



# Judson Center Family Matters

Summer 2017 Newsletter

[www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)



## *With You We Can*



*Be the change in our community.*

# At Our Center



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Lenora Hardy-Foster  
President & CEO

As you can see on the cover of this issue, a group of volunteers, donors and staff came *together* to make a positive impact by building our new playscape. It truly was a team effort from concept to reality, and now we have a dedicated playground on our Royal Oak Campus for the children we serve and the community at-large.

This is what we, Judson Center, Child Safe Michigan and *you*, our *Community of Caring*, are all about, offering ideas and solutions to help our neighbors of all ages live healthier and happier lives.

***With You We Can... continue to be the change in our community.***

There are so many ways to make a positive impact to help children who need a safe place to call home, to have someone guide them, support and nurture them through foster care, mentoring and adoption. To help children and their families as they live with an autism diagnosis. To help boys, girls and adults receive the care they need as they manage their mental health diagnosis and help young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities find inclusion and independence in the community.

Whether you give your time through volunteering, donating goods, services or dollars, or are one of the individuals and families we serve, thank you for your commitment to our mission. You are not waiting for someone to make a difference, *you* are the difference. You are changing lives, changing our community through action and advocacy and providing a path to a brighter future for the nearly 7,000 children and families we help each year.

Thank you for your compassion and commitment to our mission. Together, we have and we will continue to help those in need succeed!

Lenora Hardy-Foster  
President & CEO



"What an exciting time in our 93 year history at Judson Center. I am honored as Board Chair to serve this organization whose mission has never wavered to help our community. I would like to personally thank our *Community of Caring*, made up of invaluable supporters, volunteers, strong board leadership and a top notch staff who understand the work we do, the lives we change and how our imprint extends beyond a moment of time, but for a lifetime. Judson Center's future is definitely bright!"  
~ Richard D. DiBartolomeo, Chairman, Board of Trustees



## With You We Can... make a difference at any age.



I consider Autism Connections like a family and for one of our own families' young son to choose us as the recipient for his school's fundraiser, I, along with our entire team, was so honored. Thank you Chase, the Tonnies family and the Junior Optimist Club at High Meadow Elementary. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is truly appreciated and will make such a difference," shared Ann Patronik, Director of Autism Connections

Spring time brings warmer weather and new beginnings, but for others, it is March Madness time!

For Chase, a big time basketball fan, who always looks forward to March Madness, it was a great opportunity to make a difference in the community. Chase's twin brother, Carter, has autism and receives ABA (applied behavior analysis) therapy at Judson Center's Autism Connections. And, if you ask Chase about Carter, he will tell you that he loves spending time with him, he looks out for him and they even play his favorite sport together, basketball.

So when his Junior Optimist Club at High Meadow Elementary in Farmington Hills was looking for ideas for a class project, Chase had the perfect idea that combined his love for his brother, basketball and the opportunity to give back, all in good fun.

Chase recommended that his school participate in Battle of the Grades, based off of March Madness, for a very friendly competition to raise money

and awareness for Judson Center's Autism Connections. "Chase is so inspired by his brother Carter that I am not surprised he came up with this idea. Judson Center has been a big part of our entire family's lives," shared Sharon, Chase's mom.

The Junior Optimist Club members all agreed that this was a great idea, as they never fundraised for an autism charity before. To have the entire school embrace Battle of the Grades, they decided to have a friendly competition between all the grades, kindergarten through fourth, asking for coin donations. Chase developed the three week bracket for the entire school with kindergarten vs. first grade, second vs. third grade and fourth vs. fifth grade. The classes competing against each other with the most donations advanced to the next round. "It was great to see how the entire school embraced Battle of the Grades, which held a kickoff in the school auditorium", shared Sharon. At the end of the three weeks, two classes remained in the competition - kindergarten vs. fourth grade.

"I was so impressed how the kids really got into and supported their version of March Madness. One little boy in the kindergarten class just kept bringing in rolls and rolls of quarters. In the end, the fourth graders won and their top prize was a popsicle party and extra recess time, which they also shared with the runner up class, the kindergartners. Battle of the Grades was about giving back, not about winning and losing, but helping other children with autism," shared Sharon.

"We raised \$1,010 for autism, and my goal was to teach kids that they can make a difference in their communities at any age," stated Chase, age 10.

If you would like more information on Judson Center's Autism Connections program, please contact, 248.837.2047 or email [autismconnectionsoakland@judsoncenter.org](mailto:autismconnectionsoakland@judsoncenter.org).  
Autism Connections is located both in Royal Oak and Ann Arbor.



# With You We Can... hire people with all abilities.

Since 1986, Judson Center's Vocational Services program helps employers meet their staffing needs with a virtually untapped, motivated, and dependable workforce.

## 4 Business REASONS

TO HIRE PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD)

## and 5 THE TOP BUSINESS BENEFITS REALIZED

- 57%** Addition of highly motivated employers
- 47%** Inclusive culture attractive to our talent pools
- 44%** Improved customer satisfaction
- 34%** Improved communication between/across cultures
- 34%** Enhanced employer brand

### RESPONDENT SNAPSHOT

- 1/2** actively recruit people with disabilities
- 2x** as many high-performance organizations differentiate for IDD
- 3/4** currently employ workers with IDD
- Over **1/2** keep oversight within HR
- 40%** employ 1-5 people with IDD
- 21.8** average hrs./week per employee
- 1/2** have employed workers with IDD for more than 10 years

**1** High-performance organizations are **37%** more likely to hire people with IDD because they are good talent matches for open positions.

**2** **3/4** or more of employers rate workers with IDD as good to very good on most performance factors.

**3** Among high-performance organizations fully **1/3** said the experience of employing people with IDD exceeded expectations.

**4** Preconceived concerns about hiring workers with IDD averaged **42%** higher than challenges actually experienced employing them.

Infograph Credit: Institute for Corporate Productivity

If you have an employment opportunity through your company or interest in the employment related services through Judson Center's Vocational Services programs, please contact Brad Ewing at 248.837.2087 or [bradford\\_ewing@judsoncenter.org](mailto:bradford_ewing@judsoncenter.org).



## With You We Can... mend the mind, break the stigma.

"I have hope. I am now out in the community, talking with people and advocating for myself."

For three years, Steven\* has been receiving help from Judson Center's Mental Health Services Outpatient Program. This program offers traditional and crisis driven therapy interventions to children, adolescents, and adults like Steven, who need support with managing their emotional, behavioral, and/or mental illnesses that are impacting their quality of life.

When Steven came into care, he knew it was time to receive help, and he was ready for it, as his struggles had taken over his life. He received his diagnoses which included anxiety and depression. Through therapy and a support network which includes his therapist, a peer support specialist (an individual who progressed in their own recovery from a substance or mental health disorder and works to assist other individuals with chemical dependency or a mental health disorder to help them get on the road to recovery as well), and resources of two support groups, Steven is not the same young man he once was.

"I have more hope for my own future now," shared Steven. "I also would like to go back to Baker College and become a writer or a Peer Support Specialist like Carrie."

"Steven is persevering from the trauma he endured earlier in his life. All the small steps he has made in the last three years are adding up. I, along with our entire team, have seen a difference in Steven. He is more engaged. A few years back, he would not even call us to make an appointment. Now he not only calls, but he also makes small talk with our receptionist whenever he comes in for an appointment. In the past, Steven did not like to be in public or out in the community, but with the help of his Peer Support Specialist, Carrie Beranek, he is learning how to navigate public transportation, and above all, how to be involved and present in his own life. Actions and activities that many of us take for granted are all major accomplishments for Steven," shared Erin O'Connor, LLMSW, Outpatient Therapist.



Excerpt from Stevens\* poem, Puddles of Depression

*They tell me not to listen to the noises I swear I hear.*

*On my floor, a light pitter patter, like someone flicking the door...*

*Empty, like my room...like my bed, so I tried listening to everything they said...*

*Tell yourself it will get better, that the water is half full in that cup, that once you've hit rock bottom, you can only go up...*

*But I still hear these noises, just now with a different sound, it sounds like there is a splash, and is echoing all around.*

\*Name and photo have been changed to protect privacy.

For more information about our Mental Health Services, please contact Judson Center at 586.573.1810 or [kathryn\\_lowe@judsoncenter.org](mailto:kathryn_lowe@judsoncenter.org).



## With You We Can... open hearts and homes.



happen! However, we decided to continue on with becoming foster parents. After many more months we were finally licensed on March 8, 2016 and received three different calls for children within the next 24 hours. It was the last call that seemed right for us; two sisters needed a home, ages seven and three. We said yes and picked them up three days later while being 6 months pregnant!

Even though we had a whirlwind of a week where our lives were drastically changing, from the first day the girls arrived, we knew it was right. They were and continue to be sweet, kind, and just full of life. All they needed was a family to guide them and make them feel safe and loved.

Fast forward to May 2017 and we could not be happier as a family of five. We have a happy and healthy 11 month old baby boy who adores the girls, and the feeling is mutual. We are now in the process of adopting the girls and cannot wait to officially call them our own. We could not imagine our lives being any different and would not want to. It was truly meant to be!

There is such a need for foster parents. There are children who need a home, a hug, and just love. This is also why we decided to become foster parents for respite care – where foster care children need a place to stay for a short amount of time. This allows us to look at our hectic schedule and decide if we can squeeze in one or two more children for a week or long weekend for some extra love and hugs.

**“It is clear that they love and care for their children very much. They are exemplary foster parents and it has been a pleasure to work with them.”**  
Angie Miriani, Adoption Specialist



“This year marks our third wedding anniversary, and during those years, we have been on quite the journey. We knew we always wanted children and a big family so after we were married, that is what we focused on – building our family.

We discussed having our own children first and then possibly adopting later down the road. However, we believe God had other plans for us. After a year, we looked into adopting sooner than expected, but the more we researched, the more we learned about foster care and were beginning to realize that this might be the best fit for us at this point in our lives. Even though we weren't completely convinced we were up for everything that fostering was about, we began our journey down that road.



After plenty of research in the summer of 2015, we started the licensing process through Judson Center in September. Two months later we had a big surprise; we were pregnant. Funny how things

If you or someone you know has ever considered foster care, we would recommend being open about it and take that initial step to just look into it. It never hurts to gain more information before making any decision in life. Yes, there is a lot of paperwork and training, but it is worth it. Do not listen to any negative perceptions and misunderstandings of foster care. Educate yourself, talk to other foster families as well as Judson Center. They have been so supportive to us during our two year journey.

Long story short, foster care changes your life, but changes it in an amazing way.” Erin and Justin, Foster Parents

To learn more about becoming a foster parent, please contact Judson Center at: 313.255.8272 or [foster\\_care@judsoncenter.org](mailto:foster_care@judsoncenter.org).

# Judson Brighter Futures Fund

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

No matter what season it is, there will always be a need in the community to support children, adults and families.

For 93 years, Judson Center has built a strong foundation of helping our neighbors have a brighter future.

Who better to share just that, than the families we are helping.



**"We credit Judson Center with changing Connor's trajectory and we believe changing the outcome of his life."** Jennifer Reyntjes commenting on the services her son receives from our Autism Connections program.



**"He found a tangible way to improve foster children's lives... to change their stories."** Judson Center foster and now adoptive parent, Chris Larime referring to a donor's gift of bikes for his children.



**"By focusing on what *abilities* the job candidates from Judson Center possessed, and how those *abilities* could be utilized at the various places where I was able to provide opportunities to work, I was able to fill job positions with Judson Center job candidates who proved themselves reliable, dedicated and hardworkers."** Eric Moon, who has employed adults in our Vocational Services program.



**"I appreciate everything. Judson Center saved my life."** Anonymous, Mental Health Consumer commenting on the therapy she has been receiving.

With your support today, we will continue to change hopelessness to happiness. A gift today is transformational. Each dollar will make a difference. Just ask Jennifer, Chris and Eric.

**Making a gift today is simple to do!**



Mail the enclosed envelope



Call Erika Jones at 248.837.2052



Email [erika\\_jones@judsoncenter.org](mailto:erika_jones@judsoncenter.org)



"I am so thankful that Dominic was enrolled in Child Safe's Mentoring Program. Tom has been a blessing to not only Dominic, but the entire family. Dominic has blossomed in his school work. He enjoys Tom because he feels Tom is there for him and if he is having a bad day, he can call Tom just to hear encouraging words. Tom also will include the other kids in our family. I would like to say thank you," shared Dominic's Grandma.

And simply put by Dominic himself "Tom is cool!"

## *With You We Can...shape a mind, shape a future.*

Mentoring can change a young person's path. There are so many benefits in having a healthy, supportive relationship with a mentor, and this is especially true for children involved in the child welfare system.

The children in this program need additional support and guidance from someone outside of their immediate family. Mentors have the ability and opportunity to change a young person's path to one of success through guidance, support and friendship.

Child Safe Michigan's Mentoring Program matches children, ages 7 to 23, with adults in the community

who share similar interests and live in the same area. This program shows children we serve that there is someone who cares, someone who will listen, and someone who will help them through this uncertain time in their lives.

"Dominic has always been a sweet and quiet little boy. During his interview and match meeting he was a little shy, but Tom was great about getting him to come out of his shell. I knew from that point on it was going to be a good match.

Since that day, Tom has always been a shoulder to lean on for Dominic. A great supporter full of encouragement.

Dominic has enjoyed many adventures with Tom, from fire truck rides, attending the auto show to fishing! Tom also helps Dominic with schoolwork and reading, and works with him to get him genuinely interested in learning about different subjects rather than just completing homework. Tom is much more than a mentor to Dominic, he is a friend to Dominic and his family. I can see this match making a difference and building up Dominic's self-worth, as he becomes a confident young man." Jennifer Brubaker, Mentoring Program Supervisor

If you are interested in making a positive impact on a child, just like Tom, and would like to learn more about mentoring, please contact Jennifer Brubaker at 248.554.6410 or [jbrubaker@childsafemichigan.org](mailto:jbrubaker@childsafemichigan.org).



This group had fun creating their own "pop up" auction item that sold for \$25,000!



# LEGENDS OF TOMORROW GALA

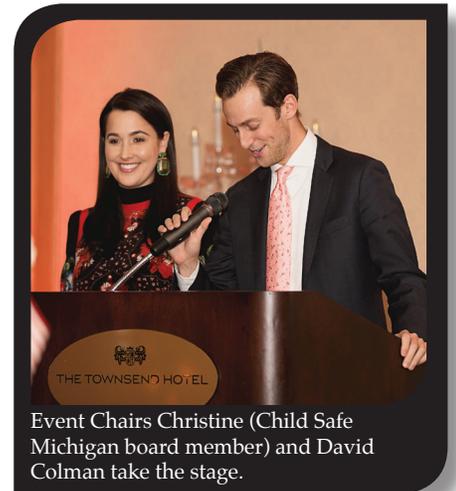
On Saturday, June 3rd, Child Safe Michigan hosted its *Legends of Tomorrow Gala* and it was the most successful Gala to date, raising over \$450,000!

Chaired by SuSu Sosnick and Christine and David Colman, over 300 guests including supporters, friends and board members enjoyed an evening full of mission, where two of Detroit's own legends were honored, Sandy Pierce of Huntington Bank and Paul W. Smith of WJR Radio, at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

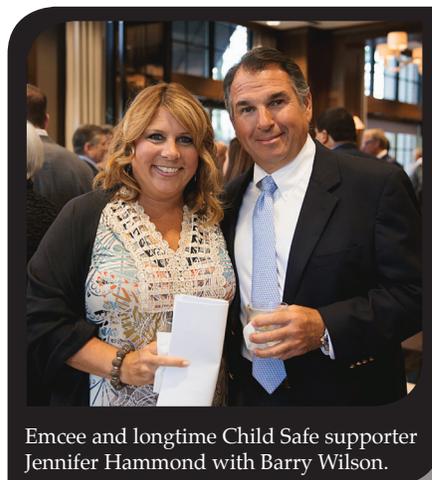
This year's theme, *Legends of Tomorrow*, truly resonated to what Child Safe works to do every day with our community, focus on foster care children and help them become true Legends of Tomorrow. The record-breaking proceeds from the evening will help Child Safe continue to serve children in their foster care, adoption and mentoring programs.



Event Chair SuSu Sosnick and her daughter Cathy Schwartz (both Child Safe Michigan board members) enjoying the VIP Reception.



Event Chairs Christine (Child Safe Michigan board member) and David Colman take the stage.



Emcee and longtime Child Safe supporter Jennifer Hammond with Barry Wilson.

"I would like to thank everyone who supported this event, and most importantly, supported foster care children. It was a fun night and an important one for foster care children who think they are alone and have no support. This is far from the truth as we had a record year of attendance and giving. Thank you!" shared Keith Pomeroy, Board Chairman, Child Safe Michigan.

# Volunteer

Making a Difference



Plymouth Christian Academy students made blankets for our kids in foster care! #ProjectShine



Junior Leadership Macomb members, Groves High School students and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan team members volunteered to play and socialize with our kids during *Kid's Night In*.



The Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States raised money by collecting returnable cans and bottles to raise money to purchase diapers for our families in need.

## Wish Room Clean Up



Royal Oak Shrine Catholic School 8th grade Junior Honor Society leaders organized and merchandised our Wish Room for the children that we serve in foster care. #ShrinePride



The MOMS Club of Royal Oak picked up where the last group left off to organize the Wish Room after the holidays!



FCA Chrysler team members Parivash Ramin, Run Service Manager for Information Communication Technology, and Tammy Johnson, ICT SOX Compliance Coordinator, volunteered to help organize all of the incoming donations in the Wish Room.



Volunteers from the Royal Oak and Berkley School Districts volunteered on MLK Day to organize our Wish Room after the holidays.

For more information about Peggy Kerr at 248.837.2019 or

# er Voices

ence Every Day



Kroger team members Alan Ray, Office Systems Manager for Kroger Michigan, and Kristy McCray, Hiring Representative for Kroger, deep cleaned our Child Safe Michigan visitation room.



MSU alumni washed all of our windows on their MSU Global Day of Service. #MSUServiceDay



Elise, Senior Behavior Tutor for Judson Center Autism Connections, her client Carter who receives our services, Carter's mom Sharon, and Carter's twin brother Chase, who organized a fundraising campaign by creating a March Madness event at school to help raise funds for our new playscape!

## New Playground!



Ariel Bouie, John Giannetti, and Melissa Kohler from GM Warren Transmission hold a sign that thanks them for funding our new playscape at our Royal Oak campus.



Volunteers from Jones Lang LaSalle and GM Warren Transmission installed our new playscape!

For more information on volunteering, please contact  
peggy\_kerr@judsoncenter.org.

# CommYOUunity of Caring

## Summer Solstice

On June 22, over 150 supporters of both Judson Center and Child Safe Michigan enjoyed an evening full of heart, mission and gratitude on our Royal Oak campus.

Summer Solstice, Judson Center's annual Community of Caring event, also honored many unsung heroes who have made a positive impact in the lives of children, adults and families we serve. Our honorees were recognized for their contribution in improving the lives of thousands of people. Each honoree received a dedicated inscribed paver that will be placed on our Main campus.

*With You We Can... help those in need succeed.*

### 2017 Great Ambassador Award: James and Jeraldine Poe



Judson Center COO Susan Salhaney, Judson Center President & CEO Lenora Hardy-Foster, Kathryn Rowland, Past Board Chair Jim Poe, Jeraldine Poe, Marissa Poe and Tammy Poe (left to right).

### 2017 Great Champion Award: Stamper Facility Management



Judson Center President & CEO Lenora Hardy-Foster, Stamper Management CEO Todd Stamper with his dad Ken Stamper and Judson Center and Child Safe Michigan Foster Care Navigator Melissa Covell (left to right).

### 2017 Great Foundation Ambassador Award: Michigan Health Endowment Fund



### 2017 Great Corporate Ambassador Award: Brooks Kushman



Registered Patent Agent Stephanie Mansfield, President & Chairman Mark Cantor, Attorney Brian Doughty, Legal Assistant Sandra Davis, Patent Searching Manager Monica Frobese, Office Staff E.J. Brooks and Attorney Erin Bowles with Judson Center President and CEO Lenora Hardy-Foster (left to right).

### 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award: MSU Alumni Association



Judson Center Volunteer Manager Peggy Kerr, Judson Center President & CEO Lenora Hardy-Foster with MSU Alumni members Sarah Bretz, Steven Culp, Kyle Curlew and Pamela Jones (left to right).

A very special dedication was held in memory of Sean Taglione, who we served in our Autism Connections program. His family has been supporters of Judson Center for many years, with a most recent gift in Sean's memory to our new playscape and swingset.



Judson Center President & CEO Lenora Hardy-Foster, Stephen Taglione, Donna Taglione, Michael Taglione, Ann Taglione, Paul Brakora, Judson Center Board Member Marianne Brakora with Matthew Brakora (left to right).



## SET SAIL FOR AUTISM

Benefitting:  
**Judson Center**  
AUTISM CONNECTIONS

An Official Event of:



# 2017

## Join Us!

**Saturday, July 22, 2017**

**9:00 a.m. - Noon**

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse

Port Huron, MI

Family Day / Race Start Event

Enjoy VIP viewing for the launch of the Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race at a FREE family fun event open to all families impacted by Autism. Food, entertainment and fun activities for all.

For event information and reservations visit:  
[SetSailforAutism.org](http://SetSailforAutism.org).



## TEAM AUTISM for JUDSON CENTER

Our presenting sponsor, JRD Systems, Inc., invites you to join us at the  
**DETROIT FREE PRESS/  
CHEMICAL BANK  
MARATHON**

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**

**7:00 a.m.**

Detroit, MI

presenting sponsor



*Thank You to Our Committee!*  
Rajesh Bihani, Sitha Hoeung,  
Jennifer Krausman, Sarah Lafriniere,  
Stephanie Mansfield, Mike Palmer,  
Elizabeth Scussel

For event and registration information visit:  
[judsoncenter.org/events](http://judsoncenter.org/events).

# Eventfull



**Monday, July 10, 2017**  
**Franklin Hills Country Club**



Join Judson Center supporters and friends for the *Corporate Golf Challenge* presented by ITC Holdings, Inc. for a memorable day of friendly competition on the golf course.

Help pave the way to a bright future for children in our community.

**Thank You to our  
Judson Center Golf Committee**

Ron Hinsley  
(Honorary Chair)

Marianne Brakora • Kevin Fruchey  
Shiela Hinsley • Todd Hohausser  
Mike Husmillo • Nick Ilitch  
Dan Jankowski • Christine Krathwohl  
Ryan Krause • Jonathan Lau  
Linda M. Marshall • Adam Mastrangelo  
Julia Moulliet • Bernie Ronnisch  
Tom Spring

If you have any questions about the golf outing or sponsorship packages available, please contact Nick Papadas at 248.554.6361, or [nick\\_papadas@judsoncenter.org](mailto:nick_papadas@judsoncenter.org).

## MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED...



**Corporate Golf Challenge -  
25th Anniversary Celebration**  
July 10, 2017  
Franklin Hills Country Club  
Franklin, MI



**Set Sail for Autism**  
July 22, 2017  
Fort Gratiot Lighthouse  
Port Huron, MI



**Child Safe Michigan's Pull! For Kids  
Sporting Clays Tournament**  
September 21, 2017  
Detroit Gun Club  
Walled Lake, MI



**Judson Center's Rock Gala**  
October 14, 2017  
MGM Grand Detroit  
Detroit, MI



**TEAM AUTISM for JUDSON CENTER**  
*presented by JRD Systems, Inc.*  
October 15, 2017  
Detroit Free Press/  
Chemical Bank Marathon  
Detroit, MI



**North American International  
Auto Show Charity Preview**  
January 19, 2018  
Cobo Center  
Detroit, MI

**For more information, visit  
[www.judsoncenter/events](http://www.judsoncenter/events).**

BE SOMEONE'S ROCKSTAR!



Judson Center

# ROCK GALA

Saturday, October 14 2017  
MGM Grand Detroit



No child should ever go through life as a lone bassist, a solo drummer or the only New Kid on the Block. We have seen the amazing strides kids have made when they have a Rockstar like YOU in their corner.

On Saturday, October 14, 2017 Gala Chairs Steve Hill and Heather and David Mingle invite you to Be Someone's Rockstar at the MGM Grand in Detroit for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Judson Center Gala.

Step out in your stylin' jeans, hip blazer or as your favorite icon! You and your guests will enter through the Stairway to Heaven to rock the night away with live bands, custom cocktails, silent and live auctions, and most importantly being a part of changing a child's life in the most positive way possible.

If you have any questions about the Judson Center Rock Gala or sponsorship packages available, please contact Nick Papadas at 248.554.6361, or [nick\\_papadas@judsoncenter.org](mailto:nick_papadas@judsoncenter.org).



[www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org)



# Judson Center

*Helping those in need succeed*

4410 West 13 Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

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