



Detroit Phoenix Center
A PLACE WHERE YOUTH RISE

2020 IMPACT REPORT

www.detroitphoenixcenter.org

INSIDE THIS REPORT

“Detroit Phoenix Center saved my life. I don’t know where I’d be without them.”

*- Tarra
DPC Alumni*



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A LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Champion,

It was near midnight when we got Jade's* call. She was a young mother sitting on the sidewalk after fleeing a domestic violence situation with her three small children, one of whom was sick. A youth herself, mom was concerned it was COVID-19 and needed immediate access to medical care and shelter. She had nowhere else to turn.

Through your unwavering encouragement of DPC's mission and work, we were able to help Jade and her family at what may have seemed like their darkest hour. Her little one tested negative for the virus, and they are now in a home, safe and thriving. They are not the only family we have served. Since the beginning of the pandemic, DPC has assisted more than 500 youth with food, emergency shelter, PPE gear and other wraparound supports, prepared and distributed more than 7,000 COVID-19 care packages to youth and families, and helped many students displaced from their college dorms by COVID-19 locate stable housing and more.

There's undoubtedly no disagreement when I say 2020 was a year unlike any other. Still, it was because of the support of donors, sponsors, and friends like you that the Detroit Phoenix Center was able to pivot quickly and effectively during the pandemic, meeting the changing needs of our community head-on and uplifting our youth on their quest for social justice.

These successes are only possible because of you, our valued donors and stakeholders. As we look to the new year ahead, the Detroit Phoenix Center remains more inspired than ever and steadfast in its mission to improve the outcomes for resilient youth in Detroit, providing critical resources, wrap around support, and a safe, nurturing environment for youth who are transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.

We look forward to you continuing with us on this life-changing journey.

Stay well. Stay Safe. Stay Connected.



Courtney Smith

**Name changed to protect identity*

OUR MISSION

Detroit Phoenix Center (DPC) provides critical resources, wrap around support, and a safe, nurturing environment to youth who are transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.

OUR VISION

A world where every young person has a place to call home and the resources needed to actualize their full potential and live out their dreams.

OUR VALUES IN ACTION

- 1.) Journey Oriented
- 2.) Trauma-Informed
- 3.) Non-Judgemental
- 4.) Harm Reduction
- 5.) Trusting Youth-Adult Relationships
- 6.) Racial Equity & Inclusion
- 7.) Dignity & Hope

WHO WE SERVE

We serve youth and children in the Detroit Area that are transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.



OUR TEAM

The Detroit Phoenix Center team is a small yet mighty group of women who are dedicated to promoting equity and social justice.

- 
COURTNEY SMITH
Founder & CEO

- 
SADE BECK
Director, Youth & Family Services

- 
CHANTEL HICKS
Operations Manager

- 
EDEN GIBBS
Manager, Marketing & Communications

- 
JESSICA SKYFIELD
Executive Assistant & Office Coordinator

- 
DEANDRA MATTHEWS
DPC Alumni & Peer Support Coordinator, Public Allies of Metro Detroit

- 
MARY INMAN
Program Coordinator, Public Allies of Metro Detroit



2020 PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



7000+
 COVID-19 care packages of essential goods and services distributed to youth and families



900+
 Hours of virtual programming (mental health support, financial literacy, and more) provided to Detroit youth



590
 Young adults assisted by DPC to maintain permanent supportive housing



AWARDS



FEATURED ON



...and many more!

DPC's 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Woodward Ave. Drop-In Resource Center Anniversary

In January, we celebrated our third anniversary of opening our Asset Based Resource Center inside of Bethel Community Transformation Center on Woodward Avenue.



A Special Tribute from the State of Michigan

Governor Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist, State Representative Robins, and Senator Hollier recognized the critical work we do in the community by awarding Detroit Phoenix Center a Special Tribute.



Pivoting to Virtual

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Detroit Phoenix Center started offering virtual programming to continue to engage and provide online resources to our youth members and the Detroit community.



DPC Goes to D.C.

Our team attended the National Network for Youth - National Summit on Youth Homelessness, where they got to speak to policymakers on the importance of supporting bipartisan legislation that responds to the needs of youth experiencing homelessness and survivors of human trafficking.



A Season of Giving Back

At the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, along with the help of many generous volunteers and partners, Detroit Phoenix Center responded to the community's needs and provided critical resources during a time of great uncertainty for the world. We distributed groceries, hygiene products, gift cards, technology, and much more throughout the city.



Participating in Policy

Our youth leaders and program team had an impactful time taking part in Homeless Advocacy Day in Lansing. They got the opportunity to speak with policymakers, share their journeys, and advocate for increased support in critical services and decreased barriers in accessing affordable housing for youth and young adults.



Community Impact Incubator

Detroit Phoenix Center was selected as one of five organizations to participate in the inaugural Community Impact Incubator at Marygrove Conservancy. It has been a wonderful opportunity to expand our reach to the Fitzgerald area and scale our programming to a second location while reimagining opportunities to serve highly mobile youth and families.



One Night Without A Bed

Our first annual One Night Without A Bed end-of-the-year fundraiser took place on Giving Tuesday and raised over \$50,000 for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Detroit. The virtual event and awareness campaign had over 1,700 views on social media with more than 100 participants sleeping out for the cause.



MICHIGANCHRONICLE.COM
Covid-19 Must Not Keep Us From Looking After Homeless & Vulnerable Youth | The Michigan Chronicle

"Predators don't pause during a pandemic, neither should we. There are many great stories to be told if we act as a community of shared vision and purpose. Please join us in these efforts."

[Click on the photo to read full article](#)



DETROITNEWS.COM
Detroit Phoenix Center gifts Christmas to children experiencing poverty, homelessness

"Thanks to foundation and community donors, Detroit Phoenix Center funded clothing, toys, bikes, and household necessities." Detroit native Christian A. Mathis - better know as Trick Trick - was also in attendance to hand out the presents.

[Click on the photo to read full article](#)



CRAINSDETROIT.COM
COVID-19 Heroes: Pandemic forces Detroit Phoenix Center to take mission to streets

"The bundles are still being distributed as the pandemic continues. The team has provided wraparound support to more than 150 enrolled families consistently."

[Click on the photo to read full article](#)



MEDIUM.COM
Heroes Of The Homeless Crisis: How Courtney Smith & the Detroit Phoenix Center are helping to...

"During a pandemic, poverty doesn't pause. People are in greater need now than ever before. So even though our drop-in center is closed, we're still reaching out to our youth and young adults letting them know they're not alone."

[Click on the photo to read full article](#)

BLAIR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2020 Recipients



Armani Arnold



Trevonne Beacham



Reagan Gantz



Jordain Sain



Blair M. Smith was a compassionate, free spirited young man who loved learning. He served as the founding president of our Youth Development Leadership Council; providing youth focused and centered insight on the development of our Asset Based Resource Center. He transitioned in 2017 leaving behind a powerful legacy and a charge to us all to dispel myths around mental challenges and remove barriers to success.

This scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate academic fortitude and desire to pursue higher education.

IMPACT STORIES



STEPHANIE

DPC Youth Member

"We're always here for each other. Like a family. It makes this place comforting. It makes it like a second home and it takes your worries away...it's a safe place."

Click on the thumbnail to watch video



CARLA

Parent of DPC Youth Members

"As a mother, I don't feel like we're a project. They really care for us as if we're a family."

Click on the thumbnail to watch video

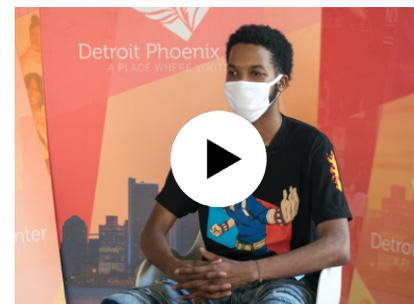


SADE BECK

DPC Staff Member

"I can relate to youth homelessness and housing insecurity and I wanted to make a difference. It's so close to my heart because I know what it feels like."

Click on the thumbnail to watch video



SIR CARLOS

DPC Youth Member

"The SOAR program has helped me through a lot. I feel like this is a place to calm down, take a break, and hang around with people that I feel comfortable with. It's like a secondary family."

Click on the thumbnail to watch video



YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ACTIVISM

The mission of the Youth Action Board is to strive for the elimination of youth homelessness and poverty in our region. The YAB is an interagency group of young leaders with lived experiences to inform the public about issues, identify and work to eliminate barriers to housing, employment, education, mental health, and advocate for increased resources to transition youth. Youth leaders commit to an annual retreat, attend monthly meetings, and design a year-long service-learning project that drives community change.

The Resource Corner Project

The Youth Action Board's first "Resource Corner" was launched in February of 2020 at Detroit Leadership Academy. The resource corner is completely youth-led and features hygiene essentials, nonperishable food items and on-site referral information and assistance to help bridge basic need insecurities amongst peers. YAB members also distributed 100 "Resilience Kits" filled with hats, gloves, food, bus tickets, and more.



Recognized by The Skillman Foundation



The Youth Action Board was recently recognized by The Skillman Foundation on their list of 60 Examples of Detroit Genius under the criteria of "young people who astonish and inspire."

Youth Leadership Retreat

The annual Youth Action Board Youth Retreat took place on the campus of Marygrove Conservancy and focused on team building, leadership training, business & vision casting, and fun.

"I love the connection we have as a team"

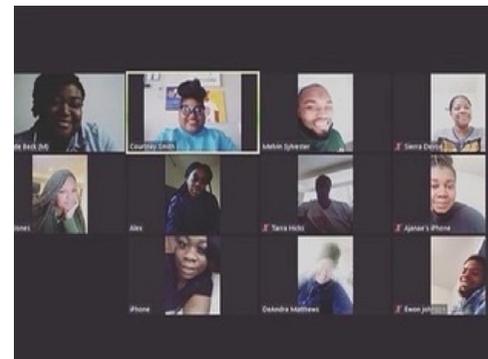


Voter Registration Drive

The Youth Action Board, in partnership with HAND (Homeless Action Network of Detroit), and the League of Michigan Voters was out in the community registering Detroiters to vote & making sure that democracy is accessible to everyone. The goal was to make sure that voters were aware of their rights and had accurate information on how to vote in the 2020 election



A New Normal



Unable to meet in-person during most of 2020, our Youth Action Board had been holding meetings virtually while adjusting to the new normal. With special guests joining on calls throughout the year, the YAB would meet to discuss ways to bring about change on the topics of racial justice, housing justice, equity, and inclusion.

COVID RESPONSE

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the center launched Phoenix RISE, a program that offers food and income support, rent assistance and hotel vouchers, cell phone bill support, computers and internet routers, transportation assistance, and delivery of grocery and household items. In 2020, Detroit Phoenix Center has:



\$150,000+

Distributed over \$150,000 worth of value in COVID-19 relief: including but not limited to: computers, internet routers, emergency rental assistance, and cell phone bill support.



\$15,000

Received \$15,000 worth of sporting goods, including new shoes, footballs, soccer balls, hula hoops, and sports gear for socially distanced youth activities.



10,000

Distributed over 10,000 facemasks to the community.



7,000+

Distributed 7,000+ care packages of essential goods and services to youth and families.



900+

Provided 900+ hours of virtual programming (cooking classes, mental health support, homework helpline, financial literacy, entrepreneurship & more) to the community.



200

Days of emergency shelter provided via hotel vouchers.



75

Gallons of hand sanitizer distributed.

SERVICES & IMPACT

Detroit Phoenix Center offers a variety of services to the community. Below are our seven pillars.



Education & Employment



Outreach & Engagement



Research & Advocacy



Mental Health & Wellness



Emergency Services & Housing



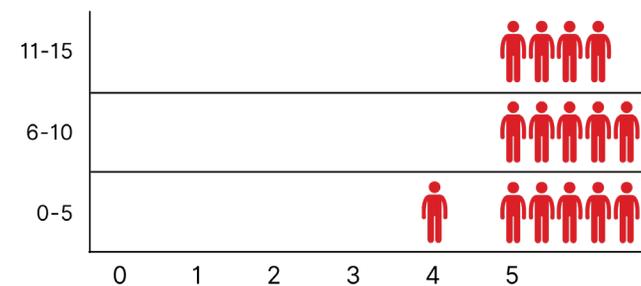
COVID-19 Relief



Youth Leadership

MEASURING IMPACT

Of 15 survey respondents, 14 rated their satisfaction with DPC's services to be a perfect 5/5.

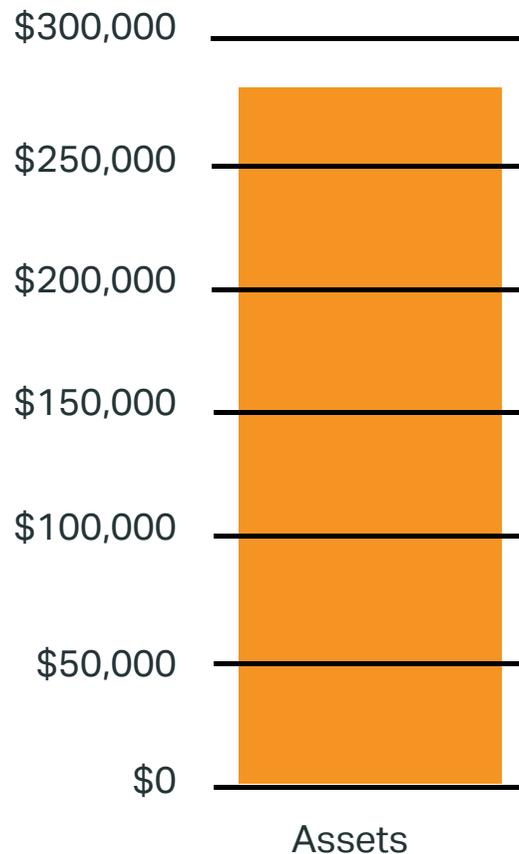


BUDGET & AUDIT REPORT

Detroit Phoenix Center complies with all IRS filing required for 501(c)(3) organizations, including Form 990. It is registered under EIN 82-1262148 and NTEE code: Children's and Youth Services (P30)

OUR PARTNERS

The Detroit Phoenix Center has sponsors and funding partners both in the Metro Detroit Area and nationally. We appreciate our partner's support and we're always looking to expand our impact.



Source: guidestar.org

FUNDING PARTNERS

We are beyond grateful for the help of our Partners and could not do this heart work without them.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our Community Partners contribute to programming and other experiences that we offer to our youth members.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOARD CHAIR
Mary Jo Franklin

Manager
Detroit Public Library
& Children's Librarian



VICE CHAIR
Aimee Spencer Tieman

Creator & Owner
BrightShinyBOLD



TREASURER
Brandon Biddles

Project Manager
Henry Ford Health
System & Financial
Literacy Advocate



SECRETARY
John C. Muhs

Associate
Warner Norcross +
Judd LLP



MEMBER AT LARGE
Zara Northover

Product Manager
(Strategy, Diversity, &
Innovation)
Quicken Loans



FOUNDER & CEO
Courtney Smith
(ex-officio)

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