



## THE STARFISH SCOOP



### Dear Friend of Starfish,

**Like you,** we recognize the importance of building strong communities filled with thriving families. We work hard every day to ensure Starfish is a welcoming and caring place where not only children but parents can find the support and encouragement needed to flourish. Hundreds of parents are already actively involved with Starfish. They volunteer in their child's classroom, take advantage of opportunities to develop their leadership skills, and learn important information about how to support their child's development. At Starfish, families are equal partners in fulfilling our mission, having a say

in things like program and policy development. It's not unusual to see our engaged parents become our staff and build a successful career as part of the organization.

We've listened to our parents and are determined to provide them with the support they need in a way that makes sense for them. We are pleased to report an expansion of our programs for parents and guardians. As a supporter of Starfish, we hope you'll be excited to learn of our newest parent initiative - **Starfish University!** Starfish University is an innovative approach to providing parents with a variety of educational and enrichment opportunities that strengthen families and empower parents, from a parent-centric viewpoint. Learn more about Starfish University on page 2.

We're excited to share this journey with you and promise to keep you up-to-date on our progress. Having engaged, successful parents is one of the strongest predictors of a child's success. We hope you will help us do all we can do to make a positive impact on the parents and children we serve.

*Ann* Ann Kalass | CEO



**Questions,  
Comments,  
Newsletter Ideas?**

We'd love to hear from you. Contact us at [marketing@sfish.org](mailto:marketing@sfish.org)

# Breaking News: Launching Starfish University!



**Helping parents build confidence, knowledge,  
and the skills to get past barriers and support their children.**

**Did you know** research shows that parents and caregivers have a greater impact on a child's future success than early childhood interventions?

Thriving children who grow into successful adults require parents who are capable of serving as their child's best teacher, role model, and advocate. Thus we are launching our newest initiative - Starfish University!

**Starfish University is an innovative approach to providing parents a variety of educational opportunities and supports that strengthen families and empowers parents.**

Inspired by the work of the Harvard Family Research Project, Starfish University will offer a seasonal catalog on a wide range of classes organized by topic, similar to the educational model of community colleges and recreation centers. Programs are organized into

"tracks" that guide parents through particular topics of interest, such as "Parenting Infants & Toddlers," "Cooking with Kids" and "Managing Your Finances." In addition, we are launching a new Annual Parent Conference. The conference will allow parents to discover new skills while developing fresh, supportive relationships. National and local experts will provide conference sessions that correspond to Starfish University classes. Conference attendees will be able to deepen their learning by registering for related Starfish University courses.

Starfish University has the potential to transform the futures of our families, hence it's our goal to make Starfish University as affordable as possible.

**We are searching for facilitators of a variety of topics. Call Jackee Brown at 734.727.3107 to learn more.**

**\$50**

will provide books and course supplies for a registrant

**\$125**

will provide an instructor for a Starfish-U course

**\$250**

will provide a one semester scholarship for a student

## ***Your opinion matters!***

Tell us what you think. Which Starfish University logo should we select?  
Email the letter that corresponds with your favorite Starfish University logo to [marketing@sfish.org](mailto:marketing@sfish.org).

OPTION A



OPTION B



# The GREAT HEARTS GALA

June 10  
EASTERN MARKET,  
DETROIT



VISIT OUR GALA WEBSITE  
[STARFISHGALA.ORG](http://STARFISHGALA.ORG)  
TO LEARN MORE!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 PRESENTING SPONSOR



Ford Motor Company Fund

## Grab Your Dancing Shoes!

You're Invited to our 2016 Great Hearts Gala

Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

### Mark your calendar for June 10, 2016.

We are throwing a festive party to benefit the launch of our exciting new initiative, Starfish University. Join us for a cocktail reception, dinner, live entertainment and dancing along with recognition of our 2016 Great Hearts Award Honoree, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) and its President, Mariam C. Noland.



**Someone You Should Know**  
**Mariam C. Noland, President of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan | Our 2016 Great Hearts Award Recipient**

Through its talented staff and longtime leader Mariam C. Noland, the Community

Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) has brought together organizations as well as community and civic leaders to support critical regional initiatives in areas of early childhood education, greenways, economic development, and quality of life.

Starfish Family Services was one of the first of more than 190 local nonprofits to begin building their endowment with the CFSEM. Since 1991, Starfish has received more than \$3.6 million from the Community Foundation. We thank the CFSEM and its leadership for their continued support of Starfish Family Services.

### Mariam Answers Our Questions

*You're renowned for being a key figure in the formation of the "Grand Bargain" (Detroit's plan to exit bankruptcy, prohibit the sale of artwork from the city-owned DIA, preserve city pensions, satisfy creditors, and coordinate the raising of \$816 million which was used to create the Foundation for Detroit's Future). Why was this so important?*

It went beyond saving the art and the pensions. It was really about saving the city. We knew if we didn't get a mediated settlement there would likely be years and years of litigation, which would continue to debilitate the city and bring it down.

*What do you like about living in Southeast Michigan?*

I'm a Midwesterner, an Ohio kid who's lived in Michigan for over thirty years. I love the friendliness of the area and the tough can-do spirit of the city.

*What motivates the CFSEM continued support of Starfish Family Services and why should others follow suit?*

We are drawn to organizations that provide a high quality, important service, and that is what Starfish does. It has shown it values innovation and has continued to adapt to meet the needs of the community. It mirrors its founder Ouida Cash in that way. She was a very hopeful and creative person. She always had an exciting vision for Starfish. And the innovative approach she brought to serving, along with the commitment she showed, was so compelling that you wanted to learn about Starfish and what it was up to.