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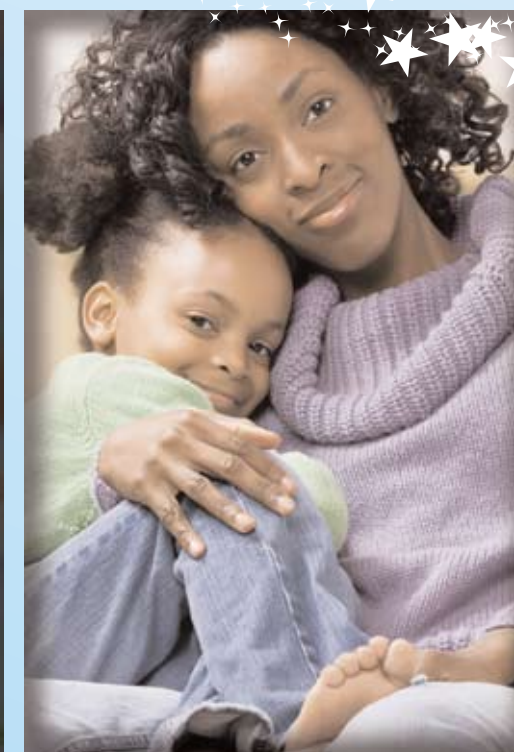
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*From Dreaming... to Believing... to Achieving.*

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH  
QUALITY SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



# Of Leadership and Change

**"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." John Quincy Adams**



*Michael Williams  
President and CEO*

Orchards Children's Services like all organizations experienced change and challenge over the past year. The Board of Directors and management team faced new challenges. The strain of economic conditions threatened to undermine our ability to service our clients and our community. The questions during these tumultuous times shared a common theme: Can we achieve our goals and maintain the level of service on which our reputation is founded? For many agencies, the response has been to scale back, cut services. But the need in our community is too great. Orchards Children's Services is determined to focus and be even more disciplined in our approach. A year of change heralded a time to touch more lives in our

state. When others scaled back, we expanded - now providing service to children, youth and families in Genesee and Washtenaw Counties. The leadership of Orchards Children's Services applauds the tremendous support of every member of our family.

It is a wonderful privilege to be a citizen of the United States of America. The freedom and liberty we enjoy today did not come without a price. Living in a democratic society is truly a remarkable opportunity - both an honor and a responsibility. As fortunate citizens living and working in a free society, we should constantly be asking ourselves, "How can I make a difference?" And it's here - from this question, inside each of us - that leadership resides. Leadership is not merely about leading a huge endeavor, standing before scores of followers or making command decisions. Leadership is about inspiring, helping, teaching and setting the right example for others. Whether it is in the family, in one's place of employment or in personal relationships, there is always a leadership role to play.

2008 was a remarkable year, filled with change. Changes in our national and local political landscape, the world economy, and the public consciousness have left indelible imprints on our collective conscience. While the specter of change is frightening to many, a famous person once said... "Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity..."

Over the years Orchards has maintained a tradition of service and commitment to community. The past year has provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate that commitment time and again. None of our efforts are possible without the many wonderful people and organizations that support us. We offer our humble thanks for everything done on our behalf over the past year. We look forward to doing even more wonderful things in the months to come. Another year certain to bring even more change... another year of opportunity for us all to serve.

Special leadership recognition was conveyed on both Ms. Bryant and Mr. Williams last year as Shirley was elected decisively to the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community College, and Michael was selected as the co-chair of the Detention, Residential Care and Treatment subcommittee of the Governor's Child Welfare Improvement Task Force. Their efforts on behalf of our communities transcend their roles here at Orchards to touch all of our lives.



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Board Chair*

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"Don't judge each day by  
the harvest you reap,  
but by the seeds you plant."  
- Robert Louis Stevenson



Orchards Children's Services wishes to thank everyone that made the last year so remarkable. From the scores of wonderful families that embrace our children to the supporters that make our work possible. From the great children that continually remind us of our purpose to every staff member that dedicates their tireless efforts to achieving our goals and objectives. Orchards Children's Services is so appreciative to those doing whatever it takes to keep our organization unique and special. We're thankful for the opportunity to serve and to be of service to every child, youth and family as well as our greater community.

"From tiny acorns  
mighty oak trees grow."  
- Author Unknown

## ...Before I Fall Family Preservation



Prevention is the key to our Family Preservation programs, where we work with families to make sure homes are safe places for kids. Sometimes solutions are as simple as installing a refrigerator, or repairing a car so parents can work. Other times we may help individuals contend with behavioral or mental health issues with a special focus on how those issues impact on parenting.

These interventions now comprise the largest program area in our organization, with over 53% of our total direct expenses supporting these preventive services. Our ability to grow in this area has been supported by you - our donors, volunteers and advocates – and could not have happened without the efforts of our foster care and adoption staff, who laid the groundwork for our reputation as a premier provider of services to kids and families.

## Tell Me More...

### Helping families stay together:

These programs are funded through a combination of public and private dollars. Money and resources provided by donors go directly to helping families with medical, employment, educational and household supports.

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## Fostering Growth

### Out-Of-Home Care



In 2008, Orchards foster care, kinship care and independent living programs rose to the challenge of getting more relatives formally licensed, and helping more older youth than ever before in our agency's history. We continued to reach out to relatives through our kinship support services program, including efforts to assist grandparents raising grandchildren. And our staff remain committed to reconnecting children and parents whenever possible, and finding loving foster and adoptive homes for children unable to return to their parents.

## We Are Family

### Adoption Services

Orchards adoption program eclipsed the 2,400 mark in 2008 for total number of adoptions completed since we began providing this service two decades ago. The number of children we served this year increased by over 50% compared to 2007, in large part due to Orchards reputation as Southeast Michigan's premier provider of adoption services. And through our Post-Adoption Support program, we live up to our

commitment to supporting families and kids over the long haul, leading to stronger relationships, happier homes, and better results overall.



## Tell Me More...

### Becoming a foster parent:

1. Attend PRIDE training – 4 weeks (34 hours)
2. Application and Clearance - 4 weeks
3. Home study and interviews - 6 weeks
4. State-level approval - 4 weeks

**Total time from first training to formal licensure: - 4 to 7 months**

### Adopting:

The simplest and best way to adopt through Orchards is by first becoming a foster parent. Fostering provides a unique opportunity to receive training, become familiar with the legal and social considerations related to adoption and to connect with a young person as together, you build a relationship that will last a lifetime.

To learn more, call  
**248-258-2099**







# Summer Adventures

**The Future Never Looked So Bright!**

Orchards' Summer Adventures is the program that started us on the path to exploring new and exciting ways to help kids. So much more than just a camp experience, Summer Adventures has opened doors for young people that they might never have known even existed. Reaching out beyond the boundaries of their neighborhoods, finding skills and experiencing the excitement of a challenge mastered – these are the magical moments that have life-changing potential. With the help of Camp Tanuga and the Bear Hug Foundation, Camp Copneconic and Camp Seagull, the Detroit and Macomb YMCA's, and Groves High School Birmingham Super Summer, over 200 young people had a summer filled with memories that will last a lifetime.



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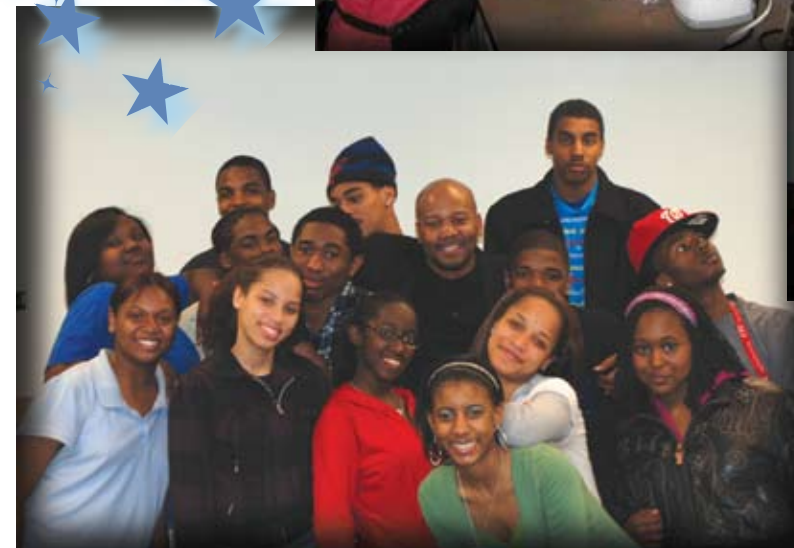
## Career Connections

Supporting Young People on the Path to Independence



2008 saw Orchards receive our first funding for workforce development programs in our agency's history. With the combined support of United Way for Southeast Michigan's groundbreaking Agenda for Change and funding from the City of Detroit Workforce Development Department, a MichiganWorks! Agency, Orchards launched our Career Connections program to instill the importance of continuing education in young people, provide support in the college and financial aid application process, and provide a comprehensive employment skills and work readiness program for youth in the City of Detroit and in the child welfare system. We are proud and honored to

have served over 100 youth to date, and to recognize our "graduates" that have successfully gone on to college and part-time work.







# Learn-2-Learn

"The kids loved the ice breakers, were enthusiastic about the program, thought the backpacks and supplies were great, started using their planners and handed in their homework more frequently. They really did 'learn to learn!'" – Teacher testimonial



Learn-2-Learn has grown to be a symbol of Orchards commitment to the broader community. Reaching out to school administrators, teachers and students in Detroit, the program focuses on learning styles and study habits – transferable skills that support kids' learning across all subjects and carry over into daily living and work ethic. Our twelve-week curriculum shows youth that school can be fun, stresses the importance of lifelong learning, and provides tangible organization and time management skills. Then we provide participants with backpacks, binders, organizers, calendars, and other school supplies – tools that

they can use to immediately implement what they've learned in the program. Our outcomes point to improved self-esteem, recognition on the part of teachers of improved classroom results, and the ability of youth to identify behaviors and approaches that compliment their particular learning styles.



## Partner Schools

Ludington • Cesar Chavez  
Taft • Cerveney  
Duke Ellington Conservatory

Special thanks to Marygrove  
Masters of Education intern Jewell Datcher.

You truly are a diamond in the rough!

## Individuals

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Judith and Joshua Adler  
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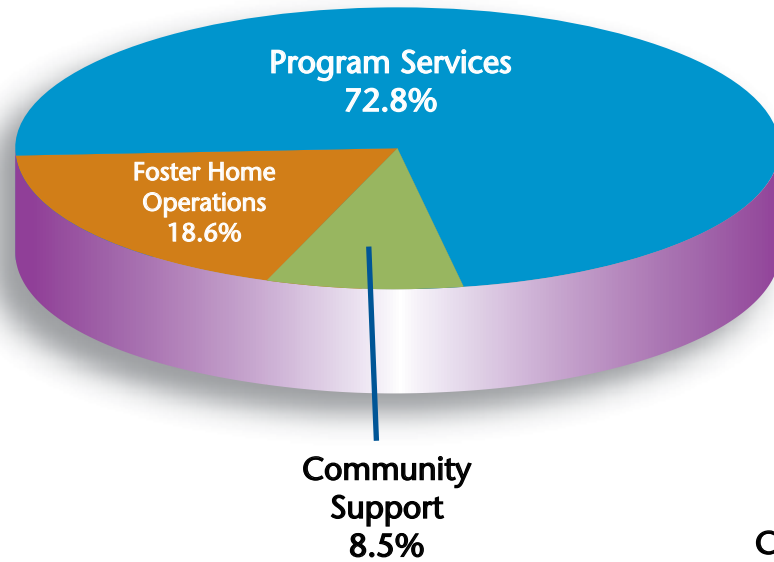


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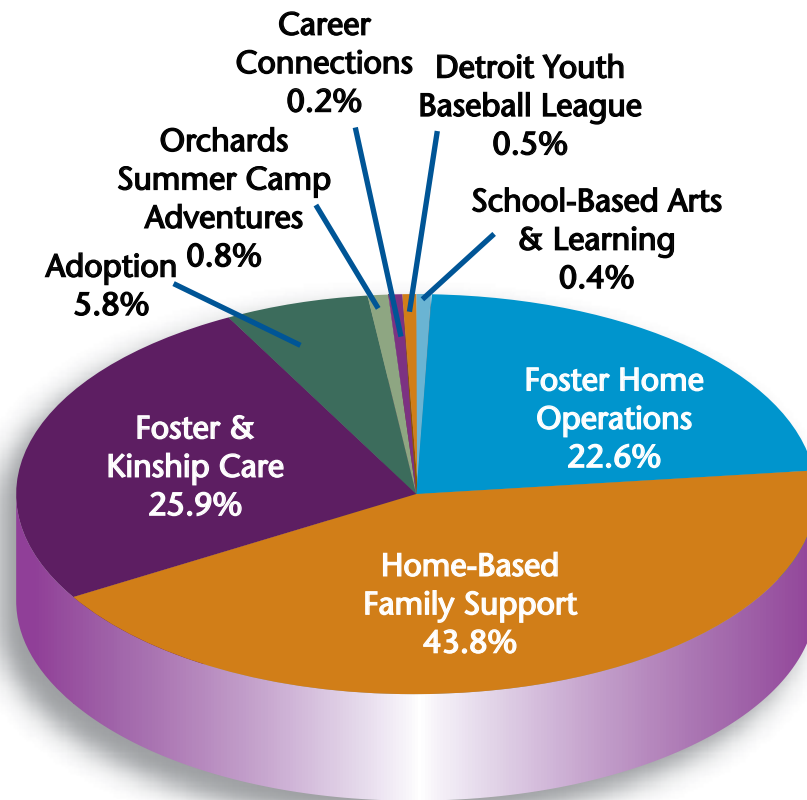


# Finance



Revenue Distribution  
9.6 million

Expense Distribution  
9.4 million



# Community Programs

As we have grown in our outreach, we've been able to support all kinds of kids in many different ways. And the rewards have been priceless!



The Detroit Youth Baseball League has become a national marquee youth athletic program, and for the third year in a row, Detroit's Junior Boys Division brought home the World Series. Our thanks to Commissioner Denny Borse, Dan Varner and the folks over at Think Detroit/PAL for your continuing partnership and collaboration, and to KPMG and Major League Baseball for your recognition and support of youth baseball in urban communities across the country.

Closer to home, Orchards Annual Olympics and Field Day brought out the best in our kids and families as young people got a chance to enjoy outdoor activities, eat some healthy snacks, and win some great raffle items.



And Orchards Back-to-School Extravaganza was highlighted by a visit from the Detroit Shock, who led youth in a clinic that weaved together skills initiatives with messages about confidence, effort, teamwork and leadership. And the Piston's rounded out the day with generous donations of backpacks that got every kid off on the right foot for the school year!



*Frie*

*We are all angels with  
only one wing. We can fly only  
when we embrace each other.”  
- French writer  
Roger de Rabutin*



Michael Williams with long-time Orchards supporter Fred Goldberg.



Hall-of-Famer Ted Lindsay  
with Resource Development  
Director Pamela Ayres

The Michigan Department of Human Services entrusted Orchards with the responsibility of serving over 140 newly referred families through in-home interventions.

Orchards had two significant firsts in 2008, as a recipient of 1) a contract with the Detroit Workforce Development Department and 2) a grant from United Way, both supporting our Career Connections program offering employment and educational attainment services to youth in the City of Detroit and young people aging out of foster care.

Our trusted colleagues in the Association of Accredited Child and Family Agencies rallied with us to continue to advocate for public policy initiatives designed to support children and families.

Adrian Tonon and Ristorante Café Cortina hosted another stylish, relaxed Spring gathering to raise funds and heighten awareness for Orchards. Thanks, and special congrats to you and “Stelle!”

Detroit Recovery Project serves as a partner, helping to educate youth about strategies for avoiding substance abuse.

Thanks to Major League Baseball and ThinkDetroit/PALforanothersuccessfuleasonintheDetroitYouth Baseball League (See story page 8)



Prudential's backpack drive sent kids back to school in style!

## *Success by the Numbers!*

### *Safety*

- 398: The number of children in foster and relative homes supported by Orchards Children's Services each day
- 113: The number of children returned to parents or relatives from foster care in 2008
- 27: The number of older youth Orchards provided transitional independent living services to last year

### *Connection*

- 2,017: The number of children who were able to remain in their parents care thanks to Orchards supervision and support
- 96%: Number of families served who stayed together for a year or more after services had concluded
- 248: Number of children receiving adoption services through Orchards
- 90: Number of children who found loving adoptive parents in 2008
- 8: Average age of children served through our programs
- \$23,000: Average household income of families served



Board Secretary Carol Klein facilitates a meeting of Orchards' Youth Board.

### *Opportunity*

- 242 : The number of youth who attended summer camp in 2008
- 202: Youth participating in Orchards Learn-2-Learn and Champ Camp after school and school break classes
- 89: Youth successfully completing Orchards Career Connections Program
- 19: The number of youth who entered college in September of 2008 (all still enrolled and succeeding in their chosen pursuits!)





## Champions for Children

Our annual signature fundraiser once again brought people to the welcoming ambience of Seldom Blues at Detroit's Renaissance Center. Honorees MIG-Detroit, Senator Bill Hardiman, Representatives Dudley Spade and George Cushingberry



Jr, Dr Loretta Polish, Ms Shirley Davis and Dennis Archer and Trudy DunCombe-Archer filled a slate of child-advocates and true champions for youth and families. The evening was seamlessly orchestrated by event chairs Adrian Tonon and Theresa Giannetti and the Signature Event Planning Committee, and rounded out with help from Carolyn Clifford as emcee and Pamela Ayres and Cheryl Ajamu coordinating all the behind-the-scenes activity. Proceeds went to support medical, educational and transportation services that help our kids access and stay connected to resources in the community.



## Adopt-a-Family

The Adopt-a-Family program paired 12 host families with 12 families in need last year in Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and Genesee County. Activities like Project Prom, our Summer Adventures and Back-to-School supply drives and our Holiday Gifts drive helped make these seasonal milestones times where families could rest assured that their children were prepared and well taken care of. Our thanks to the host committee:

Randie Levin · Alana/Michael Sherman · Marcy/Steve Sucher  
Carol/Mitch Klein · Fern Kepes · Cheryl/Ron Rasansky and Rena Litman  
Mari Barnett · Nancy and Lary Goldman · Sue/Jay Kalisky  
Anabelle Cohen · Hilary/Selwyn Isakow · Lisa Lis  
Geraldine, Christine and Scott Allen

## Kids Helping Kids Walk

The Children's Charities Coalition's first annual "Kids Helping Kids" Walk was an overwhelming success, engaging over 650 young people in an effort that helped those in need, and taught young people about the responsibility of supporting those less fortunate. We are thankful to our partners – Care House, The Community House of Birmingham and Variety the Children's Charity – for bringing this fantastic idea to life!



## nds

The Children's Charities Coalition launched the first "Kids Helping Kids Walk." (See more on page 13)

The Detroit Pistons, Detroit Shock and the Pistons Palace Foundation provided countless opportunities for our youth to attend games, interact with players and experience those special moments that define what it is to be a child. Special thanks to Anita White, Director of Administration and Corporate Marketing, for mentoring and supporting Shaniqua in her efforts to attend college! (See story pages 11 and 12)



From left to right - Jasmine Millwood, Michael Williams and Pamela Ayres at Carol Lewis Day Spa.



Thanks to the Deltas for helping with event preparations.

The Detroit Lions and Kippy and Deon Brown opened their hearts and their homes to us.

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association hosted the President's Ball and Annual Golf Classic with part of the proceeds benefiting kids and families here at Orchards.

The Here to Help Foundation provided direct support to many families in our care.



"A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

- Middle Eastern Proverb



# Stories from the Heart



## Shaniqua

Shaniqua knows about what it's like to lose the things you love. But she also knows what it's like to be loved. She's encountered seemingly countless obstacles. And she knows what it's like to overcome them. She entered foster care a week before her 12th birthday. And she was adopted the week before her 18th birthday. She was devastated at the death of her first foster parent, Deborah Thrower, and thankful to have found the mother that adopted her, Star Pierce.

Shaniqua is currently a senior in high school with a 3.6 GPA. She is 3rd in her class, .2 points away from being Salutatorian, and for her graduation she is going to have the biggest open house and is going to invite her entire "Orchards' family". She will be attending Central Michigan University in August, living on campus and studying Sports Management with dreams of becoming a sports agent. Shaniqua recognized early on the importance of education. "It's important to make your own money... Legally that is!" she said.

Shaniqua has been an active member of the Orchard's Youth Group, spoke at a youth conference held at Orchards in February and participated in overnight camps through Orchards Summer Adventures. Shaniqua says that she has learned the following things about herself from her life experiences thus far: how to be a leader, how to be loyal, that she cares for others, that she is a very independent person. When asked what advice she has for other kids in foster care, Shaniqua stated, "Have your own mind, follow the house rules, stay out of trouble, set VERY high goals for yourself by finishing high school and going to college, do not let anyone put you down and prove yourself." Shaniqua represents the power, hope and determination in every young person, and serves as a shining example for us all.

## Ashlie

Ashlie is a seventeen year old female. She was initially brought to the attention of the court due to incorrigibility charges brought forth by her mother. It seems that Ashlie had "gotten into the wrong crowd" both in school and in her neighborhood. She lacked direction and focus both in school and at home. Her mother married a man who believed in setting limits, and Ashlie's wanting to be out late, stay at others homes and not listen to the rules set forth by her mother and her husband led to some pretty harsh disagreements. Ashlie's distance from her mother and her adult siblings and her mother's battles with substance abuse issues, led to instability in Ashlie's formative years.



Throughout her adolescence, Ashlie struggled with mental health issues. Although her immediate and extended family were committed to Ashlie, a lack of focus and determination hampered Ashlie's progress.

But then, Ashlie found her own focus.

Through her involvement with the Orchards Children's Services JJDR program,

*From Dreaming... to Believing... to Achieving.*

Ashlie had the ability to involve herself in the Career Connections program where she found people willing to guide and direct her. As a result, she is actively pursuing her education and career aspirations. She received her high school diploma and is a full time student at a local Community College where she is studying to become a Registered Nurse. She's been substance free for 6 months and continues to be a role model to her younger extended family members as well as to her peers participating in Career Connections.

Ashlie continues to demonstrate a sincere, enthusiastic and motivated interest in her own future and is on a path to long-term self-sufficiency!

## Anvil



Anvil (pronounced AN-VEE-EL) came to Orchards at age 12 along with five siblings. Their father was absent from the home, contending with serious behavioral issues. Their mother had become gravely ill, was hospitalized, and upon returning was unable to care for her children due to her medical condition. All of the youth were placed in foster care. With the assistance of Orchards Kinship Care program, Anvil and her siblings were reunited with their biological father in Genesee County. Formally, the case was "closed" as a success. But the story doesn't end there...

Despite many obstacles, Anvil successfully graduated from high school intent on becoming a nurse. And in October of 2008, she reached out once again to Orchards, having learned we had developed a program to support older youth who had "aged out" of foster care in Genesee County. Anvil stated, "Orchards helped me before, I know you will help me out again." She began working with her "Youth-In-Transition" support staff, attended the Orchards holiday party and participated in Orchards Adopt-A-Family program. Her dedication and determination recently paid off when Anvil learned she had been accepted into the Job Corp program. She is a resident student studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and a Dental Hygienist. Anvil's story reminds us that, even from tremendous adversity, the greatest success can blossom.