposed participants to the wonders of astronomy. This opportunity will continue as a legacy of Rita Levy, whose recent passing saddened all of us, and hopefully as a lasting comfort and inspiration to her husband Stanley.

Camp Infinity grew out of the vision of Gerri Dolan, Orchards' Director of Information Technology. In partnership with the Michigan Council of Women in Technology Foundation, the young women programmed robots, designed websites and learned about the educational and employment potential in the technology arena.

Best-selling author and youth advocate Gail Perry-Mason hosted our youth at her Money Matters program at Wayne County Community College. The program incorporated fun, hands-on exercises into a deep dive into personal finance and money management. Participants came away with a better understanding of how their decisions about education, work and savings influence their futures.

Spoke'n Word

Jay Hack had heard about the Larry Culley Olympics and Bike Giveaway event, but as is often the case, hearing someone talk about an event doesn't quite match the effect of being there. Here's how he described that day:

"It's been said a thousand times that giving a gift is much more gratifying than receiving one. We can all relate to the look of anticipation and excitement that a child has when we give them a holiday or a birthday gift; they feel great receiving it and we feel great for having given it to them....ok, remember that feeling and imagine multiplying it exponentially. That's how I felt participating in Orchard's Children's Services Bike Day this spring. The event itself had all sorts of activities for the children that Orchard's serves.

The kids enjoyed themselves amongst carnival style games, dancing with the help of a DJ and a magic show for some of the younger kids. But the reason that those kids where there, was, of course, to receive a bicycle. And what a fantastic moment that was. Each child that I had the opportunity to deliver a bike to was genuinely thrilled and beaming with appreciation. After giving the bikes away and at the end of the event I walked towards my car to head back to work. Out of the corner of my eye I saw one of the kids I had given a bike to riding her bike in circles. When I gave it to her earlier she announced to me that she had only ever ridden a bike with training wheels and she was intimidated by learning a "two wheeler". By the time the event was done, she was clearly on her way to mastering two wheel riding. That moment, like the event itself, struck me as special and one that I would not soon forget.

Kind of like remembering how to ride a bike!"