INVEST IN ME
IN MEMORIAM
Renee Holmes

In June 2020, Orchards lost one of its own: Renee Holmes, Development and Annual Giving Manager. Renee’s love for Orchards and compassion for children was contagious. She was passionate about making things happen for children. Renee was instrumental in spearheading the Orchards Women’s Leadership Committee (O.W.L.). She was very proud of this committee and the positive and lasting impact it had on the lives of children. Prior to her work at Orchards, Renee was employed by Friends School, United Way and The United Negro College Fund. She will be truly missed by Orchards!
Dear Friends,

This year has been a defining one for all of us. We started this year with goals and objectives that would only enhance our ability to work with and for the children and families we serve. We made sure over 600 families had Thanksgiving meals. We partnered with community groups; Kroger and the Southfield Police to distribute essential food items to our families. During the holiday season, over 60 families were adopted and over 1300 children and families benefited from our Development Department’s efforts. 2020 arrived with so much promise. Then March came and twisted everyone’s attention to COVID-19. Unexpectedly, we had an invisible giant in the form of a pandemic to deal with and we triumphed. Virtually overnight our staff was equipped with the technology to continue their work. Abruptly, we changed our way of interacting. Zoom became our new mode of doing business. We made daily changes to ensure the safety of staff and clients. Suddenly, our attention turned to what we already knew; families of color that live in poverty were infected at a higher rate than other populations. For years, we have made the point that resources and medical attention for the children and families that we serve was lacking. This population was never voiceless as some say; they just didn’t receive the benefit of having an ear to address their needs. Orchards never lost sight of our mission, to strengthen the community through quality services to children and families. In providing quality services, we had to enter the world and cost of personal protection equipment and how to execute a PPP loan in order to maintain staff and services. It was a challenge, but it was met with the support of foundations, United Way, companies, and individuals who showed their investment in the community through us. We are so appreciative of your investment. We saw how the right investment can make a positive difference. It is our hope and prayer that you see the value of your investment when it is targeted to improve the lives of children and families. We can no longer wait for a crisis to make these investments. Our children and families were in crisis before COVID-19 and we have a responsibility to minimize their trauma. I stand in line with our children. I am waiting for the voice which says, “Next in line, come up.” We are up and need you to invest in us! We honor your investment by continuing to positively affect our children and families. Orchards strongly and kindly ask that you hear a child’s voice when they say, “INVEST IN ME.”

Always for Children and Families,

Michael Williams
President and Chief Executive Officer
Orchards Children’s Services

Michael K. Adkins
Board Chairperson
Orchards Children’s Services
ParentChild+

**PARENTCHILD+** is a community program that offers home based services to Detroit parents with children between the ages of 16 months – two years old at the onset of services. This two year program promotes later school success through a strong focus on developing and enhancing parent and child interactions through learning and play.

Throughout the 2020 program year, we served 57 families. We continued to provide services to our Detroit families during the pandemic. We also provided resources to families that were financially impacted by Covid-19 by providing gift cards to grocery stores for food. We provided PPE and delivered food baskets and gifts during the holiday season. Although it was a challenging year, we remained motivated and committed to reaching our goal by way of connecting virtually and through social media with community partners.

We are pleased to have 10 children graduate from our 2019 cohort and are expecting additional graduates in the months to come. One child, in particular, has been quite exceptional from the onset of the program and has progressed over the past two years. Addison is a unique child who has a desire to learn. Addison’s mother, Ms. Washington, invested her time and was committed to teaching Addison and made learning fun. Ms. Washington takes pride in being her first teacher! Addison is now reading and spelling and enjoys learning from home as she is currently enrolled in a virtual program. We are so proud of Addison and her accomplishments thus far!
Foster Care

Orchards Children’s Services continues to provide a temporary environment for Michigan’s most vulnerable children who need a safe and loving home where they can recover, develop, and grow. During the past year, direct line staff that worked with our youth in the foster care system had to adapt to a drastic change in working conditions due to COVID-19. Our staff was able to quickly adapt to safety recommendations while still providing exemplary service for our children and families. The Foster Care unit serviced a total of 333 children over the past year. This included 26 youth in our Independent Living unit and 10 Young Adult Voluntary Foster Youth. In 2020, we were able to reunite 32 children with their parent(s). Children and foster parents in our foster care unit were supported by our clerical, clinical, and support service staff that provides assistance ranging from transportation and food/supply deliveries to mental health services and consultation.

Licensing opened 50 foster homes to provide quality, stable home environments to the children we serve through our foster care department. The licensing unit was able to open 7 homes that wanted to foster teens. This is an increase from the previous year of 1 home for this demographic. There was an 8% decrease in the number of foster homes that closed compared to the previous year. Almost 30% of the foster homes that closed were due to adoption finalization. The licensing unit continues to provide support, training, and education for our foster parents.

Adoption

In 1986, Orchards Children’s Services entered the adoption field and, since then, has completed over 3,300 adoptions. Over the last year, our Adoption Unit was able to continue working to get permanency for 60 children even with court closures due to the pandemic. Out of the 60 children who attained permanency through adoption, half of them were achieved within a year or less. Although there is no “typical” adoptive family, there continues to be an ongoing need for families who are willing to adopt older children. Adoption workers provide education and training to caregivers going through the adoption process and assist children with adjusting in the family unit.
Orchards FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES emphasize the importance of safety, connections, sincerity, and awareness of the impact trauma has on child development and family systems. To help families remain together safely, Orchards Family Preservation programs utilize service models that are characterized by mutual respect, honesty, and open communication between caregivers and social workers. In these models, families are participants in the discussion and are active decision-makers in selecting services for themselves and their children.

Key components of Orchards family-centered models include:

- Working with the family unit to ensure the safety and well-being of all family members.
- Strengthening the capacity of families by increasing protective factors to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Engaging, empowering, and partnering with families throughout the decision and goal-making process.
- Providing individualized, culturally aware, relevant and research-based services for each family.
- Linking families with both formal and informal support system networks that are community-based, collaborative, comprehensive, and culturally relevant; including non-custodial/non-residential parents and extended family for supports and services.
LEVELS OF SERVICES

TIER I: The Family Preservation Services in Tier I served 576 families who were active with Children’s Protective Services due to substantiated abuse or neglect. The children were at immediate risk of removal from their home. The social workers made contact with the family within 24 hours of referral and met with the family for an average of ten hours a week, for 28 consecutive days.

Also provided were services designed to assist 319 families in the early return of at least one child residing in an out-of-home foster care placement and to reduce repeat placement through a planned process. A team of two social workers, a master level and bachelor level, provide clinical and concrete in-home services for up to six months.

TIER II: The Family Preservation Services in Tier II are short-term, family-focused services. Tier II provided services to 1,080 families who resolved their initial crisis, yet would benefit from enhanced parenting and family functioning, while keeping children safe in the home. For 3 hours a week for up to 3 months, our social workers provide families in their natural environments, best practice services that are trauma–informed and evidence–based.

TIER III: The Family Preservation Services in Tier III utilizes a strengths–based approach to address personal, interpersonal, and family concerns. Family Preservation Services staff works with families to establish stability, consistency, and structure. Orchards staff works with families to constructively resolve problems and conflicts, establish appropriate and age-congruent rules and expectations for children, and to effectively communicate needs and expectations. The primary focus of interventions is working with parents/caretakers to enhance their relationships and ability to work together to care for their children. Skills-based intervention, including home and resource management, are also utilized. The Family Preservation Services staff works with parents to maintain households that are free of hazards and safe for children. These services include:

- Parent Education – Support Group facilitators used trauma-informed skills to teach 97% of participants how to change their abusive parenting styles into nurturing parenting styles.
- Post Adoption Resource Center staff’s use of crisis intervention empowered 99% of adoptive parents and children to use their moments of mental, physical, and behavioral distress as opportunities to change, work together and strengthen the family bond.

Family Preservation Direct Workers’ delivery of strength-based services to parents at risk of their children being placed in foster care led to 98% changing the home environment into one of safety, security and stability.

Our Family Preservation teams rally around a single mission: Strengthening the Community Through Quality Services to Children and Families.
INVEST IN MY EDUCATION

Promise Scholarship

The PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP FUND was started at Orchards in 2014 to provide direct services and financial aid to high school seniors, who have survived chronic abuse/neglect, yet demonstrate promise in the area of academic achievement and self-sufficiency. With private funding from businesses, corporations, and individual donors, Orchards’ high school graduates are able to attend four-year colleges, universities, community colleges, or technical and vocational schools to further their education and enter their chosen careers.

MEET JUAN...

Juan entered foster care at the age of 6. After many years of struggling to be placed with his parents, he realized life may have another route as they lost their parental rights during his youth. In that process, he did not know that it would be for the better. Orchards Children’s Services stepped in and fulfilled a role that was unimaginable during those rough times.

After 20 plus foster homes and residential facilities, Juan was offered a life-changing opportunity when the Scott family offered to have him come live with them through Orchards. This taught him that it was okay to have someone other than his biological family shower him with love and there is no need to push away. He learned that he had to take responsibility for his actions for something great to happen. Juan, a proud Orchards Promise Scholar, is now a junior at Wayne State University with a 3.44 GPA majoring in communication studies and minoring in public relations.
Board Chair Priorities

**GROWTH**
Expand the number of contracts and capabilities in targeted geographic footprints, leveraging our talent, culture, and best enterprising opportunities.

**FUND DEVELOPMENT**
Strategic development of our donor base that is sustainable and drives the operating priorities of Orchards. Focus on tools, process and relationship management techniques.

**TALENT MANAGEMENT**
Implement HR planning strategies that improve the organization’s value (attainment of current and future goals) and increases the engagement level of Orchard team members.

**BRAND AWARENESS**
Effectively grow the Orchards community using technology and partner relationships. Selectively intersect our mission capabilities with issues that deepen our social conscious in the community.

**TRAINING**
Identify and explore success factors of career growth in Orchards. Build a curriculum of learning experiences that rewards cross-pollination of skills.
**OCTOBER**
Our annual Hallowest party, sponsored by the Frescura-Skulley family in honor of their son West, turned the hallways of Orchards into a safe place for our kids to trick-or-treat.

**NOVEMBER**
Thanks to our incredible donors; Kroger, 411 Therapy, Narens Associates, board members and First Presbyterian of Birmingham, hundreds of Orchards families received gift cards, food baskets, and a turkey. The families were able to have a wonderful Thanksgiving due to the generosity of many!

**DECEMBER**
Orchards hallways transformed into different countries from around the world to celebrate the holiday season. Hyundai donated 1000 winter coats and over 1000 children received gifts from different programs put in place to ensure every child in our care had a wonderful holiday. Thank you to all of the donors who made this happen.

**JANUARY**
Girl Scout Troop #77168 visited Orchards and dropped off birthday bags they made for our children!! They got a tour from Orchards own CEO, Michael Williams, and learned about the work we do at the agency. Thank you girls, keep up the great work!
MARCH
The month the world stopped and life as we knew it changed. COVID-19 altered the way we live, work and serve our children and families. Together we have faced many difficulties; nevertheless we found ways to serve our clients no matter the challenge.

Shelves of food, cleaning supplies, and paper products were nearly cleared out at every grocery store. During the spring, our staff was heading to local grocery stores to shop for their clients and drop groceries off at their homes.

MAY
Orchards hosted its first ever online event taking our Gerald L. Levin ‘Champions for Children’ Signature Event virtual. Thanks to all of our donors, we were able to raise over $90,000.

APRIL
Zoom meetings, zoom hangouts, zoom school! We made sure our staff and clients had what they needed to be successful and safe at home.

AUGUST
Orchards Development Team made sure our kids were ready to head back to school! Whether virtual or in person, it was important that our kids had the supplies they needed to succeed.
Annual Report Information

FISCAL YEAR 20 (OCTOBER 1, 2019 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020)

Revenue: $18,315,514

- Program Services: 94%
- Contributions: 3%
- Foster Family Support: 3%

Expenses: $17,692,464

- Family Preservation: 62%
- Foster Care: 17%
- Management: 12%
- Adoptions: 2%
- Community Programs: 5%
- Fundraising: 2%

Invest in Orchard’s Future
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Scott H. Russell
Dori & Bobby Adams
Kathleen Alessandro
Debra Bonamy
Jim Breaugh
Lisa Brooks
Carole & Thomas Bunting
Lori & Mark Cohn
Nikki Dore
Beth & Earle Erman
Claudette Fant
Lisa Fenkell
Sheryl Franks
John Galvan
Margaret & James Hackstedde
Katherine Hanley
Janis Herkowitz
Ignite Social Media
Katherine Jacob
Tawanna Jankins - Kimbrough
Susan & Jay Kalisky
Brittany Kelly
Marilyn & Rick Kress
Suzanne Lee
Deborah Leich
Margo & G. Robert Lesser
Mary Beth Lock
Janet & Jeffrey Loeb
Paul & Alise Marks
Rosalie M. Marve
Darryl McDuffie
MRPR Group
New Life Presbyterian Church Deacons Account
James Overton
Jane & Jesse Polan
Judith & Frank Rastigue
Mark Schopmeyer
Laurie Schwandt
Ronna Ross Schwartz
Nancy & Barry Shapiro
Rachel Sherman
Wendy Silverman
Skillman Foundation
Donna & Bernie Smilovitz
Ron Smith
Norton Stern
Shelby Tauber
Cassandra Washington
Heather Costa-Mckane
Erin Biddinger
Corria & Will Porter
Ashley Salazar
Marissa Williams
Wendie Farkus
Angela Askew
Jwan Anton
Brianne French
Sarah Williams
Kathy Zimmer
Garden City Gladiators
Tina Morris
Shameka Norfolk
Katie Toye
Tara & Jay Hack
Carl R. Gayden
Denise Baldwin
Nicole Harden
Kimberly Kruse
Christine Ales
Lynn & Jim Alexander
Lateacha Allums-Carr
AmeriTrust Group
Pamela Ayres
Joanne & Marshall Bell
Tamika Bertrand
Pamela & Tom Bingham
Kristi Bloink
Cynthia Bruce-Parker
Danita Castro
Sarah Caverley
Christian Women United – Metropolitan District
Mary Lou & Gary Cochran
Gregory Didierjean
Debbie & Mike Eichenhorn
Stephanie Gruskin
Dolores & Lawrence Harris
Linda & Arnold Jacob
Sue Kalesky
Ryan Kaluzny
Mary & Roger Keller
Lindsay Kelly
Tanisha Ledbetter
Sandra Mays
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When you INVEST in a child…
You Invest in their future!

PLEASE VISIT ORCHARDS.ORG OR USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A DONATION
LARRY CULLEY BIKE DAY: Help provide hundreds of Orchards children with a brand new bike, helmet, and lock.
BACK 2 SCHOOL: Help send students from pre-K through 12th grade back to school with the tools they need for academic success.
ORCHARDS SUMMER ADVENTURES: Give the gift of summer by helping to send children to camps across the state of Michigan.
GERALD L. LEVIN ‘CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN’ SIGNATURE EVENT: Support our annual gala as we honor our ‘Champions for Children’ for their outstanding service to Orchards. This event takes place every May, bringing together both individual and corporate friends of Orchards.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION
PARENTCHILD+: Orchards Early Learning Specialists provide free educational toys and books to disadvantaged children ages 16 months to 4 years old. Meeting twice a week, the specialists teach the parents educational and fun ways to help their child learn through play.
ORCHARDS PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP: Support our college-age youth by helping them achieve their goals of success post high school.

HOLIDAY SEASON OF GIVING...
FOOD AND TOY DRIVE
Every year, from October through December, Orchards kicks off its Spirit of Giving campaign! Become a part of the MAGIC by contributing to and/or hosting one or more of the following drives:
1. Orchards Food Drive
2. Orchards Toy Drive
3. Orchards Adopt-a-Family
Your gift ensures our children and families don’t go without during the holidays.

CELEBRATING THE GERALD L. LEVIN ‘CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN’ SIGNATURE EVENT – MAY 15, 2020
In light of the pandemic, our 2020 celebration was held virtually in order to keep everyone safe. We were, once again, thrilled to honor our wonderful champions for the amazing things they do for Orchards and the community at large.
PARENTING AWARD
Jennifer Frescura-Skulley
INDIVIDUAL/ADVOCATE AWARD
Rachael Secord
Michigan Foster Care Closet
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY
Hassan Fayad
411 Therapy
CORPORATE AWARD
Lea & William Narens
Narens Associates, Inc.

PREMIERE SPONSORS:
Joan Binkow  411 Therapy  Martha & Robert Sachs
COVID-19 changed the way we live, work and serve our children and families. Orchards Children’s Services, from the beginning of the pandemic, has monitored the information coming from the CDC, federal and state offices. We found ways to keep our children, families, and staff safe. We reduced time spent in the office, attended zoom and face time visits with clients, purchased PPE equipment, and wore a mask when in the office. We thank everyone who has donated PPE. Our important work must continue but the safety of all is our first priority. During this challenging time, we have continued with our mission; to strengthen the community through quality services to children and families!

On behalf of Orchards Children’s Services, we hope you and your family are continuing to stay safe during this difficult time.

We are keeping you in our thoughts.