



## **For Immediate Release**

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# **Grant To Aid Advocacy in Detroit Neighborhoods**

*LANSING* – Michigan’s Children is proud to announce the receipt of a \$175,000 grant from The Skillman Foundation to support the **Raising Community Voices for Change** project aimed at expanding public awareness of the impact of public investments in children and families, and engaging Detroit neighborhoods in advocacy for systems and policy changes to provide their children with more opportunities from cradle to career.

The grant was awarded as part of the Skillman Foundation’s Good Neighborhoods program, encouraging the creation of safe, healthy, and vibrant neighborhoods where children – with the support of caring adults, programs, and experiences – can develop fully.

The grant will help Michigan’s Children build resident capacity to understand, engage in and inform public policy impacting their neighborhoods by increasing youths’ and residents’ ability to identify issues in their neighborhoods that can be impacted by public policy changes, increasing policymakers’ awareness of neighborhood issues, and promoting civic engagement and leadership among youths.

“Special interest groups invest significant resources to influence public policy, but the people most affected – the community members, educators and parents who best recognize the immense challenges impacting the educational success of their children – often lack the information or opportunities to influence decision makers,” Michigan’s Children President & CEO Jack Kresnak said. “We will work to change that by informing those at the grassroots level and connecting them with our state and national leaders to create the best public policy for our children.”

“The Skillman Foundation has long been a supporter of Michigan’s Children, and for that we are extremely grateful.”

To read more about Michigan’s Children’s work in Detroit neighborhoods, go to [www.michiganschildren.org](http://www.michiganschildren.org) and click on Detroit Neighborhoods under the Programs tab.

Created in 1960, The Skillman Foundation is a private philanthropy whose chief aim is to help develop good schools and good neighborhoods for children. Though grants are made throughout metropolitan Detroit, most grants are directed at six Detroit neighborhoods – Southwest Detroit (Vernor and Chadsey/Condon), Brightmoor, Osborn, Cody/Rouge and the Northend – and toward innovative and successful schools throughout the city Detroit.

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*Michigan’s Children is a statewide, independent voice for children and their families.*

*We work with lawmakers, business leaders and communities to make Michigan a place where all children have the opportunity to thrive.*