About Us: The Starfish Difference

Our Mission

Strengthening families to create brighter futures for children

Founded in 1963, Starfish Family Services is recognized as a champion for families who lack access to essential resources in metropolitan Detroit. Known as regional innovators, we provide high-quality programs and support services that focus on early childhood education, behavioral health wellness, and empowered parents.

By the Numbers

- **18** centers in Wayne County
- **4,000+** children served annually (ages 0-5 in early education & ages 0-17 in behavioral health services)
- **450+** employees (including therapists, social workers, educators, administrators)
- **18** board of director members, representing early- and higher-education professionals, corporate and community leaders, Starfish parents
- **2,000+** volunteers, including individuals, corporations, local schools, contribute 26,563 hours per year (a value of $655,840)
- **82%** of our children leave Starfish ready for Kindergarten success

Did You Know?

Starfish has the largest infant mental health program in the State of Michigan (*critical to help a parent learn about his or her baby’s development*)

Our Reach

- Administrative Offices
- Early Childhood Education Centers
- Behavioral Health Services
- Home-Based Early Education and Behavioral Health Services
- Main Office (Inkster)
We are reinventing a social service agency through the lens of children and families

Our Blueprint is an integrated strategy that articulates and defines a holistic approach for children and families to thrive. It steers our course so that we are consistently aligned to ensure three vital outcomes: Healthy Families, Successful Students, and Empowered Families.

Starfish Makes the Grade

With Parents

Families feel they have a voice: 92%
Families feel they are treated with respect and dignity: 95%
Families feel that help from Starfish staff is available when needed: 94%

The Need is Real

27,000 children in Detroit lack access to early childhood education
(Source: IFF)

For more than 55 years, Starfish has been a recognized leader in empowering children and families. Now, eight of Detroit’s innovators, including Starfish, have joined forces on a project to revitalize a Northwest Detroit neighborhood through a revolutionary educational model. Fueled by a $50 million investment from The Kresge Foundation and bringing the best that each partner has to offer, our vision is to deliver what metro Detroit children need and deserve—the highest quality education and community programs in the country.

• Where: Marygrove College
• What: An all-in-one campus that will offer Detroit children state-of-the-art educational opportunities from preschool to K-12, from college to graduate studies (also referred to as Cradle-to-Career).
• Our Partners: The Kresge Foundation, University of Michigan, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Marygrove College, Marygrove Conservancy, IFF, Detroit Collaborative Design Center