HOLIDAY COOLDOWN

what's new for 2013?

the art of learning

go WASHTENAW!
OUR ADVISORY BOARD

THE MEANING OF DEDICATION

If you talk to Barbara Goldberg and the many other wonderful members of the board and various committees, it’s easy to understand their dedication.

Barbara Goldberg, Shirley Bryant and Maura Lobos Jung are former board members of Orchards Children’s Services. These days the ladies co-chair the Orchards Advisory Committee. Barbara Goldberg and Shirley Bryant have both served as board chairs for the Orchards. Serving on a board of directors is a demanding undertaking. One must ask what compels a person who’s served on the board of an organization to take on another demanding assignment when their board service is done.

Mrs. Goldberg laughed when asked why she still wants to serve. A delightful lady with an easy going demeanor, she advised that she’s been serving most of her life. Apparently service runs in the family. Her mother volunteered at the Ted Schwartz Day Camp for Special Needs Children in its early days. Barbara volunteered there later and her daughter served at the camp as well. Mrs. Goldberg doesn’t appear to have lived long enough to discuss thirty years of serving. In fact her service dates back to participation with the National Council of Jewish Women, the founding organization of Orchards Children’s Services.

There is a consistent response given by volunteers and board members when asked their reason for continuing service. “Orchards Children’s Services is a place where people care and positively impact children’s lives”. Barbara Goldberg explains, “Orchards has a vision that improves lives. The organization has continually risen to the occasion. Leadership ensures the organization is prepared to consistently meet the needs of children, youth and families”.

The advisory committee seeks to find new ways to support the organization and those it serves. If you talk to Barbara Goldberg and the many other wonderful members of the board and various committees, it’s easy to understand their dedication. Their commitment to service and giving is based on love for children and community.

Pictured above are Board Member Barbara Goldberg and her husband, Fred Goldberg, both longtime Orchards supporters.

Orchards Children’s Services is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Rochelle Hurt to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Hurt is a transplant to metropolitan Detroit. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, she most recently lived and practiced in a suburb of Dayton, Ohio. It is our good fortune that Dr. Hurt met her wonderful husband and relocated to Michigan.

A dedicated health care professional, Dr. Hurt is radiologist who specializes in women’s imaging. Her passion for helping is clear when she talks of the needs of children and moms. One of her goals is to educate and empower families so they can make good health care decisions.

Similar to many supporters of Orchards Children’s Services, Dr. Hurt was introduced to the organization by a friend. In this case former Board President Carol Klein was the culprit (smile). Anyone who knows Carol knows her love and passion for the Orchards. The good doctor confesses she was thrilled discovering dedicated people sharing the same passion for the agency.

Dr. Hurt wants to help ensure that children’s needs are met regardless of their socio-economic condition. Getting to know Orchards President, Michael Williams and understanding his and the Board of Directors’ vision convinced her. Orchards Children’s Services was the right place for her to serve.

You sense the doctor’s excitement as she recalls the 50th Anniversary Gala. She delights in sharing her memories of the many activities and events she has been privileged to experience. Orchards Children’s Services is excited too. We’re so happy to have another kindred spirit join our extraordinary family.

ORCHARDS WELCOMES
INCOMING BOARD MEMBER
ROCHELLE HURT, M.D.

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Laughter seeps out from under the classroom door. Through the window students can be seen passing themselves through a hula hoop, cleaning out their backpacks, or finding ways to communicate without using words.

Based around the core belief that students, as life-long learners, need to be taught skills that will help them navigate their path from school-to-career, Orchards developed their Learn2Learn program. This fall we began our 7th year of bringing this twelve session study skills program to middle schools within the metro Detroit area. Through our efforts, over 500 students, 90% from economically challenged families, have been involved in 41 programs in 22 school settings. Orchards understands the vital importance of education to a child’s future and our Learn2Learn program showcases our commitment to helping students develop lifelong positive learning habits.

For more information, please contact Melanie Picel-Bell, Director, Orchards Learn2Learn Program at mpicel-bell@orchards.org.
We recently began facilitating groups of parents and their children working together on family projects such as self expression through the use of art and learning skills to address mutually beneficial topics such as bullying...
Joan Binkow, the daughter of one of our founders, Phyllis Akers, donated a SUV that has changed the way we engage families. Already, we have moved a number of Washtenaw County families from SafeHouse, a domestic violence shelter with the new vehicle to new housing that we assisted them in finding.

We have also taken large families to holiday parties like the Variety Bike Give-Away event, our shopping with the Lions players at Meijer’s and our own holiday party at Forgotten Harvest. Families have not only enjoyed being able to get to these events as they had no transportation but also now having the time to really enjoy being together in the larger vehicle. Thank you Joan so much from our staff and more importantly the families.

For more information, please contact Jillian Tupper at jtupper@orchards.org.
mentor [ mén təwr ]
experienced adviser and supporter: somebody, usually older and more experienced, who advises and guides a younger, less experienced person

Make a difference in the life of a child...be an ORCHARDS MENTOR.
OCSMENTORING@ORCHARDS.ORG

PEACE

The essence of peace can be found in the joy and laughter of children. Children naturally play, smile, laugh and enjoy what life has to offer.

Winter is the time of year various holiday traditions are celebrated. Christians celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah is celebrated in the Jewish tradition, some Muslims observe Ashura, in Buddhism Bohdi Day commemorates the day that Siddhartha obtained enlightenment. For many African Americans, Kwanzaa is a time for celebration. Throughout the globe a new year is celebrated by many at the beginning of January. A fundamental principle of most traditions and celebrations is peace, as expressed through love, family and friendship.

The essence of peace can be found in the joy and laughter of children. Children naturally play, smile, laugh and enjoy what life has to offer. The innocence of children serves to remind us of the fundamental principles of life; peace, joy, harmony and love. Sometimes it’s easy to forget that peace is essential to living. So many things can disrupt peace in our daily lives. Politics, the economy, the news, family pressures, health issues, personal problems, disappointments and more can challenge our peace.

As we celebrate a new year and reflect on our traditions, let us take an example from children. Let’s learn to practice peace. As we embrace the example of children, let’s remember to consistently set a good example for them. Let’s strive to constantly be kind and considerate in word and deed. Let’s respect and appreciate each other regardless of differences.

Peace is the order of the universe; it’s everywhere we look. Peace and harmony are found throughout life; they serve as a constant reminder of our purpose to live peacefully. Recent events remind us all how precious children and peace really are.

The management, Board of Directors, staff and the entire Orchards Children’s Services Family wish you peace today and every day.
Twenty players from the Detroit Lions took 100 of our children shopping at Meijer. The event was spearheaded this year by Dylan and Melody Gandy with a tremendous amount of support from Nate Burleson. Each of the children received a $100 gift card to shop. The players donated their personal monies to fund the event. The children learned about the spirit of gift giving and how to budget their money.

Our children also participated in Variety and Automotive Credit Corporation Bike Giveaways, wherein they received a total of 50 bikes. Also, Al Serra Automotive in Genesse County and the Washtenaw Department of Corrections hosted shopping trips for some of our children in those counties. Christian Fellowship Church sponsored 30 children and gave them numerous gifts.

Fifty of our families’ needs were met through Orchards’ Sponsor a Family program. Each family was ‘sponsored’ by various donors for the holidays. They were provided gift items from their wish lists. The social workers received many smiles and hugs when they delivered the gifts to the families. All of them were very appreciative of the gifts, as many would not have gotten any gifts, especially for their children.

More than 700 people attended Orchards’ annual holiday party, which was held at Forgotten Harvest. There was dancing, face painting, arts and crafts, cookie decorating, food, and plenty of giveaways. In addition to Ms. Claus and several elves, Rudolph also visited Santa in his own private candyland room! Thanks to Chrysler LLC, our presenting sponsor, and Forgotten Harvest for donating their facilities. A good time was indeed had by all.

Our food drive began in high gear with a hefty donation of canned goods from Meijer, Inc and plenty of Jiffy Corn Bread mix from the Chelsea Milling Company. Numerous businesses and organizations also conducted food drives of non-perishable items. As a result, we were able to provide a laundry basket filled with food items and a turkey to more than 400 families in need. Those families who commute to Orchards via bus service were conveniently provided bags of food which were donated by First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. The laundry baskets were packed by Orchards Youth Board and distributed by volunteers from Quicken Loans.

We began the toy drive with empty shelves in our toy room. Thanks to donations of hundreds of toys from Chrysler, LLC, The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 96.3 Stuff a Bus, and many more businesses, individuals, and organizations, our toy room was overflowing. Foster Parents, as well as those in preservation programs received toys for the children. Many were pleased with the nice selection of toys they were given.
Save the Date!
Orchards Champions for Children
Signature Event
MGM Grand - Detroit
May 4 2013