

# theOrchards

The Quarterly Magazine of Orchards Children's Services

Winter 2013

## HOLIDAY COOLDOWN

go WASHTEENAW!  
MOVE.  
EXPAND.  
PARTNER.

the art  
of  
learning

what's  
new  
for  
2013?

# theOrchards

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## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### OAKLAND

30215 Southfield Road  
Southfield, MI 48076  
248.258.0440  
248.433.8600

### MACOMB

42140 Van Dyke Road,  
Suite 206  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
586.997.3886

### WASHTENAW

1995 Highland Drive, Suite F  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
734.622.0217

### WAYNE

18100 Meyers  
Detroit, MI 48235  
313.340.0497

### GENESEE

225 E. Fifth Street  
Flint, MI 48502  
810.239.3264

[www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)



*Facing Page:*

*Upper Right: CEO Michael Williams and "friends" (Orchards COO Carmine "Rudolph" DeVivo and event participant) out on a holiday shopping trip with the Orchards*

*Lower Left: Board Chair David Kramer and his family enjoy holiday festivities at the Orchards Holiday Party*



Shopping with the Lions

Roary offers some fashion tips to kids at our Detroit Lions shopping event



## 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 WELCOMES

## INCOMING BOARD MEMBER

# ROCHELLE HURT, M.D.



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.





## MASTERING THE ART OF LEARNING

"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."

**L**aughter 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. The teacher asks a question and then sits back and listens as the students respond to her and more importantly, to each other. Discussions on how your memory works, how to take notes, how to concentrate are heard. Small groups go on a scavenger hunt within their textbook focusing their attention on headlines, maps and graphs. This is a typical Learn2Learn classroom where organizational techniques, methods of goal setting, time-management skills, and various study strategies based on learning styles are taught in a fun and relevant manner.

**B**ased 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 life-long positive learning habits.

*For more information, please contact Melanie Picel-Bell  
Director, Orchards Learn2Learn Program at  
mpicel-bell@orchards.org.*

# NEW PROGRAMS 2013

## Expansion of Orchards Programming in the New Fiscal Year

**A** Children's Protective Services worker contacted our Shiawassee County Intensive Family Intervention (IFI) Supervisor and requested services for a family that did not meet eligibility criteria for the program due to the child's age. The IFI Supervisor was required by contract to deny the referral and suggest other community services that might have been able to assist the family.

This one incident and the passion of the Orchards Supervisor has contributed to Orchards expanding our services in Shiawassee County to now include Families First of Michigan, Life Skills, and Families Together Building Solutions. Orchards' expansion to include all three of these programs to our existing continuum in Shiawassee County has assured that we are able to work with all families in need of services designed to increase the safety of children in their own home.

Life Skills, in particular, has allowed us to coach hundreds of families in Genesee, Washtenaw, and Shiawassee Counties on how to develop daily living skills related to nutrition, parenting, environmental safety, and in other areas using positive parenting models which encourage the parent to model the desired behavior.

**O**ur staff, community partners, families, and other stakeholders have identified the many successes related to this service model – this is what motivated Orchards staff to expand our continuum of services in Macomb and Oakland Counties to include the Family Advocate Program and Family Support services respectively, both of which are based on the Life Skills model. We are thrilled to be providing all families, due to the addition of these programs, with an opportunity to learn how to effectively reduce risk using strength based approach so that they feel a greater sense of competence, usefulness, power, and belonging.







## Move. Expand. Partner.

Our Washtenaw County programs have continued to expand over the last five years where we now have approximately fifteen staff servicing five family preservation programs in addition to having more children in foster care visiting their parents.

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 at our Washtenaw office. We are also collaborating with Girls Group to have four of our youth mentored through high school and the college admissions process.

This collaboration with Girls Group, increased staffing through expanded programs and the desire to run groups necessitated our planned move to 1995 Highland Drive, Suite F Ann Arbor, Mi 48108. We have doubled the space we now have available to our programs and staff at this new site. It took some painting and other odd jobs by our staff yet we were able to move on December 11th and we have enjoyed the increased space, additional privacy and ability to engage with our families at a more meaningful level.

**W**e 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...

*Above: Orchards staff member, Katie Petzak, facilitates Art Night activities at our Washtenaw office.*

# ORCHARDS WELCOMES BACK

## BOARD MEMBER

## MICHAEL QUINN



Mike Quinn served on the Orchards Children's Services board of directors for several years before relocating to Illinois in 2011. He recently returned to Detroit after being reassigned by Pepsi. Mr. Quinn is Director of Sales for Michigan and Indiana. Mike was excited about coming home and the chance to once again serve on the board of the agency he admires so much.

Mr. Quinn initially became familiar with Orchards Children's Services through his company. Pepsi is a supporter of Orchards. "It's great to be back in action with a board that does so much good". He's thrilled to once again be participating in Orchards activities and initiatives.

Mike has great admiration for the genuine love and care exhibited by every member of the Orchards Children's Services team. The quality and professionalism of the Orchards staff coupled with their sincere care for children are what prompted him to initially get involved. The opportunity to take part in pretty remarkable endeavors has kept him inspired and enthused since the day he got on board.

Married to his lovely wife Kisha, the couple has three children, two girls and one boy. His family is what makes Mike most proud. He chuckles as he speaks of being the reason his wife (a Tampa transplant) stayed in Michigan despite our weather. His pride and love of his family is obvious as he speaks of his children and their accomplishments. His eldest daughter attends Michigan State University. Mike and his wife enjoy attending their children's activities and sporting events. His daughters play volleyball and basketball; Mike coaches his son's football team.

A sports enthusiast and avid golfer, Mr. Quinn loves being back in his hometown. The opportunity to serve on the Orchards board and help children means the world to Mike. His fondest moments are when he has the chance to see young people grow and prosper as result of Orchards' efforts. "Seeing an Orchards kid who has beaten the challenges return and give back is a great reward". Of the many rewards the Orchards receive, board members the likes of Mike Quinn are among the best. Welcome back, Mike. Glad that you're back home.



# AMBASSADORS!



This holiday season the Orchards Ambassadors, a group of young professional men and women committed to reaching back in the community, made it their priority to help Orchards children during the holiday season. With the support of staff leads Jillian Tupper and Brandon Scott, the Ambassadors sorted canned goods for Thanksgiving and hosted a happy hour to benefit children for the holidays.

On November 15th the Ambassadors gathered in Orchards basement and sorted canned goods for the Thanksgiving holiday. Twenty Ambassadors spent 4 hours after work sorting hundreds of canned goods by category. The sorted canned goods would eventually be put into a basket along with a fresh turkey for Orchards families to enjoy for Thanksgiving.

Continuing with the holiday giving spirit the Ambassadors hosted Happy Hour for a Cause at Fifth Avenue in Royal Oak on November 28th.

The Ambassadors reached into their rolodex and invited friends and co-workers from all over the metropolitan Detroit area to attend the event. Each invitee was asked to bring a toy as entry to the event. Over a hundred young professionals attended and Orchards received over 150 toys and raised \$500 in funds.

The Ambassadors have committed themselves to helping the children and families of Orchards as well as spreading the word about Orchards to young professionals. In an effort to continue with the forward momentum the Ambassadors will be having a Bowl-a-Thon on Saturday, February 2nd from 7-9 PM at Hartsfield's Lane. Proceeds from the event will go towards backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming school year.

As the Orchards Ambassadors continue to grow and the buzz around the group continues, the hope is that more young adults become involved with Orchards and the Ambassadors continue to help children and families throughout the metro area. This is just the beginning!

The Ambassadors have committed themselves to helping the children and families of Orchards as well as spreading the word about Orchards to young professionals.



For more information, please contact Jillian Tupper at [jtupper@orchards.org](mailto:jtupper@orchards.org).



Longtime supporter of the Orchards makes an impactful donation

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.

Above: Joan Binkow, far left, pictured with members of Akers-Binkow family



men·tor [ mén tàwr ]  
experienced adviser and  
supporter: somebody, usually  
older and more experienced,  
who advises and guides a  
younger, less experienced  
person

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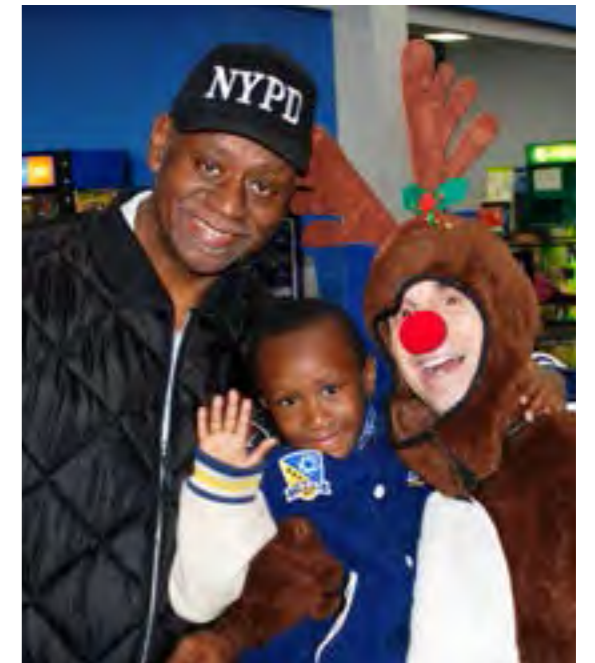
## PEACE

**T**he 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.

**W**inter 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.



*David Keane*



*Michael E. Williams*

**T**he 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.

**A**s 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.

**P**ace 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.

**T**he management, Board of Directors, staff and the entire Orchards Children's Services Family wish you peace today and every day.



# HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**There's always hope for the holidays at Orchards. Each year the staff and volunteers of Orchards Children's Services strive to provide a healthy, happy holiday for our children and families.**

*Above: Family is welcomed by Santa and Mrs. Claus*

**T**his year we kicked off the holidays with our in-house Thanksgiving family dinners held at our Southfield location. Several families had the opportunity to prepare a meal together. Each family was given their own day to have dinner, after which they enjoyed each other's company while playing games and doing other activities. This allows families who are unable to spend Thanksgiving Day together to have a festive dinner with one another.

**O**ur 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.

**W**e 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.

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.

*Right: The Lions' Nate Burleson is intent as he assists children at the checkout line.*



*Above: Orchards' staff volunteered at Cobo Hall and helped create smiles for 3,000 children at the Annual Adopt a Child event.*

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.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this a special holiday for our children and families. We're already planning for next year. We hope you will join us!

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.



*Above: The children are overjoyed with the gift the family won at the holiday party.*






Orchards Children's Services, Inc.  
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