Building Brighter Futures
Inside and out.

Was there a time in your life when someone helped you build a brighter future?

Oakland Family Services has been responding to the needs of individuals and families in our community for 93 years.

As we have talked to our many supporters and constituents over the past year, we are inspired by the response and the compassion of the community;

- New volunteers applying their passion and their skills to further the work of the agency;
- Individuals helping to spread the word by bringing people together to hear about the impact Oakland Family Services has on lives in our community; and
- Clients sharing their inspiring stories of hope and brighter futures.

In 2013 these efforts and others have helped Oakland Family Services build sustainability within the organization so that we can continue to build resilience in individuals and in the community we serve... building inside and out. The family is the cornerstone of the community. Our mission is to provide individuals and families the opportunity to build brighter futures.

Last year, through the generous support of our donors and volunteers, Oakland Family Services touched the lives of more than 35,000 individuals. Our programs helped children succeed in school; prevented child abuse and neglect; helped individuals recover from depression, anxiety and addiction; and assisted older adults to reconnect with the joy in life.

This report describes the many programs Oakland Family Services offers and their impact on the individuals we serve. It celebrates everyone who makes this work possible. Together, we are building a brighter future one person at a time.

With deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks,

Alan C. Johnson
Chairman, Board of Directors

Michael Earl
President & CEO
Helping families in crisis, strengthening parent-child relationships, and preventing child abuse and neglect.

At 27 months old, Ned was still largely nonverbal. “He couldn’t tell us what he needed and we did not understand him,” says Sharon. Ned would get angry with intense embers and was often reduced to tears. “Where had my sweet boy gone? It was frightening…what did this mean for Ned? I didn’t know how to help him.” Then Sharon learned about, and called, Early On.

Early On is a family-focused program that assesses children birth to three for developmental delays and works with the families of children with a delay. Developmental delays can seriously impact a child’s success academically and in other areas of functioning, and subsequently lead to poorer life outcomes in adulthood. With early intervention, delays can be overcome and children can enter school with the skills they need to succeed.

Ned was assessed to have a speech delay. A Developmental Specialist with the Early On program became involved immediately. Sharon began to see results after the very first session. As well as the developmental activities during the session, the family was provided with resources, tips and fun activities to continue work between visits. “It was truly wonderful to witness how proud Ned was of himself as he was able to communicate more effectively, and he was being understood,” says Sharon.

It was devastating, however, when about a month before the final session was planned, Ned experienced a sudden onset of stuttering and paralysis of speech. “I was so afraid that all the progress Ned had made might be in jeopardy,” notes Sharon. “It saved me to have Oakland Family Services to call on with my worries. I was assured that this was probably a common hiccup in speech development. It resolved in about a week, just as predicted.”

“I am thrilled that Ned met or exceeded every speech-related goal that we set. I knew how speech and other delays can have a lifelong impact if they are not addressed effectively today. Ned is a happy, chatty little boy who has many stories to share, questions to ask, and opinions to be made known!”

“Oakland Family Services made a huge difference for Ned as an individual, as well as our entire family.”
The Oakland Family Services Board of Directors provides outstanding leadership, guidance, and support at every level of the organization. These dedicated individuals volunteer their time, expertise, and resources to improve the lives of others and ensure Oakland Family Services' programs and services meet the community's need.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for all they have done and continue to do to help Oakland Family Services build brighter futures.

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**PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

For 93 years, Oakland Family Services' programs have responded to the changing needs of the community. Today, Oakland Family Services offers a continuum of prevention, education, and treatment services that span the human life cycle to enrich the lives of children, strengthen families, and build brighter futures.

Examples of the impact Oakland Family Services' innovative programs had in the community in 2013 are:

- Children in more than 1,000 families will have brighter futures through culturally sensitive programs that enhance parenting skills, strengthen family relationships, and help children enter school ready to succeed.

- More than 200 children were provided with safe and loving homes, whether placed with an adoptive family or reunified with their parents.

- Nearly 2,000 parents and relative or licensed caregivers attended trainings to provide children with more experiences that foster learning and development, helping children enter school with the skills they need to be successful.

- Nearly 300 youths with serious emotional disturbances, and their families, learned skills to manage emotions and behaviors, so that children are able to achieve their goals at home, at school and with friends.

- Nearly 5,800 people were helped to overcome issues such as depression, anxiety, grief and loss, substance abuse and troubled interpersonal relationships, improving social, family and work functioning.

- More than 400 caregivers were provided with education on maximizing the quality of life of older adults.
EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES
- nurturing healthy parent-child relationships
  - EARLY ON
  - FUSSY BABY
  - PARENTS AS TEACHERS

FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES
- providing safe and secure homes for children in need
  - FOSTER CARE FOR CHILDREN
  - PRIDE: PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS
  - ADOPTION SERVICES
  - FOSTER HOME LICENSING
  - FOSTER PARENTS’ SUPPORT GROUPS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
- addressing barriers to change and empowering individuals to thrive
  - MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT
  - SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT
  - HISPANIC TREATMENT SERVICES
  - PROJECT RECOVERY INTENSIVE SERVICES FOR MOTHERS (PRISM)
  - ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES

OLDER ADULT AND CAREGIVER SERVICES
- maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle
  - EARLY IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION FOR SENIORS WITH DEMENTIA
  - CRISIS INTERVENTION
  - LEVEL OF CARE ASSESSMENTS
  - CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM
  - INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY & GROUP COUNSELING
  - OLDER ADULT SPECIALTY IN-HOME SERVICES (OASIS)

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR YOUTH
- a program for children, adolescents and families funded through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
  - INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
  - FAMILY COUNSELING
  - GROUP COUNSELING
  - CASE MANAGEMENT
  - IN-HOME SERVICES
  - PEER SUPPORT AND PARENT EMPOWERMENT
  - RESpite
  - PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES
  - 24/7 ACCESS TO PROGRAM STAFF

SCHOOL READINESS AND EDUCATION SERVICES
- preparing children to succeed
  - CHILDREN’S LEARNING CENTER
  - GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM ACHIEVING PRESCHOOL EXCELLENCE (GSRP A.P.E.X.)
  - EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITIES
LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE
for Glenda.

Glenda likes to say that since starting with Oakland Family Services her life has come “full circle.” At an early age, Glenda’s daughter, now 15, began to go into uncontrolled rages. She would hit, bite, and kick. She would bang her fists on the wall and sometimes her head. No one in the family felt safe. Nothing the family did, and nobody they sought services from, was able to help the situation. Until they came to Oakland Family Services’ Specialized Services for Youth program three and a half years ago.

A therapist from the program came into the home. She taught Glenda parenting techniques and worked with the whole family. The family began to make great progress. The rages slowed down. Relationships improved dramatically. With the help of Oakland Family Services, Glenda’s daughter went from being two years behind academically, to surpassing her peers. She even won an award for academic excellence from the Somerset Collection.

Two years ago, Glenda was offered a position as a Parent Support Partner in the Specialized Services for Youth program, which she accepted. In this role, Glenda serves as a peer to parents in the program going through similar challenges to her family. Glenda says, “I help them realize their potential as parents. I focus on their strengths, I use my experience to encourage them. I tell them, I’m just like you and here’s what I did. I use empathy and I believe I give them hope. And in return, I get strengthened.”

"OFS saved my family and changed my daughter’s future. I am so glad to be a part of it."
SUBSTANCE ABUSE
In therapy at Oakland Family Services, and with the help of my case manager, I have regained hope, my family, a job, food, my own apartment, legal rights to my three-year-old son, goals, and a sense of belonging. I owe my life and the future of my son to the assistance I received from Oakland Family Services.

Fussy Baby and Early On
Jacob could not express himself and was crying and crying to communicate. The Fussy Baby and Early-On program improved our lives and allowed us to communicate with Jacob. We are so grateful for the patience and commitment of the staff. Jacob is not crying or hitting. He is talking and learning. Thank you!

Counseling
The program has changed my life. It has helped me deal with my things and work through my mental health issues. I have meaning to my life now and can function day by day. It has allowed me to be the person that I want to be. Thank you!

GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM A.P.E.X.
Oakland Family Services was recommended by a close friend. I was hesitant for my child to go to preschool for a full day, but I trusted her recommendation. Since being here, my daughter has gained so much more math, literacy, and social skills, all through play. She looks forward each morning to getting ready to go to school to be with her friends, too.

EARLY LEARNING COMMUNITIES
The experience is phenomenal. The classes and workshops leave me more educated about early but fun things to do in my early childhood career. I always look forward to being taught and guided by the experienced staff you have.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR YOUTH
My son has anxiety and social issues that caused real behavior problems. With the Specialized Services for Youth program, he learned to express himself and to talk about his feelings, which he could not do before. I was very pleased and can see a big difference in my son. I am forever grateful for the services of Specialized Services for Youth for my family.
Michelle ran a licensed day care for years, so she was skilled in managing young children's behavior. But her fourth child, Ethan, now three years old, presented behavior she was not prepared for.

“It was a nightmare,” says Michelle. “He was impulsive and very aggressive. He hit. He threw things. He even threw a mood at an adult. We didn’t feel safe. The kids didn’t want to play with him. It was really frightening because he would dart away from me, oblivious to what was around him. One time he ran onto a main road; another into the middle of a parking lot and he was just missed by a car. My husband and I were worried that we couldn’t keep him safe.”

“I felt like a failure. I didn’t know how to help my own child! And I had been so successful with children who had been difficult to handle.”

“The change in Ethan has been amazing since he began attending A.P.E.X. [Great Start Readiness Program Achieving Preschool Excellence] last fall,” says Michelle. GSRP A.P.E.X. was the evidence-based early educational program High/Scope.

“Ethan’s teacher is a miracle worker. Ethan’s whole demeanor has changed. He has lots of friends. He’s more focused. He responds to a normal voice. He learned conflict resolution and now he shares with other children. He learned how to plan, do and review. He talks about his plans,” says Michelle. “I see him learning. It’s wonderful. He can count. He learned his ABC’s. He learned to spell his name.”

And the changes in Ethan impact home life as well. “My kids are my life. This has brought us closer. The three younger children play together for hours. My oldest is around more. It has allowed us to be a family again. Thank you Oakland Family Services.”

*Early On identified and thanked Ethan’s gross and fine motor delays. Michelle enrolled with Ethan in Parent A.B.C., a program that provides parent education and training in positive parent-child interaction. She attended Early Learning Communities training to learn more about early childhood development and fostering educational experiences.*
TO THE STAFF

For 93 years, Oakland Family Services has remained a cornerstone of strength and stability in our community. With compassion and expertise, the staff delivers hope through quality services and programs that make a real difference in the lives of the individuals, children, and families the agency serves. It is their work that allows Oakland Family Services to advance its mission each and every day.

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TO THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Oakland Family Services volunteer their time, energy and resources to improve the lives of children and families throughout the community.

Over the past 18 years, this group has grown from a handful of compassionate and committed women to more than 150 members.

The purpose of this diverse group of women known as the Friends is:
+ to give their time, talents and leadership in support as volunteers, the various Friends projects and programs of Oakland Family Services when the need arises; and
+ to communicate to the general public, awareness of these programs, and their importance to the well-being of the children and their families in our community.

On behalf of the families served by the agency, Oakland Family Services thanks this dedicated group for their unswerving support and their generous spirit toward helping others.

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2013 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Oakland Family Services is truly grateful for the support of all of those who make its work possible. Oakland Family Services enjoys a diverse funding base including state and local grants and contracts, program fees, United Way from Southeastern Michigan, and contributions from individuals, foundations, and organizations.

For more information on Oakland Family Services' financials, please visit www.oaklandfamilyservices.org.

TOTAL REVENUE $10,514,260

TOTAL EXPENSES $9,959,383

92% of the funds Oakland Family Services receives go directly to services.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Area Agency of Aging 1-B
Bank of America
Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of St. Joseph County
Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
DeRuy Testamentary Foundation
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Michigan State University Farm to School Grant
Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
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Oakland Integrated Health Network
Oakland Schools Great Start Oakland
Older Persons' Commission
Society for Information Management Detroit
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Washtenaw Community Health Organization
Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society
The Young Foundation
Amber had all the benefits of being raised in a supportive, close family, the second oldest of four daughters, all close in age. But the onset of depression in adolescence, and becoming involved in unhealthy and abusive relationships, set Amber on a course down the wrong path.

Leaving home at 17, Amber was introduced to drugs, and eventually heroin. Although she had broken before becoming pregnant with Molly at age 23, she did not use during the pregnancy. However, reunited with Molly’s father after the birth, she briefly started using again. Legal trouble ultimately led Amber into treatment in the Project Recovery Intensive Services for Mothers (PRISM) program at Oakland Family Services.

PRISM is a comprehensive and intensive substance abuse treatment program specifically designed to meet the needs of substance-abusing mothers and pregnant women. They are helped to maintain a substance-free lifestyle and provide safe and healthy parenting to their children.

“At first, I had to take it minute by minute, talking things out in my head...to think about things, rather than just act. I had to learn how to let go of old friends who were still using. That was pretty much everybody.”

My life changed,” states Amber. “I’m happy, I’m working and spending time with Molly. Since being in PRISM my confidence is so much better. Before, I couldn’t conceive of the life I have now. So much is possible.”

Amber knows that she will have to continue to work on her recovery plan. She says she’s committed, not only for herself but for Molly. “I can now be the mother Molly needs, one she can depend on who is always there, like my mother was,” says Amber.

“I want to set an example of what Molly will want to be as a woman and a mother, not what she won’t.” Amber adds. “My relationship with my family is great now. We talk all the time.”

“I am so grateful for the support I have received from Oakland Family Services. It has changed my, and Molly’s, future.”
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PLANNED GIFTS

Securing Our Future

Endowments ensure that vital services can be delivered in uncertain economic times and provide essential dollars to leverage new funding for innovative community programs. Through planned giving, donors benefit the community beyond their lifetime. Members of the Board of Directors and the staff would like to recognize the donors whose generosity made it possible for Oakland Family Services to launch and build its Endowment Initiative.

The following individuals are commended for their faith in Oakland Family Services and the ability to continue its outstanding work on behalf of children and families:

ENDOWMENTS

The following donors have made gifts to secure the future of Oakland Family Services:

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REQUESTS

The following donors have remembered Oakland Family Services in their estate planning:

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