

Fall 2010

# Leading the Way

A publication of The Guidance Center



*Strengthening families. Changing lives.*

## Agency opens Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center in downtown Detroit; Wayne County center helps children heal



Housed in a historic home built in 1911 on 40 E. Ferry in Midtown Detroit in the University Cultural Center, the Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center's comprehensive team is dedicated to protect victims from further abuse by providing cutting-edge medical and mental health treatment, conducting research, and preventing child abuse through community education.

Wayne County Children's Protective Services substantiates more than 7,000 cases of physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect every year. The rate of child abuse and neglect in the City of Detroit is nearly double the national average.

Now, the new Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is there to make a difference.

For many years The Guidance Center has operated the Kids-TALK program, which conducts forensic interviewing for children of suspected sexual abuse, neglect or trauma. The agency now has expanded the program to include a new, free-standing building in downtown Detroit's University Cultural Center area near the DIA and WSU campus that is dedicated to protect children and help them to heal.

In the new facility at 40 E. Ferry, Detroit Police, Wayne County prosecutors, Children's Protective Services workers, forensic interviewers and mental health workers from



The Guidance Center, and researchers from Wayne state University provide services in the same building. This comprehensive team is dedicated to protect victims from further abuse by providing cutting-edge medical and mental healthy treatment, conducting research, and preventing child abuse through community education.

Prior to this center opening there was no Children's Advocacy Center in Wayne County.

The Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center, which may be contacted at 313-833-2970, serves victims of suspected sexual abuse, severe physical abuse or neglect, and trauma.

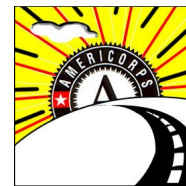
Police Officer Shonda Starts, from the Detroit Sex Crimes unit, states, "Kids-TALK is a wonderful program that allows kids to feel comfortable talking about things that may have occurred in their lives. The professionals do an excellent job helping children feel at ease when they enter the office and truly meet them at their level. It is an excellent program and our department swears by them."

### Guidance Center welcomes Oakwood to Southgate campus

Oakwood Healthcare System's Taylor Teen Health Center has moved to a larger space it is leasing at 19275 Northline Rd. (Building 7) on The Guidance Center's main Southgate campus. The center, which serves ages 10–21 and special education students through age 26, may be reached Monday through Friday at 734-287-2076.



# Downriver CARES AmeriCorps marks 10th Anniversary



Since 2001, Downriver CARES AmeriCorps, as operated by The Guidance Center, has provided services to Metro-Detroit in the areas of education, resource coordination, and youth, family and community development. AmeriCorps members serve Monday through Thursday at assigned sites within The Guidance Center and other community partner organizations. Every Friday the members participate in group service projects throughout Metro-Detroit.

During the last ten years, more than 300 Downriver CARES members have served our region by providing hundreds of thousands of hours of service to tens of thousands of clients.

Full-time membership is September through August, with other start dates in January and June. Members earn a modest stipend of \$11,800, and receive paid health care and dental, child care and or food assistance, student loan deferrals with interest paid during term of service, and upon completion of their term of service receive an education award of \$5,350. Members also participate in professional development through trainings, job shadowing and structured supervision.

For more information on Downriver CARES AmeriCorps please contact Program Director Joe Spain at 734-785-7705 x. 7209 or [jspain@guidance-center.org](mailto:jspain@guidance-center.org)

*AmeriCorps, a federally funded national service program ([americorps.gov](http://americorps.gov)) was developed in 1993 to be the domestic version of PeaceCorps.*

## Volunteers change lives every day at agency

What makes a great volunteer? A few of the key qualities include someone who is positive, passionate, reliable, unselfish and enthusiastic.

At The Guidance Center volunteers are extremely important to our programs and the families we serve. In the past year hundreds of volunteers have donated their time and energy to more than 20 agency programs.

We understand that time is valuable and encourage community members to consider pledging their time and talents to help impact the lives of others. If you are able to donate two hours a week to a child who may not otherwise have someone to talk with, just think of the benefits that may result.

There are more than 25 diverse volunteer opportunities at The Guidance Center. We need mentors and tutors. We continue to seek qualified community leaders to serve as members of the board of directors. We hope to find volunteers to help in Head Start classrooms. And we need assistance with special events.

When you volunteer at The Guidance Center you truly make a difference in the lives of those we serve and make our community a better place. Please consider joining our team of individual and group volunteers today!



Community volunteers including Lisa Kaiser, PNC Financial Services Group Community President; Dolores Cunningham, and Beth Dixon are critical to the success of the annual Budd Lynch Celebrity Golf Classic.

Over the last 21 years the golf event has raised more than \$850,000 to support Guidance Center programs. The 22nd Annual Budd Lynch Celebrity Golf Classic will be held at the Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club on Monday, June 27, 2011.

**Jessica Padgett,**  
**Volunteer Services Coordinator**  
734-785-7705, x. 7066  
[jpadgett@guidance-center.org](mailto:jpadgett@guidance-center.org)

# The Guidance Center awarded \$500,000 Promise Neighborhoods planning grant for River Rouge



The Guidance Center was one of 21 nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education to receive the very competitive \$500,000 Promise Neighborhoods planning grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It is the only organization in the state of Michigan to receive the award.

With the one-year grant, the agency will create plans to provide cradle-to-career services that improve the educational achievement and healthy development of children through the River Rouge Promise Neighborhoods Initiative. The planning grant addresses challenges faced by students living in communities of concentrated poverty, and the Promise Neighborhoods grantees and their partner organizations will plan to provide services from early learning to college and careers, including programs to improve the health, safety and stability of neighborhoods, and boost family engagement in student learning.

*“Communities across the country recognize that education is the one true path out of poverty. These Promise Neighborhoods applicants are committed to putting schools at the center of their work to provide comprehensive services for young children and students.”*

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan



Bean poles and raised beds are part of the River Rouge landscape now. The garden provides residents, including people with disabilities, with social, recreational, vocational and educational opportunities right in their own backyard.

The agency will work with River Rouge Schools Superintendent Dr. Carols Lopez and River Rouge Mayor Michael Bowdler and a host of partners that bring a wealth and variety of perspectives and resources from the social, economic and environmental sectors.

Other individual agencies representing human services, education, healthcare, government, employment and business include Wayne Metro Community Action

Agency, Wayne County Community College District, Oakwood Healthcare System, PIRC Satellite, United Way Early Learning Community, Bright Smiles LLC, Creative Community Pathways, Creative Change Educational Solutions, E-three Labs, and Employment Training Designs.

Collective membership partners include the Downriver Community Conference, Wayne County Systems of Care, the River Rouge Prevention Policy Board, the Great Start Collaborative-Wayne, and the Fort Visger Community Development Corporation.



DTE Energy employees Madelyn Williams, Cindy Smith and Carol Farrell visit the garden during the summer. DTE Energy provided support to make the community garden a reality.



13101 Allen Road  
Southgate, MI 48195  
734-785-7700  
[www.guidance-center.org](http://www.guidance-center.org)

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #55  
WYANDOTTE, MI

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Cheryl Kohs  
Carmen McIntyre, M.D.  
John Colina  
James Weaks  
Terry Riddle

### Directors

John Bussa  
John Daly  
Jerry Dorsey, IV  
Frederick G. Eaton  
John Gatti  
Lawrence Kearney, Jr.  
Saundra Mull  
Hilary H. Ratner, Ph.D.  
Kenneth W. Russell  
Michael Spencer, Ph.D.  
Keyona Williams



Board Member Fred Eaton from Comcast; Debbie Dingell from the General Motors Foundation; Board Member Lawrence Kearney Jr. from Riverside Financial Advisors; Sandy Hudson, Senior Development Officer at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital; and Guidance Center Executive Vice President Betty Priskorn.

Please support the work of The Guidance Center and the thousands of lives we touch every year. Your donation is critical to the programs and services we provide to children and adults. Donate online at:

[www.guidance-center.org](http://www.guidance-center.org)

## Community Partners support work of agency

Many groups and individuals help to connect the community to important Guidance Center programs and services. Each year the agency hosts the Community Partners Breakfast to update our partners on new and exciting developments.



Wayne County Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Dept. of Public Services, Cindy Nocerini Dingell, with Guidance Center COO Kari Walker.