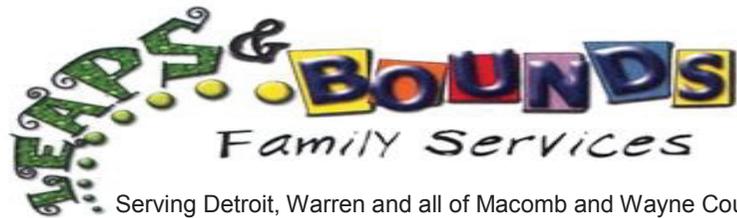


Winter 2018/2019

OUR MISSION:

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



Dear Friends,

All of us at Leaps and Bounds – staff, participants and volunteers – send very special holiday greetings to each of you! We hope that these days will include many special moments for you and your families.

Once again, Leaps and Bounds has had a busy year with on-going and expanding programs, special events and some new challenges. The good news is that we are still providing services for high risk families, striving to create new ways to survive and succeed in a market where there are very few opportunities.

In brief, not much has changed in our work or the programs we provide. Our outcomes remain strong and we produce quality with limited resources. Unlike many organizations, we are still in business and doing what we can to fulfill our mission to address the needs of the families we serve. We have been able to continue our strong adult programs that address some of today's most urgent needs. Professional development, job preparation and strong support are the critical components of the workforce development programs for childcare providers. The motivation of these adults goes without question. Similarly, the early childhood programs continue to offer valuable parent and caregiver support and educational programs that benefit our youngest learners and future leaders.

I am very happy to share our progress. Every day we are motivated by the individuals we serve and we're challenged to do more. May we continue to count on your support as we move into the New Year?

All the best for a peaceful 2019!

Sincerely,

Denise Dorsz

Executive Director

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And Gracious Thanks To
Our Benefactors!



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan



2018 Annual Report Highlights

Brightening Lives At The Start

This past year, Leaps & Bounds staff and associates have excelled in their commitment to improving the lives of children across Metro Detroit. We've supplied a total of 548 emergency food orders, baby supplies, winter gloves, hats, and school backpacks to children in need. We've held a total of 96 interactive learning groups with 451 adults and their children, strengthening the unique bond between caregiver and child while improving key early development skills like math, reading and social confidence. A total of 1,745 home visits were completed for 125 Wayne and Macomb County children ages 5 and under, providing children and their families with professional-quality childhood education, pediatric information and networking opportunities with our partners to provide specialized support.



Training Tomorrow's Caregivers

The agency has continued to provide free training in early child development, health and safety as well as support services and access to free learning materials to community caregivers in Detroit, Warren and Sterling Heights. With this training, caregivers can go on to give the best possible standard of care for the children under their watch and improve their own employment prospects. 235 childcare providers received quality improvement through 388 training sessions, and over 32,560 hours of training, assistance and technical support was provided to caregivers throughout Metro Detroit. Leaps and Bounds also helped 27 individuals complete a five-month series of training programs to become certified Child Development Associates.

Collaborative Efforts With Exceptional Outcomes

Leaps and Bounds continues to work in tandem with like-minded organizations across the Tri-Country region to improve the lives of families in need. The agency has cooperated with Great Start Macomb Executive Committee, Great Start Macomb and Great Start Wayne Collaborative, United Way for Southeast Michigan's Regional Early Learning Community, Wayne County Home Visiting Group, Social Innovation Fund Learning Community and the tri-county Quality Improvement Advisory Committee on four community events that have touched the lives of 825 adults and their children. Such collaboration has provided families with much-needed resources and brand-new books for children and adults to enjoy.



Spreading The Word, On And Off The Net

Leaps And Bounds has taken every opportunity to increase public awareness of critical childcare resources and amazing free services that are available to families big and small! 2018 has been especially fruitful in terms of reaching out and connecting families with resources that can change lives; Leaps and Bounds informed parents and childcare providers about services through 14,158 emails, 17,550 letters, 4,250 phone calls, and visits to 326 childcare centers. We've stepped up our social media presence too! Facebook likes increased by 200% and website visits increased by 145%. You can check out our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/leapsnboundsfamilyservices/>.

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, April 11th, 2019, 6-9 PM

Please join Leaps & Bounds as we celebrate our 31st Anniversary and recognize those who have made a significant impact on our communities at our 22nd Annual Community Partners Award Dinner! Guests will enjoy a sit-down dinner and silent auction, filled with amazing items!

Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan, Warren MI.

From There To Here: 30 Years of Making a Difference

Leaps and Bounds was founded in 1988 as the Poverty and Social Reform Institute with support from four Catholic women's religious communities: the Sisters of Mercy, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Adrian Dominican, and the Sisters of St. Joseph. The institute was originally established to serve as a think tank to examine the issues and circumstances of families and children living in poverty throughout Metro Detroit. One of the institute's early endeavors was a needs assessment and study on how maternal cocaine use affected children's development and behavior. Building on this framework and deciding to play a more direct role in tackling the issues at hand, the institute opened a child/parent center on Detroit's east side in 1992 to serve families with young children who were impacted by substance abuse. This center, a licensed full day childcare center with parent services, was named Leaps and Bounds.

For the period from 1988-1997, Agnes Mansour served as the agency's executive director. In 1997, Denise Dorsz became the executive director and has served in that role since.

From 1992-2004, the agency operated two child/parent centers on the east and west sides of Detroit and provided over 450,000 hours of quality early education/childcare.

In 2004 it was decided that a change of pace was in order. The existing childcare centers closed and the agency expanded services to Macomb County.

Following the closing of its previous sites and its expansion of services into Macomb County, the agency chose to broaden its horizons beyond that of families impacted by drug use and affect positive change from different avenues than before. Services became more focused on serving the lives of those who care for young children: parents and childcare providers. The agency recognized that such individuals are some of the most powerful and influential figures in a child's life and that their actions shape the way children grow and develop for a lifetime. By making sure parents and caregivers were armed with the highest quality education and resources the agency would stand to change the lives of thousands of children for the better. To improve the lives of as many as possible and to ensure that all children are ready for kindergarten, the agency's programming began to focus on individual families through home visiting and interactive early learning groups. The impact of the adult was recognized as paramount to a child's success and became a major focal point of agency services.

This shift in approach has led to incredible results for the agency and for the hardworking families of Metro Detroit. From 2004 to 2017, the agency provided 140,000 hours of basic adult education and ESL training; 1,469 parent/child early learning groups serving 14,250 parents and children at community sites in Detroit, Hamtramck, Warren, Dearborn, and Fraser; 10,840 home visits focusing on early learning for families-- of which 45% are Arabic-speaking-- with children aged birth to 5 years in Detroit, Hamtramck and south Macomb; quality improvement support and technical assistance to 558 childcare providers; 3,306 training sessions for childcare providers at training sites in Detroit and Warren; and national credential training for 91 childcare providers.

Now, in 2018, Leaps and Bounds has expanded its childcare provider training opportunities to all of Macomb County. The agency now provides over 40 training sessions monthly in Detroit and Macomb County. In FY 2018, the agency served over 100 families with home visits and facilitated a total of 100 Play and Learn Groups to provide children and their caregivers with opportunities for fun, educational and developmentally beneficial play. An estimated 40 childcare providers will benefit from training designed to prepare them for national accreditation.

We've come so far and there's still so much more to be done. We're ready for it!



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

Jene Allen, Katricia Allen, Anonymous, Sylvia Ansara, Alice Audie-Figueroa & David Hecker, Polly Ayers, Joseph Banick & Gina Cavaliere, Donald Barber & Martha Sutton, Phillip Barnes, Kenyan & Marjorie Bixby, Dorothy Booms, O.P., John & Patricia Bosch, Thomas & Kathleen Bowen, Douglas & Mary Beth Bradford, John Bueno, John Burke, Jennifer Callans, Robert Campbell, Steven Cermak, Kimberly Clifton, Jesus Cornejo, Rebecca Corrado, Les & Marina Coxon, Frances Mary Danese, Marie & David DeArment, Jana Dedene, Patty Door, Denise Dorsz & Mary Beth Sutton, Alex Dupuis, Kenneth & Jo Anne Elkin, Jordyn Fields, Lynn Fontanive, Angela Gammage, Gary & Pennie Gammage, Tasha German, David M. Goryca, Antoinette Green, Navneet Grewal, Srinivasa R. Gummadi, Juliet C. Hafford & Barbara Trippe, Robert & Deb Hart, Shawn A. Holland, Teresa & Paul Holtrop, Kelly Isrow, Donna Janiczek, Santera Jones, Sharon Jourdan, Jerutha Kennedy, Kathleen Kirschenheiter & Kathy Tkach, Ernesta Kurrel, Theodore J. Lagarde, Joanne Lam, Thomas & Yvonne Larabell, Carol & Michael Lukity, Elizabeth & Louis Mahony, Kathleen Massey, Nelson Maylone, Sandy McLarnan, Judy McNamara, Lisa Mocer, Toni Mocer, Linda Morin, Nicole & Phillip Moten, Robert & Carlene Murdy, Danielle Nagle, James Nagle, Scott O'Connor, Renee Omoregie, Teresa Onkalo, Ronald Oppat, Fran Parker, Melissa Pluszczynski, Peggy Posa, Michelle Pugh, Raahul Reddy, Harold C. Renfroe, Michelle Riesgo, Diann Rosenthal, Keith & Gina Sadowski, Judy Anderson & Kathy Sasinowski, Robert Schieferstein, Terri Schmalenberg, Philip & Pat Schneider, David Scott, Barbara Simons, Rudy Simons, James Singer, Lisa Sturges, Jillian Sutherland, Laronda Taylor, Pintchalla Taylor, Sue & Kim Thayer, Brian & Jolayne Thompson, Ernesta Tobin, Carol Tresik, Lucretia Tucker, Andrew & Aimee Twarek, Alethea Valentine, Muriel Van Dyke Meyerand, Kylah Washington, Lorretta Williams, Jack Williamson and Maria Zardis. 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!

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

A tribute gift from **Judy McNamara**,
in honor of **Tom** and **Arvie McNamara**.

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