



# TESTIMONIALS



*Spaulding is an organization that is easy to support not only because of its mission to find homes for orphans who are hardest to place, but also because of its superb leadership, staff and financial management. As a board member for several years and a supporter for even more, I have found my work with Spaulding to be fulfilling, engaging and enriching. Spaulding fills my cup in so many ways.*

**- Kristi Plain, Board Member**

*Hello, my name is Sharon Sawyer, and I volunteer here, at Spaulding for Children. I would like everyone to know that this is a wonderful company to volunteer and to work for.*

*The whole staff is friendly and everyone makes a person feel welcome and that our work matter. "Keep up the good work, Spaulding Staff, you all are great!"*

**- Sharon Sawyer, Volunteer**

*I would like to thank the Spaulding for Children Healthy Program for being there for me and my family. I go to the weekly parenting classes at the Matrix Center. My instructor for parenting is very good. She makes the classes exciting. I have completed the parenting classes but they are so good I keep coming back for more. I have learned how to discipline my children, the importance of nurturing my children and how to be a better mother. I enjoy the home visits with my outreach worker. She would provide me with information on parenting and give me handouts to read. She would also provide a listening ear and support. The handouts were very useful. She has given me referrals for housing. I have been approved for a housing program and I am waiting to hear back from them with my move in date. I had not completed my high school diploma or gotten my GED. I am now in classes to complete my GED. I have received help with getting household items (bed and microwave), clothes for my children, and baby items (car seat, diapers and wipes). I enjoy coming to the teen/young parent support groups. I have learned about self-esteem, parental stress, self-worth, budgeting, and living on my own at the support groups. I have met new friends as a result of the supports. I like coming to the parent trainings also. I can bring my children to the trainings because they offer child care. When I started the program I was not working I am now working as a health care aid at a nursing home.*

**- Charnelle Williams, Healthy Families' Parent**

*As a sponsor/contributor and as a business person who interacts with Spaulding's staff. I can honestly speak to visually seeing a hard working staff that works until the job at hand is done. It does not matter the time of day or the day of the week. I see Spaulding people working around the clock.*



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*As a charity, I see the funds being used directly, one-on-one for the benefit of our greater society; mentoring, fostering the forgotten children, working with the adoptive parents, as well as a nationally recognized training center for other agencies. A society cannot function and produce productive generations without the intervention of the programs of Spaulding and other sister organizations. It is one of those sleeper agencies that does the hard work that none of us business people come in contact with in our daily lives.*

*A classic example is one of the contributors, The Dave Thomas Foundation, or of recent stories, the Steven Jobs biography of adoption. I personally feel that it is an obligation to contribute for the greater good for such organizations to exist and create their goods. Talk is simply talk. We count are time by the things we do and accomplish. It is real and visceral.*

**- Sincerely, Dr. Charles Lechner, Donor**

*The Healthy Families Program is continuing to be a blessing to my family. Mrs. Brenda Harris, Ms. Dawson and other staff has made us feel comfortable talking to them about our family issues and finding solutions. I don't know where our commitment, communication, and coping skills will be without this prevention program. We are so happy this program is in existence and pray that funding will continue to impact the lives of Michigan families.*

*My name is Renee Pearson and this is my story. My daughter has attempted suicide methods three times. My son has been so depressed and overwhelm with family issues that he also was admitted to a mental hospital. My husband has been unemployed for a year without income. Our marriage was on the verge of divorce. I did not want to live anymore because I felt life was too hard.*

*One day I received a call from Mrs. Harris, who came out to meet us and get a feel of what was going on. In August, Healthy Families sent us to a marriage retreat. The retreat helped our marriage because we are no longer taking the steps towards divorce but a healthy relationship. We attend the weekly parenting meetings at the Matrix. We have increased our time together, we say kind words to each other and treat ourselves to a date once a month. It took Mrs. Harris and Ms. Dawson direction to go back to the basis of why we fell in love.*

*I was invited to go to Lansing to advocate for the Healthy Families Program with a bus full of staff and parents. I have never been to the capital. I had never spoken to a Senator and I never had witnessed the transactions of the Michigan Legislators meeting. It was Healthy Families who introduced me to ways of praising each family member. It was Healthy Families who showed me how to advocate for my family. It was Healthy Families who gave gifts to my children on their birthdays. It was Healthy Families who insured my children were getting the best services in the community.*

*Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

**- Sincerely, Renee Pearson, Healthy Families' Parent**