



The Skillman Foundation Presents

# YAKTIVITIES FOR HELPING KIDS

## Matrix Human Services Center A Labor of Love for More Than 100 Years

The programs of Matrix Human Services give hope where there was none and offer people the promise for a better future.

For more than 100 years, Matrix has provided human services to the Detroit community, and it is now one of the largest nonprofit social service organizations in Michigan.

Matrix Human Services was founded in 1906 by a small and generous group of individuals known as The League of Catholic Women.

These women recognized the importance of helping less fortunate people who had migrated to Detroit seeking a new life. Programs were designed to provide opportunity and stability, and Matrix today remains focused on fostering self-sufficiency in disadvantaged and at-risk populations.

Over the years, the League grew to several thousand members throughout the metropolitan-Detroit area.

Without the efforts of "those founding individuals who were compassionate for their fellow man and gave of themselves," Matrix says, it would not be able to provide the programs and services it offers in 2009.

Today, The Center — as it is currently known — offers a collaborative network of human services designed to meet the social, physical, spiritual and educational needs of Northeast Detroit residents.

Community organizations partner with Matrix to provide programs and services to the Osborn neighborhood.

Mission partners work with Matrix on such projects as the Color Me Healthy Community Expo (August), the Children and Youth Expo (February), family nights, a Halloween party, field trips, a food pantry, a computer lab, workshops and clean-up projects.

Other Matrix services include Adult Education Programs, Head Start, After School



Programs for Children and Youth, Art at The Center, Senior Citizens Programs, Tax Assistance, Youth Leadership Development Programs, Narcotics Anonymous, Recreation Programs and Summer Programs.

### Arts and Theatre

In September 2006, The Center collaborated with the College for Creative Studies to develop a proposal for arts and theatre programs that would benefit the residents of the Osborn Neighborhood.

At the time, the community lacked programs to help children and youth express their creativity and artistic skills.

By January 2008 the number of arts organizations utilizing The Center for after-school, evening or weekend programming had

expanded to include the College for Creative Studies, Detroit Mosaic Youth Theatre, African Dance Works, Pewabic Pottery, Insideout Literacy Arts and Centro T.A.B.C.A.T.

### Volunteers and Assistance

Volunteers and others in Detroit and the region can play an important role in making a community difference through Matrix Human Services.

People may volunteer time, donate household items or clothing, start a matching gift program through a business or work to raise awareness about the Matrix mission. They also may work to encourage a corporation or foundation to team up with Matrix through corporate partnership or the group's Capital Campaign, provide employment opportunities to women in transition, become a mentor, donate tickets to shows or sporting events, give an online donation to Matrix or encourage others to get involved.

For more information  
visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org)  
call 313-831-1000  
Matrix Human Services  
120 Parsons Street  
Detroit, MI 48201

## THINK ABOUT HUMAN SERVICES

Human services are services in a community that help kids, families, senior citizens or people in need. Everyone can help provide needed human services by making donations, raising money or simply volunteering time to make things better for others. With family members, talk about the kinds of human services that are needed in your neighborhood or in the larger community. Then talk about ways family members or kids could volunteer to help provided services or raise money for services that would help the community. At school, talk about ways students could volunteer to help others or raise money for human services needed in the community.



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