Who We Are

Southwest Solutions is one of Detroit’s most impactful nonprofits. We are nationally recognized as a model of integrated services and neighborhood revitalization.

Founded in 1970 as a community mental health agency, our programs now include mental health counseling for adults, children and families, neighborhood and community development, affordable and supportive housing, services for the homeless and veterans, job training, financial counseling and homeownership opportunities, minority small business programs, adult literacy, resident engagement, and more. Our programs serve more than 10,000 people a year throughout metro Detroit.

Those we serve often have multiple needs that must be addressed, and we interconnect our services to provide families and individuals the greatest chance to succeed and improve their quality of life.

Southwest Solutions actively and effectively collaborates with other organizations to identify and address needs in the community through innovative partnerships.

Tadzia Lett is a veteran who had worked to help veterans in need, and then was in need of help herself when she became homeless. She was assisted by our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to attain stable housing, mental health counseling and full-time work, once again helping others. Tadzia is also seeking to buy a home through our homeownership programs.
Malik Curry earned his GED and work certifications needed to start a career in the building trades through our YouthBuild job training program. Malik is now working full-time making a good salary. He also plans to attend college to become an aerospace engineer.
Our Programs

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS
• Southwest Solutions has provided community mental health services for 50 years and currently serves 3,500 adults, children and families annually.
• Southwest Solutions has more bilingual counseling professionals than any other organization in Michigan. 1 in 3 of our counselors are bilingual. Our adult counseling program for Spanish-speaking consumers is highly effective. 98% avoid hospital psychiatric services.
• In partnership with Covenant Community Care, Southwest Solutions has developed a model of integrated physical and mental health services.

SERVICES FOR THE HOMELESS AND VETERANS
• Southwest Solutions is one of Detroit’s largest providers of services to the homeless. In the last decade, we have placed into housing more than 2,000 homeless persons and our housing retention rate is one of the best in the nation.
• We are the lead agency to end homelessness in the city. The number of chronically homeless and homeless veterans has declined significantly in the past few years through the concerted and coordinated effort to address homelessness.
• Piquette Square for Veterans is a 150-unit permanent supportive housing project that provides comprehensive support services, including access to healthcare, employment, benefits, and education. It is recognized as a national model in helping the veterans rebuild their lives and reintegrate into the community.
• Our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) has helped over 2,500 low-income veterans remain housed.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT
• Southwest Solutions is the leading nonprofit multi-family developer of affordable housing in Wayne County, having developed or renovated nearly 1,500 units in multiple neighborhoods, including single-family homes and multi-family apartments. More than 2,000 people reside in our quality, affordable apartments and townhomes.
• We have renovated and sold 700 homes in the metro area that were vacant, helping to reduce blight and revitalize neighborhoods.
• We offer programs for homebuyer counseling, foreclosure prevention, financial coaching, mortgage lending, and no interest home repair loans. More than 2,800 families are homeowners due to our programs.
• Our Newberry initiative, in the Chadsey-Condon neighborhood, is transitioning 60 former rental houses into affordable homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income families.

EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY
• Southwest Solutions’ job training programs have helped 3,500 adults improve their job skills, including the chronically unemployed and returning citizens. Earn + Learn provides training in the skilled trades, technology, and bank teller jobs. YouthBuild prepares young people for careers in the building trades and provides GED instruction.
• Our Adult Learning Lab in southwest Detroit has served over 1,500 individuals since opening in 2012. It provides GED preparation, Adult Basic Education, ESL, and tutoring for people seeking to better their job prospects. The Lab has helped over 400 individuals gain jobs.
• Our Center for Working Families helps low-income families reach financial stability, access income supports, develop educational and job opportunities, and build wealth. Since 2010, our financial coaches have helped over 2,000 individuals.

SMALL BUSINESSES DEVELOPMENT
• ProsperUS Detroit is the leading entrepreneurship program for aspiring minority business owners in the city. More than 1,000 ethnic and immigrant entrepreneurs have graduated from the program, resulting in nearly 200 new small businesses. ProsperUS has provided over $1M in loans to 50 small businesses.
• Southwest Solutions developed and manages quality and affordable commercial space for lease, providing space for small businesses and organizations providing services in the community.
Diana Alaniz’s family achieved their dream of homeownership through our Newberry initiative, which is transitioning rental houses into affordable homeownership. To qualify for the home, Diana and her husband completed Homebuyer Education and financial coaching at Southwest Solutions. Diana intends to take our bank teller training course to pursue her career goals in the financial sector.
Executive Staff
Joseph Tasse, President and CEO
Michelle Sherman, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer
Hector Hernandez, Executive Director of Southwest Economic Solutions
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