

What About The Children?



Top Center: Orchards sponsored a child welfare symposium in May. Panelists (L-R) included Carmine DeVivo, Orchards' COO, WSU Professor Dr. Arlene Weisz, DHS Manager, Cathe Hoover, Michael Williams, Orchards' CEO, WDET Program Manager, Jerome Vaughn, and author-youth motivator/philanthropist Gail Perry-Mason.

Save the Date!

**MAY 12, 2012
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Orchards Champions
for Children Event**

**Celebrating 50 years of
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Orchards
CHILDREN'S SERVICES



Celebrating fifty years of helping children and families

SPRING 2011

THIS IS ORCHARDS...

Always for Children and Families!

Dear Courtney,

I just wanted to start off by saying that throughout the 3 months you have been coming here, I have enjoyed every minute of it. I have learned a lot from you, and I'm really sad I have to say good bye. I wanted to thank you for helping me cope with stress and making me learn that it's always best to look on the positive side of hard situations. I appreciate everything that you have done for me, and there is a special place in my heart for you. Whoever you are with in the future is going to love you because you are such a loving and loveable person. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity of doing things I have never done before, for example, camp. I want you to know that I will continue to journal everyday, and I will continue to practice coping with stress and other problems. You noticed a lot of things about me that other people barely notice. It was so fun getting to know you, and I will remember everything you told me. Time seems to go by fast when you're having fun. Now the next 3 months are going to go by extremely slow. Have fun throughout the remaining of the summer--just don't forget me.

Love + Peace = Happiness
Love, C



Setting the Pace

Orchards has been growing, and we continue to serve as a shining example of organizational excellence. The way we care for kids is unrivaled, and our willingness to go the extra mile unparalleled. We are proud to say with confidence that we are uniquely effective in meeting the needs of children and families. Consider some of the changes we've experienced over the last year.

We have added over 50 new positions, and today employ 265 dedicated professionals.

Our Summer Adventures camp program gave 265 kids the chance to have fun and explore.

Learn-2-Learn Study Skills program helped 148 middle schoolers achieve a 27% increase in their technical learning abilities.

We expanded our facilities in Macomb, Genesee and our Southfield headquarters, adding over 10,000 square feet of programming space.

We installed our first-ever community garden to teach kids about gardening and nutrition.

Our Gerald Levin Champions for Children event raised over \$100,000 – the largest turnout and contribution in the history of the event.

Over 96% of our high school seniors graduated.

We launched our first comprehensive fundraising campaign in January of 2010 and have already raised \$1.2 million toward our goal of \$2 million.

We've bucked the trends and beat the odds because nothing stands in our way when it comes to helping kids and families. Orchards is that special kind of place – setting a special kind of pace – where the difference we make is as much in ourselves as in those we serve. If you think you're up for the challenge, we'd love for you to join us.



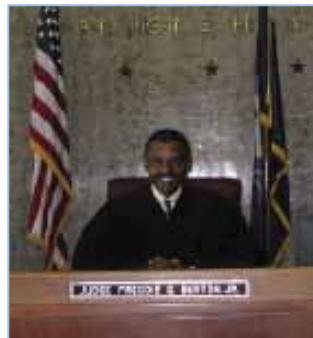
Carol Klein
Board Chair



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 Judge Freddie G Burton, Jr to our board of directors. A recognized leader in the legal and civic communities, Judge Burton's accomplishments and commitment have been recognized by numerous organizations in the fields of law, health, education, diversity and community development. He is a lifelong Detroit, received his Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University, presently serves as the Chief Judge Pro Tempore and is the recipient of the prestigious Wayne County Probate Bar Association Golden Gavel Award.

As a twenty-three year veteran of the Wayne County Probate Court, Judge Burton is uniquely qualified to assess the impact that organizations can have on the lives of children and families. In expressing his interest in serving on our board, Judge Burton offered a unique and refreshing perspective: "I believe that serving an organization that has so consistently demonstrated its professionalism and excellence will help me be more effective as a judge and a community advocate." It is our distinct honor to accept Judge Burton's humble offer of service to our board and our mission.

Campaign for Orchards Children

The month of May was the launching point for Orchards giving campaign. Funds raised support Orchards' many community programs.

The stories our kids and families shared at our Open Houses in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Flint touched on how much of a difference your support can make. The energy of our Steering Committee and the many supporters committed to our kids has been incredible, and we're inviting you to join them!



Carolyn Clifford
Co-Chairperson



Roger Penske
Chairperson



Joe Serra
Co-Chairperson

You can find out more by visiting our website (www.orchards.org) or by contacting Gilda Hauser at 248-593-2194 or ghauser@orchards.org.



Board Member Allen Einstein, Secretary Dianna Ronan, Chairperson Carol Klein, and Treasurer Steven J Schwartz were on hand for our Detroit campaign announcement.



Michael Williams and Carol Klein had some friends help accept a generous campaign gift from Joe Serra and his wife Julie.



Board member Denny Sheridan, City of Flint Mayor Dayne Walling and Board member Taylor Segue III helped launch our campaign in Flint.



Joan Akers Binkow was inspired by Bonnie Maloney's story at our Washtenaw campaign rollout event.

Signature Event!

Our 2011 Gerald L Levin Champions for Children Event drew over 350 people to Detroit's Gem Theater on March 31 for an evening of relaxation and recognition. Honorees included Orchards' Summer Adventures Steering Committee, Rodney Stuckey, Kroger Co and Maura and Kurt Jung.



Awardee Orchards Summer Adventures Steering Committee members (L-R) Lori Soifer, Carol Klein, Mark Lewis, Rick Kovan, Barbara Osher, Aimee Kovan, Mitchell Klein, Rena Lewis, Doug Soifer, John Steinberg, CEO Michael Williams, and Debbie Steinberg



L-R Youth board member Max Kepes, Awardee Rodney Stuckey, Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence and Michael Williams



Kroger's Dale Hollandsworth (center) accepts the Champions award from youth board member Spencer Gold and Orchards CEO Michael Williams



L-R Kurt and Laura Jung, Donovan Colquitt, Maura Jung, Mayor Brenda Lawrence and Michael Williams

"O"ut and About

Springtime offered numerous opportunities to make connections with our constituents at every level. Below are just some of the events we hosted for our kids, families, staff and supporters.



Janice Berry, (right) Orchards Director of Community Relations welcomes volunteers from GEMS. The group hosted a game night for Orchards families.



Youth enter the Charles H Wright African American Museum for Orchards' Black History Month celebration



Linda Kay Nathan, foot masseuse, gives Foster Moms, Ms. Brandon and Ms. Burrows a well deserved foot massage.

Detroit Firestation Engine 40/ Squad 5/1 hosted Chris Robinson and Billy Burnette at their station, and both boys have since enrolled in a summer fire academy class



Program Highlights

Community Garden

We're growing in every way! With the launch of Orchards Community Garden, we brought to life the vision and support of partners FoodFirst, Beaumont Hospital, Aimee Kovan and EarthWorks. This tiny oasis at our Southfield site will provide opportunities to teach kids about gardening and nutrition, and allow our families to enjoy fresh healthy food options.



Adrian (Café Cortina), Marilyn (EarthWorks) and Christine (Beaumont) helped Orchards sow the seeds of our Community Garden in May

Youth Board

Our Youth Board continued their work in supporting the community. They made a special connection with Freedom House, a Detroit organization that serves as a safe place for individuals seeking asylum from persecution in several countries in Africa.

The Youth Board is: Co-chairs Myia Woodley-Sharrieff and Ami Venkataraman, Alexus Sims, Anya Blumenfeld, Daniah Ballard, Daniel Bohlender, Donovan Colquitt, Emmanuel Swanson, Jazzi Browder, Josh Adkins, Kyra Woodley, Matthew Webster, Max Kepes, Naiyah Johnson, Racheal Tiaston, Shyryn Borgol, Spencer Gold, Sydney Schaefer, and Yamilies Timenez



Youth board co-chairs Ami Venkataraman and Myia Woodley-Sharrieff

L-R Emanuel and Terry Swanson rub elbows with Earvin "Magic" Johnson as Cheryl and Ihsaan Ajamu look on.



Donovan Colquitt qualified for a Bill Gates Scholarship and has amassed over \$250,000 in college funding. He will attend the University of Michigan in the Fall.



Former youth board member Marquise Slay receiving the JFK Award for Outstanding Achievement in Scholarship and Service from Ferndale Public Schools

My Smile Matters

Support from the Jewish Fund made a meaningful impact on the lives of our youth. Four young people – Jazzi, Megan, Natalie and Tiffany – received dental services that would otherwise have been beyond their means. These four young women have all expressed how much better they feel about themselves and how much more comfortable they feel now in social situations. We have also been able to engage dental professionals in providing these services at substantially discounted rates, enabling our funders' generosity to go even further.



Outcomes

Our success continued in the first quarter of calendar year 2011, and we realized some important milestones in our service to kids and families.

Staff in our prevention and preservation programs engaged over 350 families – another historical quarterly milestone for Orchards – and continued the trend of keeping 95% of the families we served together 18 months after the completion of service.

We completed 32 adoptions – the highest number of adoptions in a single quarter in our agency's history! Special thanks to Vicky Orleans for her leadership and to all our adoption staff for their unparalleled service to these incredible families.



The Flores Family with Social Worker, Carl Sampson (far right) at Game Night

Our Summer Adventures program planning yielded new offerings for youth that will send them to the Planetarium and engage them in robotics camps over the coming summer.

Learn-2-Learn wrapped up another successful year, graduating 113 youth, enlisting Joan Littman and Marygrove College in our recruitment efforts, establishing our first-ever summer school initiative and expanding into Southfield Public Schools for the first time.

Our foster care division underwent three independent program audits with stellar results, and recruited 36 new families to provide temporary foster care and pre-adoption care to children in need of these homes.

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