

Your Generosity Equals an Inviting Shelter Inside and Out

We aim to prevent crisis not just respond to it.

In addition to serving as a crisis center, our Shelter is **home to our Youth Services programs** where at-risk youth who **are not in crisis** have the opportunity to **participate in mentoring, counseling, and recreational activities.**



The sparkling new kitchen makes clean up duty a lot easier.



Upon arrival at the shelter, each resident receives a new handmade keepsake blanket.



Our Reading Room is a quiet place used for homework and family visits.



Ford Volunteer Corps help spruce up the grounds.



About Starfish Family Services A hand up, not a hand out



Preschool
Parenting Programs
Mental Health Services



After-School & Summer Enrichment Programs

We help individuals and families create personal success stories through strategic programs and focused outreach. By providing access to the right resources at the right time, children and their families are better equipped to cope with challenges related to education, financial management and mental health issues. This helps prevent serious setbacks to a family's standard of living and quality of life.

Starfish employs more than 400 professionals – including educators, social workers, psychiatrists, nurses, nutritionists and administrators. These individuals work with parents, caregivers and others to help children thrive.

As a community-based nonprofit, Starfish has more than 50 years of experience providing the highest caliber of programs that improve the lives of infants through teens. Our efforts touch thousands of lives every day.



STARFISH
FAMILY SERVICES

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To view our Agency Financial Statement
visit <http://www.starfishonline.org/aboutus.html>

Starfish Family Services is a nonprofit, charitable organization classified as a 501(c)3 by the IRS.
Gifts are tax-deductible.

SHELTERING OUR YOUTH: Your Generosity In Action

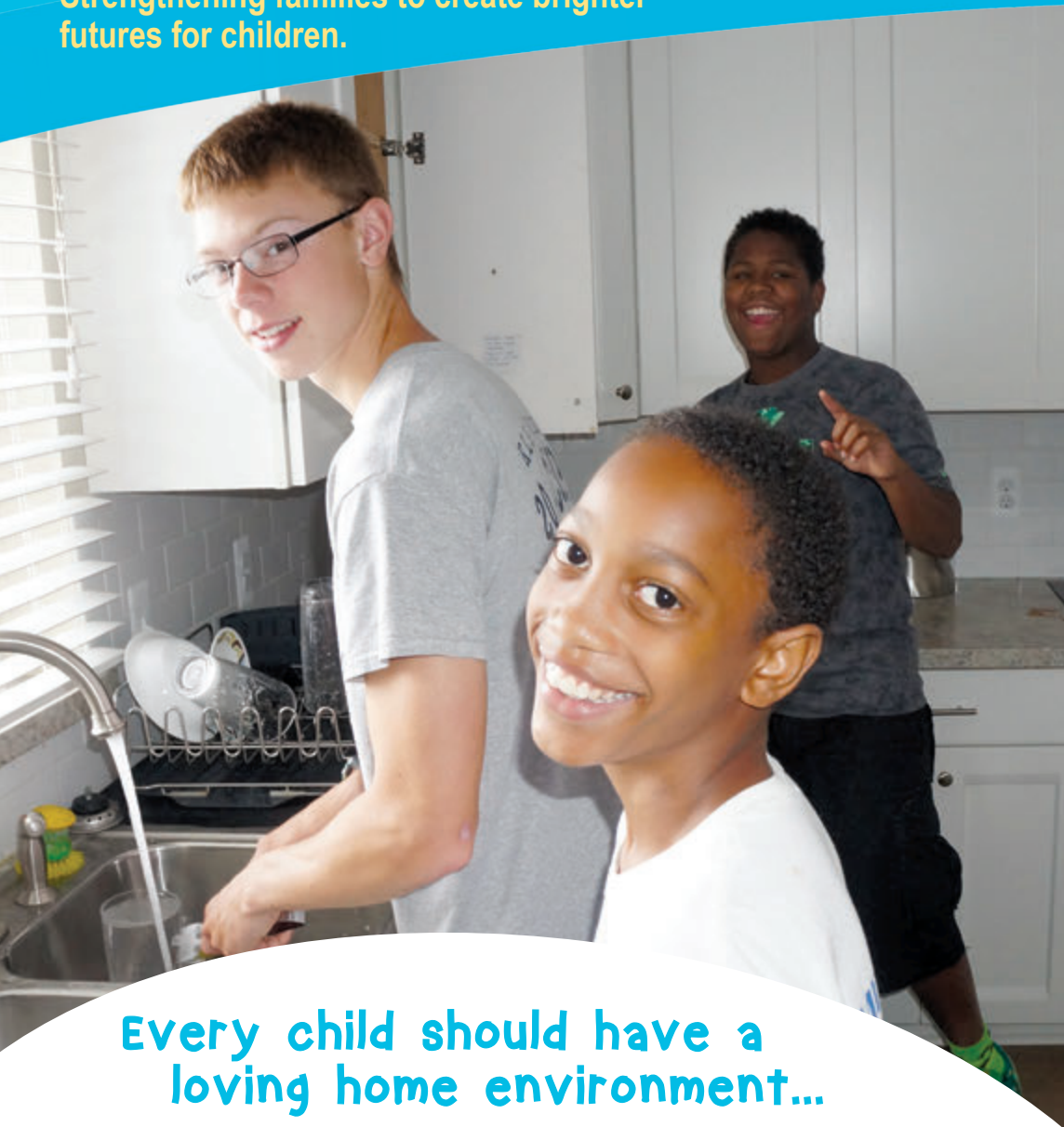
hope
respect
SUPPORT
STABILITY
friendship
counseling
ENCOURAGEMENT



STARFISH
FAMILY SERVICES

Report to Donors September 2015

Our Mission
Strengthening families to create brighter
futures for children.



Every child should have a loving home environment...

Sadly not every child has that opportunity. Our crisis hotline receives **over 1,400 calls a year** from youth, teens and parents in crisis who are looking for relief. Because of **your generosity** we are able to **assist over 200 youths a year** with shelter services.

We offer crisis services when teens need a voice of reason and someone to trust with issues they face. One Shelter program, the Starfish Respite Program, provides youth, age 10 – 17, and their families a break as part of ongoing therapeutic treatment plans. The goal is to reunite youth with their families and help resolve family problems through counseling and other support services.

This year we've had many success stories and are pleased to share a few with you.

Meet MarAsia and Jocelyn

Roommates at the Starfish Shelter, MarAsia and Jocelyn, both 19, are like any other teenage girl. They laugh and tease each other, and dole out advice; Jocelyn's favorite declaration is "know your worth." More than roommates, they are friends and confidantes. Both are happy, lively and excited about finally finishing high school and eager to start the next phase of their life.

Completing high school has been their driving mission. They arrived at our shelter after years of bouncing around not having parents who could properly take care of them.



MarAsia: "People love me and want to help me and care about me. I like the person I've become being here."

Jocelyn lived in multiple foster care homes and bunked on friends' couches from the age of nine on. With her mom unable to sustain a stable living arrangement, MarAsia boomeranged between her parents' homes, moving from state to state. Being constantly forced to move made regular school attendance nearly impossible for both teens.

Neither girl was on track to graduate high school when they came to Starfish but both were determined to meet this milestone and lead a very different life from what they've experienced.

Jocelyn
working on
her artwork,
one of her
passions.



Starfish provided encouragement and stability. Once enrolled in Tinkham Alternative School, MarAsia attended 12 hours a day, five days a week to make up for a semester she missed. She excelled and was chosen to give one of the commencement addresses.

Graduation isn't the end, it's the beginning. MarAsia - now enrolled at Henry Ford Community College - is excited about starting classes in the fall. She believes living at Starfish's Shelter was her destiny, "People love me and want to help me and care about me. I like the person I've become being here."

Coincidentally, Jocelyn also was chosen to give a commencement speech when she graduated from Michigan Educational Partnership in June of 2015. "Living in the past holds you back," she said. Instead, she focuses on the future and in her own words, "staying insanely positive." She thanks Starfish for providing her transportation to school, healthy food and a roof over her head so she could complete high school. Her persistence in seeking an education paid off. She plans to attend Wayne County Community College in the fall and study business and law.



Donor Spotlight Marcia Nunn

Starfish board member Marcia Nunn's generosity has been instrumental in the renovation of the Shelter bringing a new, welcoming look.

What Inspires You to Give?

I like the idea that we are not just here for ourselves. People have done a lot of work to get me where I am, now it's my turn to be a steward for a future generation. I want to make the world a better place. I'm trying to do something good in my little piece of the world that I can influence.

Why the Starfish Shelter?

I think about a child in crisis who is probably scared and nervous, and thought I should donate money so the shelter will look welcoming and beautiful. It should be a place where kids think 'Wow! This is great. I feel good about being here.'