

WE ARE WHAT SPECIAL NEEDS

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



Message From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that I will soon be celebrating my one-year anniversary with DIC, an organization with an outstanding record of serving children with special needs and their families for more than 100 years. While our impact over this time has been extraordinary, I am proud to share we are also focused on the future and ways that we can increase the "breadth and depth" of our impact across multiple communities.

For example, a recent planning retreat involving board and staff resulted in a number of priorities being identified for the organization, including working directly with more underserved communities in Detroit and other locations to better understand their needs. This would then allow us to develop a comprehensive approach to providing our services, bringing the best of what we do in schools and through LEAP to effectively serve a greater number of children and families outside of school.

The priority of increasing our impact in the community is not only consistent with our philosophy of helping children "where they are", it also addresses the myriad transportation hurdles that residents of Detroit and other cities face daily in reaching their destinations. Looking at the data regarding rates of reading proficiency, mental health treatment, and special education enrollment in underserved Michigan communities, we believe that providing greater accessibility to DIC's services in neighborhoods would benefit many more children beyond those having a formal Individualized Education Plan (IEP) through their school.

You may recall that I am a parent of a child who received life-changing services from DIC years ago, for which I am forever grateful. As we continue to build on our past while preparing to

In This Issue

- Programming Update
- Meet Our School Partners
- DIC Featured at History Day

have even greater impact in the future, I wanted to share that we are also exploring a **new identity** for the organization that honors DIC's 100+ year legacy of incredible achievement and reflects the organization's direction in the near and long term. Details will be shared as this process continues to unfold.

Together we have accomplished much, but there is still so much more to do. Working together, I am confident that we will realize our shared vision: Children with special needs and their families are all thriving members of the community.

I know the entire DIC board and staff join me in thanking you, our donors and stakeholders, for your generous support that allows us to maintain our impact and implement our current and emerging programs. We hope that you will visit www.detroitchildren.org/donate or consider responding to our upcoming Spring Appeal to make a gift in support of our important work.

With all best wishes,

Heather Martinez

**100+ Years Strong,
Boldly Evolving:
A new DIC brand identity is
coming soon!**

AFTER-SCHOOL LEAP

In a world where academic success is more important than ever, our after-school tutoring program stands as a beacon of support, guiding students toward their fullest potential.

Personalized Learning

One of the greatest strengths of our after-school tutoring program is its ability to tailor instruction to each student's unique needs.

Building Confidence

When students receive targeted support and witness tangible progress, they develop a sense of accomplishment and belief in their abilities.

Supporting Academic Achievement

For struggling students, tutoring can mean the difference between falling behind and catching up, ultimately paving the way for future success.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Tutors (Dawn, Em, Fleadwood, Alex, Qadriyah, and Veera) and our Occupational Therapist, Shanelle, for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering support. Their contributions are invaluable, and we are deeply appreciative of the positive difference they make in the lives of our students!



Parents as Teachers LEAP



The Parents as Teachers (PAT) program continues to evolve and innovate, incorporating the latest research and best practices in early childhood development. Recently, we expanded the program's reach with our partner, Brilliant Detroit, enabling more parents to access resources and support in any of five locations.

Summer LEAP

July 8th - August 8th

Interested in our summer program?

Visit www.detroitchildren.org for more information and how to register!



Meet Our School Partners:

Bradford Academy

Bradford Academy is a K-12 charter school in Southfield that services and supports 1,000 students on average primarily from northwest Wayne and southwest Oakland counties. The school focuses heavily on both academics as well as the social and emotional wellbeing of its students, and with 89% of its students considered economically disadvantaged, offers transportation to better support the physical needs of its families.

Nicholas "Nick" Stage has been with Bradford since 2011 as the Special Education Supervisor and Resource Room Teacher. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in Special Education, and earned his master's degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University.

Given Nick's strong commitment to student development, we asked him to share his thoughts about the Detroit Institute for Children and the services we provide at Bradford Academy.



How long has Bradford used DIC? What makes DIC different?

Bradford Academy has had a very strong partnership with the Detroit Institute for Children for well over a decade.

The support and professionalism of DIC staff have been nothing short of amazing. They take great steps to support our students with disabilities and have been able to make some great changes and create a wonderful TEAM on campus.

The staff from DIC help shape the school culture and are absolutely considered to be part of the Bradford family.

Why is Bradford's Special Ed team special or unique?

Bradford Academy, larger than neighboring charters, boasts a long history of supporting students across 13 grades.

Our dedicated special education team – 11 teachers, 3 therapists, and 3 social workers – has consistently met these needs.

Partnering with DIC for 7+ years ensures staff continuity, fostering a collaborative department with a strong sense of family. This supportive environment allows us to effectively reach every student.

DIC Featured at Grosse Pointe History Day



DIC CEO Heather Martinez with Alexis and Max at the Grosse Pointe History Day program.

At the Grosse Pointe History Day held this past February at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, three University Liggett School (ULS) students featured the history of the Detroit Institute for Children (DIC) and our impact on childhood disease since our founding in 1920. UL eighth graders Alexis Harrington

and Max Martin spent significant time researching and then presenting the results of their work, with their efforts rewarded by being named one of the winners in the Junior Division. Congratulations to the ULS-DIC team!



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Support DIC and Keep Children First

We know these are difficult times and we appreciate any gift you can provide in support of the work we do. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit www.detroitchildren.org/donate to make your contribution today!



DIC Program Wish List:
<https://a.co/dyGVf2M>



Shop at Kroger? Register your Kroger Rewards Card to donate a percentage of your transaction to DIC (and get great coupon deals while you're on their website!). **Our Organization Number is IM321.** Re-enroll every April!

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Mike Rhoads
Chief Operating Officer

Niki Beebani
Director of Program Development & Quality

Nicole Regentik
Director of Human Resources

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