

# theOrchards

The Quarterly Magazine of Orchard's Children's Services

Summer 2013

## Getting Fit & Healthy!

**Detroit Youth Baseball**  
Why Everyone Wins

Summer Fun in the



**Orchards**  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
Celebrating fifty years of helping children and families



# theOrchards

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*Front Cover: Orchards Detroit Youth Baseball League pitcher in action*

*Facing Page: Orchards President and CEO Michael Williams and Board Chair David Kramer enjoy Signature Event festivities*

*Back Cover: DYB Coach gives encouragement to a player*



The core goal of our program is to increase career, educational and life skill development within the life of each mentee.

### What are some of your goals with the program?

The core goals of our program is to increase career, educational and life skill development within the life of each mentee.

**Career Development.** Mentees are able to increase their career development skills by having the ability to create resumes and job applications. It is also important that mentees have job shadowing or internships opportunities available to help stimulate growth.

**Education Development.** Mentees are able to increase their educational development because of the accountability that the mentor brings and holding them accountable by reviewing report cards and progress reports as well as encouraging visits to the library and other agents in the community that can assist the mentee with educational development.

**Life Skills Development.** I would also hope that our clients are also able to make better decisions whether it's at home or in the community. They are making well informed decisions that

will impact the quality of their life. It's important that the mentees are aware of topics such as developing short term and long term goals; financial literacy and leadership development to just name a few.

### What do you see as some of the challenges?

A challenge that we have seen within our program is getting more male involvement. We have a lot of males that are on our waiting list for services and it's important that we match them with dedicated male volunteers who are willing to make the commitment to our program. All that we ask of volunteers is that they make a one-year commitment to their mentee where they are seeing their mentee 2-4 times per month.

### If someone is interested, what are the next steps?

If someone is interested in making a commitment to mentoring, they can contact me directly via phone at (248) 530-5420 or e-mail at [bscott@orchards.org](mailto:bscott@orchards.org) and I would love to meet with them and invite them to our next orientation at Orchards.

*Above: Mentee Francois Clack, Orchards CEO Michael Williams and Mentor Evan Green at Orchards' Signature Event*

## OUR ADVISORY BOARD

*Remembering* George Fox

**T**he entire Orchards Children's Services Family would like to thank George Fox and his wonderful family for the love and support throughout the years.

**O**n February 10th we lost one of our best friends and biggest supporters. George Fox was not only an incredibly accomplished business leader; he represented everything right in our community and the world. In discussing Mr. Fox's life with his devoted wife of 49 years, Joan, it's obvious that George loved his family, his work and his community. Mrs. Fox lovingly recalls how passionate her husband was about helping people. "George cared so much about everyone. He loved children and wanted to ensure the stability of organizations that provided for their care. Diversity in the workplace was also very important to him. He was an early advocate for women being promoted into GM's executive ranks."

**G**eorge Fox and former Orchards Children's Services President Gerald Levin were great friends. The two were college roommates at Eastern Michigan University. Gerald went on to become a champion for children and pioneer in child welfare. His best friend George went to work for General Motors and became their Director of World Wide Real Estate. Mr. Fox retired from GM after 34 years of distinguished service. His job with GM included oversight of operations throughout one hundred and seventy countries. Always the consummate businessman, George was respected throughout the globe.

**I**t was only natural that George would join the Board of Directors of Orchards Children's Services. He was passionate about children and the community, and his dear friend, Gerald Levin was the CEO. Gerald and George worked in concert on behalf of the Orchards; they were the

quintessential Yin and Yang team. Gerald relied heavily on George's expertise in business matters. George was also instrumental in introducing Gerald to many of the movers and shakers of business and government. Gerald was George's conduit to the many community related initiatives he cared so deeply about.

**M**r. Fox accomplished so much throughout his life. George was a key player, along with Detroit Mayor Coleman Young in the historic General Motors Poletown Project. He was also instrumental in the New Center Revitalization Project in Detroit. An avid Detroit Tigers fan, George loved rooting for the home team as much as he enjoyed being a champion of the Orchards. We were blessed to have such a wonderful man be part of our team for so many years. As stated earlier, George adored his loving wife, Joan, and their children, Lisa and Daniel. He was passionate about his community, as evidenced by his 35 years of service to the Orchards.

**T**he entire Orchards Children's Services Family would like to thank George Fox and his wonderful family for the love and support throughout the years. Mr. Fox will be missed but never forgotten. A special event is being planned, "Orchards George Fox Day", to be held at Comerica Park this summer. We know George will be there with us all in spirit celebrating the team, family and community he loved.

*Pictured above are the late George Fox and his son, Daniel, enjoying a Tiger game.*



Fitness is fun, a fact sometimes forgotten in these times. Many school recreation programs have been reduced, if not completely eliminated. Children don't walk to school and playing outside isn't as common as it once was. Video gaming, watching cable television and other sedentary activities claim much of our children's time. Food producers bombard kids with advertising that doesn't support healthy eating. Our children are particularly susceptible to the aggressive (poor food choice) marketing campaigns.

Many adults don't fare much better. While some adults engage in some form of routine physical activity, a large segment of our adult population doesn't.

#### HEALTHY EATING CAN BE A CHALLENGE

When it comes to meals, adults are just as susceptible to the media machine as our children are. Walk into any pizza carry-out at 5pm any day of the week. Chances are you'll have to wait behind several parents picking up "Hot & Ready" dinner. Life today is demanding, and we all know the challenges we face daily. Work, family life, personal issues, keeping up with household chores, paying bills, perhaps going to school, the list goes on. Who has time to devote to working out? Who has the time to cook?

The good news is that fitness doesn't have to be drudgery or a grind. Fresh food doesn't have to be difficult to prepare or expensive. A good way to incorporate healthy activity with healthy eating is for the family to grocery shop together. Plan a regular visit to the closest farmers market or urban garden. (Maybe even arrange a visit to the Orchards Garden). The hustle and bustle of a farmers market is actually a fun fitness routine (if you've ever been to the Eastern Market on a Saturday you'll know what we're talking about) that's a workout! Free cooking/healthy eating workshops are

offered at many local markets, community centers and other institutions. Orchards Children's Services has lots of connections. Call and ask for information on available programs and resources.

In the modern marketing savvy environment, we're led to believe we need specialized equipment or that we have to join a gym to get fit. Not true. One of the best forms of exercise requires no special equipment...walking. A family walk after dinner is a great way to spend quality time together and get some valuable exercise. The walk can even be to get an after-dinner treat. Walking after dinner helps stimulate the digestive system; you'll burn calories and probably discover that you sleep better.

If you want to participate in a fitness program, there are dozens of great free programs throughout the community. Some people gather at local shopping malls to walk; many malls have routes mapped out with mileage markers for walkers. There are free programs down on the River Walk in downtown Detroit (check out the Run This Town Program) and scores of others.

Remember, fitness can be fun for the entire family. It doesn't have to be difficult or expensive. Make healthy choices about diet and exercise and everyone benefits.

#### ORCHARDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Orchards is proud to announce the implementation of our Health and Wellness Committee. This committee is represented by a cross section of health care experts. Many of the hospitals throughout the State of Michigan have partnered with Orchards on this initiative. Stay tuned--there is more to come on how we're serving up a healthy lifestyle for our children and families!

# SUMMERING IN THE CITY

*July is dressed up and playing her tune...*

*- James Seals & Dash Crofts 1971*

**W**e are very excited that our children have been attending many day camps in our area throughout the summer. This is the eighth summer that Orchards has been able to send children to Super Summer run by Birmingham Community Education and the YMCA camps in both Macomb and Detroit.

**W**e have also sent children to the Fuller Park-Pool Day Camp in Ann Arbor as well as various specialty camps such as College for Creative Studies, Money Matters and Smart Girls. In addition, we will also be sending youth to basketball camps before the summer ends, as well as Camp Tanuga for an overnight camp experience that allows them a chance to participate in many activities, including kayaking, tubing, wall climbing, mountain biking, and a trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes. Jill and Todd Watson have

volunteered once again to bring our children to their Miracle Ranch for two days so that they may experience the joys of caring for horses and riding their favorites. Carol and Mitchell Klein have planned an overnight stay and a tubing experience for many children at Independence Oaks County Park as well as their own lake house. Finally, we have collaborated with Northridge Church in Plymouth so that many foster children may attend their Royal Family Kids camp, which has incorporated special programming for children living in foster care.

**O**ur youth acquire so many new skills each summer, and the confidence they gain by doing so is incredible. We are very proud of the progress they have made, and are very anxious to see how well they do when school begins in the fall.

## ORCHARDS WELCOMES

BOARD MEMBER

### JENNIFER LOPATIN

Mrs. LoPatin is a Vice President with the National Council of Jewish Women, and serves as the liaison between the Council and Orchards Children's Services.



Jennifer LoPatin is a relatively recent appointee to the Orchards Children's Services Board of Directors. Her youthful voice and delightful manner helps one understand why she's a natural fit with the organization. You'd never guess by listening to her that she's the mother of three young adults. Jennifer is an accomplished professional with years of experience as a social worker dedicated to working with children.

Mrs. LoPatin is a Vice President with the National Council of Jewish Women, and serves as the liaison between the Council and Orchards Children's Services. Additionally, she serves on the steering committee for the Jewish Book Fair. To say that she's one busy lady would be an understatement. As we discuss her many efforts and achievements, Jennifer proudly exclaims that nothing that she does or has done would have been possible without the support of Mark, her loving husband of 37 years.

In discussing what's special about the Orchards, Mrs. LoPatin explains that it's the caring people that impress her the most. "Walking through the offices with Orchards President Mike Williams is always special. Watching children run up to hug him, and seeing how he engages each one

is so wonderful." She goes on to talk about the passionate discussions at board meetings and how each member is so dedicated to the health and welfare of children. The National Council of Jewish Women and Orchards Children's Services are dedicated to child welfare advocacy.

Jennifer is excited about the future of Orchards Children's Services. She's really looking forward to a special event being held in August at Hess-Hathaway Park in Waterford. The park is sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women. The all-kids park features a maze, playground, nearby petting zoo and more. The August event promises to be a fun day for all. Orchards kids will be special guests that day. Word has it that President Michael Williams will be a special guest speaker for the event.

Mrs. LoPatin has been actively involved with the board for the past year. The Board of Directors and Management of Orchards Children's Services would like to formally welcome Jennifer LoPatin as our newest board member. We can never have too many champions for children. Thank you, Jennifer, for your passion, dedication and commitment.

*Above Artwork: "Closeup Image of Salad Leaf", Saied Shahin Kia*



We are proud to announce that we had a 95% graduation rate among the high school seniors in our various foster care, family preservation and community programs.

*scholarly endeavors*

As the school year came to a close, Orchards helped over 25 seniors celebrate their graduation from high school. Our staff was involved in helping teens acquire the resources needed to dance the night away at prom, show off school rings, senior pictures, and participate in many other graduation activities that they will remember for a lifetime.

We are proud to announce that we had a 95% graduation rate among the high school seniors in our various foster care, family preservation and community programs. We not only supported these youth in completing their high school education successfully, but also assisted them as they began formulating their plans for their further education and/or career development. Orchards has also formed a tuition committee that will be awarding scholarships to five youths that are preparing to attend a major university in the state. We also celebrated two youth graduating from college this spring.

Our belief in the value of education is as strong as ever. In May, our agency partnered with DHS in their Pathways to Potential program in the Flint, Pontiac and Detroit schools. We met with all the Success Coaches in these schools who are now delivering services to parents. We have taken referrals to provide in-home visitation services so that these families can maximize the benefits received from workers housed in the schools. This also allows us to coordinate the education their children receive in order to prepare them for a bright future.



*Pictured here are Learn2Learn participants at Ludington Middle School in Detroit.*

Our Learn2Learn programs concluded service to over 115 children in six Detroit schools, helping these youth improve their study skills throughout the year. We will continue to assist them in their progress over the summer so that they will be fully prepared for the 2013 school year.

## The Art of Giving

**Smart move!** Leaving your retirement plan assets to the Orchards eliminates the federal income tax on assets.

**Did you know?—** Perhaps the most common planned giving arrangement for the benefit of the Orchards is the will bequest. Charitable gifts made by will are 100% tax deductible. Bequests may be unrestricted — giving the Orchards the most flexibility — or designated for a specific purpose.

**The IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended for 2013!** Please consider Orchards when you transfer funds from your IRA to avoid undesirable tax effects. For Traditional IRA owners: If you're going to turn age 70 1/2 this year (2013), the IRS requires that you begin taking minimum withdrawals from your account.

# Orchards Welcomes CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

## KATORA COLE



Katora M. Cole serves as the new Chief Development Officer for Orchards. She is responsible for leading and enhancing a robust and comprehensive fund development program capable of raising significant financial support from individuals, corporations and foundations.

The department will include Community Relations to support the emphasis on cultivating community contacts to increase awareness with collaborative opportunities for businesses and corporations as well as other nonprofit partnerships. Her primary focus is to foster a culture of philanthropy within the Orchards assuring that its structure, systems and procedures support fund development and vice versa.

Katora has more than 15 years of philanthropic, community development, and nonprofit management experience with success in fund development and facilitating organizational growth including her roles as Director of Development for the College of Engineering and Senior Major Gift Officer for the Law School, both with

Wayne State University. Prior to joining Wayne State, she directed nonprofit programs for Catholic Social Services of Wayne County/Southeastern Michigan and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

**She is responsible for leading and enhancing a robust and comprehensive fund development program.**

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Purdue University and Master of Arts in Organizational Management, specializing in Non-Profit Management and is an alumna of the Big Ten Fundraisers Institute.

She resides in West Bloomfield with her husband Rodney and their four children.

*Above Artwork: "Artichoke", Kerrie Hubbard*

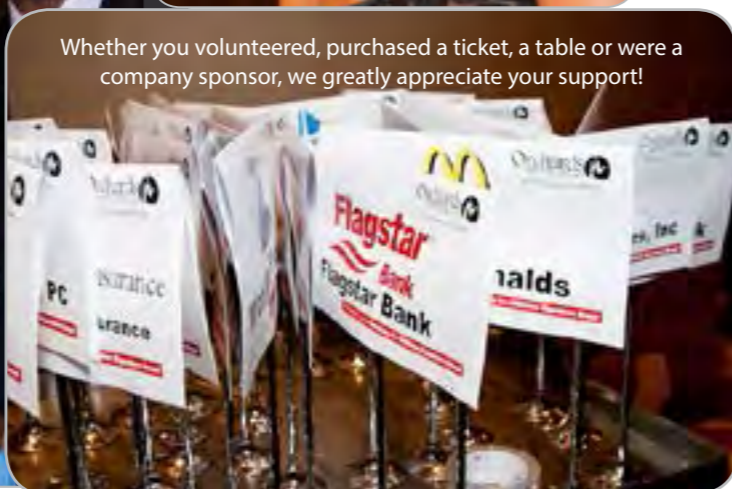


Among the awardees were Diane and William Hall--our amazing Foster Parents!



WXYZ-TV news anchor Glenda Lewis was Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening.

Whether you volunteered, purchased a ticket, a table or were a company sponsor, we greatly appreciate your support!



# GERALD L. LEVIN CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN SIGNATURE EVENT MOVING FAMILIES FORWARD

On May 4, over 500 people joined us at the MGM Grand to celebrate our accomplishments and honor our amazing Champions for Children awardees. We look forward to your ongoing support as we continue to move forward to provide healthy, happy lifestyles for our children and families!

For a complete list of awardees, or for more information, please visit [www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org) or contact Katora Cole, Orchards Chief Development Officer, at [kacole@orchards.org](mailto:kacole@orchards.org).



# TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION JUBILATION

Our generous donors have allowed us to purchase two minivans that have already taken our entire Youth Board on educational trips around Detroit.



Orchards is continuing to incorporate more comprehensive transportation services for our families. Our goal is to enable the families and children we service access all of Orchards and other community resources, ensuring that transportation is never a barrier.

Our annual campaign has helped us to develop more resources to assist us in transporting the families we service to critical resources in the community. Our generous donors have allowed us to purchase two minivans that have already taken our entire Youth Board on educational trips around Detroit. In the future, we plan to hire more drivers for these vehicles in order to lessen parents' wait at bus stops as they visit their children in foster care and also give us the ability to transport children to camps and other destinations in the metro area.

Above: Orchards COO Carmine DeVivo and Board Member Jay Hack inspect latest addition to Orchards' fleet of vehicles

mentoringworks@orchards.org



a conversation with Orchards Mentoring Director Brandon Scott

*As we approach the second year anniversary of Orchards' Mentoring program, we asked Brandon Scott, Mentoring Director, about his thoughts on the future of this important addition to our continuum of services.*

**Brandon, can you tell us about your background?**

I have been with Orchards Children's Services for 3 years. Prior to working at Orchards, I attended Bowling Green State University where I majored in Child and Family Community Services.

**What exactly is mentoring from the Orchards perspective?**

Mentoring from Orchards' perspective means helping to provide an additional form of support to our clients so that they are given as much information as possible to assist them in making important life decisions. Mentoring is geared around the mentee and it is important that mentees are exposed to different learning opportunities, but it is equally important that our mentees can have someone in their life that they can talk to and do fun activities with. A lot of our clients have gone through a great deal at such a young age, so it is very important that we provide quality support so that mentors know how to walk alongside their mentees, not only during the good but can be supportive during the bad times.

**What does the program look like today?**

Today, through trainings and support, each volunteer has made a pledge to be a beacon of hope in the lives of their mentees and as well as be a person that their mentee can count on. The program works hard to assist in exposing mentors and mentees to different cultures and experiences so that a positive learning environment will be created not only in our clients life but with any volunteer that comes into the program as well.

**What would you like it to look like a year from now? Three years from now?**

One year from now, I would like for our program to look like one that has attracted volunteers from different walks of life to Orchards Children's Services and has allowed them the opportunity to develop a bond and a relationship with one of our future leaders of tomorrow. As of this reporting period we have successfully completed almost 40 matches and this time next year, our goal is to have over 100 matches completed. I think it would be very powerful to have almost 100 mentees better prepared for school, better prepared for a career and better prepared for life as a result of the relationship that they developed with their mentor.

Three years from now, I would like for this to be a program where mentors and mentees have a deeper bond and as a result of that, previous barriers have been broken. I would also like for things to come full circle to where we have past mentees sharing stories and opportunities that they may have received as a result of the program. I think it is important to have our own success stories so that other mentors and mentees know that mentoring truly does work. I would like for mentees to feel more adequate and prepared for whatever career that they would like to pursue by the exposure and the connections that they have made as a result of their mentor and/or Orchards Children's Services.

I think it would also be helpful to have different job opportunities available to some our Independent Living or high school aged clients and that they have also received the proper training so that they can not just find employment but remain hired as well.



An old man had a habit of early morning walks on the beach. One day, after a storm, he saw a figure in the distance. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young girl reaching down to the sand, picking up starfish and very gently throwing them into the ocean.

"Little girl," he asked, "Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" Without looking up, she replied, "The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die." "But child, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference." The little girl listened politely, paused, and then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves, saying, "It made a difference for that one."

The old man looked at the young girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done. Inspired, he joined her in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and many starfish were saved.

This touching story is well known, and for good reason. It's a reminder of how each of us can make a difference and that little things matter. Frequently, it's easy to get discouraged and feel that little contributions don't matter, but they do. Every donation we make or every moment we volunteer makes a difference in the lives of others. The beauty of the story is the innocence and purity of thought of the little girl. Children frequently fail to see the impossibility of a situation because their thoughts are so pure. But for the little girl all of the starfish were doomed, due to her determination and pure heart thousands were saved.

Orchards Children's Services is family of wonderful, caring people. One of the little things we can do is take time to acknowledge the dedication and support of each board member, staff member, foster parent, adoptive parent, volunteer and supporter who are part of our family.

The many things you do make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. As we all go about our daily routines, let's remember that frequently little things make a difference. Whether it's a smile, a friendly hello or a small donation, the positive little things you do can have a tremendous impact. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Orchards Children's Services, thank you.



*Michael E. Williams*

Michael Williams  
President and Chief Executive Officer

*David Kramer*

David Kramer  
Board Chair



# RBI All-Stars Give Back

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities has given more than one million kids a chance to play baseball and softball. With last year's RBI World Series marking the 20th anniversary of the event, it was the players' turn to give back.



"We thought this was so important, even though these kids are coming from underserved communities... But they've been very fortunate...the efforts of the local RBI leagues, the parents, and other people involved in their lives. It's important for them to remember the opportunities that they were given by somebody else."

David James,  
National Director of the RBI Program

Orchards has been committed to quality community programs by sponsoring and facilitating baseball and softball leagues for kids for over 20 years.

The Detroit Youth Baseball League sponsored by Orchards Children's Services and Detroit PAL had another successful baseball season with over 80 teams, more than 1300 participants, and over 200 volunteers. The DYBL continues to thrive as the largest and most prominent league in the city of Detroit. Orchards has been committed to quality community programs by sponsoring and facilitating a baseball and softball league for kids 4-18 years old for over 20 years. In partnership with Detroit PAL, the Detroit Youth Baseball League continues to revive baseball in the inner city by providing a professionally run league, maintaining safe facilities, and recruiting and training program volunteers.

In addition to providing beginners the opportunity to learn and appreciate the game, the league also supports those players who have the ability to compete at a higher level. The DYBL is affiliated with the American Armature Baseball Congress (AABC) and Major League Baseball's Reviving Baseball in the Inner City (RBI) Program. Both of these programs allow our most talented ball players to travel and compete at the highest level. Teams from the league had the opportunity to travel and win tournaments in Cincinnati and Minneapolis.

Orchards-sponsored players participated in a national "giveback" event sponsored by the national RBI League organization. Half of the players and coaches gathered at Value Village Thrift Store in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, preparing donated clothing and household products for sale to benefit The ARC Greater Twin Cities--an organization helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

*For more information, please contact Dennis Borse, Director, Orchards Baseball Program, at [dborse@orchards.org](mailto:dborse@orchards.org).*

The rest converged in New Hope to pack nutritious meals for Kids Against Hunger, a food-aid organization designed to feed children around the world where players and coaches from teams Detroit and across the United States, as well as the Dominican Republic, teamed up to pack meals assembly-line style.

It was a great experience for the kids," said Detroit Junior RBI coach Delionte West. "Not only did the kid have an opportunity to give back to those who are less fortunate, they had a lot of fun doing it by making it a competition on who could fill the most boxes."





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**PAID**

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"Those of us lucky enough to be part of the game have a tremendous responsibility — we're charged with giving back to the game all the good things the game has given us."

- Sparky Anderson

