Detroit Parent Network

2015 Annual Report

21,540
Parent Center Visits

16,599
Parents Served in workshops

2,799
Project Graduation Families

2,296
Parent Hours Dedicated to Trainings

722
Home Visits

"Champions For Children"
**A Message from Our Board Chair, Dr. Jeffery Robinson**

“We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses as we march forward towards a civilization that is free, intelligent, healthy, and unafraid.” (W.E.B DuBois, 1970, 153).

The conversations have been conducted, the protests have all been staged, the debates have been complex, the recommendations have been shared, but education in Michigan is still not what it should be! The possibilities for learning, growth, and the opportunities for children to be all they can be are still not available for every school age child. The problems persist, there is still not enough money and those children most in need are still those that are the most disadvantaged. As we wait on the Governor and the Michigan Legislator to pass a school-funding bill, there remains the vital need for the voices of parents to be heard on what they expect from the schools their children attend. With all the changes taking place here in Detroit, quality education is important and parents must be unrelenting in their demand that this standard be met. The bankruptcy is over and Detroit has embarked on a fresh new financial path, so the time has come to finally fix education in Michigan once and for all. Its time for actions to match promises and the rhetoric. If Detroit is going to be a city of the 21st century there must be a school system that educates children. Any school model or funding that does not hold these goals paramount is not just or moral; it is out of harmony with the will and expectations of parents!

As Detroit Parent Network prepares for another year of developing powerful parents, now is the time for everyone who is truly concerned about children to unite and advocate for them with one voice. By working together, we can set those expectations that make plain the fact that the future of our children is of the utmost importance. Laws and policies should be written to protect and help the people not oppress and constrain them. Today we are encouraging metro Detroit parents to speak loud and be prepared to translate those words to action in defense of our most precious resource, by challenging lawmakers, and untimely engaging the political process. Together nothing is impossible. W.E.B DuBois is echoed by Horace Mann Bond who reminds us that, “Children have never been good at listening to their parents, but they have never failed to imitate them.” Parents: in all the actions we take and the statements we make, please remember that our children are watching us! It is truly an honor to be a part of such an essential group connected to our children’s future.

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**A Message from Our CEO, Sharlonda Buckman**

“Section 10- It is natural, fundamental right of parents and legal guardians to determine and direct the care; teaching, and education of their children. The public schools of this state serve the needs of the pupils by cooperating with the pupil’s parents and legal guardians to develop the pupil’s intellectual capabilities and vocational skills in a safe and positive environment.” (Michigan State Law School Code, Act 451 of 1976)

As referenced above in the Michigan State Law School Code, Detroit Parent Network has shaped its work around protecting the rights of our children through our direct support and education of parents in Detroit for the past 13 years.

We have held the line at ensuring parents are reminded that they have power by choice and by law. We continue this fight as we currently await the outcome of the latest recommendations to our governor, put forth by our parents and our community through The Coalition For The Future of Detroit Schoolchildren; a coalition for which we engaged the voices of hundreds of parents and thousands of children. As champions for our children, this year has brought great challenges and opportunities. With the leadership of our board, staff, and parent leaders, we continue to bring parents to the decision-making table. Our experience has taught us that policies and practices don’t always equip parents and youth to be successful in their daily lives. To keep our families strong, Detroit Parent Network plays a critical advocacy role simultaneous to offering basic support through parenting classes, support groups, and academic assistance programs for our children. Food programs along with multiple collaborative efforts help connect families in need to various levels of support to keep their households going throughout the year.

As we continue our fight and project a new vision for the next chapter of this organization, “Champions for Children.” This report highlights our accomplishments for 2015. I would also like to thank our supporters, our volunteers, our funders, and our strong leadership team who continually make this work possible. Thank you.
Detroit Parent Network | Champions For Children

A New Vision: Parents are the driving force ensuring conditions exist for Metro-Detroit children to thrive.

A New Mission: A network of parents working to build and engage parents and others to ensure every child has a champion.
Parent Leadership Training (PLT) is at the heart of our work as an organization because we believe in equipping parents with the skills they need to be a powerful voice for children. Developing strong parents is a key component to our organization's sustainability strategy. During 2015, nearly 200 Parent Leaders were trained and graduated from our Parent Leadership Training program and 21,540 Parent Center Visits occurred across our sites. In the coming year, our enhanced Parent Leadership Curriculum will work with committed legislators and city officials to educate and provide parents with the skills around advocacy, negotiating, policy, and practice related to their child’s education and their communities.

Pathways to Excellence
Serving 45 Students

Pathways to Excellence (PTE) is a leadership development program (sponsored by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity) whose purpose is to encourage young men to maximize their potential through professional mentorship in law, business, and medicine.

Pathways to Literacy
265 PTL Home Visits

Pathways to Literacy (PTL) is an early childhood, parent education program that serves families with children ages 1.5-4.5 years-old. Parents engage in 10 home visits with a DPN literacy coach who provides the parent and child with a book and new literacy lesson each week to ensure they strengthen their language and cognitive development skills.
Detroit Parent Network | Champions For Children

Project Graduation, Serving 2,799 Families

Project Graduation (PG) provides support to students and parents grades 7th through 12th to keep students on track to graduate on time, and enroll in a post-secondary institution.

During the 2014-2015 school year, 24 AmeriCorps Project Graduation (PG) coaches served in six Detroit high schools to empower young men and women to take control of their academic future. This program offers more than ACT preparation, scholarships, and an endless amount of college-ready resources; it's the opportunity to build a personal relationship with a college-graduate and take notes on their higher education experiences. One unique aspect of this program is that it serves parents and guardians in addition to students, so that the entire family is equipped with the knowledge and resources to navigate the college-process.

⇒ PG Students received $1,411,245.50 in College Scholarships
⇒ 1056 Students & 254 Parents participated in PG Workshops
⇒ 242 Students & 16 Parents attended PG College Tours

The Parent-Teacher Home Visitation Project is a family engagement model that is proven to end the cycle of blame between families and school staff by building trust and respect, instilling cultural competency, and increasing personal and professional capacity for all involved. During the 2014-2015 academic year, both parents and teachers participating in the project reported their students were better meeting behavior expectations due to the teacher visiting their home. Statistics also showed that students participating in the project increased their Grade Point Average by 0.2 in comparison to students that did not participate in PTHVP this school year.

DPN adopted the Parent University (PU) model from Boston Public Schools; a program that provides parents with the opportunity to further their education so that they can become the best parent and advocate for their child’s academic success. This year, PU offered 286 Workshops, serving 722 Parents. 91 Parents Graduated from the program.
A Special Thank You To Our Supporters

The following is an audited financial statement for Detroit Parent Network, which shows the financial position of the organization as of December 31, 2014.

Detroit Parent Network

Financial Position
December 31, 2014 and 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents (Note 4)</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Employee Advance</td>
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<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td>759,658</td>
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| PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT                        |            |            |
| Net of Accumulated Depreciation (Note 2)    | 397,119    | 424,167    |
| Total Property & Equipment                  | 397,119    | 424,167    |
| Total Assets                                | 1,922,541  | 1,183,829  |

| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS                    |            |            |
| Current Liabilities                         | $613,320   | $58,379    |
| Accounts Payable                           | 22,719     | 18,543     |
| Accrued Wages                               |            |            |
| Other Payables                             | 1,136      |            |
| Line of Credit Payable - PNC (Note 6)       | 100,396    |            |
| Current Portion of Mortgage Payable (Note 5)| 8,733      | 8,206      |
| Total Current Liabilities                   | 104,559    | 85,127     |
| Long-term Liabilities                       |            |            |
| Mortgage Payable - Net of Current Portion   | 153,645    | 162,378    |
| Total Long-term Liabilities                 | 153,645    | 162,378    |
| Total Liabilities                           | 358,194    | 247,405    |

| NET ASSETS                                  |            |            |
| Unrestricted                                | 610,940    | 405,909    |
| Temporarily Restricted (Note 3)             | 903,761    | 439,411    |
| Total Net Assets                            | 1,514,197  | 845,320    |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets            | 1,922,541  | 1,183,829  |
The Leaders Behind Our Work

DPN Leadership Team

Sharlonda Buckman
CEO

Shannon Perry
Deputy Director

Yolanda Eddins
Senior Director

Hollie Benford
Accounting Director

Jennifer LaPiccolo
Director of Communication and Innovation

Theresa Mitchell
Director
Project Graduation

LaCherryn Hoost
Director
Early Childhood

Shaun Maloy
Director
DPS Project

Kimya Jacobs
Director
EAA Project

2015 Board of Directors

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Shaun Wilson
Vice Chair

Sharon Kilgore
Secretary

Stacy Withers
Asst. Secretary

Dorethia Corriner
Treasurer

Les Lance, Jr.
Asst. Treasurer

Sharlonda Buckman
CEO

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Tony Allen

Brian L. Love

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Rhema Davis

Albert E. Jones

Anthony King

Michelle Jackson

Christine Kagoff

Joy DeForrest

Carmen Peoples-Phelps

Mariana Arellano

Herbert Williams

Tony Kinsey

Jorja Henderson