Inspired by its heritage since 1906, Matrix Human Services advocates for and serves the most vulnerable in the metropolitan Detroit community and empowers individuals and families to enhance the quality of their lives and achieve self sufficiency.
VISION STATEMENT

Matrix, a proven leader in uniting all human service efforts to move individuals and families toward self-sufficiency in our time with your help…eradicating poverty of the mind, body and spirit.

CORE VALUES

The core values are the collective principles and ideals that define the character of Matrix Human Services.

At Matrix Human Services we are committed to:

• Respect, Diversity & Inclusion. Embracing and promoting a culture of respect, diversity and inclusion among all clients, staff and Board.

• Ethical Stewardship. Managing all of our resources to ensure efficient and effective results and measurable outcomes both clinical and fiscal.

• Program Services. Empowering clients to be the best they can be, developing strong individuals, families and communities.

• Collaboration. Integrating Matrix Human Services programs and collaborating with organizations that support our Mission and Vision.

• A Collective Pride in Matrix. Empowering staff, Board and volunteers to bring new ideas and solutions, suggestions to promote growth, and pursue innovation.

• Education. Continuing the commitment to pursue educational development by all staff, volunteers, clients and Board.
Dear Friends,

Teamwork. Nothing speaks to the importance of teamwork more than the mission to break the cycle of poverty. Poverty is very complex… the topic of countless articles, research papers, classroom and dinner table discussions. Poverty is political—who gets what; who is more deserving, the homeless mother, the abused child, the drug addicted vet? The issues of poverty, are both complex and enduring.

The facts of the matter…

In Detroit, the infant mortality rate is 15.5% (The average in the US 6.8%); 59% of our children are living in families where no parent has full time/year round employment; 44% of our children are living at or below the poverty level. In the 2007 census report, Detroit ranked #1 in cities with the highest poverty rates. More than 10,000 families in Wayne County will become homeless at least once in the next year.

And most disturbing—truly a sad reflection…

Only 24.9% of our children are graduating from high school. That means that 3 out of 4 kids in our City are destined for poverty. Though the odds for success are not good, through teamwork, at Matrix we are breaking the cycle of poverty.

The Matrix Team—Who Are We?

Our Funders’—31 distinct funding sources. This includes City, State, County and Federal contracts and support from several foundations. Our Partners—Matrix works with more than 200 human service and support organizations, in addition Matrix is proud of our more than 25 corporate sponsors—all working as a team to provide care and support. Our Board and volunteers-numbering in the 100’s, and our staff, more than 300 strong. The most important part of our team, those we serve—Our Clients. All determined to overcome the struggles and the barriers of poverty.

The Matrix Team touches more than 2500 lives every week—all in the City of Detroit.

We Are the Matrix Team and together we provide hope to thousands of children, adults and families. Throughout this report you will find our results that demonstrate our successes. Together we can be proud. Together we are making a difference.

Thank you for being part of the dynamic team. We are making a difference in the lives of children, families, teens, adults and seniors… Together.

With gratitude,

Marcella Wilson Ph.D.
President and CEO
Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” As chair of the Board of Directors I am honored to be one of the many dedicated volunteers giving their time, expertise and financial resources to support the good work done by Matrix Human Services. Few organizations provide a better opportunity to make a difference in so many lives. Matrix Human Services impacts a wide variety of individuals, from the Vistas Nuevas Head Start children to the Walter and May Reuther seniors, and countless teens, adults and families in between. I invite you to be inspired by our clients’ stories of success and join the Matrix Human Services family by giving your support in any way you can.

It is my privilege as chair of the Board of Directors to assist the Matrix Leadership Team in partnering with the Board of Directors to ensure that we effectively work together to support the shared values, goals and objectives of Matrix Human Services. Through our combined efforts, we form an effective team in delivering quality human services and positive outcomes to our clients in Detroit.

In order to break the cycle of poverty, Matrix works with clients daily to provide what they will need, be it education, housing, vocational training or access to opportunities that enhance their lives. Through the leadership of our CEO Dr. Marcella Wilson, her dedicated staff, our funding agencies and collaborative partners together we form a dynamic team that can truly touch hearts and improve all of our lives.

Andrew Curoe
Board Chair
Jazley T. was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI. At age 12, Jazley’s mother died of cancer. Jazley and her older and younger brothers went to live with their father. Within two months, in May 2002, Jazley and her brothers were removed from the care of their father due to his inability to care for them because of his chronic substance abuse.

Over the next three years Jazley and her brothers would move through seven living arrangements including the homes of three aunts and four foster homes. During those three years Jazley would act as the “mother” to her brothers, assuming a parental role with them. This dynamic caused conflicts in each of their relative and foster home placements as Jazley challenged the authority of the adult caregivers and advocated to keep she and her siblings together in one placement. Eventually the siblings did move to different placements as both of Jazley’s brothers moved to foster families who made long-term placement arrangements for each of them.

During the 19 months she was in residence at Barat House Jazley successfully accomplished her goals completing independent living skills workshops; becoming active with the Youth In Transition Youth Board; improving social relationships and learning to cope with anger and stress. She was promoted to the next grade level each year; completed co-op education in Culinary Arts; achieved Excellence level, the most advanced at Barat House; completed driver’s education; became employed at Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream Shop; and served as the Child Ambassador for Barat House for the 2007 Detroit Auto Dealers Association Detroit Auto Show Charity Preview.

Barat Child and Family Services (est. 1925) offers a safe nurturing home for girls ages 13-17 who are survivors of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment. Barat provides care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and focuses on emotional recovery, educational/vocational opportunities for successful adulthood.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

• 98% of the young ladies discharged to a less structured setting (home, relative placement, foster home, SIL) remained in the less structured setting three months after discharge.
• 96% of the young ladies were promoted to the next grade.
More than 100 years ago, a small group of women living in the East Jefferson Avenue area felt compelled to respond to the needs of immigrant and less affluent families nearby. Through personal efforts, they cleaned out a carriage house on Woodbridge Street and opened the first Settlement House in the State of Michigan. There they provided assistance to families in child-care, language skills and adaptation to American ways of life.

From this humbled beginning they incorporated as the League of Catholic Women and began a design of services to the Greater Detroit community. Before a decade had passed, the League had opened other Settlement Houses (now more commonly called community centers) to serve family and community needs.

Today, the central mission of the League of Catholic Women continues through Matrix Human Services. And yet the commitment of the League and its members continues through volunteer and financial support as well as Bargain Counter North. Bargain Counter North is a program operated by volunteers, sells new and used clothing and household items, including vintage items, at reasonable prices to benefit Matrix programs and services.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Managed by The League of Catholic Women, donors are able to contribute to our programs.
Guadalupe Salazar (Lupe) grew up on Leverette Street in Southwest Detroit. During those days he attended Most Holy Trinity School for education, but after school and during the summer from 1972-1984 Lupe and his friends attended Casa Maria Family Services. Casa Maria was the place Lupe and his friends socialized and participated in recreation. Last year Lupe came back to Casa Maria and he brought his 11 year-old son Gustavo. Lupe wanted his son to get the Casa Maria experience. Mr. Salazar enhanced Gustavo’s experience by coaching Casa Maria’s 12 and under baseball team (Gus played First Base). Guadalupe Salazar is living proof that you can go back home again.

**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- 94% of the youth participated in a minimum of 1 extracurricular activity either at school or at Casa.
- 72% of the youth improved Grade Point Average throughout the 06-07 school year.
A.C. enrolled into the Connecting Families Program in July of 2007, with goals of finding better employment, obtaining her GED and enrolling in a nursing program. A.C. is a single parent, volunteers her time to Connecting Families as well as Vistas Nuevas Head Start. She is dedicated and determined to see the process to the end. Since her enrollment in Connecting Families, she has found employment and continues to come to class on Saturdays, make use of the computer lab during the day as well as gather homework from the GED instructor. Due to her determination A.C. took two parts of the GED test in March of 2008, Math and Writing and successfully passed both!! She continues to study and plans to take the reading, science and social studies component of the GED exam in April of 2008.

**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- 100% of the participants (parents and/or youth) became proficient in computer skills.
- 100% of the participants reported increased family interaction and participation in community projects.
Head Start Fatherhood Initiative (est. 2000) nurtures meaningful connections between children and their fathers or other loving father figures, realizing that a healthy, intimate, responsible connection between father and child can counter the social problems created by father absence.

My Story (In Part)

Please realize that my story may not be as bad as someone else, or it may be worst, but this is my story (in part).

God has bless me to survive a 31 year drug and alcohol addiction. This addiction caused me to lose everything that I had. I married an addict just like myself. We tried to live a happy lifestyle but our habits got the best of us. We lived together as boyfriend and girlfriend not as husband and wife for three years, then we separated.

At this point in my life, my world was spiraling downward so fast that I was afraid that those around me (family and friends) would get caught-up in my vortex. I went from getting my house burned down by some drug dealers, then losing my apartment, to being homeless, to living in a “dumpster”. My life had hit rock bottom. That was nearly twenty years ago.

My life has changed a lot since I decided to let go of my way of doing things, and give God a try. God took me from the dumpster to my here and now. Now, I have a lovely wife, two children, the house that we asked God for, my own business, and most of all “God’s peace”, that peace that surpassed all of my understanding. So when people say that they tried all that they know to do to change their life, I tell them “good”, cause once they know that they came to the end of themselves, then things will change for the better. I am a living testimony of what can happen if you get self out of the way.

So, if this story is some what like yours, then you something to look forward too: if this story ending is like one that you would like to have or wish this ending for someone you know then you know that it is possible. Cause with God all things are possible.

A Short story of a man living Two lives in one “Lifetime”.

Roosevelt Bell Jr.

A START

• Coming out of incarceration, or coming out of any treatment facility, these people will be looking for a fresh start.
• To pack up all your belongings and move from one place to another, you will be looking for a new start.
• For a person who is slow to move or are not really motivated, they will need a jump start.
• But, for everything living in this structured society for maintaining just our basic needs, we are the families that will need a “Head Start”.

ALL LIFE EXPERIENCES IN PART; BEGINS WITH A START

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

• 288 Fathers registered and attended more than 60 workshops throughout the year.

The Fatherhood Relationship Focus Group, a component of the Fatherhood Initiative, functions to assist in more effectively fulfilling the mission of the program, “Uplifting Fathers, Families, and Communities” was offered this year to additional Head Start parents.

Within the focus groups were the underlining principle that children have the greatest chance of thriving and growing into productive happy adults if both parents are cooperatively engaged in their nurture and development.

In June 2007 the Fatherhood Initiative sponsored its annual Fathers and Families Picnic on Belle Isle. It was well attended by families from throughout the city. Through collaboration with Children’s Hospital of Michigan and the Rotary Club, children received bike helmets at the picnic. Parents were also able to sign up to receive a booster seat.
After release from substance abuse treatment, **Ms. M.** came to LifeHouse in 2007, after living briefly in two other shelters. She states, “I was really messed up…I really had to work on myself.” She now understands that her number one problem for years was isolation – in living alone and in living with alcoholism.

She describes the benefit of LifeHouse this way: “It offers the opportunity to be back in fellowship with people who understand and who are facing the same challenges.” LifeHouse staff and fellow clients helped her rebuild the ability to trust in others. She experienced the give and take and sharing that is real life.

In less than four months at her new job, she has progressed to the point of successfully completing management training and securing a promotion. She attributes much of her stability and success to the influence of LifeHouse...as she says, “I absolutely fell in love with the program.”

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**LIFEHOUSE**

LifeHouse (est. 2007) provides low cost transitional housing for women in Twelve Step recovery programs. Support includes information, referral, education, shelter, permanent housing and prevention services to support self sufficiency.

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**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- Of the 33 residents who have since moved on, 29 (88%) found transitional or permanent housing.
To meet the need of the Osborn community, Matrix has pioneered the shared programming and collaboration services model. Research has shown that by housing various social service agencies and programs within one building, community residents enjoy improved access to the services they need. Programs in multi-service centers benefit from the increased visibility, lower overhead costs and expanded resources available for children and families service initiatives.

Today, the Mt. Zion complex now known as the Matrix Human Services Center (The Center), and is utilized by ninety seven (97) organizations and groups providing services to the neighborhoods and residents of Northeast Detroit. The Center encompasses a collaborative network of human services designed to meet the social, physical, spiritual and educational needs of Northeast Detroit residents. Major tenants (Mission Partners) at The Center include: Detroit Public Schools – GED/ABE classes, Connecting Families Program, United Children & Family Head Start Mt. Zion Center, Walter and May Reuther Madar Senior Program, Body Builders for Christ, Accounting Aid Society, Covenant of Peace, College for Creative Studies, Academy of Warren (physical education classes & after school program), John Seay Center, R & R Domestic Services, Narcotics Anonymous groups and YMCA Metropolitan Youth Collaborative.

The Center is open seven days a week, operating Monday thru Friday from 6:30 am to 10 pm and weekends, 8 am to 5 pm. Two to three thousand people visit The Center each week for educational classes, social services, recreation, fellowship and self-development activities. The Center through its quarterly Resource Guide, reaches more than 5,000 families on Detroit’s eastside with information about Matrix and Mission Partner programs at The Center.

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

• More than 2,500 guests visit the Matrix Human Service Center weekly.
17 year old DM came to Off the Streets (OTS) from her home where she was living with her grandparents. DM had experienced numerous losses; birth mother deceased, broken adoption, separation from a birth sister, father on drugs. DM presented at OTS as a very angry young lady. She and her grandmother were at odds because grandmother accused her of stealing/using her credit card and grandmother refused to allow her to come and go as she pleased. Even though she was angry at the grandmother, initially DM did not want to volunteer for OTS' services. OTS intake staff sat with DM and spoke patiently with her, encouraging her to take some time to calm herself, essentially use her stay at OTS as a respite. DM then agreed to stay. For the first couple of days, DM remained reticent and reported having little to say to the counselors. Eventually, she started opening up. She was able to talk about her anger and frustration at her life’s situation. The counselors helped her talk to her grandmother about her feelings. Grandmother was able to start understanding DM. Grandmother reported “You all have gotten her to talk longer and deeper in 8 days than I have in all the time I’ve known her.” DM went back home with her grandparents. She is receiving support from OTS through our aftercare counseling. On 1/12/08, DM and her grandmother came up to OTS to invite the youth/staff to a skating party! You see, grandmother, an avid skater, had been able to convince DM to join her in skating and now they wanted to invite OTS youth to a benefit skating event! DM and grandmother reported at that time, that they were doing well together and working on their relationship “day by day”.

OffThe Streets (est. 1986) provides immediate safe shelter for runaway youth, ages 10 - 17. Notifying parents of their child’s safety is critical and services include crisis intervention, case management, counseling, and referral services.

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WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- 85% of the youth who resided at the OTS shelter did not have any further involvement with the Juvenile Justice system within the first 90 days after leaving the program.
- OTS provided counseling and case management services to more than 170 youth and their families.
Ms. N. is a proud and grateful client of Matrix Human Services’ Project Transition Housing (PTH) program. This is how she tells her story: Drugs entered my life at the age of 21. I began to get high everyday. I dropped out of school and basically began to destroy my life. I had no hope, no morals, no values, no dreams, and no goals. I was not only destroying my life, but my children’s lives were affected as well. In 2006 I was blessed with a brand new home through Matrix and PTH. Matrix also taught me how to be a good parent through the supportive services provided in the program. I never knew how to be a responsible individual or a responsible mother…today I am both. I am also celebrating 13 years of sobriety. Thank you Matrix for helping me give my children their mother back.

The daughter of a PTH client gives her perspective this way: “Many things have contributed to the new stability in my mom’s life. One of the most fortunate gifts she received that impacted my life was having her own place to live with her children. God finally answered our prayers for a blessed recovery and a new home for her children all in one package. This makes me joyous, self assured and at mentally. Watching my mom’s daily routines and how she has changed as a result this new security and stability is awesome. The changes allowed a strong relationship to develop between daughter and mother. I have been able maintain my focus on my education. Seeing her strength and courage in changing her life from something that was so devastating, makes me highly determined to defeat any obstacles and accomplish my goals and dreams. I received a four-year scholarship from Wayne State University when I graduated from high school and I am currently in my second year. Thank you, Matrix Human Services and Project Transition Housing for your part in giving my mom back to me to witness my transformation into womanhood.”

**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- 32 clients entered the program from domestic violence situations. All have remained free of toxic relationships.
- 10 PTH clients are enrolled in college; from the PTH children, 3 high school graduates were awarded 4-year college scholarships.
How Vistas Nuevas Head Start Helped My Family

This year is my first year with Vistas Nuevas Head Start. Currently my granddaughter is enrolled at the Fiore Center. She is attending half day sessions with Mrs. Brown and Miss Melissa. After watching her many years, we decided it would be best if she was with children her own age and get accustomed to being with teachers. Alyssa has made new friends and learned a lot in a short time. At three years old she can spell her name, knows all her shapes and colors, is singing songs and counting. She has gained confidence and is very independent. She has learned to share with others and to express her feelings. She is well on her way to being prepared for when she enters kindergarten.

I am also involved with Vistas Nuevas and Alyssa’s education, where I volunteer in the classroom, do translations when we have meetings and presentations. I have attended many of the workshops and I am currently the chair of the parent committee.

Vistas Nuevas is more than a place to send children; it helps families. It helps children grow and learn. It helps the parents with resources for education, employment, medical, dental and any special needs the child may have.

I am so glad that my granddaughter is enrolled at Vistas Nuevas, but I am just as glad that I can be a part of it too!

Sandra Rodriguez
Grandmother of Alyssa

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Vistas Nuevas Head Start had no Non-Compliance issues following the Program Review by the Federal Team.
- Vistas Nuevas Head Start was the only Head Start delegate program in Detroit with 100% Compliance for Children Immunizations.
Clients, Mr. and Mrs. P., 95 and 84 years of age respectively, have received light housekeeping assistance from our program since 1991. Mr. P.'s health has deteriorated over the past several years, leading to doctor's orders to give up driving privileges and causing loss of independence. The couple remained in their own home, managing with our assistance and assistance from family members.

Mr. P. suffers from dementia, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and heart disease. Mrs. P. has arthritis and heart disease and uses a cane for mobility. As Mr. P.'s health continued to deteriorate, Mrs. P. had to assist him with personal care. At the same time, however, she experienced changes in her health and required our assistance with personal care. As our program expanded to include more services we were able to increase assistance to the couple to once a week.

Their children felt that the couple should leave their home and move into a different setting. Mrs. P. resisted, stating “I can manage with the help we get from Reuther Senior Services. Our Home Care Worker comes out once a week to help me bathe and clean the house. We are not going anywhere.” Mrs. P. also thanked the Home Care Worker for always encouraging Mr. P., saying, “Come on, Mr. P., and take my hand. Let’s go into the kitchen to get you something to eat.”
In mid-February, **Zachery** came in with an attitude towards the staff and his mother. His social worker had a family meeting and let him know how rude and disrespectful he was being and that it would not be tolerated. His attitude immediately changed! He came in over his Winter Break to work on missing assignments for 3 classes his teachers were allowing him to make up. He completed almost all the assignments so his grades should be coming up tremendously for the next marking period. He is now a pleasure to have around and a good example for the other youth!

As of Mid-March (one month later)… Zachery is still making up assignments to improve his remaining 2 F's but he has brought up the other 5 F's to passing grades in one month! He even asked for help with understanding Romeo and Juliet for his self-described toughest class, English.

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**WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

- 97.5% were not truant from school.
- 90% improved their grade point average/improved in identified academic subjects.
**Program Expenses**

Fiscal Year October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007

- **Direct Program – Compensation Expense:**
  - $10,940,910 (71%)

- **Direct Program – Other Expense:**
  - $2,930,359 (19%)

- **Administrative Expense:**
  - $1,206,568 (8%)

- **Marketing & Development Expense:**
  - $226,585 (2%)

**Donors**

Fiscal Year October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007

**Major Benefactors - ($100,000.00+)**
- Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA)
- The Skillman Foundation

**Patrons - ($25,000.00+)**
- Process Development Corporation

**Partner - ($10,000.00+)**
- City of Detroit-NOF/Planning and Development
- LaSalle Bank Midwest N.A.
- Kathleen B. McCann
- The Elizabeth, Allan and Warren Shelden Fund
- UAW Region 1A
- UAW-GM Center for Human Resources

**Contributor - ($5,000.00+)**
- Detroit Free Press
- Detroit Opera House
- General Motors - Supplier Diversity
- MPS Group, Inc.

**Prevention Michigan, Inc.**
**Stephen M. Ross School of Business, University of Michigan**

**Associates - ($1,000.00+)**
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- Comerica Bank
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