

theOrchards

The Quarterly Magazine of Orchards Children's Services

Fall 2012

Gala wrapup

BIKES bikes
bikes!

Birthday Bash!

Our Back-to-School Extravaganza

Youth Board News

theOrchards

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50 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

During a period when many organizations have failed and many others struggle to survive, the Orchards continues to thrive.



Michael Williams
President and CEO



David Kramer
Board Chair

Orchards Children's Services celebrates fifty years of service this year, a half century of serving children and families throughout southeast Michigan.

Reflecting on our history and looking to the future, we consider the reasons for our success. Vision and leadership have resulted in us being recognized as a leader in the child and family welfare field since 1962. Fifty years ago the founders of Orchards Children's Services realized a need for more compassionate care for children. The vision and leadership of those pioneers paved the way and established the foundation upon which the Orchards have been built.

In these difficult economic times, the debate frequently turns to questions of leadership. Leadership in politics, business, government, education, and religion, seemingly the list goes on. During a period when many organizations have failed and many others struggle to survive, the Orchards continues to thrive.



Jeannette Harris
Chief Financial Officer

Of course we've had our share of challenges, but we succeed by keeping our focus on our core values, on the foundation laid fifty years ago by our founders. When the question of leadership arises at Orchards, the discussion always turns to the founding principles of the organization. The organization was founded by a team with an understanding of the needs of children and a vision for the future. Orchards Children's Services is successful because of not one leader, but rather because of a team of committed leaders. For fifty years Orchards has benefitted from a remarkable group of people with a shared vision and a profound understanding of the fundamental principles upon which the organization was built.

Leadership is the hallmark of any successful endeavor. Today, founding members are still active and passionate about children, families, and the community. The foundation of leadership is embraced by every member of the Orchards team. From the executive management team and board members, to case workers, foster care parents, volunteers and members of the extended Orchards Children's Services family, leadership drives them all. Being a leader isn't about identification or proclamation of a title or rank, but rather it is about the act of leading. Orchards is a team of dedicated leaders and that results in success for our team, our children, and our community.

Fifty years ago the National Council of Jewish Women had a vision. Today, a foundation of compassion and care is testament to the leadership of those pioneers and the many wonderful members, past and present, of the Orchards Children's Services team.



SUMMER ADVENTURES

Another wonderful summer for the kids at Orchards Children's Services. Our Summer Adventures programs provided day and overnight camps for over 350 children, with activities ranging from horseback riding, swimming, tubing, arts programs, nature, camping activities, field sports, computer and science and literacy camp and much more!



Ambassadors

The Orchards Ambassadors, our young professionals group, had a busy summer as we worked to help spread the awareness of Orchards Children's Services to the community. The Ambassadors first project was to raise proceeds for 600 book bags and school supplies to be distributed at this year's 50th Birthday Bash. The Ambassadors organized a Bowl-Back To-School event to help raise proceeds for the book bags and school supplies and were fortunate to raise over \$1500. The Ambassadors were also fortunate enough to partner with Meijer's who donated 600 book bags and school supplies and Bank of America, who offered additional financial support for the event's success.

The Ambassadors later hosted a "Stuffing Party" at the agency where other friends of the agency and volunteers helped stuff all 600 book bags with school supplies. The highlight of every Ambassador was passing out the book bags to the children at the 50th Bash and seeing their eyes light up knowing that they were going to receive their own back pack. The Ambassadors were very thankful for the opportunity to play an important role in making sure that the children of Orchards will have all the necessary tools so that they will have a great year in the classroom.



Mentor and Mentee are all smiles during an outing

Mentoring

Orchards Children's Services is pleased to announce the launch of our new mentoring program earlier this year. The program was established to develop relationships through prevention focused activities and experiences that will strengthen educational, physical and emotional development. All prospective mentors are required to attend a training and an orientation. There are currently 7 children matched with mentors from the community. They have enjoyed a range of activities, including a trip to Comerica Park for a Detroit Tigers game and a visit to the Detroit Institute of Arts. We are recruiting additional mentors to participate in its program. Mentors are encouraged to visit with their mentees at least two times per month and must agree to background checks and clearances in order to be eligible for the program.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering as a mentor, contact our Mentoring office at (248) 530-5420.



New Programs

Post Adoption Resource Centers

Support.

Orchards Children's Services has exciting news! In April 2012 our agency was awarded the Post Adoption Resource Center Program in both Wayne and Oakland Counties. The Post Adoption Resource Centers (PARC) Programs were created by the State of Michigan as a way of ensuring adoptive families are provided with supportive services beyond adoptive placement. The program offers an array of services which are tailored to meet the needs of each family.



Coordination.

The Post Adoption Resource Centers provide case management for families experiencing crisis, as well as coordination of services and information dissemination to ensure families have access to information, resources and services. At PARC adoptive families can participate in trainings, join our monthly Adoptive Parent-led support group and attend outings with other adoptive families in their community. In June PARC staff and families enjoyed attending a Detroit Tigers Game for our monthly family support activity. In addition, both Wayne and Oakland Post Adoption Resource Centers have a vast lending library of books and resource material for adoptive parents and children.

Post Adoption Resource Centers offer a website designed for adoptive families in Wayne County at www.PARCWayne-Orchards.org and Oakland County at www.PARCOakland-Orchards.org. Adoptive families have unlimited access to the websites allowing them to engage with other adoptive families, locate community activities and link to national and additional state resources.



100% COLLEGE BOUND

Thirteen young adults from our Foster Care and Independent Living Programs earned their high school diplomas this year.

On June 8, 2012 Orchards hosted a graduation party for our 2012 high school graduates. Thirteen young adults from our Foster Care and Independent Living programs earned their high school diploma this year.

A short ceremony was held with a presentation of awards and a memorable speech by Orchards' President & CEO Michael Williams, followed by a lively gathering with great food and lots of laughs. Smiles were everywhere as we celebrated the culmination of a busy year filled with senior photos, college applications, final exams, and senior proms.

We would like to congratulate our graduates on their accomplishments and wish them a fun and safe summer. As we celebrate, we are constantly thinking about what is on the horizon. Orchards is proud to say that 100% of our 2012 graduates are moving on to attend a college or university this fall. We look forward to a busy and productive summer preparing our graduates for the next step in their journey.



Adoption Resource Consultants



Shebree

Connection.

In August 2010, Adoption Resource Consultants began looking for adoptive parents for children waiting over a year for a permanent family in Wayne, Genesee, Macomb, and Oakland Counties.

In October 2011, ARC added Extreme Recruitment services that allowed us to use a private investigator to help in the search for adoptive parents. Our success was easily measured as over half of the child we were working for had an adoptive parent identified after working with ARC. Due to this success ARC was asked to find a permanent family for every child in the State of Michigan waiting for over a year in May 2012.

To date ARC has assured that 13 youth who had been waiting an average of 5 years for a family to care for them forever had adoptions finalized. Moving forward, 400 children and youth living across the state are benefitting from ARC services and will soon be connected with those who will love them forever.



ORCHARDS WELCOMES

INCOMING BOARD CHAIR

DAVID KRAMER



Regardless of circumstance, or the social or economic status of a child's family, all children deserve to enjoy childhood".

David Kramer has accomplished much in his personal and professional life. Mr. Kramer now serves as a Vice President with The Oswald Companies, one of the country's largest insurance brokerage firms.

David was born and raised in Metropolitan Detroit. After graduating from the Honors English program at the University of Michigan in 1995, he went to work on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Congresswoman Lynn Rivers of Ann Arbor. After serving Congresswoman Rivers, David attended and received his J.D. from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. In September of 2000, David married his wife Anessa (an attorney with the prestigious Honigman Law Firm); the couple has two boys Sam age 9 and Max 7. The family now resides in Bloomfield Township.

David's introduction to Orchards Children's Services came by way of a family member who served with the organization. He had recently returned to the area and knew he wanted to do something to help in the community. Like so many other members of the Orchards team, once he started volunteering he knew where his time and energy would be spent.

Over the past eleven years he has worked in various capacities in the organization. David is passionate when he talks about watching children enjoying themselves at various Orchards events. "Regardless of circumstance, or the social or economic status of a child's family, all children deserve to enjoy childhood". He sees Orchards as an organization that positively impacts children from all walks of life.

A avid traveler, he and his wife recently made a trip to China. Frequently he visits his favorite city, London where he enjoys the historical and cultural aspects of the storied city. David is an admitted history buff, who always looks forward to traveling to places rich in history. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf and tennis. He also holds various leadership positions with The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and other civic organizations.

Orchards Children's Services has been fortunate to have remarkable people serve in leadership positions since its founding. David Kramer will undoubtedly lead the way to more successes for Orchards Children's Services and the families and children we serve. We welcome Mr. Kramer as the new Board Chair and thank him for his dedication and service.



WHAT IS THE YOUTH BOARD?



Orchards' Youth Board is a positive peer group made up of high school students from throughout the Detroit metro area. Our goal is to serve both Orchards and the community while having fun. This year we had members from 15 different high schools and accomplished an impressive number of projects. We hosted and helped out at Orchards' holiday parties, packed the Thanksgiving food baskets, had group fun climbing at Planet Rock, and packed cabbages at Forgotten Harvest. We sponsored and participated in a cultural exchange program / barbeque at Detroit's Freedom House and learned about the personal plight of refugees from around the world.

We were glamorous and sophisticated when we dressed-up for Orchard's big 50th anniversary event and, among other duties, helped present the Champions for Children awards. Last, but not least, we lent our helping hands to the Larry Culley Bike Giveaway Olympics and partied afterwards as we said good-bye for the summer. We are always looking for new members, meet once a month during the school year and know we are much appreciated and welcomed as a part of the Orchards family.

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us for the 2012-13 school year please contact Melanie Picel-Bell (mpicel-bell@orchards.org) or Carol Klein (cgklein7@gmail.com).

BIRTHDAY BASH!!

What a way to Celebrate!



On July 28th, 2012 Orchards Children's Services celebrated 50 years of servicing children and families with a huge 50th Birthday Bash at Seaholm High School. Right off the heels of the 50th Gala, Orchards wanted to celebrate with the core of this organization, children, families and staff. And we celebrated in a big way with a record number of 500 children, families and staff participating in the festivities.

The day opened up with families registering at the registration table where they received food and ice cream tickets and each child received a wristband for a free backpack stuffed with school supplies. Each family was also gifted a \$25 Meijer's gift card as a birthday present. All families were greeted by a clown at the events entrance, who hugged every single person who entered. From there children and families participated in face painting, jewelry making, make over's, field day games, golfing, basket ball, music, dancing volley ball, bouncers and much more. We also had massages for our hard working parents, foster parents and staff. The families enjoyed hotdogs, chips, cookies, and of course ice cream and helped beat the heat with water, Gatorade, and lemonade.

This was a great way to end the summer! Jillian Tupper, coordinator of the event, made sure that each child left with a smile on their face. Parents left grateful for the book bags, school supplies and gift card and both were excited to come back next year. As we transition into the next 50 years, we hope to continue in bettering the lives of all children and families throughout Michigan.

A special thanks to Meijer's, Pepsi, Sam's Club, Uncle Ray's Chips, Bank of America, Star Trax, Midnight Golf, Michigan Dairy, Vision of P.E.A.R.L.S, Community Relations Department, Birthday Committee, summer interns, Ken Porter and the numerous volunteers that donated their time.

Larry Culley



Day a Huge Success!

Well, we did it again. Orchards gave away 400 bikes this June at our annual Larry Culley, Bike Olympics. Funds were raised to purchase the bikes at our 50th anniversary gala which was held in May. The entire month of June was focused on bikes as 100 volunteers donated their time to build the bikes.

The highlight was on June 22nd when hundreds of children could be spotted in Orchards parking lot riding off into the sunset. Amid all of the fanfare were; bouncers, food, games, dancing, and an overall fun filled day for all. Orchards wants to ensure that children maintain a healthy lifestyle and receive plenty of exercise. The provision of a bike helps us achieve that goal. Thanks to all who donated money and/or your time to give our children a ride of a lifetime!



Quicken Loans Volunteers give a thumbs up sign as an indication of mission accomplished.



Volunteers from Chrysler, Comerica, and the Community are all smiles after building bikes.

Orchards Recognizes Our PARENTS



During May and June we honored our Moms and Dads by pampering them. Those participating were treated to food, full body massages, manicures, pedicures, makeovers, movies, and games.



Orchards CEO Michael Williams gives one of our Dads some helpful hints while he's relaxing and enjoying a card game.

This lucky Mom was treated to a full body massage.



BOARD BULLETIN

We would like to welcome Jay Hack to our distinguished group of Board Members.



A dynamic individual with a wealth of knowledge and experience, Jay's background is extraordinarily diverse. Before pursuing his career in financial planning, Jay spent several years as a mountain climbing guide. He traveled the world, scaling some of the most challenging summits throughout the globe. Humbly, Jay admits that among his many achievements, one of the most memorable was when he safely guided a mountain climbing group to the summit of Mount McKinley in Alaska in 2004.

Introduced to Orchards Children's Services by Campaign Director, Gilda Hauser, Jay was immediately touched by what he experienced when visiting our office. It was not long before he caught the spirit of the O; soon he was participating in Bike Day and our holiday season initiatives. Before too long, Jay joined the Campaign Steering Committee and the Summer Adventures Camp Committee. His passion for the agency is evident. "Orchards' commitment to improving the lives of children and families inspires me. I am thrilled to share the Orchards Children's Services story and experience with others."

This mountain climber loves a new adventure and looks forward to what the future holds. Jay has ambitious ideas and is excited about being part of the agency's plans. "I'm honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as a member of the board". Orchards Children's Services is fortunate to have such a passionate, accomplished professional join the Orchards team.



Scholars and Scholarships

Orchards is proud to announce that Katie Livingston has been accepted into the Seita Scholars Program at Western Michigan University for this upcoming fall semester. The Seita Scholars Program is a well renowned tuition scholarship that supports WMU students who have lived some or all of their teenage years in foster care. The scholarship pays for tuition of undergraduate courses at WMU. Most or all other living expenses may be covered by financial aid and available state support, thereby making it possible for a Seita scholar to earn an undergraduate degree with few or no student loans. Katie is currently participating in Orchard's Independent Living Program, where she has been receiving support from her worker, Dwana McGee. Katie is very excited to decorate her dorm room and to build friendships. She plans to pursue a major in Accounting and minor in Business. Congratulations, Katie!

Following the success of Katie's acceptance to the Seita Scholars Program, Orchards staff Kristen Carney and Brandon Scott chaperoned three youth to the Michigan Teen Conference at Ferris State University on June 18th- June 20th to learn about college opportunities available for youth in foster care across the state of Michigan. Hanna Bailey, Mary Foster, and Sarina Aitken had a great time touring the campus, meeting friends, and experiencing dorm life. The girls were successful in learning about schools that specialized in their desired major and met expectations of class size and location. Orchards is truly impressed with Hanna, Mary, and Sarina's motivation and investment in their education. Keep up the hard work, girls!



ORCHARDS CELEBRATES ITS 50TH!



A Star-Studded Crowd - R&B performer Kern, Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence, Immediate Past Board President Carol Klein and News Anchor Rhonda Walker, who served as 50th Gala emcee.

Orchards Children's Services kicked off its fiftieth anniversary celebration with our Annual Champions for Children Gala at the MGM Grand.

Over 820 guests attended the festivities which included dancing, live auction, casino gaming and a magical presentation emceed by local news anchor Rhonda Walker. Music was provided by Selected of God and Nouveaute'.

The evening was capped off by the presentation of our deserving Champion for Children award winners :

**Corporate Award – Julie and Joe Serra/Serra Automotive
Advocate Award – Kristin and Drew Stanton/ High 5 Foundation
Commitment to Community – Cheryl Ajamu/Ajamu Group
Campaign Steering Committee**

Orchards is grateful to all of our sponsors for helping to make the evening possible, including Heritage Sponsor General Motors, Heirloom Sponsor AT&T, Tradition Sponsors Daly Merritt Insurance, Dealers Resource, Farmers Insurance, Huntington Bank, Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, Penske Corporation, Serra Automotive and Zieben-Mare, numerous table sponsors and everyone who bought tickets and supported the event and all of the in kind donors for our raffle prizes too numerous to mention here.

The evenings floral arrangements were graciously donated by Goldner Walsh and each guest received gourmet chocolate donated by Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

Proceeds from the event will go to support the many programs at Orchards such as Summer Adventures like camp and baseball, mentoring, Orchards Youth Board and more.



1 Orchards President and CEO Michael Williams, longtime supporter Fred Goldberg, Orchards COO Carmine DeVivo and incoming Board President David Kramer



2 Michael Williams with Joan Binkow of Ann Arbor and her son, Daniel Chester of Chicago. Joan's mother, Phyllis Akers, was one of Orchards' founding mothers



3 Champions for Children Award recipients Drew and Kristin Stanton and Joe and Julie Serra with daughter Lauren and Michael Williams



4 McDonald's owner and Champion for Children awardee Errol Service enjoys the evening with two of his guests, Essie Moss and Verlinda Rue (not pictured Savorior Service)



5 Ihsaan Ajamu accepted the Champions for Children Commitment to the Community Award for Cheryl Ajamu and The Ajamu Group.



6 Three Generations of Caring - Michael Williams and the Goldman Klein Family Irving and Doralee Goldman are among Orchards' earliest supporters. Daughter Carol is Orchards' immediate past Board President, and son Jackson and daughter Natalie (not pictured) carry on the tradition

October is O Month!

We've come up with a fun idea for the month of October!

Let's celebrate the month of "O" together by allowing casual dress to your staff members on each Friday during the month of October in exchange for a donation to Orchards Children's Services!

If you are interested in having your company participate, please visit **www.orchards.org** to register online!



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