

## OUR MISSION:

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



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And Gracious Thanks To Our Benefactors!

Dear Friends:

*Come December many of us turn to Charles Dickens' novel, A Christmas Carol, to remind us to take notice of our community and offer assistance when and where we are able.*

*I believe that the Dickens novel that best suits these days, however, is A Tale of Two Cities, which opens memorably with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."*

*It is the best of times at Leaps and Bounds Family Services because the families, childcare providers and children that we serve continue receiving high quality ongoing services facilitated by a great staff team.*

*During this past year, we increased the number of childcare provider training sites and assisted childcare providers through professional development and quality improvements. We expanded our services for parents and are now serving families through weekly sessions in the cities of Dearborn, Detroit, Eastpointe, Hamtramck and Warren. As a part of the federally-sponsored Social Innovation Fund our agency, partnering with four others and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, provides family-guided case management and services in south Macomb County and Detroit.*

*Unfortunately, it also is the worst of times. Communities in California, Florida, Puerto Rico and Texas have experienced devastating natural disasters. Violence has impacted many. The academic, economic and social needs of children in our region remain extensive. And funding cuts and changes in funding priorities are constantly limiting our ability to respond.*

*Your support and generous contributions have always aided us in serving the needs of at risk families through preparing young children in early literacy, by supporting parents as their child's first teacher and by assisting childcare providers to grow professionally.*

*Your support is needed now more than ever. Thank you.*

*All the best for a peaceful 2018!*

*Denise Dorsz*

*Executive Director*



United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan



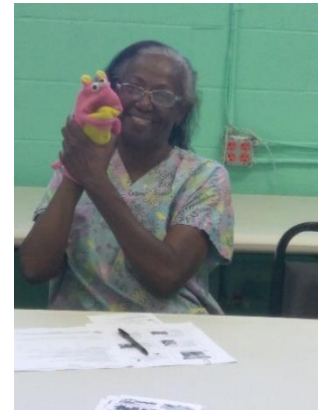
# 2017 Annual Report Highlights

## Continuing To Make A Difference In Early Childhood

Over the past year, Leaps & Bounds staff and associates have worked tirelessly to make a difference across Metro Detroit. The agency has supplied families with winter gloves, hats, emergency food orders and baby supplies and distributed 940 of these and other essential items. The agency held interactive learning groups with 458 adults and their children, helping to build their skills in math and reading while fostering further parent/child interaction. The agency has donated 1,200 new books to children across Metro Detroit, and completed 1,649 home visits to 125 children ages five and under, helping to provide support and needed information on childcare and pediatric wellness to at-risk homes and families.

## Continuing To Support Community Caregivers

The agency's Early Learning Communities have lent a helping hand to home and center-based childcare providers across Detroit and Warren. The agency aids these caregivers with free training in child development, free learning materials and access to free family and community events. 186 childcare providers received quality improvement support through our participation, and over 21,000 hours of training, assistance, and technical support has been provided to local caregivers. The agency held a focused training series for childcare professionals seeking national certification, and over the past year 37 such individuals have completed this five-month series.



## Continuing To Bolster Our Communities

Throughout this past year the agency has continued to participate in many collaborative efforts aimed at helping children and at-risk families throughout Metro Detroit. The agency has participated in events and initiatives in cooperation with Great Start Wayne, Great Start Macomb, United Way for Southeast Michigan's Regional Early Learning Community, and the tri-county Quality Improvement Advisory Committee. Over the course of nine community events, resources and activities have been provided for 600 adults and their children, and books have been distributed at each event.



## Continuing Our Commitment To Financial Responsibility

Any charitable contribution is put to effective use. The agency will be ending this year within its approved operating budget thanks to conservative and responsible fiscal management. Sources of revenue include financial support from United Way, state and county contracts, investments, special events, and general donations from readers like you. We are committed to keeping our sources of revenue diverse and we maintain a strong reserve of funds for the future ahead.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, 6-9 PM

Please join Leaps & Bounds as we recognize those who have made a significant impact on our communities at our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Community Partners Award Dinner! Guests will enjoy a sit-down dinner and silent auction, filled with amazing items from individuals, local businesses and sports teams.

Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan, Warren MI.

## Learning Begins At Birth: Having Fun Through An Early Start

The agency's Play and Learn Groups provide educational fun and togetherness time for adults and their children from birth to five years old. With storytelling, music and arts & crafts, children are prepared for kindergarten by building essential skills in a manner that is engaging, effective, and fun. Groups are held at the following locations at the following times:

- Eastpointe Early Learning Center, 24750 David, Eastpointe, 48021, Fridays 11:00-12:30
- Kennedy Early Childhood Center, 11333 Kaltz, Warren 48089, Tuesdays 11:00-12:30
- Dickinson East Elementary School, 3385 Norwalk, Hamtramck, 48212, Mondays 2:00-3:00



Sessions at Dickinson East Elementary School are bilingual, in both English and Arabic. For more information, call Rebecca at (586)-404-8611.

## Training For Caregivers: Local And Accessible

For anyone with an interest in childcare, professional or otherwise, the agency is proud to offer training and resources through the Michigan Department of Education – Office of Great Start and United Way. These courses provide basic professional-level training in child development, setting up expectations for children in childcare settings, health, safety and nutrition, basic first aid and CPR certification. Courses are available at the following locations:

- Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 8129 Packard, Warren, MI 48089
- Westminster Church, 17567 Hubbell, Detroit, MI 48235
- The Matrix Center, 13560 E. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48205

Go to [greatstarttoquality.org](http://greatstarttoquality.org) to register, or call 313-402-0802.



## New Grant Provides Enhanced Services!

The agency, in collaboration with United Way for Southeastern Michigan and other area non-profits, has been awarded a three-year Social Innovation Fund grant from the federal government. This project will use case management, assessments, the Family Check Up model and integration into other agency services for families with children under 5 years living in south Macomb County and northeast Detroit. With these services, parents and caregivers will further develop personal and family goals and further support will be provided to families. The project will serve 150 families and will have a vigorous evaluation component to help ensure top measure component outcomes.

## Additional Sites For Parent Services Added

The agency has recently started providing additional parent workshops and parent/child interactive learning groups in the cities of Eastpointe, Dearborn and an additional site on Detroit's east side. These specialized interactive groups and workshops will focus on infant and toddler development, nutrition, behavior concerns and social-emotional development. Both parents and childcare providers are welcome to access a wealth of information at these new sites.

Leaps And Bounds recognizes and thanks the following individuals for their generous contributions this past year:

Amy Acocella, Andre & Jene Allen, Anonymous, Wendy Appleton & Robert Lockwood, Courtney Arrington, Lois Ballard, Kenyan & Marjorie Bixby, Joseph Banick & Gina Cavaliere, Donald Barber & Martha Sutton, Agnes & Joseph Bongero, John & Patricia Bosch, Thomas & Kathleen Bowen, John Bueno, Joel & Deborah Burkey, March Carman, Pat & Carolyn Curtin, David Heckler & Alice Audie-Figueroa, Karen Davis, Marie & David DeArment, Denise Dorsz & Mary Beth Sutton, Patty Door, Cheryl Dotinga, Kenneth & Jo Anne Elkin, Jordyn Fields, Lynn Fontanive, Melissa Freel, Gary & Pennie Gammage, Tasha German, Antoinette Green, Juliet Hafford & Barbara Trippe, Robert & Deb Hart, Beth Hawkins, Teresa & Paul Holtrop, Melanie Hwalek, Kelly Isrow, David Jaffe & Erica Peresman, Donna Janiczek, Sharon Jourdan, Kathleen Kirschenheiter & Kathy Tkach, Jerutha Kennedy, Joanne Lam, Thomas & Yvonne Larabell, Elizabeth & Louis Mahony, Sandy McLarnan, Nancy McMurray, Jeffrey Miles, Toni Mocerri, Linda Morin, Ruth Morren, Nicole & Phillip Moten, Robert & Susan Mulka, Robert & Carlena Murdy, Danielle Nagle, Jim Nagle, Moortadha Obaid, Renee Omoregie, Melissa Pluszczynski, Raahul Reddy, Noah Robinson, Philip & Pat Schneider, David Scott, Barbara Simons, Rudy Simons, James Singer, Michael Tepper, Brian & Jolayne Thompson, Andrew & Aimee Twarek, Muriel Van Dyke, and Linda Williams.

Thank you!

Leaps & Bounds also recognizes the following corporate and foundation sponsors, and extends special thanks for their support over this past year:

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Thank you!

## Keep In Touch!

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Join the email list at [leapsandbounds.org](http://leapsandbounds.org)!

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A tribute gift from **Mary Ann Jones**,  
in honor of **Denise Dorsz** and **Mary Beth Sutton**

A tribute gift from **Judy McNamara**,  
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