

OUR MISSION...

To focus creative and collaborative action on the health, education, social and economic needs of at-risk children and families.



WINTER 2015/2016

Serving Detroit, Warren and all of Macomb and Wayne Counties

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Dear Friends:

Each year, while developing our annual report, I sit back in awe at the power of your generosity and how it impacts hundreds of children and families in our community. As 2015 comes to a close, I reflect back on all of the goals we have accomplished, limitations we have surpassed, lessons we have learned and obstacles we have overcome. I am so proud of our achievements. Yet I realize they were only possible because of the support of individuals, foundations and corporations who are equally committed to shaping futures and enriching lives.

As we prepare for the economic challenges that lie ahead, our agency continues to remain proactive, becoming more efficient and reducing expenses through prudent financial management to sustain future growth. Collaboration remains an integral part of our organization. Our recent partnership with Dickerson Elementary and the development of a Parent Resource room is just one example. Despite the critical need for adult education and English language programs, funding is scarce. However, with increased enrollment, adult education remains an important part of our mission. Our board of directors made a conscious decision to continue providing this service utilizing non-restricted funds and the generosity of our donors. As part of our commitment to quality child care, Leaps & Bounds was selected by United Way to increase our quality improvement work in six additional cities. With enrollment almost double from last year, we provide the quality training and support that Early Learning Professionals need.

Together, with our dedicated staff and caring volunteers, we will continue to adapt, evolve and remain a vital source of education, service and support for the families, children and adults of our communities.

With deepest gratitude, we thank you for your belief in our mission. As you read this newsletter, please remember how important you are to our organization's successes – and resolve to continue your involvement in 2016.

We hope you will choose Leaps and Bounds Family Services for your generous giving this holiday season with a year end gift or monthly pledge.

Wishing you abundant blessings.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Dorsz".

Denise Dorsz
Executive Director

beyond the school yard ...

FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY - WORKING TOGETHER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

When schools partner with parents and community organizations, there are positive results. "Families, schools and community organizations all contribute to student achievement; the best results come when all three work together." - Mapp & Henderson

Dickenson East Elementary School in Hamtramck recognizes that when schools partner with parents and community organizations, there are positive results. Families, schools and communities share a responsibility for putting students on the path to academic achievement. When all three come together, it's a proven recipe for student success.

Earlier this year, Leaps & Bounds was invited to partner with Dickenson East to open a Parent Resource Room. The goal is to provide a link between the school and home. This comfortable gathering space is equipped with books, lending library, educational materials and access to parents and home provider staff to support the entire family unit.




The support services offered by Leaps and Bounds over the last three years have resulted not only in the addition of a kindergarten class, but school officials also credit our home visitors for the increase in enrollment and demand for public education at Dickenson Elementary.

At the initial Parent Resource Room Meet and Greet, 20 teachers and staff were expected. Much to our surprise the response was overwhelming! We had over 70 guests, including the district superintendent. A tour and presentation was given by Parent Educator, Mervat Tadros, who has been providing home visits in the city of Hamtramck for the past three years. It was an exciting, successful and rewarding day to say the least!



In addition to continued home visits, we have implemented parent workshops and play and learn groups in the Parent Resource Room twice a day every Monday. The parent workshops, which include Arabic and Bengali families, are conducted in English. As we move forward with these classes, it's interesting to note that these adults of different ethnicities have come together to form small learning communities of their own. There is a mutual respect and support for one another in their English language development.



DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION The Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded Leaps & Bounds a \$10,000 grant to support our adult and family learning programs. These funds provide additional resources for our programs that offer educational support for the entire family – supporting parents in becoming their child's first teacher and preparing children for future school success.

donor love ...

OUR BENEFACTORS & SUPPORTERS

Frederick & Kathleen Alessandro, Andre & Jene' Allen, Katricia Allen, Timothy & Barbara Allen, Anonymous, Courtney Arrington, Alice Audie-Figueroa, Polly Ayers, Lois Ballard, Joseph Banick & Gina Cavaliere, Donald Barber & Martha Sutton, Phillip Barnes, Brigid Beaubien & Tim Costello, Kenyan & Marjorie Bixby, Agnes & Joseph Bongero, John & Patricia Bosch, Kathleen & Thomas Bowen, Douglas & Mary Beth Bradford, Richard Brown, Amy Burt, Juliett Hatford & Barbara Trippe, Jennifer Callans, Robert Campbell, Steven Cermak, Jesus Cornejo, Christina Coxon, DC, Carolyn & Pat Curtin, Anne & Bob Dallaire, Karen Davis, Patty Door, Denise Dorsz & Mary Beth Sutton, Darrell Dove, Jo Anne & Kenneth Elkin, Jon Feikens, Eric Feliks, Angela Gammage, Gary & Pennie Gammage, David Goryca, Anita Elliott Green, Antoinette Green, Srinvasa R. Gummati, Leslie Hamell & T. Neigel Hamell, Windy Harris, Deb & Robert Hart, Shawn Holland, Paul & Teresa Holtrop, MD., John Jones, Santera Jones, Sharon Jourdan, Monica Kammerzel, Jerutha Kennedy, Kathleen Kirschenheiter & Kathy Tkach, Edward & Marguerite Kowaleski, Theodore Lagarde, Joanne Lam, Thomas & Yvonne Larabell, David Lewandowski, Douglas & Lynda Martens, Nelson & Lynelle Maylone, Judy McNamara, Toni Mocerri, Phillip & Nicole Moten, Robert & Susan Mulka, Mary Narin, Scott Oconner, Ronald Oppat, Michelle Pugh, Barbara Radabaugh, Kathleen Rager, Harold Renfro, Joyce Riley, Curt & Phyllis Roelofs, Stacy Rusin, Gary & Anita Satkiewicz, Robert Schieferstein, Pat & Phillip Schneider, Barbara Simons, James Singer, Ronald Stadler Jr., Lisa Sturges, Jillian Sutherland, Laronda Taylor, Mark Taylor, Frank & Judy Teodecki, Sue & Kim Thayer, Brian & Jolayne Thompson, Carol Tresik, Lucretia Tucker, Muriel Van Dyke, Jack Wiliamson, Maria Zardis.

"Fundraising is ultimately about love. It's powerful. In one hand you take a need in the world and with the other hand, you bring a donor who has a passion to address that need – then you help these two to come together."

CORPORATE, CHURCH & FOUNDATION SPONSORS

8 Degrees Plato, Belle Tire, Bowen, Radabaugh & Milton, P.C., Bowtique Salon & Spa, Cambridge Financial Services, Inc, Combined Federal Campaign, Corrado Contracting LLC, Credit Union ONE, Del Printing, Detroit Pistons Palace Sports & Entertainment, Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Tigers Inc., Dollar General Foundation, Everybody Ready, Famous Dave's, Federated Campaign Stewards, Go Comedy Improv Theater, Good Search, Greenfield Presbyterian Church, Home Source Detroit LLC, Learning Gizmos, Macomb Intermediate School District, Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, Michigan Maintenance Supply Co, Nortown Community Development Corp, Nude the Salon, Scrubber's Dogwash & Professional Grooming, Stewart, Beauvais & Wipple, P.C., Sweet Lorraine's Café & Bar, The Detroit Zoo, The Henry Ford, The Purple Rose Theatre, The Sherwin Williams Co, Trinity Health, United Way for Southeast Michigan, Vital Performance Power Plate Studio, Warren Kabob Restaurant, Wayne RESA, Young Women's Home Association.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.



- Dr. Seuss

tribute gifts ...

IN HONOR OF FAMILY & FRIENDS

In Honor Of
Judy McNamara
From, Thomas McNamara

In Honor Of
Denise Dorsz & Mary Beth Sutton
From, Mary Ann Jones

In Memory Of
Agnes Mansour
From, Rudy Simons

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

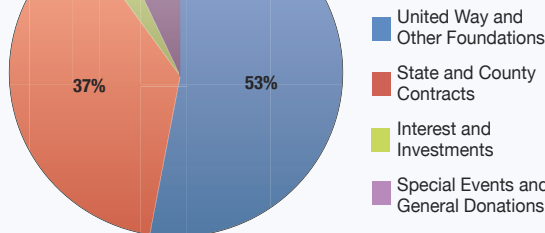
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PARENT SERVICES

Services include parent education seminars, early learning activities and referral and advocacy services. Services are provided throughout Wayne and Macomb counties.

- 102 parent/child interactive learning groups were provided to 902 adults and their children. These groups focus on early math and reading skills, playful literacy, family assets and parent/child together time. These groups are held at the agency's Early Learning Resource Rooms which are housed at the the Kennedy and Mt Calvary Centers in Warren and the Early Childhood Center in Center Line. The agency closed its Parent Resource Room in Eastpointe due to lack of participation. *Plans are underway to open sites in the Hamtramck and Macomb Community College.*
- 1,185 home visits were completed for 99 Wayne and Macomb County high-risk children 0-5 years and their parents. Visits focus on early learning activities, early child development, health and wellness information, and support services.
- 50 parent/child interactive learning kits, 75 kindergarten ready kits, 3,500 new children's books, 124 sets of mittens and hats were distributed to program family participants. Additionally emergency food and baby supplies were distributed to 205 program family participants.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The organization continues to practice sound, conservative financial management and ended the year within its approved operating budget and remains committed to a diverse revenue mix.



The agency participated in 7 community events providing resources and activities for 475 adults and 900 children and in presentations to 6 professional groups.

EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITIES NEIGHBORHOOD HUBS

Neighborhood-based centers provide home and center-based childcare providers with free training in early child development, health and safety as well as support services, access to free learning materials and to family/community events. The training hubs are located in Detroit and Warren. The program helps childcare providers have the training and resources necessary to insure that children enter kindergarten ready.

- 380 training sessions were provided; each session is two hours in length. Average attendance at each session is 12 childcare providers
- 121 received quality improvement support through the agency's participation in the region's initiative.
- Over 12,000 total hours of training, assistance and technical support was provided.

ADULT EDUCATION

- 36 adults enrolled in basic skills upgrading, GED and ESL classes.
- 2,648 hours of adult basic education, GED and ESL were provided.
- Adult students participated in 3200 hours of self directed study.

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Strong support from volunteers included 1,232 hours of Board members contributed time during this past year and 1000 hours of time from community members.

UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN REWARDS SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE WITH INCREASED FUNDING



Due to our proven commitment to outcome measurement based programs, Leaps & Bounds Family Services has been asked to increase our quality improvement work with childcare providers to include the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes, Ferndale, Hazel Park and Madson Heights. As a result of these additional responsibilities, our grant has increased by over \$100,000. Furthermore, we are happy to announce that our staff of Quality Improvement Specialists will be expanding to meet these needs.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

Save
the
Date

MEET OUR 19th ANNUAL Community Service Award Dinner Honorees



Please join Leaps & Bounds as we honor Dr. Herman Gray, President and CEO of United Way Southeastern Michigan and Shirley Mann Gray, Children's Hospital of Michigan Administrative Director, for their commitment to child and family

advocacy. Guests will enjoy a sit-down dinner and silent auction. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, auction donations and tickets, please visit www.leapsnbounds.org or contact Denise Dorsz at 586-759-3895.

inspiring story of one grandmother paying it forward ...

SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

The experience of being a grandparent is unique for everyone. Many serve as babysitters or caregivers, supporting the family in times of need. For Shirley, her decision to assist her family by having her grandchildren participate in play and learn groups and kindergarten readiness home visits has been a rewarding one. A grandmother to two grandchildren in our community, Shirley has experienced the positive impact Leaps & Bounds programs and services have had on her grandchildren. The impact was so great that she was inspired to become a volunteer advocate on behalf of the organization and to encourage other parents and grandparents to become involved. Shirley doesn't stop there. She acts as a support system to many families reluctant to participate. Shirley welcomes families in by guiding them on their first visit so that they can experience first hand the benefits of our programs and services. Leaps & Bounds is proud to have individuals such as Shirley advocate on our behalf. Her kindness is making a difference in someone's life everyday, taking on the role of "grandmother" to many.





Family Learning Center
and Administrative Offices
8129 Packard
Warren, MI 48089

586.759.3895

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**19TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD DINNER & SILENT AUCTION**

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016
UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER
6 - 9 PM

Save the Date

more details inside!

Stay in touch!



please visit
www.leapsnbounds.org

Help us stay in touch with you more cost efficiently!
Receive our newsletter by email, saving postage and printing costs.
Join our email list at www.leapsnbounds.org.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION & ADVOCACY

Leaps and Bounds Family Services participates in a host of collaborative efforts including Great Start Wayne and Great Start Macomb Executive committees, Great Start Macomb and Great Start Wayne Early Care and Education, Family Support and Parent Involvement Work Groups, United Way for Southeast Michigan's Regional Early Learning Community and Detroit Promise neighborhood Early Childhood Task Force.



Meet Our Board of Directors

Denise M. Dorsz
Executive Director, Leaps and Bounds Family Services

Jene Wynn Allen
Director, Human Resources, Trinity Health

Brigid Beaubien, Ph.D, Professor
Early Childhood / Education Department, Eastern Michigan University

Thomas R. Bowen
Partner, Bowen, Radabaugh & Milton, P.C.

Gina Cavaliere
Business Development, the Downtown Detroit Partnership

Leslie Hamell
Community Representative

Teresa Holtrop, M.D.
Pediatrician, Children's Hospital of Michigan

Nelson Maylone
Education Department, Eastern Michigan University

Toni Mocerii
Community Representative

Nicole Moten
Vice President, Wells Fargo

Mary Potts
President, Mt Calvary Lutheran Church

