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Winter Newsletter

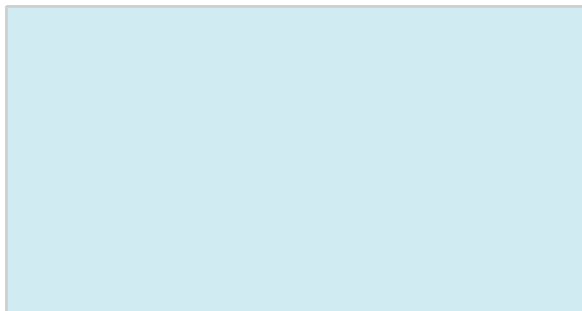
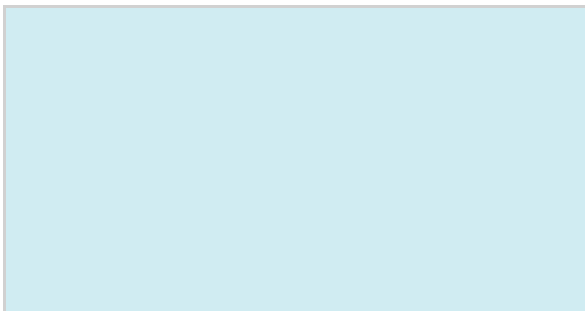
Happy New Year!



Forever Thankful

It goes without saying that this year has been incredibly tough for everyone. The thought of bringing in the holidays was extremely challenging. Because of supporters like Gleaners, Gallagher Kaiser, Kroger and Billhighway, we were able to make over 400 baskets of Thanksgiving food happen this year.

Thank you to our incredible donors for always supporting Orchards!





During the middle of a global pandemic, our amazing friends at Kroger went above and beyond to ensure our families had food for Thanksgiving. We received a donation of 400 gift cards for our families to help with their dinner. They set aside thousands of canned and boxed food to make sure the families of Orchards were able to have a plentiful Thanksgiving dinner. Their generous heart and support has been incredible. They have been a true staple in the community during what has been such a difficult time.

Thank you Kroger for everything you have done for Orchards!



A Successful Holiday Season

We are forever thankful to those who helped give the kids of Orchards a special Christmas this holiday season.

We owe a special thank you to so many that helped make this holiday season happen. Big Family of Michigan sponsored 254 children. They touched the lives of the children we serve, in every single county where we provide services. Thank you to Toys for Tots who, for many years, has donated multiple truckloads of toys.

Your continued support means everything to us. Thank you also to Gallagher Kaiser, Hillel Day School, Variety the Children's Charity, Al Serra Auto Plaza, Ross College and the many donors for hosting toy drives. Additionally, a huge thank you to the Sylvan Lake Police Department and the Sylvan Lake community who came together in 10 days and filled two trucks full of toys.



This year, 74 families were adopted through our Adopt-A-Family program. Thank you to all of the generous donors who helped give these children and families an incredibly special holiday. In total, with the backing of so many incredible donors and supporters, we were able to give over 1,500 kids a holiday to remember.

During what has been a difficult year, we feel extremely thankful to have supporters like you!





Hallowest Trunk-or-Treat

Thank you to the Frescura family for another amazing Hallowest!

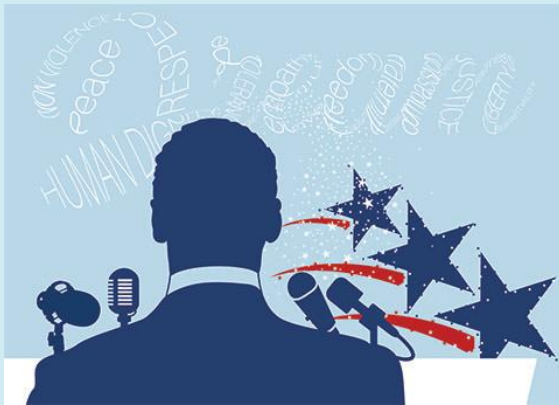
Every year, we honor the life of West Frescura by celebrating his favorite holiday, Halloween, with the children of Orchards. On October 11th, Orchards staff, along with the Frescura family, Telemus and our board members, lined our parking lot creating a safe and socially distant place for our kids to trunk-or-treat. Thank you to 411 Therapy for their generous donation of candy! Keeping this tradition alive is so important to us and we are thankful we were able to continue to do it safely this year!



Welcome Cheryl Parks Ajamu



Orchards is proud to announce our newest board member, Cheryl Parks Ajamu. We are happy to have Cheryl apart of Orchards and look forward to her leadership. Please click **[HERE](#)** to read more about Cheryl.



MLK Day

MLK Day is Monday, January 18th. Our offices will be closed in remembrance of the great legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

-MLK

Signature Event

Signature Event Update

Our annual Gerald L. Levin Champions for Children Signature Event that was scheduled to be held at the Sound Board on Friday, May 14th, will now take place virtually. Due to COVID-19 still being ever present in our lives, we have chosen to move this event to virtual again this year. As our top priority is the safety of everyone involved, we decided this is the best option at this time. Further details and sponsorship information to be sent out soon.



COVID-19 Update

We are all feeling COVID fatigue; however we finally have a light at the end of a very dark tunnel. As COVID-19 is still very much a part of our lives, Orchards remains up to date with the governor's orders to keep our staff, children and families safe. We are not out of the woods, so keep wearing a mask, social distancing and not gathering in large groups.



Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. Every year, thousandths of children fall into the hands of traffickers.

We must **NOT** turn a blind eye. Children in the foster care system are often in grave danger as 88% of victims are in the care of social services. The more we are aware of the signs, the more we are able to put an end to this horrible crime. Click **HERE** to learn more.

Stay Safe & Stay Healthy

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