

GIVING FOR GOOD

YOUR GIVING MATTERS



How YOU
helped a
veteran find
his passion
again

 Southwest
Solutions

You Are Changing Lives In Detroit

Summer 2023

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Change-Makers,

As you may have already heard, we recently announced an exciting change that will increase the depth and breadth of our services for individuals and families across Detroit! Southwest Solutions and Development Centers Inc. have formally agreed to pursue a combination of our two historic organizations, into one.

This decision was made after a lengthy exploration process, from which we emerged confident that this combination would expand services for the individuals, families, and communities we serve, while also improving the sustainability of both organizations' missions.

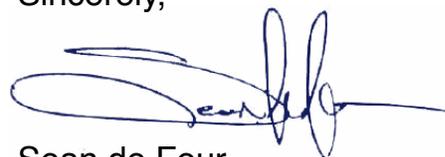
As the needs of our communities and families continue to grow in complexity, we recognize that our organizations must evolve to be more comprehensive in our service offerings and more coordinated in our approach to service provision. We believe the similarities in our two organizations' missions, programs, culture, and commitments to diversity, along with our distinct areas of expertise, form a combination that will help us better meet this trend.

In 2022, Southwest Solutions and Development Centers collectively served over 22,000 individuals across metro Detroit, and this combination will allow us to expand this number even further. To that end, there are no program or service location closures expected as a part of this combination, nor are there any plans to reduce staffing levels. **And, we expect services will continue for all our clients without disruption during the combination process.**

Together as one, we remain committed to enhancing the quality of life for children, adults and families in the communities we serve throughout the Detroit Metro Area. We will continue to update you as we progress through the combination.

We're so grateful to each of you for your continued support of our mission and this exciting new chapter for our organization.

Sincerely,



Sean de Four
President & CEO

FACTS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (DCI)

- DCI focuses on mental health services, early childhood programs and adult employment and training.
- DCI's mission statement is: "Helping children, adults and families live healthier, happier lives."
- In 2022, DCI served over 11,000 people.
- Like SWS, DCI is CARF Accredited and are a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

MOVING ON TO THE NEXT CHAPTER

YOU GAVE ALEXIA SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Alexia is one of the most recent graduates of the My Next Move program through Southwest Counseling Solutions.

While graduation is a joyous occasion for most, she felt sad to leave behind the friendships she made along the way.

“I really love this program and the people in it.”

This level of connection was just a dream to 16-year-old Alexia when she started the program just six months ago. Having six siblings, she had learned to lean on others and hadn't gained a true sense of independence. That is, until she came to Southwest Counseling Solutions.

In My Next Move, Alexia learned vital communication skills that she can carry with her through everything the future brings. She learned how to manage finances, build a resume, and ace an interview. All things that she never imagined she would be doing on her own.

“You learn how to do things that you were once scared of.”

Alexia is prepared to take the next steps on her path to success because of YOU. Your support means that programs like My Next Move are accessible and kids like Alexia can get the tools they need for their future.

She is just getting started. Her dream is to go to college and get a degree in Interior Design and Color Therapy. **She wants to be able to give back to the community that built her.**

One day, she hopes to be back in that classroom, this time helping students sitting in the seats she once did. Alexia is eager to use all that she has learned to help others feel that same sense of independence that she now has.

Without Southwest Solutions, Alexia says, “I would still be cooped up in my room.” Because of YOU, she is ready and able to step out into the world and soar.

YOU gave
Alexia the
gift of
independence



DREAMS DO COME TRUE

YOU GAVE CHAVON THE KNOW-HOW TO BUY HER FIRST HOME

When Chavon moved into her house four years ago, she never dreamed that there would come a day where she could call it her own. Even all of the letters in the mail were set aside, a pipe dream.

“How am I going to be a homeowner?”

It wasn't until Chavon talked to her neighbor, who reassured her that homeownership was possible, that Chavon started to let herself believe.

Before her mother passed away, she instilled in Chavon the importance of owning your home. Now, she has the opportunity to provide for her children the way that her mother provided for her.

“I wish [my mom] was here to see it.”

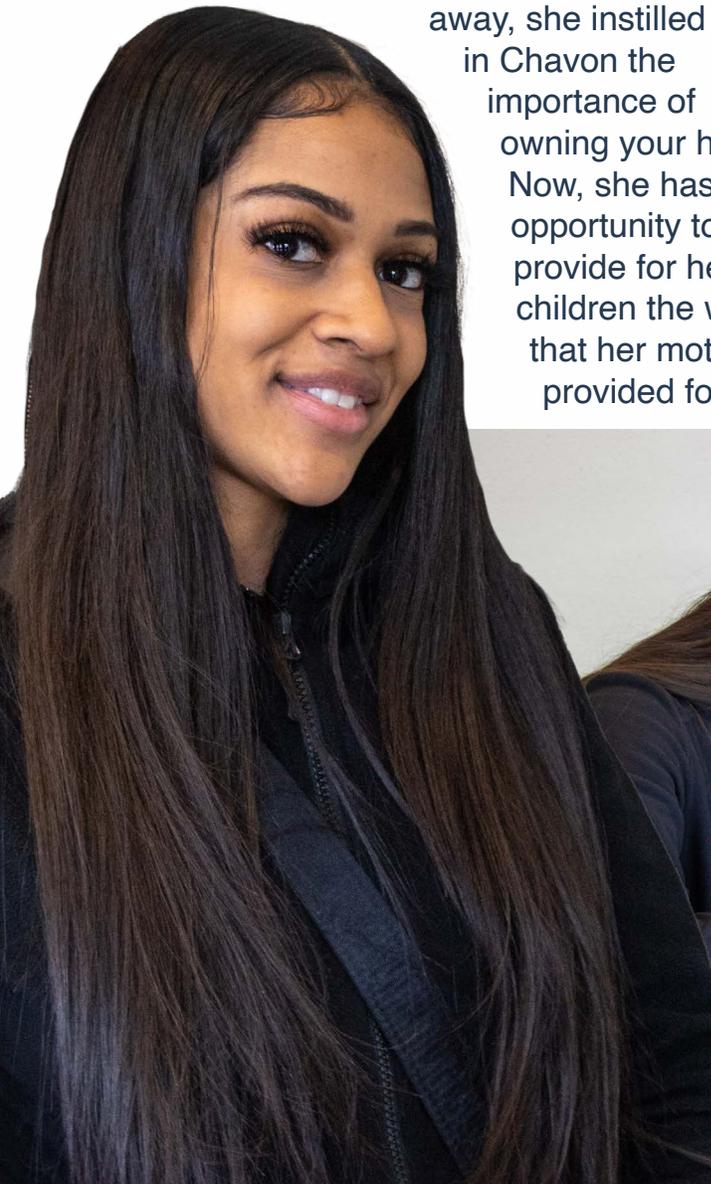
Before she moved into this house, Chavon had nothing. Initially, she was meant to move into a house just around the corner and it did not work out. This house came right on time.

Now she doesn't have to worry about going back to where she was. Life is moving forward and for the first time in her life, Chavon is a homeowner.

“It's mine, finally.”

Because of YOU, Chavon can breathe a sigh of relief. You made her wildest dreams come true. YOU changed her life forever.

Thank you for all that you have done for Chavon and the homeowners that came before her. **Can we count on you to be there for the next future homeowner?**





“YOU helped me understand the meaning of giving back.”

HEALING A HERO

HOW YOU HELPED GEORGE FIND HOPE

At 19, George joined the Marine Corps to serve his country. Having grown up with 13 siblings, George was no stranger to tight quarters. In all of the chaos and stress of the military, he began down a path of alcoholism and drug addiction.

In the late 1980s he found himself in prison. Shortly after his release, cocaine became the only constant in his life. Reeling from all of the pain and hardship he had already faced, George had no one to turn to.

That is until he brought two beautiful daughters into this world with his childhood sweetheart and decided it was time to get the help he needed and deserved.

Because of YOU, George was able to find housing for his family through Southwest Housing Solutions. His road to recovery was not a straight path, but George was determined to work on himself.

He did not give up, even when he lost the mother of his children and the love of his life to ALS. And you did not give up on George. He was able to

attend rehab and get clean for himself and his children.

It is because of support like yours that George is here today, 4 years sober, and determined to do better.

“I am not going to run anymore. I am going to work on myself.”

George spends his days giving back, just like you. He cooks and serves food to people who need it because he understands where they are at, and he knows there is hope.

“You helped me understand the meaning of giving back.”

You have helped George find his purpose, helping people. He has the same giving spirit that you do. Your support is changing lives daily, this work would not be possible without you.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for George and others like him.



FINDING A SANCTUARY

HOW YOU HELPED A VETERAN FIND HIS PASSIONS AGAIN

For thirteen years, Piquette Square has been home to some of our nation's greatest heroes. Opening its doors in 2010, Piquette Square offered a new solution to the homelessness problem facing Detroit.

The 150-unit apartment building provides permanent supportive housing to veterans experiencing homelessness and gets them the help they deserve. Not only do they find a place to call home, but they also have access to any supportive services they may need.

This is not a temporary solution; this is their home for as long as they like. Veterans like Robert have lived at Piquette for 12 years, and he has no plans to leave anytime soon.



Robert building a picnic table for his fellow veterans to enjoy.

Counseling is available to ensure that they have the proper mental health support during their transition from homelessness to tenant. Veterans have access to workforce development programs through Southwest Economic Solutions that allows them to get back to work.

Computer classes and financial literacy programming make sure that they understand how to manage this fresh start to their lives.

The veterans take pride in making Piquette Square their home. Creating clubs for their interests gives them a way to connect with one another and what they love. Chess club gives them a chance to tap into their competitive side and garden club lets the veterans hone their green thumb.

You can find fresh produce growing in the park, for anyone to enjoy, and soon there will be a very exciting addition to the garden. A greenhouse will be added to the park which will allow the growing season to extend, and fresh fruits and vegetables be available to more tenants.

The greenhouse project is getting veterans involved and putting to use the passions they have.

Robert, a lifelong carpenter, is dusting off his saws and drills and getting to work building the raised beds for the greenhouse.

The shed has become his workshop and he is so happy to be back doing what he loves. It brings back memories of how his life used to be.

“This is like my sanctuary now.”

Robert has not always had a sanctuary to call his own. After coming home from fighting in Vietnam, he saw the worst of America and was disrespected by the very people he was fighting for. Back from the war, he spent his time making a life for himself and his growing family over the years. A father to two kids, he has done everything from landscaping, to carpentry, to steelwork.

A union man through and through, Robert always looked out for the people around him, but he did not always extend himself that same care.

A string of deaths in his life led him to doing whatever he could to escape the pain, which is when he turned to heroine. An addict for many years, he was able to keep his job and his home, until an accident put him out of work.

Having been hit by a car, Robert found himself living in a shelter, homeless. That is when you showed up, that is when he found Piquette Square. While there he came to realize that he was not alone.

His counselor helped him get the treatment he needed to get clean, and he made friends at Piquette who were going through the same struggles. Robert and his new friend DJ would walk to the methadone clinic together every day to get the treatment they needed to stay off heroine.

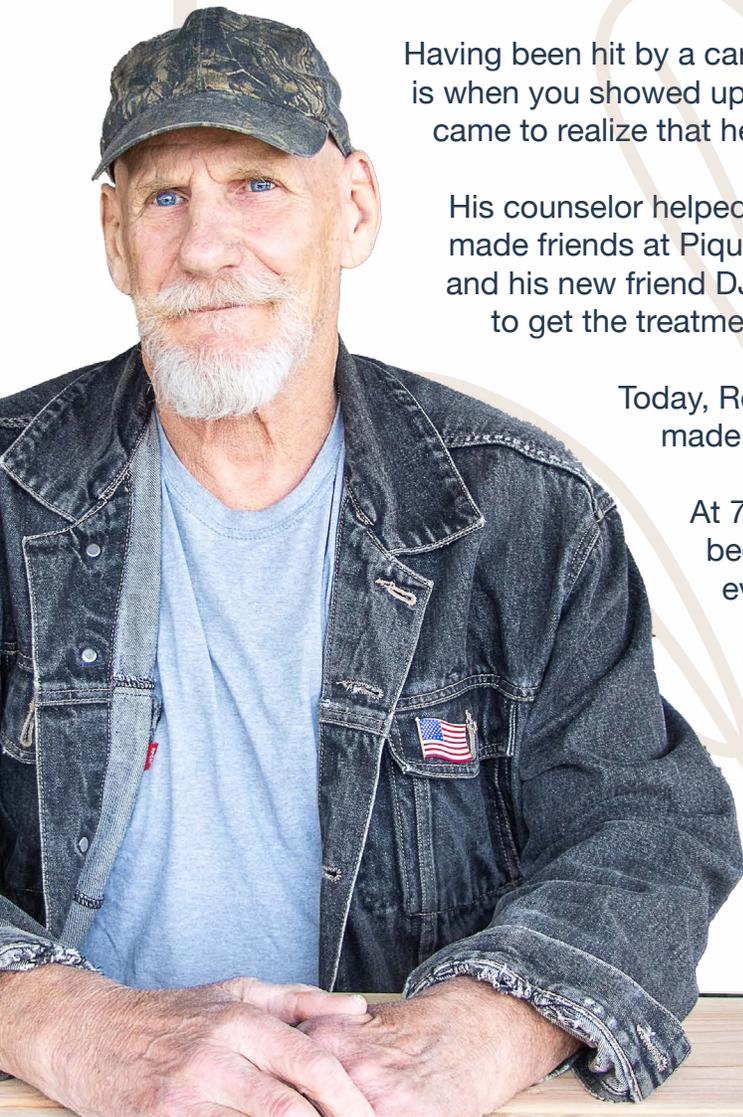
Today, Robert is 7 years clean and proud of the progress he has made.

At 74 years old, he is soon to be a great-grandfather because you did not give up on him. You believed in him, even when he did not believe in himself.

“I’m really thankful for Southwest.”

Your support saves lives. You have showed up for Robert and veterans like him time and time again. Can the next hero in need count on you?

Will you help plant the seeds of change at Piquette Square?



COUNTING ON THE FUTURE

HOW YOU HAVE HELPED WENDY FIND HER DREAM

When Wendy moved to Michigan in 2018, she knew she had to find a way to learn English so that she could provide for her family.

Coming from Honduras, acclimating to Michigan was a shock to her system. The culture, the language, and the Michigan weather were not what she was used to.

In 2019, she found an English as a Second Language class through a local organization, but the pandemic ended her classes before she could finish the program. That is when she turned to Southwest Economic Solutions.

Because of your support, Wendy was able to connect with the Adult Learning

Lab and pick up where she had left off in her studies.

When she finished the ESL program, Wendy did not stop there. She is now enrolled in the GED program, in English.

“I really want to go to college.”

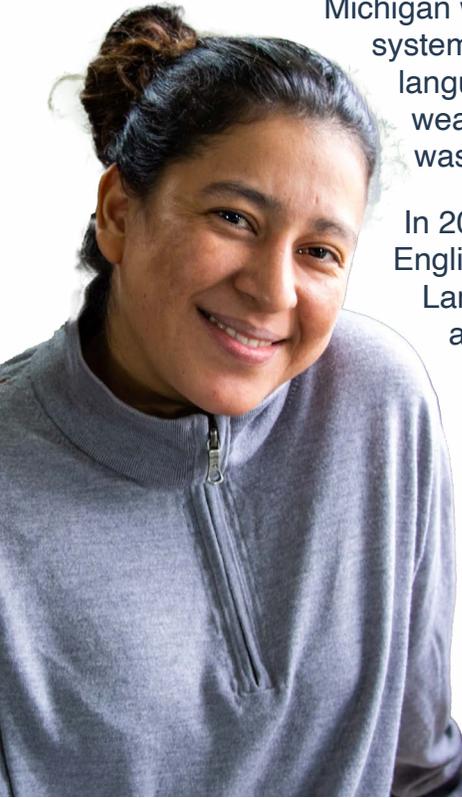
Her passion is math, and her dream is to graduate with a degree in Accounting.

Wendy has done all of this work while being a mother to her sweet 7-month-old daughter. She wants to set an example for her daughter that you can do anything you set your mind to.

Taking care of her niece and nephew, along with her own child, during the day does not leave much time for study, but that does not stop Wendy. The Learning Lab works to accommodate her schedule and make sure she can achieve her dreams.

Thank you for supporting Wendy on her journey. Her life is forever changed because of the services that YOU ensure are available.

Thank you for believing in her.



YES! I WANT TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF FAMILIES IN DETROIT TODAY!



 Visit us online at www.swsol.org or scan the QR code with your phone.

 Call 313-481-3113



Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____

I would like to make this a: Monthly Gift One Time Gift

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Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Discover Amex

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Billing ZIP code: _____

Signature: _____



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Meet Cynthia: She began working with Southwest Economic Solutions in 2020 and has helped countless Detroiters stay in their homes since then.

As a Housing Stability Counselor, Cynthia makes sure that families and individuals have all the necessary programs, applications, and knowledge to remain housed.

This is an issue very close to her heart. **“I know what it feels like to be homeless.”**

In 2016, pregnant with her son, having lost her home, Cynthia and her daughter were living in her car.

She worked every day to try and get a spot in a shelter and get the support that she needed. Finally, she got the call she had been waiting for.

“I knew as long as I had that opportunity to live in that shelter, I was going to do whatever it took to get on my feet and stay on my feet.”

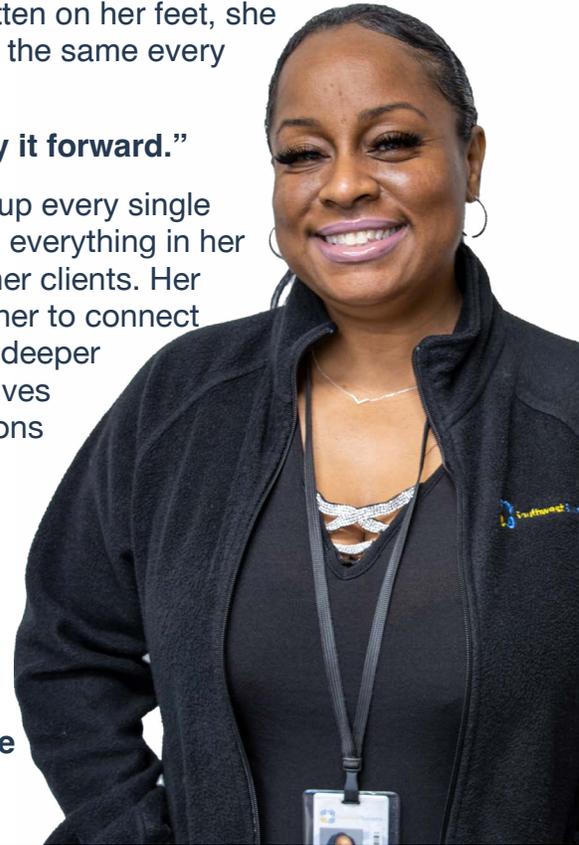
She wanted to break this cycle for her children and ensure that they are set up to succeed. She is currently enrolled in Homebuyer Pre-Purchase

Counseling through Southwest Economic Solutions. **“I am on my way to homeownership.”** Not only has Cynthia gotten on her feet, she helps others do the same every day.

“Now I can pay it forward.”

Cynthia shows up every single day ready to do everything in her power to help her clients. Her journey allows her to connect with them on a deeper level and she gives them the solutions they need.

Your support makes work like Cynthia’s possible. You are keeping people in their homes. You are saving lives.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BACKPACKS FOR DREAMS

Giving Children a Chance at Their Dreams



We need YOUR help! Would you like to donate a backpack and school supplies to help children be prepared for school this year?

We will be passing out donations at this year’s BACK TO SCHOOL BASH at Romanowski Park on August 18th.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

If you are interested in getting involved scan the QR code above, email Bindi at bshah@swsol.org or call her at 313-481-3110

ENGAGEMENT CORNER



SEE HOW YOUR DOLLARS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contact Laura LeBlanc for a tour of one of our facilities
Email: lleblanc@swsol.org
Phone: 734-672-1363



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
SCAN THE QR CODE**



CREATING A SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY

JUDY YAKER IS CREATING A LEGACY IN HONOR OF HER LATE HUSBAND

The Sam L. and Judith G. Yaker Park is a beautiful community space for children to play and families to gather.

Walking paths lined with benches and picnic tables invite you to sit and share stories. The futsal court gives kids a place to join in on friendly competition and just maybe find a passion they didn't know they had. The playscape is a space filled with childlike wonder and many memories will be made on those swings.

This is not just a park; this is an oasis. It is not just a park; it is a legacy.



Judy Yaker is a Metro Detroit native and an accomplished wildlife photographer. You can see more of her photos on her website judysphotos.com

Judy Yaker is spending her time giving back to the city that her husband helped build. Sam Yaker was an affordable housing developer, born and raised in Detroit.

“He made money in Detroit, and I wanted to give money back to Detroit.”

After Sam passed unexpectedly in 2016, Judy has made it her mission to make sure that our community in Southwest Detroit can thrive.

“Kids need a place to play.”

A mother of two and a grandmother of two, Judy knows how

important it is for families to have access to community resources, like Yaker Park.

“People need a nice place to live, and they need a safe place for their children to play and go to school.”

Judy loves spending her time out in nature, a wildlife photographer, she captures the beauty that is all around us. She has traveled the world, but her heart always comes back to Detroit.

Not only is Judy the sponsor of the beautiful new park, but she is also the very generous donor behind the Newberry Housing Project. She carries on the legacy that her husband left behind, making sure that everyone has the ability to become a homeowner.

“It was about giving back from where Sam left off.”

She hopes that this is just the beginning for Southwest Detroit. The generous heart of Judy has begun a wave of change-making that will improve the lives of Detroiters for years to come.

YOU have the chance to make sure that the impact continues. Judy is carrying on the legacy of her beloved husband, while creating her own.

You too can leave a legacy. You too can change the lives of the future.

Can future generations of Detroiters count on you?



YES! I WANT TO CHANGE LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME!

You can continue your impact by leaving a gift in your will for Southwest Solutions

Please send me information on how to continue my impact by leaving a gift in my will.

Please call me to discuss leaving a gift in my will. My phone number is: _____

The best time to call is: _____

My employer offers matching gift funds. Enclosed is the appropriate form from my Human Resources Department.





TO YOU

SOUTHWEST SOLUTIONS

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SOUTHWEST COUNSELING SOLUTIONS

1700 Waterman Street,
Detroit, MI 48209
313-481-7901

SOUTHWEST HOUSING SOLUTIONS

1920 25th Street
Suite A
Detroit, MI 48216
313-841-3727

SOUTHWEST ECONOMIC SOLUTIONS

2835 Bagley Street
Suite 800
Detroit, MI 48216
313-841-9641



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SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 | HENRY FORD MUSEUM
DEARBORN, MI | 6:00 PM

