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In Honor
of Denise Dorsz and Mary Beth Sutton
From Mary Ann Jones

SPECIAL THANKS TO LEAPS AND BOUNDS' CORPORATE, CHURCHES & FOUNDATION SPONSORS OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Chicks with Sticks	Marjorie & Henry DiLaura Fund Community Foundation
Credit Union ONE	Stewart, Beauvais & Whipple, P.C.
DJK Tax Service	The Detroit Zoo
Dream Dinners	Trinity Health Employees
Everybody Ready	United Way of Southeastern Michigan
Hamtramck School	Wayne Resa
Lead Safe Consulting, LLC	Wells Fargo
Macomb Intermediate School District	Women United - United Way

WINTER 2020 / 2021

OUR MISSION

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



Dear Friends:

What extraordinary times we are living in. A pandemic rages causing illness, loss of life, changes to our daily lives and economic upheaval and fear. We are all personally impacted to varying degrees.

The many years of racial injustice and economic disparity have been brought to the forefront and can no longer be ignored.

The incredible need for supports, expressed by parents, teachers and childcare providers are more critical than ever. Small business, including many childcare centers are closing, leaving staff unemployed and parents with fewer options. In the midst of all the chaos Leaps and Bounds continues working hard to provide quality while facing these challenges. We moved our services quickly and comprehensively from in-person to remote. In reading the agency highlights, you will notice that no services were eliminated, and in many cases, services to families and childcare providers were increased to deal with the additional challenges. This, even though we were unable to host our annual fund raising dinner in April.

We are all faced with greater needs and more requests for contributions. These needs are real and important. Despite that, however, you, our supporters, continue to be so generous. For this we are most grateful.

The staff of Leaps and Bounds are remarkable and the board of directors incredible. Together with your financial support, we can continue to build a better future by investing in young children, in their early education, in young families, and in the development of a stronger, better trained childcare workforce.

I send you best wishes for a safe, healthy, and peaceful holiday season and 2021.

Denise Dorsz, Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE: A Virtual Fundraiser and Limited Item Silent Auction: April 15, 2021



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Parents as Teachers

The agency continued its commitment to providing parents and their young children with the resources and support necessary to insure that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. We distributed 1,200 new children's books, baby diapers, winter hats and gloves, Amazon tablets, learning kits and resources materials to families. 21 interactive play and learn groups were held between October 2019 and March 2020 with 190 parents and children participating. Between April 2020 and September 2020, we connected families to 60 remote reading and interactive learning groups.

188 families received intensive case management that included goal setting, support and resources to support their family concerns.

1,156 home visits were provided to 85 families with children birth- 5 years. These visits included early literacy and early math activities, reading together, music and movement. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments during this challenging year. Without any delay in service delivery, agency staff quickly transitioned from in person to remote activities and services. Families received additional supports to assist them in the transition to remote activities. Based on family preferences, services were provided through the phone as well as a variety of remote platforms. The agency provided tablets for families as well as other resources.

Childcare Provider Training, a Workforce Development Success Story

Through the Early Learning Communities, we continue providing training to home and childcare center staff. Trainings are free, approved by the state of Michigan and include a focus on early child development, classroom behaviors, family supports, appropriate practices and curriculums for multi-cultural and multi-racial environments, health and safety. 352 training sessions were provided with 3,911 registered participants.

The agency also continues providing specialized training for series for childcare professionals wishing to gain the national credential: the Child Development Associate. 110 childcare providers participated in this intensive 12 session series. Leaps and Bounds Family Services maintains its Gold Standard achievement, awarded by the national Council for Professional recognition.

The agency quickly transitioned from face to face to remote learning. Using multiple platforms, the agency has been able to continue providing quality training with no interruption in service. Childcare providers received additional resources to support their ongoing training, including tablets, increased mentoring, and other resources.

The agency also provided 150 learning material boxes to 10 area childcare centers and facilitated the distribution of masks, gloves and hand sanitizer to 121 childcare providers.

Maintaining a Steady Course

The agency was again able to end the fiscal year within our operating budget thanks to generous contributions from our donors and ongoing grants and contracts. To maintain communication with parents, childcare providers and others, the agency sent over 40,000 emails and 1,550 letters. Over 6,000 phone calls were made to childcare providers. The agency posts information and weekly tips for childcare providers on its face Book page twice a week.



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