

About Us: THE STARFISH DIFFERENCE



STARFISH
FAMILY SERVICES

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)



3,619

children & young people supported annually (ages 0-5 in early education & ages 0-21 in behavioral health services)



12,597

families served via weekly food distribution (March to October 2020)



We deliver integrated and holistic programs that focus on 3 areas of well-being:

- **Healthy Families**
- **Successful Students**
- **Empowered Families**



440+

employees (including therapists, social workers, educators, administrators)



18

board of director members, representing early- and higher-education professionals, corporate and community leaders, Starfish parents



.88¢

of every dollar donated goes directly to services for Starfish children & families

OUR REACH

Wayne County



- Early Childhood Education Centers
- Behavioral Health Services
- 🚗 Home-Based Early Education and Behavioral Health Services
- 🌟 Main Office (Inkster)

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS: OUR CHILDREN

We make high-quality early education available for children throughout Wayne County.



56 Classrooms **78%** Starfish children ready for kindergarten success

131 Children & youth served in our school-based behavioral health programming

106 Teachers & teacher assistants, all of whom have degrees and/or Child Development (CDA) credentials



- Black (64.1%)
- White (17.2%)
- Multiracial (10.2%)
- Other (7.3%)
- Asian (0.8%)
- American Indian/Alaska/Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander (0.4%)
- Unspecified (0.1%)

Approximately **18%** of our children are Hispanic/Latino and **15%** of our families speak Spanish as the primary language in the home.

The primary language for **6.2%** of our families is classified as Middle Eastern.

EMPOWERED FAMILIES: MAKING THE GRADE

Families are at the center of what we do. Part of the data below is from our client satisfaction survey, which is designed, administered, and evaluated by Starfish parents.



95% Agree resources provided by Starfish during COVID-19 were helpful in supporting themselves/their families



97% Agree Starfish communications about COVID-19 were timely & clear



1,303 Families received parenting education



320 Families were connected to job training



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: FRATERNITY OF FATHERS

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,



The Need is Real

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)



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