

THE Upside

Your Giving Matters



“...you can’t
do it on
your own.”



A Letter From Our CEO

Dear MiSide Friends and Family,

As we transition into fall, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your incredible support over the past year. As the cost of virtually everything continues to increase and more families struggle to make ends meet, your support has allowed MiSide to significantly expand our reach and impact. Thanks to you, we've achieved remarkable success:



In response to Metro Detroit's critical childcare gaps, we expanded **early childhood programming** for infants and toddlers, providing vital, affordable care that empowers children to thrive and parents to work.

To combat the severe shortage of quality affordable housing in the metro area, we built or renovated over 100 **affordable housing units**, and have 300 more currently in development.

We've expanded our **mental health and addiction treatment** services for children and adults, regardless of their insurance (or lack thereof), because 40% of people needing care in Michigan still don't get it due to cost or access issues.

This year we increased the number of youth and homeless veterans we **train for in-demand careers**, fostering self-sufficiency and contributing to a skilled workforce. Because everyone deserves a chance at success.

Your dedication—whether as a donor, staff member, funder, board member, volunteer, or community partner—directly uplifts over 20,000 Detroiters annually. Every success is a testament to your belief in our mission.

We couldn't do any of this without you by our side!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean J. de Four'.

Sean J. de Four
President & CEO

No Map, Just Love

When Anne-Marie's son, Gio, was two she noticed that he wasn't reaching the milestones that other kids were. When she mentioned it to his pediatrician, they referred her to Early On.

With Early On, Anne-Marie saw progress in Gio's language but he was only able to stay in the program for 1 year before he aged out.

"Now he talks like he's Albert Einstein."

After that, she was referred to Infant Mental Health Therapy to help with Gio's behavior. He had been getting in trouble at daycare and at home and she knew she needed support.

"There's no map for how to parent."

Now, Gio and Anne-Marie meet with their therapist, Abigail, once a week. Whether it's at home, at daycare, or at school, Abigail is able to provide recommendations and support specially suited for Gio.

Abigail has become part of their family, even if she's only there two hours a week.

"She is just a saving grace. It's a breath of fresh air when I'm having a hard week."

Thanks to support like yours, Anne-Marie can rest easy knowing that her son has the support he needs to thrive. There are so many little ones out there just like Gio, you could help families just like his with a gift today.

Give parents like Anne-Marie the gift of peace of mind.

"Anytime a new bump in the road comes up I'm not worried about it because I know I have her support and wisdom to get me through."



**"I can't
imagine
where we
would be..."**

Celebrating a 1st Birthday, 40 Years Later

October 16, 2024, is not the day Armando was born, but it is the day he decided to live. After years of putting drugs and alcohol above everything, including himself, he finally asked for help.

At just 19 years old, Armando lost his sister and turned to pills to cope with the pain. He was using whatever would numb him from the grief and the outside world.

He had become so obsessed with the drugs and alcohol that he didn't even care that he was losing people who were still alive. His own family did not want to be around him, all he did was argue. His own kids couldn't look up to their dad, they felt embarrassed by his actions.

He had reached his rock bottom. "My life was unmanageable."

His own mother called the police and had him put in jail. When he made his one phone call, he called her, and she told him that she didn't recognize her son anymore. At least in jail she would know he wasn't on the streets.

"She saved my life by sending me to jail."

After getting out of jail, he turned back to the place that had given him the support he needed when he was just 9 years old, MiSide, formerly Southwest Solutions. As a kid, he came to MiSide Health for ADHD management and a learning disability. As an adult, he was coming back just looking for someone to talk to.



"I chose to stay, and I've been doing it ever since."

He learned so many skills in rehab, learning to love himself again, learning to put himself first. It took a lot of work but ever since that day in court, Armando has been clean from all of the drugs and alcohol that once controlled his every waking moment.

His three kids look up to their dad with pride. His mom sleeps easy at night knowing her son is safe. He made a choice not just for himself, but for the people he loves.

Because of your support, Armando found the strength he needed to change his life. Diana and Dylan are still in his corner, cheering him on and helping him every day.

Now that he is back on his feet, Diana helped him sign up for a program to get his GED, and she is helping him look for work. Dylan helped him fill out all of the paperwork he needed to get the benefits he is eligible for. He knows he has someone on his side, no matter what.

"I like this side, the winning side, and I'm going to stick here."

Thanks to support like yours Armando got his life back, but there are so many Armando's out there who still need you.

Will you show up for them today? Will you say, "you are not alone"?

After some time speaking with a therapist, Diana, he decided to give rehab a try. Unfortunately, when Armando finished his first stay, he turned back to his old habits.

"I was a liar to myself; I couldn't keep a promise."

Diana saw that Armando needed more help, and she referred him to Dylan, a peer recovery coach here at MiSide Health. Now, with a team of support behind him, Armando was filling his toolbox with the tools he needed to change his own life.

"You have to accept that you have a problem and that you can't do it on your own."

On October 16, 2024, Armando made the brave decision to ask for the help he needed. In court, he asked the judge to send him to rehab, he didn't want to live like this anymore.

"October sixteenth, that's my new birthday. That's when I finally made the decision that I was tired of losing to the system, to the jails, to the drugs, to the alcohol."



YES! I want to give more families in Detroit the support they need!



Visit us online at misode.org or scan the QR code with your phone.



Call 313-481-3113



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More Than Just a House

All it takes is one bad situation to put you in a position to lose it all. Unfortunately, Carrie knows this all too well.

Just last year, Carrie was celebrating her 79th birthday with family, until she got sick. While traveling, Carrie contracted Covid, and her life turned upside down.

After a hospital stay, she returned to her home in Detroit, but she was too sick to care for herself. Carrie hired a home health aide for a few months while she recovered, but this put her in a precarious financial situation.

Carrie had to choose between paying her home health aide or paying her mortgage. Feeling she had no other option, Carrie got behind on her mortgage payments.

After speaking with her mortgage company about the potential of losing her home, they suggested she call MiSide Wealth. That is when Carrie met Shannon, Homeownership Coordinator, and Carrie's new hero.

"That first day talking to her, I just knew she was going to help me."

Within a week, all the paperwork had been filled out and sent in for processing. Shannon wasted no time saving Carrie's home.

"Everything went so fast; she took care of everything."

Carrie has lived in her home for over 50 years, losing it would have meant losing the memories held inside. She raised her two children in this home. She took care of her mother until she passed, in this home. She lived with her brother in this home.

Every wall, every step on the staircase, every piece of furniture, holds the memories that make up her life story, and she almost lost it all because of one illness.

MiSide Wealth was able to work with the mortgage company and provide all the necessary paperwork for Carrie to get an adjusted rate. Now, Carrie can continue to make memories in her home.

"I was so relieved."

Thanks to support like yours, Shannon was there to help Carrie when she needed it most. Unfortunately, Carrie's story is not unique. It is so important that these services exist to help write the next happy ending.

Without Shannon, who knows where Carrie would be.

"She saved my house."

And without you, there would be no Shannon to save the house. Thank you for supporting such important work. YOU are changing lives.



"I would be in a dark, shallow place..."



Off the Streets & Into Community

For years, Rodney was living in a motel room. He had a job, making just enough money to keep his room at the motel. His days were spent going to work and coming back to sit in his room, all alone.

Rodney ended up in transitional housing at the Detroit Vet Center and his counselor was able to get him on the waiting list for Piquette Square.

Finally, in 2012, Rodney found his home at Piquette. More than a home, he found a family.

"I think I would be in a dark, shallow place if it weren't for MiSide and Piquette Square."

Rodney has become a fixture of Piquette, always around to share a friendly smile and offer a helping hand.

A member of the Floor Captains group, Rodney works hard to help his neighbors and community. You can frequently find him volunteering and giving back to the community that helped him.

As a veteran, Rodney is no stranger to putting others before himself, but everyone needs support sometimes.

You helped Rodney when he needed it most. You did not give up on him, and so many others like him.

"I appreciate that they housed me when I needed housing."

Unfortunately, Rodney's story is not unique. There are so many of our nation's heroes sleeping on the streets tonight. You have the power to change that. You have the power to bring them home.

The holidays aren't the most wonderful time of the year for everyone. Will you show up for Yuliana and kids like her?



Get in Touch

Scan the QR code to go to our contact page.



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to date with new events!

