

Community Social Services of Wayne County December Newsletter

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tis the holiday season and while many of us have lots to be thankful for, there are those in our communities that continue to need our help. For more than 70 years CSSWC has been proudly doing everything we can to help those in need. In the twenty-first century, nonprofits like CSSWC must adapt to the changes that impact us individually and socially.

I recently celebrated six months as President of this agency and I want to thank every single person that gave of their time, brainpower and money to help us move closer to our goal of being a high impact, twenty-first century organization. Yes, we have just gotten started on this journey but I would like to share what has been accomplished during my six months and my thoughts on what we must do to reach our goal.

In the past six months, we have worked to improve our organization by investing in our most vital resource, our staff. We are changing how plans are made, goals are set, priorities are established, funds are distributed, people are hired, money is spent, communications take place, problems are solved, finances are managed and people are rewarded.

The agency's building is aging and requires repairs, upkeep and improved maintenance. Starting with exterior lighting and increased internal security, we hope to improve the condition on each floor of the building and the external grounds by repairing and/or replacing inoperable items. We recognize the condition of our building impacts the social and emotional well-being of our staff and their overall performance.

The ability to be an effective twenty-first century organization will require improvements to the management systems, processes, leadership teams, skill sets, and disciplines at CSSWC. As a result, we are taking steps to upgrade software in vital areas such as accounting, providing mobility via deployment of laptops and making it easier to access wages with direct deposit of payroll checks.

The changes we are making are necessary for us to compete for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others in this ever-changing nonprofit world. Thank you to those who have given to us in the past and those who continue to support us. Your donations make it possible for us to continue to our work, and stay tuned as I said we are just getting started.

Wm. Chuck Jackson, Ph.D.



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NEW SENIOR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Angela Bingham has joined CSSWC as our new Director of Development and Communications.

Angela is a nonprofit organization management professional with 15 years of mid – senior level fund development and public relations experience, supporting Michigan nonprofits which include UNCF (United Negro College Fund), Wayne State University, American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association.

Born and raised in Detroit, Angela attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Cass Technical High School and received her Bachelor's degree from Wayne State University and completed post degree coursework in Non-Profit Sector Studies at WSU. Angela is a proud mother of three.

Please welcome Angela to the CSSWC family.

CSSWC Vision: Deliver excellent services, unlock human potential and empower individuals and families.

CALL TO ACTION

WE ARE IN NEED OF FOSTER FAMILIES

Our goal is to increase the number of foster families to 100 in the coming years. Contact Danielle Stevens at 313-883-7687, DStevens@csswayne.org if you are interested in becoming a foster family.

FOSTER FAMILY CARE PROGRAM

CSSWC foster families provide temporary homes for abused and/or neglected children. In safe and caring licensed homes, foster families provide warmth, love, attention and security.

Foster parents are involved in ongoing training and numerous local social activities throughout the year. While children are being cared for by loving foster families, the biological parents are receiving various services including parenting classes, substance abuse and mental health treatment, housing, employment referrals, parenting time, and coping skills.

The children receive services including education, counseling, medical and dental services, family visitation, self-care, and independent living skills.

We currently have more than 50 foster families as part of the CSSWC foster family care program.

Community Social Services of Wayne County welcomes the 12 Starr Common Wealth Foster Homes families that were transferred to CSSWC on August 31, 2017.

To all of our foster families, thank you for all you do.



Our seniors at the Painting With A Twist event

SEMI INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (SILP)

As an alternative to foster care, CSSWC offers adolescents a program that focuses on increasing individual's daily living skills, vocational skills, social skills, community integrations, and financial literacy skills.

The program provides direct care in an assigned provider's home. Referrals are received and the adolescent is evaluated for program eligibility.

Upon acceptance s/he develops program goals. The program offers daily supervised independent living, stable/positive support network, individual treatment planning, case management services, life skills groups, educational and tutoring services, community services, counseling and a monthly stipend.

We are in need of home providers for SILP. Home providers receive the following:

- ⇒ Monthly rent
- ⇒ Opportunities to mentor a young person

Please contact us to learn how to become a home provider at csswc@csswayne.org.

Please join us in welcoming the Community Social Services of Wayne County new employees as of July 1, 2017:

- ◆ Danielle Stevens
- ◆ Carolyn Henderson
- ◆ Derrick King
- ◆ Inda Conway
- ◆ Yolanda Samuels
- ◆ Marquisa Shannon
- ◆ Minnie Hyman
- ◆ Denise Peterson-Short
- ◆ Daniel Robinson

CALL TO ACTION

WE ARE IN NEED OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

If you are age 55 and older and are interested in becoming a Senior Companion, please contact our program director, Denise Peterson-Short at dpshort@csswayne.org. Please leave your name, address and contact number in the body of your email.

Together we are stronger!

SENIOR & VOLUNTEER SERVICES

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM (FGP)

Foster Grandparents devote their volunteer service entirely toward disadvantaged or disabled youth.

Caring for premature infants and children with physical disabilities and exceptional needs

Foster Grandparents help these children in many ways:

- ◆ Offering emotional support to child victims of abuse and neglect
- ◆ Tutoring children with low literacy skills
- ◆ Mentoring troubled teenagers and young mothers

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM (SCP)

Senior Companion program is a national older adult volunteer program designed for seniors to help other seniors maintain independent living. Seniors serve frail older adults, adults with disabilities, those with terminal illnesses, and offer respite for caregivers. Seniors assist in basic but essential ways:

- Offering companionship and friendship to isolated and frail adults
- Assisting with simple chores
- Provide transportation
- Add value to their clients' lives

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

RSVP connects volunteers age 55 and over with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. RSVP volunteers can choose how and where they will serve. Their work includes the following:

- Mentoring or tutoring children
- Providing literacy assistance to adults
- Providing in home services such as Meals on Wheels and companionship calls
- Assisting families and veterans
- Providing services for healthy futures by working with local health care agencies and hospitals to enhance health care services
- Offering relief services to victims of natural disasters and much more

TEEN INFANT PARENTING SERVICES

Teen Infant Parenting Services (TIPS) Program is one of only two area programs providing transitional housing for homeless teen mothers. Located in a mid-town Detroit apartment building, TIPS houses the program's administrative offices and apartments for 16 teen mothers and their children. The program serves homeless pregnant and parenting teen mothers who are 18 to 20 years of age. Residents live in individual apartments for an average of 6 to 8 months; maximum stay is 24 months.

TIPS programmatic goal is to develop clients' skill sets, as well as, secure resources to support self-sufficiency demonstrated by permanent independent living. The program's first objective is to stabilize the residential environment for the teen mothers and their children, getting them off the streets and into a safe, supportive environment.

Program services include case management, individual and group counseling, parenting classes, life skills training, transportation and specific financial assistance. Non high school graduates must attend school with the goal of graduation. Residents who have graduated from high school are encouraged to attend postsecondary education, but many residents want to work. Residents apply for available area funding/resources such as Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) cash assistance, food stamps and medical support programs. TIPS staff works with each resident to address individual needs at all levels, addressing academic, personal, and social concerns.

Highlights – August 2017 a TIPS graduate, Shantell Wise, was the recipient of an apartment makeover by Humble Designs, a local nonprofit that repurposes gently used household goods of all types to create a welcoming, highly functional home.

Shantell and her children left their apartment that was furnished with a mattress, television, and a few other items early morning to return later that afternoon to a beautiful completely furnished apartment.

Your support gives every child a chance.

TEEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (TEPS)

Teen Empowerment Program (TEP) provides support services to homeless pregnant and/or parenting females' ages 16 to 21 and their children. Typically, TEP provides support services to residents of two transitional housing programs, Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries' Genesis I Program and Community Social Services Teen Infant Parenting Services (TIPS) Program, but the program can provide services to any area homeless youth mothers and their children.

TEP services include individual and group mental health counseling, infant mental health services and family preservation/life skills groups. TEP therapists provide case management, develop treatment plans and organize referrals to meet the identified needs of clients.

TEP focuses on the development of skills and abilities necessary for each teen parent to assume independence and support herself and her family in a permanent housing environment.

TEP goals for each resident are outlined in a treatment plan and may include the following objectives: (1) permanent housing, (2) a high school education, employment or advanced training, and (3) obtaining parenting skills, financial and home management skills.

Teen mothers seeking transitional housing come with academic, personal, and social concerns that could thwart their success in independent living. TEP therapy is growing in importance as it addresses some of those concerns. For example, an increasing number of teens are addressing mental health issues such as depression and suicide which are among the issues addressed by TEP therapists.

TEP clients are in the program an average of 4 to 8 months; maximum stay is 24 months. TEP is funded by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant and United Way donor designation funds.

Highlights – TEP plans special events for its clients on a quarterly basis. The fall quarter special event was a human trafficking workshop that was held October 18. The human trafficking facilitator was Jane White, a representative from the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force. Ms. White explained the multiple elements of human trafficking; it is much more than just involvement in trading sex activities. TEP clients were made aware of elements of their current situations that would make them a target for human trafficking. Human trafficking does not always involve kidnapping a person.

TEP just completed a three week financial management series facilitated by Kevin Butts, a representative of Credit Financial Education Strategies, a partner of Allied Bank. Clients reviewed their credit reports, discussed identity theft as well as the importance of using checking and savings accounts.

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL
SERVICES OF WAYNE
COUNTY (CSSWC)**

2018 Fundraising Events

CSSCW Annual Golf
Outing—Summer 2018

CSSWC 72nd Annual Gala—
Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Here are some ways you can support us:

- ⇒ Online, www.csswayne.org, go to the Donors tab and select, Make a Donation; we accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express
- ⇒ Mail a check or money order to: Community Social Services of
Wayne County
Attn: Director of Development and
Communications
9851 Hamilton Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
- ⇒ Add CSSWC to your Kroger Plus card at
www.krogercommunityrewards.com and add our organization, #91529
- ⇒ When shopping on Amazon, utilize AmazonSmile, and Amazon will donate to Community Social Services of Wayne County

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