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2024  
INFORMATION  
PACKAGE

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22nd Annual Grant Awards &  
Annual Fund Raising Dinner



Thursday, November 14, 2024

AC Marriott • 6:00 p.m.



# THE UPLIFT OUR YOUTH FOUNDATION (UOYF)



## About Us

Uplift Our Youth Foundation empowers youth to achieve success and live healthy productive lives. We provide funding to smaller and under funded non-profit organizations and programs that directly impact youth in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties.

We provide grants and sponsorship to causes, organizations, and programs that have a primary focus of youth achievement and success with an emphasis on serving “at-promise” youth, diversity inclusion, education, culture, employment and life skills management. Youth are considered up to 18 years old. Our grants are awarded at our Annual Grant Award Dinner.

## Our Mission

To uplift youth to reach their full potential and shape their future by giving them opportunity and vision to believe in themselves and succeed in life.

## Our Vision

To be a catalyst for Greater Lansing that inspires hope, produces financial support, and impacts youth in such a way, it affects a generation to keep on giving.

## Our History

Uplift Our Youth Foundation a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt non-profit established in 2002 by Founder Larry L. Leatherwood. The Foundation was created under the auspices of the Capital Region Community Foundation (CRCF) through the cooperative efforts of Paulette Granberry Russell and with the support of Patricia Reynolds, who at the time was President of CRCF.

Mr. Leatherwood created Uplift Our Youth Foundation to be a funding vehicle for smaller 501© (3) tax exempt organizations and or agencies that either didn't receive funding or suffered from insufficient funding in the greater Lansing area.

# A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



## MYRON FRIERSON, CPA

Retired Bureau Director, MI Dept. of Transportation  
Uplift Our Youth Foundation, Chair

Today, I'm reaching out to share a story - a narrative of hope, dedication, and community triumph. For over 20 years, the Uplift Our Youth Foundation (UOYF) has been a beacon of light in our community, dedicating itself to nurturing the potential within our youth. With over \$230,000 in donations and awards, we've touched the lives of more than 5,000 individuals, providing them with the tools to succeed.

Our mission is simple but profound:

*To uplift youth to reach their full potential and shape their future by giving them opportunity and vision to believe in themselves and succeed in life.*

However, the path to fulfilling this mission is paved with challenges, primarily financial. It's here that your support can light the way.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we look forward to your support and participation as we plan our 22nd Uplift Our Youth Foundation annual award fundraising event.

By joining us with a donation, you're not just giving funds; you're offering hope and opportunity to countless youths. Your contribution will be celebrated in our community and recognized in our publications and at our annual award event. But more than that, you'll feel the deep satisfaction that comes from nurturing the next generation of leaders.

We are eager to welcome you into our community of benefactors. Together, we can create a legacy of hope and progress.



[upliftouryouthfoundation.org/](https://upliftouryouthfoundation.org/)

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UOYF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LARRY L. LEATHERWOOD MPA/SEF  
Chair Emeritus/UOYF Founder  
Executive Consultant

We have now attained our 22nd year of existence as an entity desirous of giving back to those who have allowed us to achieve our Foundation goals.

Giving back to each of you who joined us this evening and those who would have liked to do so but was unable. As been stated in previous years, we are blessed to have had the support of those in the community including organizations, individuals and educational institutions in raising funds that have been returned to organizations providing services to young people deserving of our support.

As I have often said I would be remissed not to give favor to our board of directors led by Myron Frierson. Our board has spent many hours preparing our scope of work each year. They have formulated contact with individuals, corporations and many others eliciting their financial support to enable our

foundation to achieve our goals.

Thank you ever so much to Mrs. Kira Carter Roberson who so graciously accepted our invitation to be our dinner speaker; and finally, thank each of you for your support financially, and personally. We hope you are enjoying the new setting we have attained for the Foundation dinner.



JASON BANKS, Vice-Chair  
Executive Director,  
Capital Area Health Alliance



Kevin Scott, Esq., Treasurer  
\*Not pictured



Patrick Connally, PhD, Secretary

UOYF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NETTAVIA D. CURRY, PHD  
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Michigan State University



PATRICIA COLLINS  
Retired Division Administrator,  
Michigan Department of Transportation



HEATHER TAYLOR-LIVAS  
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Dept. of Information Technology



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Educational Consultant/  
Principal Mentor



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Departmental Specialist Michigan  
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JOHN P. GARDNER  
Chief Operating Officer  
Cristo Rey Community Center



WILLIAM TANSIL  
Retired Division Administrator,  
Asset Management  
Michigan Department of Transportation



KEITH GENTRY  
\*Not pictured



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# PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENTS

2007 Grant Recipients

Black Child & Family Institute - \$3,500  
MI Foundation for Education Leadership - \$1,000  
Inspirational Ministries - \$1,500  
Gateway Community Services \$2,000.00  
Westside YMCA \$2,000.00

2008 Grant Recipients

Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$1,500  
Worship Without Words - \$2,000  
Antioch Cares Community Development Corp. - \$1,000  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region - \$1,500  
Ele's Place - \$1,500  
Boys & Girls Club of Lansing - \$2,500

2009 Grant Recipients

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity  
ETS Chapter Educational Fund - \$1,500  
St. Stephen's Community Church -  
Community Outreach Center - \$1,500  
Antioch Cares Community Development Corp. - \$500  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Michigan Capital Region - \$1,000  
The Turning Point Lansing - \$1,500  
Lansing Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation - \$1,500  
Northwest Initiative - \$1,500  
Black Child & Family Institute - \$1,500  
Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$500  
Worship Without Words - \$1,500

2010 Grant Recipients

Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$1,500  
D.A.N.C.E, Inc. (Developing & Nurturing  
Community Empowerment) - \$1,800  
Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region - \$1,000  
Eastside Community Action Center - \$1,200  
Closing the Digital Gap - \$500  
Black Child & Family Institute - \$2,000  
Capital Area Golf for Youth, Inc. - \$1,000  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity  
ETS Chapter Educational Fund - \$1,000

2011 Grant Recipients

St. Stephen's Community Church - \$1,200  
Highfields - \$1200  
Dream and Vision Manifested - \$1,000  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity - \$1,500  
Black Child and Family Institute - \$2,000  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Lansing - \$2,000  
Eastside Community Action Center - \$1,100

2012 Grant Recipients

Lansing College Access Network - \$1,000  
Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$1,000  
Southside Community Coalition - \$1,000

The Turning Point of Lansing - \$1,500  
Kids Repair Program - \$750  
New Mount Calvary Baptist Church - \$1,000  
Reach Studio Art Center - \$750  
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan - \$1,000  
Capital Area Literacy Coalition - \$1,000  
Northwest Lansing Health Communities Initiative - \$1,000

2013 Grant Recipients

Kids Repair Program - \$1,000  
St. Stephen's Community Church - \$1,000  
The Turning Point of Lansing - \$2,500  
Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc. - \$500  
Highfields, Inc. - \$2,500  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Epsilon Tau Sigma - \$2,000

2014 Grant Recipients

Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$1,400  
Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc. - \$1,000  
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan - \$1,400  
ITEC - \$1,000  
Kids Repair Program - \$1,200  
Lansing Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation, Inc. - \$2,000  
St Stephen's Community Church - \$2,000

2015 Grant Recipients

Boys & Girls Club of Lansing - \$200  
Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc. - \$2,500  
Kids Repair Program - \$1,200  
Kendon Elementary School - \$2,000  
New Mount Calvary Baptist Church - \$2,300

2016 Grant Recipients

Building Child & Family Initiatives - \$2,000  
Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$2,000  
Eastside Community Action Center - \$1,600  
Kids Repair Program - \$1,400  
The Carol J. Greer Community Center - \$3,000

2017 Grant Recipients

Kids Turning Corners, Inc - \$2,000  
Building Child & Family Initiatives - \$1,500  
Village Summit - \$2,500  
Michigan Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence - \$2,000  
Eastside Community Center - \$2,000  
Lansing Art Gallery, Inc - \$1,000  
Gridiron Summer Institute - \$1,000

2018 Grant Recipients

Kids Turning Corners, Inc. - \$2,500  
Building Child & Family Initiatives - \$2,250  
Capital Area Literacy Coalition - \$2,000  
Churches of Greater Lansing - \$2,500  
Lansing Art Gallery, Inc - \$1000  
Beekman Therapeutic Riding Center - \$1,500

The Turning Point of Lansing - \$2,250  
St. Stephens Church Carol Greer Community  
Learning Center - \$1,000

2019 Grant Recipients

Michigan Dyslexia Institute - \$2,500  
Kids Turning Corners - \$2,500  
Kids Repair Program - \$1,500  
Building Child And Family Initiatives - \$2,500  
Womens Center Of Greater Lansing - \$2,500  
Lansing Art Gallery And Education Center - \$3,000  
Lansing Spartans Youth Org. - \$500

2020 Grant Recipients

Grit Glam and Guts Programming - \$2,000  
Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center/  
Art Encounters - \$2,000  
Carol Greer Learning Center/  
School Support Program - \$2,000  
Building Child And Family Initiatives  
Stem Ahead Camp - \$2,000  
Capital United Way Capital Area Access Network/  
FAFSA Flocked - \$2,000

2021 Grant Recipients

Big Brother ,Big Sister,  
Michigan Capital Region, – \$5,000  
Capital Area United Way,  
College Access Network,– \$3000  
Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center - \$4000  
Les Meres et' Debutantes Club  
of Greater Lansing – \$2500

2022 Grant Recipients

Lansing Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation – \$3,200  
Kids Repair Program – \$1,800  
KDL Foundation Inc. – \$ 1,000  
Cristo Rey Community Center – \$ 1,000  
Eastside Community Action Center – \$ 4,000  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Epsilon Tau Sigma  
Education Fund, Inc. – \$1,000  
Capital Area College Access  
Network - UWSCMI – \$3,000

2023 Grant Recipients

Carol J. Greer Community Learning Center – \$3,000  
Kids Repair Program – \$2,200  
Eastside Community Action Center – \$4,500  
U.S. Naval Sea Cadets – \$1,250  
Lansing Art Gallery, Inc – \$4,000

# 2024 UOYF SPEAKER



## Kira Carter-Robertson

Ms. Carter-Robertson's tenure at Sparrow Health System has spanned 24 years in a variety of roles. She currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for University of Michigan Health-Sparrow.

Carter-Robertson got her start with Sparrow as an Administrative Fellow and quickly transitioned to serve as the Senior Strategist for the Health System before transitioning into key leadership roles across the system to include: Serving most recently as the Senior Vice President, Regional Hospitals providing system oversight for the Health System's small and rural community hospitals; Vice President Post-Acute Care Services providing overall direction for the operations and strategic development for Sparrow Specialty Hospital and Community Care Services (Home Care, Hospice, Palliative Care, Durable Medical Equipment, Retail Pharmacy, and Outpatient Wound Services). In addition, she was responsible for the development of strategic partnerships with external post-acute care community providers to ensure a seamless transition of care throughout the system; and served as President, Sparrow Specialty Hospital which is a long-term acute care hospital which was developed and opened under Carter-Robertson's leadership.

Ms. Carter-Robertson is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and currently serves as the Regent for Michigan and Northwest Ohio for the College.

Ms. Carter-Robertson received her bachelor's degree in science from University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in health administration from St. Louis University.

In addition, Carter-Robertson periodically serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Flint Campus through the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences. On a personal level, Carter-Robertson also enjoys traveling, baking, and supporting her husband in ministry and missionary work.



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## 2024 YOUTH ADVOCATE



### ANGEL TAYLOR

I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 11 years old at First Street Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville Tennessee. There were two elderly women at my church who mentored me during my childhood that I have very fond memories of and who had such an impact on my life. They were Mother Baines and Sister Wilson. It was because of them that I taught Sunday School classes, worked in Vacation Bible School, attended Baptist Training Union (BTU) and sang in the adult choir. Sunday School has always been a very important part of my life because it was through the Sunday School lessons that I came to know Jesus and decided to give Him my life.

Later in my married life with Pastor Stone I formed and directed a youth choir at Carroll Street which was an inner city church in the projects in South Nashville. Pastor Stone and I visited the projects and recruited children and youth to sing in the choir. Because of my love for singing, I joined different singing groups and I joined Bobby Jones' group when he first started his Nashville group.

At Friendship Baptist Church at 925 West Main Street and also at 2912 Pleasant Grove Road, I was the director for Vacation Bible School, developed and directed the Children/Youth Church for many years and became the youth director under Pastor Nicholson. Also, I spoke on several occasions for the Women's retreat and at other churches.

Because of my love for teaching, I knew early on that I wanted to be a teacher. So, I graduated from Fisk University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. I taught English, literature, and reading at the middle and high schools for seven years in Nashville, Tennessee.

After moving to Lansing, Michigan in 1982, I became a part-time professor at Lansing community College and Davenport Business College where I taught English, Writing Composition, and Business Writing. Later I became the multicultural director at Lansing Community College. This position gave me experience in planning multicultural events at LCC.

Later I attended Michigan State University and graduated magna cum laude with a Master's Degree in Education Administration/ Curriculum Development with a minor in Communication. With Pastor Stone's insistence I went on to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education Administration K-12 at MSU.

Lester was able to see his mom walk across the stage to receive her hard-earned degree. Hard earned because it took some time to achieve it. I thought about giving up several times because of the sexism and racism I experienced in a male dominated field at that time, but Pastor would not let me quit. To this day, I am so glad he did not let me give up.

It is because of my education and training that many opportunities have opened up for me. Presently I am a Student Support Specialist at Reo Elementary School. I work with students K-3 who have social and emotional issues that interfere with their learning in a regular classroom setting. I provide them with strategies and coping skills they can use to help them in the classroom setting. For the first time, Reo had a choir that I started and a dance group.

During my ten-year tenure at Reo School, I started a safety patrol squad. Prior to Covid-19, I nominated a Reo student for Safety Patroller of the Year Award, which she won. This year I nominated another student and applied for a grant for the safety patrol. The winner for each has not been determined yet.

## 2024 YOUTH ADVOCATE CONTINUED

In addition to this, I started a Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts program at Reo, which have been very successful and have continued every year.

I recruited MSU students from the Center for Community Engaged Learners to be tutors and mentors for Reo students. They came twice a week and spent two hours per student. The students loved the one-on-one attention with the MSU students. They looked forward to the students coming and spending time with them.

I also established a backpack and coats give-away for the children and youth in the community to make sure children had the necessary school supplies when they returned to school and to make sure no child would be cold.

I am constantly looking for opportunities to engage youth in extra-curricular activities where they can discover and demonstrate their natural talents and gifts. From my own experience in growing up, mentorship is very important. I am so thankful to the two ladies who mentored me and now I am trying to give back to others.

This is me. This is who I am. I did not get here on my own. God has blessed me in so many ways and He has put people in my life who helped to shape me into who I am today. I am so thankful and grateful.

## SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



### CALLAN MAXWELL

Waverly High School

Callan Maxwell is an honor sophomore student at Waverly High School. She holds a 4.0 GPA while garnering honors as Academic Letter for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement at Waverly High School, October 2023 and National Junior Honor Society (Inducted 2022). She is described as a motivated and enthusiastic Computer Science and Marketing student with a high level of proficiency in multiple programming languages, and active involvement in extracurricular computer science and STEM activities. She seeks to leverage her skills and experiences by contributing to various projects.

While achieving academically, Callan also participates in other extracurricular activities. Through her involvement with the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) at the Capital Region Community Foundation, Callan consistently demonstrates exceptional leadership, dedication, and a strong commitment to

community service. She actively contributes valuable insights during discussions, showing a remarkable ability to think critically and creatively. Callan's enthusiasm for making a positive impact on our region is truly inspiring.

It is with pride that we highlight Callan's recent selection to join the Michigan Community

Foundation's Youth Project (MCFYP). This prestigious opportunity speaks volumes about Callan's future leadership potential and her outstanding influence on the field of philanthropy. The leader of this organization speaks with assurance that she will excel in this new role and continue to make significant contributions to not only our community, but others around the state.

One of Callan's most impressive qualities is her unwavering dedication to any task she undertakes. Whether it's organizing events, leading group discussions, or collaborating with peers, she approaches everything with a high level of professionalism and determination.

Callan's excellent communication skills and ability to work effectively in a team make her a valuable asset in any setting. Her positive attitude, coupled with her willingness to take on challenges, sets her apart as a standout individual. As she progresses beyond her sophomore status, there is no doubt that Callan Maxwell will continue to excel in her academic and extracurricular pursuits. She is an outstanding student and an exceptional young leader who is destined for success.



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SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE



LARRY DAWSON  
J. W. Sexton High School

Larry Dawson is an honor sophomore at J. W. Sexton High School with a 3.8 GPA 2022- 2026. He received the certificate of high achievement at Sexton. While maintaining high academic standing, he is CEO/Owner of Spanky’s Sweet Treats from 2021 to present. His entrepreneur spirit finds him creating an exciting customer driven menu while honing his customer relation skills. He shows a keen interest in becoming more business savvy in his Budgeting, Time Management, Creative Thinking Leadership Problem-Solving, Computer Literacy classes. Larry has developing Project Management Tools and strong Communication skills. He describes himself as an innovative and responsible scholar who is passionate about mentorship and being a role model to the youth in his community.

The Unit Director at The Boys and Girls Club of Lansing has worked with Larry Dawon III for for the past 7 years. He speaks highly of Larry’s positive energy and his overall participation as a club member, Junior staff, and Peer leader. In these capacities he has always gone above and beyond my expectation. Larry has been through a lot the past few years with battling his sickle cell and the loss of his father and his spirit has still remained unwavering and joyful.

Larry’s commitment to coming to The Club and being a role model for the younger members has consistently demonstrated his leadership as well as his pride. He is always ready and willing to help in any capacity. He is the epitome of a determined, resilient, intelligent, hardworking young man. Larry volunteered for years with the hope that once of age he would be able to call himself an employee at The Club he loves so much. There have been many occasions where he has taken the initiative to step up and diffuse conflicting situations between club members effortlessly. His great rapport with club members is largely to the fact that he is a great listener and always hears everyone’s side before offering his opinion.

As a Junior Staff employee, Larry has stayed punctual, diligent, and has maintained a strong work ethic. Along with those qualities, I think Larry’s upbeat, kind, and loving personality in addition to his willingness to offer creative suggestions that could improve or strengthen any project or activity in which he’s participating has taken him far as a staff. He is a genuinely caring kid, very dependable, and willing to go beyond the call of duty to make sure he gets the job done, and as a result he was previously awarded Junior Youth of the Year. Overall, Larry has been an amazing club member and an asset to The Boys and Girls Club of Lansing



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Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

PLATIUM \$5,000	GOLD \$3000	SILVER \$2000	BRONZE \$1000	FRIENDS \$350	HONORARY CO-CHAIR - \$150	SUPPORTER \$100
1 Table	6 Seats	4 Seats	3 Seats	1 Seat	1 Seat	1 Seat

Pre-Event Recognition

Two-week paid Facebook ad highlighting your sponsorship reaching up to 1,000 + people	✔					
Social media blitz: Over 1,500 Facebook followers	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Your company or family logo/name on mass email marketing from June - November 2024	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Company or family logo/name on event website	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	

Onsite Event Recognition

Digital logo/advertisement looped throughout event	✔	✔				
Opportunity to share about company at event (1-2 minute speaking slot)	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Verbal recognition by UOYF Chair	✔	✔				
Additional Complimentary tickets/tables	✔	✔				

Post-Event Recognition

Company or family profile and link on website for up to one year	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
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ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ \$200 - FULL - 7.5 x 10    ☐ \$100 - HALF - 7.5 x 4 3/4  
☐ \$50 - QUARTER - 3.625 x 4.75  
☐ \$35 - BUSINESS CARD - 3.5 x 2.25
- Ads must be - Black & White Camera Ready, High Resolution JPEG or PDF. **Ads due by Nov. 1st**  
Email ads to whitfieldb2@michigan.gov

Please Print Clearly - . . . . .

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Platinum Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Gold Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Silver Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Bronze Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Total No. Friends of UOYF(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Total No. Honorary Co-Chair(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Total No. Supporter(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other Donation Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
My UOYF contact is: \_\_\_\_\_

Please donate by  
November 1st

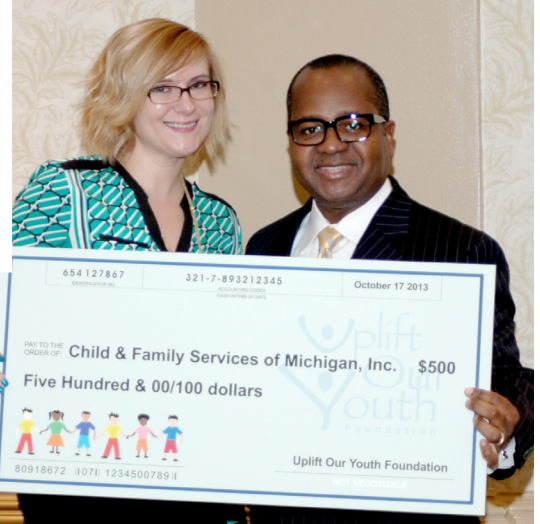
To give online visit:  
[www.upliftouryouthfoundation.org](http://www.upliftouryouthfoundation.org)  
Please make your check or money order payable to:

Uplift Our Youth Foundation  
Attn: Treasurer  
PO Box 70099  
Lansing, MI 48908

Questions? Go to [www.upliftouryouthfoundation.org](http://www.upliftouryouthfoundation.org), click on the contact tab.



## CONTACT INFORMATION



### Apply for grants:

[upliftouryouthfoundation.org/grantapp/](http://upliftouryouthfoundation.org/grantapp/)

### Donate to UOYF:

[upliftouryouthfoundation.org/how-to-donate/](http://upliftouryouthfoundation.org/how-to-donate/)

### Need Help? Contact:

[upliftouryouthfoundation.org/contact-us/](http://upliftouryouthfoundation.org/contact-us/)

or call 844.55.YOUTH (96884)

### Mailing Address:

Uplift Our Youth Foundation  
P.O. Box 70099  
Lansing, MI 48908



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