

2016 Annual Report

Orchards Mission Statement

Strengthening the community through quality services to children and families.

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Dear Friend of Orchards.

We are pleased to share Orchards Children's Services 2016 Annual Report: Stories of Courage, Tales of Triumph. Along with conveying our program information, financials and donor recognition, this report shares a number of poignant family stories – stories of courage, happiness, strength, warmth, *stick-to-it-tive-ness*, triumph and love. While every story is unique, they all share the commonality of progress. We are continually touched by the amazing progress our clients have made to rebuild their families, to triumph despite the odds, and to create new forever families.

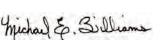
Orchards' evolution as an agency in some ways parallels that of our families, and these points of pride demonstrate that we, too, are making progress:

- Our prevention programs are keeping families together and thriving providing needed supports to parents and keeping children out of the "system"
- Our staff members are incredibly committed to their work, always making sure children are safe and supported
- Corporations care deeply about children and demonstrate their commitment by active engagement on our board of directors and by financially supporting our programs
- Young adults from our programs, many of whom had tumultuous childhoods, have become the first in their families to attend college, and they are performing well
- Orchards Youth Board, a diverse, passionate group of young people from both affluent and impoverished families, participate together in a variety of self-directed community service projects with the sole purpose of serving others
- Long-time supporters, like the National Council of Jewish Women; former employees and volunteers; and a host of individuals and foundations continue to support our work and have so for many decades

Our progress is reflected in the happy, hopeful children that visit our offices; in the stable, secure families that have benefited from our clinical and social work services; and in an operational excellence steeped in forward-thinking ideas and driven by inspired leaders. Please take a few minutes to read about all of them in the following pages and enjoy the stories of courage and tales of triumph.

Thank you for caring and for being part of the Orchards' family.





lichael Williams President & CEO



Michael Quinn Board Chair



Orchards Credits

- Orchards has completed over 3,000 adoptions and places more than 100 children in forever homes annually
- Children can begin services from the moment they are born (removal at the hospital) until the age of 21 (Independent Living)
- 100% of Orchards Promise Scholarship recipients have a 3.0 grade point average or higher at a Michigan university
- 100% of Orchards Youth Board members attend college
- 94% of all Orchards Detroit Public Schools seniors graduate from high school compared to the 78.3% rate for the general student population
- 100% of youth referred to Orchards Juvenile Justice Diversion Reintegration program successfully maintain a clean record and are not re-arrested
- On average, 94% of families experiencing challenges complete services and the families remain intact

Arielle's Story

Healing from assault and growing as a parent

Ariella loved her teenage children, but her family was falling apart. She was using substances to cope with the sexual assault she had experienced, and the substance abuse distanced her from her children. Child Protective Services was called, completed an investigation, and determined that the family would benefit from Orchards' Life Skills program to strengthen Ariella's parenting skills, renew the parent/child relationships, and support her recovery.

The family received six months of services, with a Life Skills worker meeting with Ariella and her children in the home to work through challenges. Ariella became more in tune with her children and spent more time with each of them. She learned how to meet their emotional needs by reflective listening. Today, Ariella continues her recovery, connecting with AA and receiving counseling to cope with the trauma of her assault. She has become more empowered, feels better about herself, and has grown as a parent. As a result, her children feel heard, nourished and loved.

Foster Care

Orchards Children's Services continues to provide a temporary and safe environment for Michigan's most vulnerable children who need a safe, loving foster home where they can recover, develop and grow. In order for Orchards to offer foster homes, our Foster Home Recruitment, Training and Licensing department continues to develop new foster parents. Finding and assisting potential foster families through the state licensing requirements is a rigorous process. For our next fiscal year, Orchards will concentrate on finding homes for siblings, for teens, and for children with medical and mental health needs. With the dedication of our hard working staff we are confident we will be able to provide the much needed foster homes for children entering foster care.

Adoption

In 1986, Orchards Children's Services entered the adoptions field, and since then we have completed more than 3,000 adoptions. Recruited adoptive families come from all walks of life. Although most children are adopted by their foster parents or relatives, there is no "typical" adoptive family and there continues to be an ongoing need for parents who are willing to adopt older children. In an effort to support adoptive families, the agency continues to offer an array of services and resources such as training and education to assist children and their families in adjusting to their new lives.

Family Preservation

Orchards Family Preservation programs offer services to high-risk families to prevent the placement of children in foster care. Orchards preservation programs have served 7,000 children in ten counties.

We perform family preservation services for a wide variety of families ranging from those who are having difficulty assisting their child(ren) in attending school regularly, to those with youth returning home after residing in a juvenile justice or foster care placement, to those whose children are at risk of being removed due to domestic violence, substance abuse and/or homelessness.

The primary goal of preservation services is to help families safely parent their children by providing concrete and therapeutic services as well as community linkages so families can sustain their gains after our involvement ends.

On call 24/7, our workers assist families with the formulation and follow through of specific safety and crisis plans around situations that may pose a risk to child(ren)'s safety. They teach a variety of life skills, including household organization, accessing community resources, budgeting, nutrition/meal planning, and child management techniques that help children build a sense of responsibility and confidence. Follow-up visits have shown us that families are continuing to use these learned skills.

Coming Together for Kids

By Alex Ross, President, Orchards Youth Board



Shortly after moving to Michigan in 2014 and starting as a sophomore at Bloomfield Hills High School, I was asked to be on the Orchards Children's Services Youth Board, a group of 25 kids in grades 9-12 from various Detroit communities. Being new to the area, I welcomed the

opportunity, and I also liked the idea of doing something that could make a positive impact.

Orchards protects and nurtures children by providing temporary and permanent homes and has resources to keep struggling families together. The Youth Board hosts different events every month for Orchards' clients and friends, including holiday parties. These events offer kids experiences that so many others take for granted, and they gave me the motivation to do something of my own.

This past year, I designed, planned and created a oneday basketball camp for 50 children, combining my love of basketball and my love of helping kids. I worked with my high school to secure use of the gym, had weekly meetings with the Detroit Pistons (who sponsored the event), and had regular meetings with the president of Orchards to ensure every detail was in place. We set the agenda and assigned coaches to each station and recruited friends to help.

The day was structured with basketball fundamentals, fitness activities, and trivia games. It was a big hit. The kids were amazing, participating in drills and listening intently to the speakers. It culminated with a talk from a former Detroit Pistons player, followed by lunch.

Coordinating the event took eight months and was a ton of work, but it was well worth it. I know this one-day event will not solve the issues that these kids face, but it gives them some new experiences and a day of enjoyment.

It is great being on a youth board with young people from all different types of backgrounds. We all come together to help Orchards' kids. It's awesome to see that everyone has the same goal – no matter where we come from – and that is to make a difference.

This year's basketball camp took place on March 4 and was a huge success. Alex hopes it will become an annual event.



Stephanie & Mark Davis' Story

Navigating the complexities of foster care licensing

Not able to have children themselves, Stephanie and Mark Davis began their journey to become foster parents in 2014, with the intent to adopt children who could not return to their birth parents. While they were eager to welcome children into their home right away, foster care licensing is often a long, frustrating and overwhelming process.

They reached out to Orchards and were assigned a foster care havigator to assist them with icensing. The navigator, a former oster parent herself, was able to provide insight, support, guidance and comfort – and a dose of reality about the engthiness of the process. In ate 2015, the Davises were approved and licensed, and they received their first placement: two siblings, ages four and six, who will soon be available for adoption. Mark and Stephanie ove the children and are excited to become their legal parents, and the children, in turn, look forward to having a forever family.

Alex's Story

Finding a safe place to explore gender identity

As a young teen, Alex was always interested in colorful makeup, clothing, and costume design. Upon entering the foster care program at Orchards, he was connected with a great therapist who encouraged him to explore his artistic talents through writing, coloring, knitting, and creating designs. The Orchards staff provided a safe place for Alex to explore his gender identity and reached out to the LBGTQ community for a supportive placement.

With continued encouragement from Orchards staff and a safety net, he enrolled in a world-class cosmetology and esthetician institute in Royal Oak. In July 2016, he fulfilled his dream and received his esthetician license from the state of Michigan. Alex now works as a beauty supply consultant and makeup artist.

The Orchards Promise Scholarship

It was the brainchild of two very special people who wanted to ensure the outcomes of some of the most vulnerable children in our community. They wanted to make sure that Orchards high school seniors without parents nor a stable home, but who had great "promise," were afforded the same opportunities that most children from stable families have: the opportunity to attend a university.

They met with Orchards and established the Orchards Promise Scholarship with a generous gift of \$250,000. Graduating high school seniors who are clients of Orchards Children's Services, have worked hard academically, and are seeking the opportunity to obtain a higher education are eligible.

All eight of the current Orchards Promise Scholars have a 3.0 or higher! Your help is needed to continue this scholarship for the **next class of students.**

The Fine Print: These students who are entering an accredited university or Orchards approved college based program receive the funding to support the gap in tuition and supplies that they will need once they apply for state funded educational opportunities provided to them. This gap funding will assist with their pursuit of an undergraduate degree. The scholarship will pay for gaps for schooling for one academic year. Each recipient of the scholarship is eligible to reapply over the course of their college educational experience, potentially receiving funds needed to obtain their entire four-year education. For any Michigan institution, the scholarship covers tuition, mandatory fees, books, supplies and equipment required for enrollment or attendance, and certain room and board costs.



Stories of Courage. Tales of Triumph

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude that we bring you this Annual Report highlighting the progress of Orchards Children's Services during fiscal year 2016. Our achievements are made possible only due to the generosity and devotion of our donors, volunteers, community partners, and employees. **Thank you for your continued support**!

What happens in childhood has a profound effect on a person for the rest of his or her life. Strength in the face of pain or grief defines *"courage."* It is the story of courage that is weaved into the lives of most of our children, and it is with deep appreciation that we thank you for being there for them.

Since opening the doors in 1962, Orchards has strengthened the community and grown tremendously, providing quality services to children and families through Adoption, Family Preservation programs, Foster Care and a host of community-based programs servicing over 7,000 children and families annually.

Each decade has presented its own challenges and we have remained passionate, dedicated and committed to helping our children and their families in the midst of their storm. As we celebrate Orchards' 55th anniversary year, we ask that **YOU** join us in committing and honoring the legacy of our founding members by reading and sharing the stories of courage and triumph in this year's Annual Report. Our greatest victory is to see a child thrive in the face of adversity.

To learn more, volunteer, take a tour or make a gift, please do not hesitate to contact me at kacole@orchards.org.

With gratitude,



Katora M. Cole, MA Chief Development Officer

Tim & Marsha Reynolds' Story

Understanding the nuances of transracial adoption

Love and commitment – not skin color - create successful adoptive families. But challenges can and do arise with transracial adoptions, no matter how much love parents have to offer. That's why Tim and Marsha Reynolds, who adopted four-year-old twins John and Jackie, sought guidance from Orchards' Post Adoption Resource Center. The parents are white and the children are African American. Tim and Marsha wanted to become more culturally aware and to better understand how their children would experience life differently because of their race.

The family and its PARC case manager found opportunities to expose the twins to a larger African American community. The parents became more active in seeking out teachers, coaches and families in their community who shared the same cultural background as John and Jackie. They attended an Orchards' training on transracial adoptions; participated in parent support groups; and, from those experiences, have created a strong network of transracial adoptive families.

"I never knew our family needed the support and education, but now that we have it, we are never going to stop participating," says Marsha. "If we ever need anything now, we have a program that gets us."

April Orchards' graduating seniors were invited to shop for exquisite prom and graduation dresses at Prom Boutique.

May





During the Coats for Kids drive, 1,000 brand new coats for Orchards' children and youth were donated by Hyundai Motor America.

Orchards Children Services was selected by the Ajamu Group as the charity of choice during the NAIAS Multicultural Media Luncheon.



During Reading Awareness Month, Orchards' children enjoyed an educational puppet show and received free books from the Forman Family Library along with Easter Baskets donated by Chase Bank.

February

Orchards children and families enjoyed free passes to Henry Ford Museum and to Pistons games at

the Palace of Auburn Hills.

June

Volunteers from General Motors, FCA, and Quicken Loans came together to assemble hundreds of bikes during Orchards Bike Build Day.

Hundreds of Orchards' children received a brand new Huffy bike, helmet and lock during Larry Culley Bike Day. For many of the children, it was their very first bike. Thanks to the National Recreation Foundation for their generous donation.



August

Orchards' children, youth and families all spent an afternoon shopping for new clothes at the Back2School Store – thanks to National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Chapter.





July

Summer Adventure Camp programs provided day and overnight camps for over 400 children.

Orchards' children and families received free tickets to Comerica Park and the Detroit Zoo throughout the summer.

Orch.inds

September

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) named Orchards Children's Services a 2016 Angel in Adoption[™] award recipient.

Orchards Back2School Drive was a huge success and hundreds of children received school supplies and backpacks.

November

October

The Frescura family treated our kids to a fun-filled HalloWest evening in memory of their son, West. Orchards Annual Food Drive was a success and hundreds families received food baskets and gift certificates from Kroger during the Thanksgiving holiday.



Orchards' children spent an evening "Shopping with the Lions" and purchased gifts for themselves and their family members in Detroit and Flint.

Generous donors provided many holiday surprises to our families through Orchards Toy Drive and Adopt-a-Family program.



Claire's Story

Recovering from domestic violence and keeping an intact family

Claire began working with Orchards Families First program after escaping to a domestic violence shelter following a physical assault by her husband. She was extremely overwhelmed, stressed and confused. With three children living at home and little support from friends, she felt powerless over her situation and was unsure of what steps to take next around her intoxicated husband, who had been regularly abusing her in front of their children.

The Families First social worker helped Claire to develop a plan for addressing her anxiety, depression and anger, particularly when she was with her children. (Claire had a 13-year history herself, with substantiations of abuse and supervision, and failure to protect.) Claire learned about the effects of domestic violence on herself and her children. Orchards staff taught her parenting skills, including how to create structure and routine and ways to bond, connect and communicate with her children. They applied for DHS-assisted childcare and moved her into a new home, which she took pride in decorating. She secured a job as and is practicing better self-care and addressing her emotional health by going to therapy.

Celebrating at the Gerald L. Levin "Champions for Children" Signature Event- May 6, 2016

The 2016 celebration provided a backdrop to honor wonderful champions during a vibrant and energizing night at the Sound Board. The cocktail reception, seated dinner, auction and entertainment infused guests with excitement and spectacular visuals. Stories from the heart were shared by children and teens who have overcome with the support of Orchards.



2016 Gerald L. Levin Champions for Children Honorees

PARENTING AWARD Lynda & Michael George Orchards Foster Parents

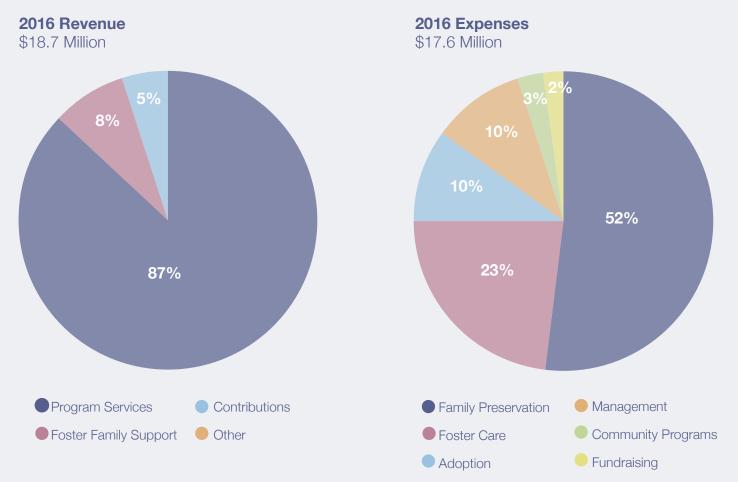
INDIVIDUAL ADVOCATE AWARD Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence 14th Congressional District **COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY** National Council of Jewish Women Greater Detroit Section Celebrating their 125th Anniversary

CORPORATE AWARD Gallagher Kaiser

Presenting Sponsor



Financials



Our 2016 Giving Tree

\$100,000 + Orchards Support Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999 Hyundai Motor America The Pathways Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

The Detroit Lions Kroger Michigan State Housing Development Authority National Recreation Foundation Skechers USA, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Detroit Tigers, Inc. Carol and Mitchell Klein & Meg and Lawrence Kasdan Ralph L. and Winifred E. Polk Foundation Rear Ends The Serra Foundation

Susan's Story

Finding hope and support to rebuild a family

Eight months is a painfully long time for a mother to be separated from her children. That's what Susan faced when her two young children were temporarily removed from the home and olaced with their grandfather. Susan struggled with what she calls "crazy emotions," resulting from her own upbringing by a drug-addicted mother who spent time in and out of mental health facilities.

Susan worked with an Orchards' family preservation worker in the Family Assistance Program (FAP), who helped her realize that behavior change is possible. FAP helped her put supports in place to prevent future family separations; receive needed counseling and parenting education; and connect to substance abuse treatment. Susan benefited immensely from these services and now cares for her children in their own home, while working part time and attending community college. With the help of FAP, Susan gained a sense of self-confidence, which enabled her to embrace and maintain new positive behaviors, as well as hope.

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New! Orchards Women's Leadership Committee | Continuing the Legacy For more information or to join, please contact Renee Holmes at (248) 593-1577 or rholmes@orchards.org

Volunteer your time | Orchards Communities Initiatives

Summer Adventures Camp Larry Culley Bike Day Gerald L. Levin "Champions for Children" Signature Event

Donate Backpacks & School Supplies

Coordinate with your employer, church or organization to donate school supplies and backpacks for our K-12 children during our annual **Back2School Drive**.

Host-A-Thanksgiving Food Drive

Every year from October to November, Orchards collects non-perishable food items to be delivered to children and their families for Thanksgiving dinner.

-or-

Host-A-Toy Drive

Every year from October to December, we collect new and unwrapped toys for ages 0-18 years old. These toys will be distributed to Orchards children for the holidays.

-or-

Sponsor-A-Family

Help a designated family through the holiday season by providing gifts for each family member. Many families use this opportunity to teach their children the value of giving to those less fortunate. It is also a great and very personal way for organizations or departments to adopt a larger family.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Vicki Orleans at (248) 530-5410 or vorleans@orchards.org. Or visit our website at www.orchards.org.



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