Orchards Children’s Services

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH QUALITY SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Over the past 50 years, Orchards Children’s Services has grown into one of the most valuable organizations for the area’s young people in need. We provide much needed hope and support to people of all ages. What began in 1962 as a residential home for just seven boys in Livonia, has flourished into the largest foster care and child advocacy agency in Michigan, serving over 5,000 children in seven counties. Orchards Children’s Services strives to keep children and families together. As our mission states, “Orchards remains committed to strengthening the community through quality programs and services to children and families”. We hope to continue to do so for another fifty years!
Leadership Message

The year 2011 marked our 49th year of working to strengthen the community through quality programs and services. It was a year of very special accomplishments for Orchards Children’s Services. We were one of the agencies to receive the Top Workplaces award from the Detroit Free Press, for a second consecutive year. This honor is really an acknowledgement of the many dedicated staff and Board of Directors we have at Orchards.

Orchards was also recognized as one of three agencies nationwide to receive the highest score in every category of assessment from the Council on Accreditation. This is a national accrediting body that demands the highest standards of service and care.

The year was full of new community programming and was our most successful fund-raising year to date. We have begun to formulate a mentoring program to better serve our children and it will aid them on their pathway to success. Though some of our services have been modified and evolved over the years, our passion for children and families has remained a constant over time. The commitment to excellence was best seen in an over 90% graduation rate amongst the young people we serve. We remain committed to providing positive options for all of our children and families.

Orchards has already begun celebrating its 50th year in operation. We are extremely excited as this is a monumental milestone for the organization. And, our mission remains close to our hearts.

It is my hope that this 2011 Annual Report will serve as a reminder of the many services and outreach Orchards executes to improve the lives of children and families. It is people like you that have helped make Orchards such a uniquely effective and respected organization. Your support contributes to Orchards Children’s Services’ continuing success, endurance and longevity. The pages that follow are a reflection of our year. It highlights many of the things we do for the people we serve. Your support has and will make a positive difference in our ability to accomplish our mission. And for that, I am forever grateful.

Always for Children and Families,

Michael E. Williams, MA
President and CEO
The stress placed on families struggling to raise their children can be overwhelming, especially for those without adequate support systems. Michigan has proven to be aggressive in addressing the needs of high-risk children and their families, yet the need for quality foster care placements is on-going. The financial cost of maintaining children in foster homes continues to escalate and the personal losses experienced by these children are impossible to calculate. Yet, Orchards provides a safe haven for children as we build a temporary bridge for them to return to their biological family or if that is not possible, to find them a loving, devoted adoptive family.

Orchards supports an average of 312 youth in our foster care program each day.

Orchards successfully recruited, trained and licensed 113 individuals and families to serve as foster and potential adoptive families.

Orchards monitored and supported parents’ efforts to reconnect with their children and happily saw the return of 86 youth to their parents’ care.

Orchards completed 130 adoptions and supported each child after the adoptions were finalized.

Orchards served an additional 254 children by providing consultation to other adoption agencies and are pleased that over half of these children now have a solid adoption plan.
Prevention Programs

As Maya Angelou so pointedly asked, “How is it possible to convince a child of his own worth after removing him from a family which is said to be unworthy, but with whom he identifies?” Family preservation programs at Orchards embrace her teachings and the idea that each family is an expert related to their unique situation.

Our preservation programs not only service families where children are at risk of removal, but also serve children returning from foster or residential care. We are able to assist these families by linking them to community resources and successfully re-integrating their children back into their homes. There are many benefits in working closely with high-risk families. When families reach a crisis point, this often becomes a “teachable moment” and an ideal time to empower families to make desired changes in their lives.

Orchards is proud to have over thirty family preservation programs in seven counties all with the same central philosophy and mission.
In 2000, Jeff, then six years old, walked toward school and away from the physical, verbal, and mental abuse inflicted on him by his biological mother. Once he arrived, he was met by a stranger who introduced herself as a Children’s Protective Services Worker. Jeff left school with the stranger called “worker” and was taken to another stranger called “foster parent”.

Over the next ten years, Jeff lived in several foster home placements. He had to get to know numerous workers, who he simply called “worker” not bothering to learn their names. This was to cushion his disappointment when Jeff would hear that they would be leaving without an explanation.

In 2010, Jeff received the news that he was “eligible for Youth in Transition Services (YIT)”. This is when Jeff met his first and only Orchards Children’s Services worker, Ashley. He was suspicious when she introduced herself as just “Ashley” and wondered why she didn’t have a title and a really long name.

For almost two years now, Jeff has worked with Ashley and has been participating in YIT services. Orchards has helped Jeff secure special education to achieve a 3.4 Grade Point Average, receive martial arts lessons, and live in Independent Living groups facilitated by the YIT staff. Jeff is learning the skills needed to live on his own and plans to attend Western Michigan University to become a Social Worker. Jeff recalls “Ashley never once thought I couldn’t do something, so I never thought it either.”

When Orchards Prevention Worker, Sarah, arrived at the White family home there was one couch, no table, no chairs, mattresses on the floor and only one fork in the kitchen. Sarah learned that the family was residing had lost everything due to an electrical house fire. Ms. White informed Sarah that she did not know what to do about her finances because she was currently on short term disability from work and was waiting for her first check.

Sarah looked around the room and saw the children in clothes that were either too big or too small, all donated from family and friends. That evening, Sarah sent out an e-mail to all Orchards Staff and by the morning had a response that was overwhelming: donated tables, chairs, dressers, clothes, televisions, dishes, and much more, including a huge donation from Macomb Charitable Foundation.

Within five days, Sarah and three very helpful Orchards Staff arrived at the house with a car, a pick-up truck and the Orchards trailer stuffed full of donations. Ms. White looked at Sarah and said, “I heard Orchards had great services, but I did not know that they employ angels.”
Crystal is a single mom of six children, one of whom was born with disabilities. When her home flooded in 2009, the family faced eviction and other new challenges. Crystal was referred to our Early Return prevention program in 2009. Her Orchards worker secured funding for an Environmental Consultant to assess the condition of her home. Orchards obtained new beds, and with her family support Crystal and her children were able to successfully move back into their home.

With the additional assistance of her Orchards worker, Crystal has successfully secured employment and plans to apply for a management position. With continued weekly support from Orchards, Crystal remains motivated to overcome her family’s obstacles and is successfully meeting her children’s needs, finding confidence in her new work experience.

The Family Reunification Program hosts several workshops on various topics from healthy nutrition to budgeting. The goal of the program is to help children return successfully from foster care. Many of the parents need support with job-seeking skills. Orchards staff planned a fantastic workshop with over 25 families in attendance. Parents practiced interviewing and created updated resumes on the computer. To accommodate families, the workshop included crafts and a movie for the children. In addition, in order to gain confidence in entering the working world, Orchards gives parents access to the Career Corner of Business Attire, which consists of new and slightly used professional clothing.

Ms. Jones, who attended the workshop, utilized her Family Reunification Team to pick out an outfit for her upcoming interview. After her interview she said she “felt great in her outfit” and that she “was able to answer all the questions she was asked.” Two weeks later, Ms. Jones started a new job and she said, “I owed it all to the Orchards.”
The Wind Beneath Orchards’ Wings!

Thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who participated on one or more of our committees. Perhaps you helped stuff bags, planned an event, donated money, or offered encouragement. Your individual contributions helped ensure Orchards’ overwhelming success with our children and families!

Orchards Committees

Back to School Extravaganza • Book Drive • Campaign Steering • Clothing Corner • Community Garden • Events and Activities • Holiday Celebration
• Larry Culley Olympic Bike Giveaway • Nutrition/Wellness • Signature Events • Summer Adventures Steering • Youth Board

Our Volunteers

Our community programs and outreach provide our families with many exciting opportunities. Community programs are annual events that give our children the experiences every child deserves. With the help and generosity of Orchards community partners and volunteers, thousands enjoyed experiences like professional sports games, educational field trips and academic camps. Volunteers helped distribute clothing, books, food, toys, gloves, hats, and furniture. As the community programs and outreach continue to expand, so do the number of families who benefit. Here’s a snapshot of some of the things we were able to do this past year:

Community Programs

Back to School Extravaganza Backpack Giveaway –
Education continues to be a priority at Orchards. As summer comes to an end, we celebrate going back to school with our families. The celebration features a fun-filled day of food, games, dancing, and visits from Detroit sports teams’ mascots and the Southfield Fire Department. The day’s highlight was the distribution of 700 stuffed backpacks to a crowd of jubilant students. This event was made possible by Bank of America.

Larry Culley Olympic Bike Giveaway –
This was the third annual Bike Giveaway. The event was supported by Kroger Co., who helped us increase the number of bikes distributed from 250 to 350.

Learn 2 Learn Positive Study Skills –
There were a total of 40 programs administered in 22 schools for 393 students. Over half of the student participants have exhibited a significant increase in their application of positive study skills. Schools have begun initiating contact with us to implement our program. This is all supported by Charter One, PNC, and First Foundation of First Presbyterian Church.
Orchards Community Garden Vegetables –
This year marks the unveiling of our first community garden. With the help of Beaumont Foundation, Café Cortina, and Cracker Barrel Store, our children and families worked in all facets of the garden.

Summer Adventures Camp –
And awaaay they go! 349 of our youth attended day and overnight camps last summer. This was made possible by our Summer Adventures Steering Committee, a dedicated group raising funds to ensure a significant number of children have an awesome camp experience every year.

This outlines some of the activities in which our families were engaged during the past year. It certainly illustrates the benefit of community outreach and programs. With the support of volunteers, staff, donors, and businesses, we hope to capture these moments 365 days of the year…Our children deserve it!

Community Outreach

Education
- Charles H Wright African American Museum Field Trip
- Detroit Science Center Field Trip
- Gail Perry-Mason Money Matters Youth Financial Literacy Camp
- Michigan Council of Women in Technology Girls Camp
- Orchards Book Fair
- Teen Etiquette Workshop
- Wayne State Planetarium Field Trip

Arts-Theater
- Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
- Detroit Opera House
- Max M Fisher Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- Meadowbrook Children’s Theater (15 plays)
- Orchards Jewelry Making Workshop
- Wayne State Hillberry Theater (3 plays)

Entertainment
- Detroit Lions Games
- Detroit Pistons Games
- Detroit Red Wings Game
- Detroit Tigers Games
- Detroit Zoo Field Trip
- Eastern Michigan University College Basketball Games
- Orchards Family Game Night
- Orchards Mom’s/Dad’s Pampering Day
- Orchards Parents Midday Princess Boat Cruise
- University of Michigan Basketball

Athletic
- Detroit Pistons Basketball Camp
- Joe Dumars Fieldhouse Basketball Camp
- Orchards Family Roller Skating – Northland Roller Rink

“I was failing math even though I was trying. Learn 2 Learn helped me develop organizational skills that keep me focused. Now math is my favorite subject and the class I get the best grades in.”
- Cydney Taylor
- Age 13

“Every kid needs someone to help them learn how to tie their shoes, play catch, or ride a bike. It’s like getting out of training wheels. If no one ever helped teach you, you would always be in training wheels.”
- Mark Germaine
- First Orchards adoption in 1986
“Building on a Legacy” Campaign

Building on the generosity of our donors, we are asking the community at large to support our uniquely effective organization through the $2 million Campaign for Orchards Children’s Services, “Building on a Legacy”.

We use funds donated to enhance services that are not included in our contracts, specifically for community programs, capital improvements, scholarships and Orchards endowment.

“The challenges we face today and for the future are great but they are not greater than the heart and soul of our community. Working together we can ensure the success of our youth for decades to come.”

Carol Klein
Orchards Board – Chairperson

Orchards Children’s Services founded by National Council of Jewish Women as a residential home for seven boys in Livonia 1962

First child placed in a licensed Orchards foster home 1969

Orchards incorporated as a private child welfare agency 1982

Orchards camp program for children with special needs begins at Camp Tamarack in Brighton 1986

First adoption by Orchards 1987
Program Service Opportunities: Goal $1.3M

Program services directly linked to the community make up the majority of Campaign Funding. Education areas include Learn 2 Learn, mentoring, Horizons/Upward Bound, tutoring and extra-curricular education in arts and sciences, life skills, vocational education and college preparation. Recreation opportunities include Summer Adventures such as camp and baseball programs. Dental assistance, My Smile Matters, Orchards Youth Board, and Community Garden and Nutrition programs are also all included, as well as funding for holiday events such as sponsor a family for the holidays, Thanksgiving and other celebrations associated with normal childhood development throughout the year.

Capital Opportunities: Goal $250,000

Opportunities include expansion of current facilities as well as relocation to expanded or enhanced location in all communities we serve. Building of new facilities is also included for community programs such as baseball, summer camp and improvements of facilities such as family visitation areas.

Scholarship Opportunities: Goal $300,000

Opportunities include scholarship funding for children in the areas of educational and career tutoring as well as assistance to defray costs for needy families and children.

Endowment Opportunities: Goal $150,000

Opportunities for endowment to provide ongoing stream of income to take advantage of future program and capital needs to cement permanent viability of Orchards in times of reduced government support.
Finance

2011 Support and Revenue
$14.8 Million

- Program Fees: 81%
- Foster Family Support: 13%
- Contributions: 5%
- Special Events & Other Income: 1%

2011 Expenses
$14.5 Million

- Foster Care Services: 38%
- Family Preservation: 40%
- Management & General: 10%
- Adoption Services: 7%
- Fundraising: 2%
- Community Programs: 3%
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<td>Catch Foundation, Clarence and Jack Himmel Foundation, Daly Merritt Inc, Detroit Red Wing Alumni Association Inc, Alizah and Adam Forman, Etta Garth, Denise Goodman, Health Alliance Plan, Jewish Fund, Jake Kasdan, Carol and Dr Mitchell Klein, Kroger Inc, Morgan Stanley Foundation, Pepsi Bottling Group, Quicken Loans, Ralph L and Winifred E Polk Foundation, Serra Family Foundation, Lauri and Steven Solomon, Janet Jung Victor, Zieben Mare</td>
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$2,500 - $4,999
Janice Berry
Drew Besonson
Birmingham Rotary Club Endowment Fund Inc
Wendy Borovsky
Kim and Dr Richard Chesbrough
Robyn and Mark Coden
Katherine and Matthew Daugherty
Detroit Country Day Middle School
Detroit Red Wing Alumni Association Inc
Stephanie Smith and Carmine De Vivo
Dorothy and Byron Gerson
Michelle Gilbert
Gilda Hauser
Clarence and Jack Himmel Foundation
Maura and Kurt Jung
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Fern and Brian Kepes
Anessa and David Kramer
Rosemary Leeb
Candice and Michael Mihalich
National Council of Jewish Women
Barbara and David Osher
Sigmund and Sophie Rohlk Foundation
Lauri and Steven Solomon
TCF Foundation
Wolverine Human Services
Zingerman's Service Network

$1,000 - $2,499
Arete Industries Inc
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Ruth and Howard Berrey
Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
Attilio V Colella
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Focus HOPE
Shelley and Gary Gerson
Gift Planning Associates
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Bruce and Julie Gutman
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Jack, Evelyn & Richard Cole Family Foundation
Linda and Arnold Jacob
Joes Link Service Center
Latha Kannan MD PC
Doris Kastian
Aimee and Rick Kovan
Rosemary Leeb
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Lisa and Hannah Lis
Barbara and John Mayer
Jeff Moon
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National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation
Patterson Holdings Inc
Lee and Maxine Peck Foundation
PepsiCo Foundation
Loretta Polish PhD
Robyn and Dale Rands
Red Frog Events
Rogovo Architects PC
Dianna and Charles Ronan
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Sue and Dennis Sheridan
Lori and Doug Soffier
Spectrum Human Services Inc
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Allison Weinstein
Idell and Lawrence Weissberg
Wheeler Family Foundation Inc
William Beaumont Hospital
Denice and Michael Williams
Wolkind Law
WWJ-TV (CBS)
Zingerman's Service Network
Beth and Howard Zoller

$1 - $999
1st Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps
Patti Aaron
ACCESS
Sharyl and Alan Ackerman
Molly Adams
Judith and Joel Adelman
Faye and Steve Adelson
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Marilyn Bellomo
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Martha and Phil Berry
Berry Foundation
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Valerie Bielski
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Carla Blau
Diane and Larry Blau
Cheryl Blau
Vivian and Jerome Blevins
Janice and Gary Bloom
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Lori and Robert Blumenthal
Nancy and Lawrence Bluth
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Margaret and Adam Bornstein
Ina and Keith Bornstein
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Shanitra Bowman
Marlene Bowman
Jabette Boyd
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Kamisha Brady
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Faith and Jeff Braschi
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Gayle and Richard J Burstein
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Christian Fellowship of Love Baptist Church
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Bruce Harms
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Andrea Harris
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Laura Lipson
Darlene and Victor Liss
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Eileen Lueck
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Mary and Brian Macias
Dorothy and Dr Murray Mahlin
Farah and Hassan Makki
Carole and Jerald Maltzman
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Cynthia Maritato
Marilyn Markel
Carol Marsh
Carol and George Marsh
Ashley Martin
Joan and Anthony Martin
Eileen Martinez
Sherine Marzouk
Lisa and Mark Matthews
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Maxwell-Turner
Maureen McDermott
Melanie McCaffrey-Brown
Teresa McCord
Rachael and Thomas McCarthy
Renachantel McClain
Joanna McClellan
Clare and Brian McCord
Daryll McDuffie
Kelsey McIntee
April McGee
Courtney McGrow
Chris McLogan
Heather McMaster
Dawn McPherson
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Elizabeth and Frederick Mehl
Lisa Mencotti
Gwen Mendez
Valerie Merriwether
Metaldyne
Metro Dental Associates
Rochelle and Tim Meyer
MGM Grand Detroit Casino
Margaret Michael
Mary Micus
Diane Mietsunen
Rosalie Migdal
Janet and James Mignano
Racalia Miller
Cheray Miller
Caroline and William Miller
Judith Miller
Esther and Marvin Mintz
Karen and David Mitchell
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