OUR MISSION: Strengthening families to create brighter futures for children.

OUR VISION: A just society in which all children, families, and communities have equitable opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive.

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

- 15 centers in Wayne County (11 early childhood education & 4 behavioral health)
- 440+ employees (including therapists, social workers, educators, administrators)
- 3,619 children & young people supported annually (ages 0-5 in early education & ages 0-21 in behavioral health services)
- 18 board of director members, representing early- and higher-education professionals, corporate and community leaders, Starfish parents
- 12,597 families served via weekly food distribution (March to October 2020)
- .88¢ of every dollar donated goes directly to services for Starfish children & families

We deliver integrated and holistic programs that focus on 3 areas of well-being:
- Healthy Families
- Successful Students
- Empowered Families

OUR REACH

Wayne County

Early Childhood Education Centers
Behavioral Health Services
Home-Based Early Education and Behavioral Health Services
Main Office (Inkster)
1 IN 4 CHILDREN IN THE U.S.
live without a biological or adoptive father in the home.

Consequently, there is a father factor in nearly all systemic issues in America today. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

At Starfish, the success of a happy and healthy child depends on the health and strength of the whole family. Research shows that an empowered and present father affects positive outcomes for children, including school success.

What: A one-hour, multi-week support program exclusively for fathers, grandfathers, uncles, family friends—anyone who is a male caregiver with children ages birth to 18.

How: Specially trained Starfish therapists create a positive and safe space for men to connect with other Dads, explore parenting from a uniquely male perspective, and gain access to basic-needs resources, including housing, education, employment, and Friend of the Court matters.

The goal: To reduce parenting stress and explore parenting techniques that will strengthen their father-child bond, promote their child’s healthy development, and improve their child’s emotional, behavioral, and psychological well-being.