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STARFISH FAMILY SERVICES RECEIVES \$65,000 GRANT FROM GCH HERITAGE FOUNDATION TO FUND MATERNAL & EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

INKSTER, MICH. (February 22, 2016) – Starfish Family Services (SFS), is pleased to announce it has received a \$65,000 grant from the GCH Heritage Foundation. The funds will be used by Starfish to enhance maternal and early childhood health services in the city of Inkster and surrounding communities.

Services supported by the grant include a range of behavioral, social-emotional and cognitive assessments for young children. Evaluations and the corresponding treatments will be provided by a multidisciplinary team of professionals including social workers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists. These professionals will work together to assess family needs and link kids to services that help prepare them and their families for school success.

“Our organization admires Starfish’s well regarded work in the area of early intervention services and therapies for developmental delays in young children. We wanted to support this essential work,” said Gary Ley, Executive Director of GCH Heritage Foundation.

“Assessing young children before they show noticeable signs of developmental delays allows us to intervene early and reduce the likelihood that children will need special education services,” said Ann Kalass, CEO of Starfish. She continued, “Our goal is to provide children in our community improved access to services like speech and occupational therapy that are often not covered by insurance or the public system. We want to help kids have a successful start to school.”

About Starfish Family Services:

Founded in 1963, Starfish Family Services is a private, nonprofit agency serving vulnerable children and families in metropolitan Detroit. Our passion is early childhood development. We strive to prepare young children for a successful start to school. Our programs and services uniquely recognize and respect the important role of parents and other caregivers in the long-term success of children. As a leading provider of Early Head Start and Head Start programs we embrace a comprehensive strategy that also works to address challenges that children and their families may face at home. In addition to early childhood services, we provide parenting programs, children’s mental health services, after-school programs, and other youth services including an emergency shelter for teens and youth in crisis. www.starfishonline.org.

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