

WE ARE WHAT SPECIAL NEEDS

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



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From Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Spring is traditionally a season of hope and rebirth, a time for optimism as the days grow longer and the world around us becomes brighter. This is particularly true this year after all that we encountered in 2020.

While the challenges we face as a country have been formidable, I am pleased to share that DIC's board and staff have worked together to find new and innovative ways of serving children with special needs. One example of our ability to be resilient in the face of changing circumstances is our successful use of teletherapy and web-based resources to serve children remotely.

Another is our upcoming launch of LEAP (Learning, Enrichment, and Achievement Programs) which will help children with special needs "catch up and keep up" after almost an entire year without in-person services. LEAP will have a number of components aimed at helping pre-K and school-age children with special needs (and their families) both during the summer and year 'round.

LEAP is an outgrowth of our commitment to increasing our impact through an expanded menu of "Community-based Initiatives" that offer free or low-cost programs primarily to underserved children and their families. Similarly, our upcoming certification as a Trauma Smart National Partner will allow us to work more extensively with families, caregivers, and school professionals in the community to help them recognize and care for children struggling to cope with the adverse impacts of trauma.

We are also pleased to announce that we are expanding our physical footprint to accommodate more children and families onsite. Not only are we moving to a larger space at our Commerce Township location, we will soon be establishing a presence on the P-20 Cradle-to-Career Campus of The Marygrove Conservancy in Detroit.

I would like to thank the entire DIC board and staff for being both dedicated and nimble as we continue to navigate the ever-changing world around us. And of course, I want to thank you—our donors and stakeholders—for supporting us and allowing DIC to remain a leader in serving children with special needs and their families.

In closing, please visit www.detroitchildren.org/donate or consider responding to our upcoming Spring Appeal to make a gift in support of our work. Your generous donation will help us to continue to do what we do best: Celebrate and serve children with special needs!

With all best wishes,

Roxanne



We Are Growing!

The Detroit Institute for Children (DIC) is growing! As we enter our second hundred years of serving children and families with special needs, we will soon be moving to larger and additional quarters in order to increase our impact by providing services outside of the school setting.

Effective May 1, we will have a new Commerce Township location that will allow us to provide early childhood groups and family services onsite throughout the year. Beginning this June, we will be offering individual and group Speech and Occupational Therapy activities during the week both afterschool and during the summer, including a Sensory Room. Our new space will be vibrant and engaging and offer a number of amenities, including convenient parking and a common kitchen area for parents to “meet and greet” each other while their child is receiving services.

Our new Administrative Office address is now:

Detroit Institute for Children
2045 East West Maple, Suite D-407
Commerce Township, MI 48390

We are also pleased to announce that beginning June 1, we will be opening a new location on the P-20 Cradle-to-Career Campus of The Marygrove Conservancy in Detroit where we will launch the summer component of our new LEAP program in July. We will also offer afterschool enrichment and academic programming beginning September as a part of LEAP.

Our new Marygrove space will be colorful and inviting, as well. We will be using a giant Lego block system to build modular “dividers” that will allow enrichment and academic services to be provided separately as needed. There will also be a kitchenette for families and staff to use, as well as an area for parents and caregivers to engage with each other and wait comfortably while their child is receiving services.

Our Marygrove address will be:

Detroit Institute for Children
8425 West McNichols Road
Student Center – Suite 116
PO Box 17
Detroit, MI 48221



As described in greater detail in the accompanying insert, both locations will also begin promoting family interaction and learning this fall by offering facilitated parent-child playgroups and a full menu of workshops that provide the training, information, and resources to assist parents in advocating for their child's needs. To learn more, please contact Niki Beebani, DIC's Director of Program Development & Quality, at niki.beebani@detroitchildren.org or (248) 918-0057.

New Endowment Fund ... Planning for DIC's Future

In a move to provide long-term financial stability for its current and future programs serving children with special needs and their families, the Detroit Institute for Children (DIC) recently established a permanent endowment fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. With a distribution rate that is less than the earnings rate, the new endowment fund will build increasing value in perpetuity with distributions to the agency following accordingly.

The Community Foundation currently manages endowments for more than 200 Southeast Michigan nonprofit organizations. To learn more or to make a tax-deductible gift to the Detroit Institute for Children Endowment Fund, please contact Jan Shimshock, DIC's Director of Development, at jan.shimshock@detroitchildren.org or (248) 918-4274.

Meet Our Team:

Sheri Kaplan, LMSW

Joined DIC: 2017

Role: Lead Social Worker

Credentials: Master of Social Work – School Certified (Wayne State University)



Why School of Social Work?

As an undergraduate, I was a business major living in the dorms when my floormates began coming to me for advice. I am a good listener with a big heart, so I became invested in providing solutions to their problems. I realized I enjoyed it—and I wanted to make helping my career. So, I changed my major to social work with a focus on families and children. After working as a family therapist with clients of all ages, I realized my passion was working with children, which led me to pursue an MSW with a school certification.

Role at DIC

As the lead social worker, DIC has given me the opportunity to broaden my experiences when working with students, parents, and school staff; as well as enhance my knowledge of special education procedure and protocol. In addition to the mentorship and supervision I'm able to provide to new social workers, I'm also a programming committee member and a newly certified Trauma-Informed Resilient Schools trainer.

Personal Life

I love baking and socializing with friends, so I frequently test out new recipes and have friends over to sample the goodies that I make. My two fur babies, Cookie and Winston, are very playful cats and love my attention when I am home. I also play euchre on a league, and love being outside when the weather is nice. I miss public gatherings, and look forward to when sporting events, live theater, and concerts return.

Sheri's Tips for Self-Care During Times of Uncertainty and Change



Acknowledge the turbulence

Social distancing and the loss of work and/or routine are tremendous pressures, both physically and psychologically. With so much news and instructions flying around about what to do and how to do it, take time to listen to what your body and mind need. Remember to check in with yourself.



Fuel your body with healthy food

In times such as these, nutrition and healthy eating can easily fall to the wayside. However, if anything, it is more important than ever to appropriately fuel our bodies and to do so in a mindful way. We have increased physical and mental stress, and healthy eating is vital in supporting our immune system.



Move your body

We are all spending less time commuting, driving our kids around, and running errands outside the home. Use the extra time to take a walk outside or do some exercise at home, like dancing. Even housework or baking can be a way to be physically active (and a delicious one!)



Prioritize sleep

To function, our bodies need sufficient sleep, which is more than seven hours a night for most adults. Keeping a bedtime schedule, going to bed early, setting your alarm for the same time each morning, and limiting nightly screen-time will help to ensure enough rest and a great day tomorrow.

THANK YOU

Our leadership and administrative team extends the biggest and most heartfelt "thank you" to our staff for being creative, flexible, and strong during the challenges you all have faced while teaching and providing services amidst a global pandemic. Your knowledge, passion and dedication are what drive the positive outcomes in your classrooms, and beyond. You are superheroes, and we are so proud of the work you do every day.

Community-based Programming

For over 100 years, "Community" has remained one of DIC's core values, and has served as a beacon toward fulfilling our mission of empowering children. Now, these same values have inspired us to expand our impact by opening a community-based center at The Marygrove Conservancy in Detroit. This summer, we are excited to create an environment that promotes and nurtures the development and independent functioning for children with special needs. LEAP (Learning, Enrichment, and Achievement Programs) consists of four components mentioned below and will be offered throughout the year for families and children with special needs, ranging from early childhood through 5th grade.

Summer & After-school (School-age)

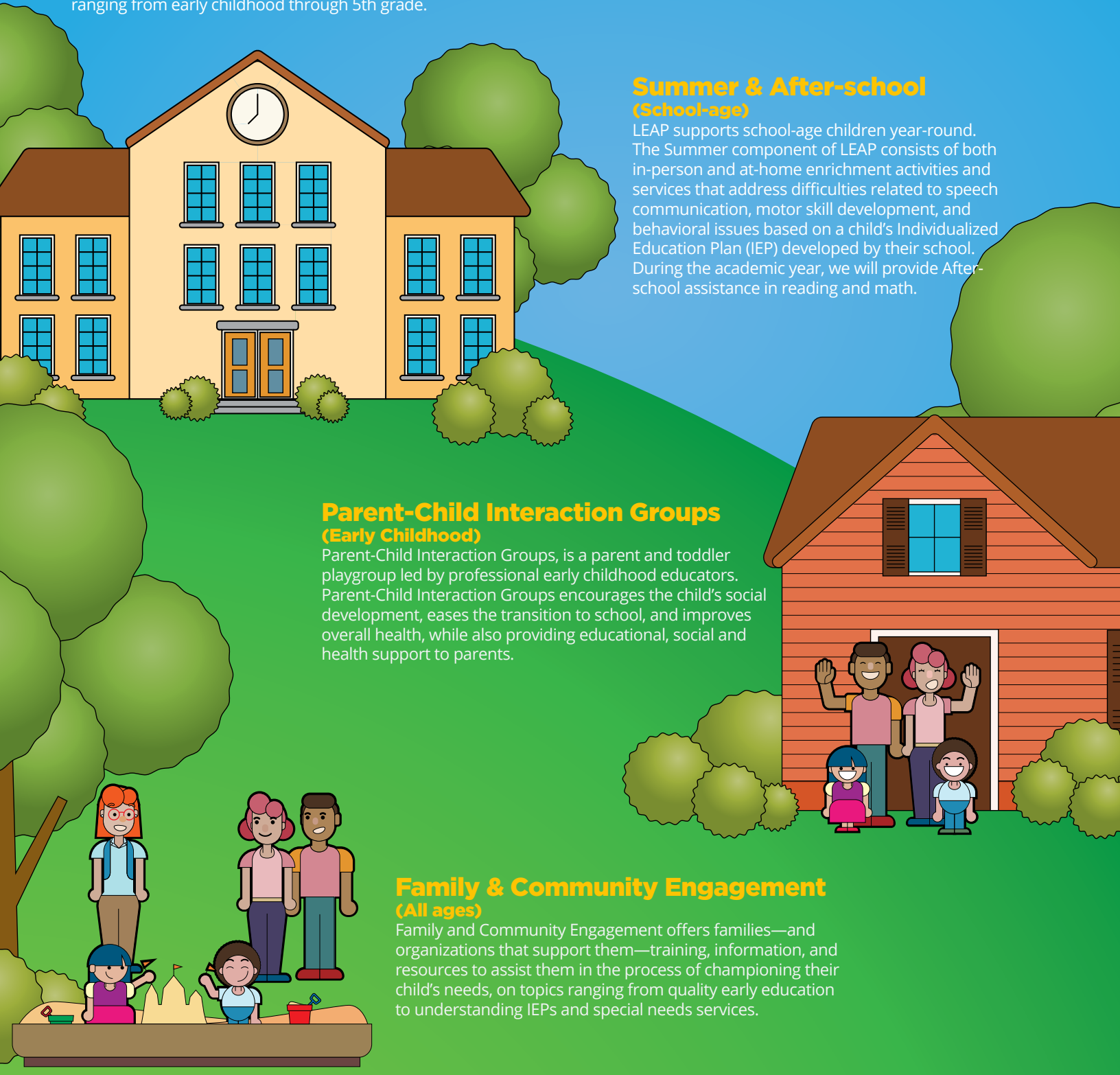
LEAP supports school-age children year-round. The Summer component of LEAP consists of both in-person and at-home enrichment activities and services that address difficulties related to speech communication, motor skill development, and behavioral issues based on a child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed by their school. During the academic year, we will provide After-school assistance in reading and math.

Parent-Child Interaction Groups (Early Childhood)

Parent-Child Interaction Groups, is a parent and toddler playgroup led by professional early childhood educators. Parent-Child Interaction Groups encourages the child's social development, eases the transition to school, and improves overall health, while also providing educational, social and health support to parents.

Family & Community Engagement (All ages)

Family and Community Engagement offers families—and organizations that support them—training, information, and resources to assist them in the process of championing their child's needs, on topics ranging from quality early education to understanding IEPs and special needs services.



Individual & Family Services

Speech and occupational therapy, social skills groups, amazing summer programs, and so much more... all under one roof!



Group Therapy

Special groups related to social skills, sensory integration, help with handwriting, and school readiness will offer families several choices to have their children participate in.

A sensory room has been designed to provide a safe, calm, and fun environment for children to work through their emotions and reactions to certain stimuli.

Individual Therapy

At our new location, speech and occupational therapy services will be offered to meet the needs of young children, their physicians, and their parents. Our work will be with children from the ages of pre-school through 5th grade. Whether it's improving sensory processing skills, communication challenges, developmental delays, motor coordination, or social skills, our staff specializes in a variety of pediatric conditions and is dedicated to helping children achieve their goals.

Summer Experiences

Half-day summer camps pack in fun activities while addressing issues related to speech communication and motor skills development.

Families

Educational workshops for parents, caregivers, professionals, and others involved in the care and support of children with special needs will be offered in topics such as Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom, IEP 101, and How Sensory Processing Impacts Behavior and Learning.

We accept private insurance for all Individual and Family Services. For more information, please contact Desiree Beardsley, DIC's Executive Administrative Assistant, at desiree.beardsley@detroitchildren.org or (248) 963-1224.



2045 E. West Maple Rd.
Suite D407
Commerce Twp., MI 48390

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!

Thank You!

The Detroit Institute for Children (DIC) would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the **Pervis Jackson Jr. Foundation** for once again brightening the holidays for families in need. Each year, the Foundation traditionally provides a donation that allows DIC and our school partners to provide a \$200 gift card to five deserving families of children with special needs. This year was similar to those past with the recipients expressing joy and appreciation for the opportunity to provide for their family during the holidays. On behalf of everyone we serve, we would like to thank the Pervis Jackson Jr. Foundation and all of our donors for your support, particularly during these challenging times.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Roxanne Brinkerhoff
Chief Executive Officer

Mike Rhoads
Vice President of Special Needs Programs & Services

Ara M. Hachigian
Director of Operations & Special Needs Services

Jan Shimshock
Director of Development

Niki Beebani
Director of Program Development & Quality

Stacey Seltzer
Employment & Recruitment Specialist

Desiree Beardsley
Executive Administrative Assistant

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