



Exceptional Youth Services

## Standing in the Gap: Critical Support for Michigan's Children

Fellow advocates for children,

Seven-year-old Marcus lost his mother last year. Beyond the emotional devastation, his family suddenly faced overwhelming financial challenges and uncertainty about his educational future. But today, Marcus is thriving—because Boldli stepped in not just with therapy services, but with comprehensive support that connected his father with critical resources his school district simply couldn't provide.

This is the transformative impact of Boldli's work, and why we urgently need your support today.

Founded over a century ago as the Detroit Institute for Children, we rebranded to Boldli in August 2024 to better reflect our expanded mission serving children with diverse abilities throughout Michigan. While our name has changed, our commitment to exceptional youth services remains unwavering.

The dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education is now underway, threatening critical protections for children with special needs. Even before these federal changes, Michigan's special education system faced significant challenges:

- Widespread shortages of specialized education professionals
- Limited resources for evaluations and interventions
- Increasing needs with diminishing support systems

At Boldli, we refuse to stand by. We currently serve 192 K-12 schools, Head Starts, and Early Childhood programs across Michigan. These schools enroll a large percentage of Michigan's special needs students, with 77% classified as "economically disadvantaged."

We are committed to all young people with diverse abilities having the opportunity to thrive wherever they are. Through our Parents as Teachers program, after-school tutoring, summer camps, and school-based therapy services, we're creating a safety net for children who might otherwise fall through the cracks. Our impact is measurable:

- **100%** of students in our after-school program show improved homework completion and better grades
- Our summer programs provided **1,680 hours of speech and occupational therapy** last year
- **440 books** were distributed to build children's home libraries
- **18 developmental screenings** were completed through our Parents as Teachers program
- **228 home visits** were conducted to support families

As federal education systems undergo significant changes, Boldli stands ready to fill growing gaps in support for children with diverse abilities—with your help.

Your gift today makes an immediate difference:

- **\$50** provides learning materials for a child in our Parents as Teachers program
- **\$100** funds a week of after-school tutoring for a student with learning differences
- **\$500** sponsors a child's full participation in our five-week summer camp program
- **\$1,000** helps train educational professionals to better serve children with diverse abilities

Please visit [www.boldli.org](http://www.boldli.org) or scan the QR code below to make your donation today. Because at Boldli, we believe every child, no matter their abilities, deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. While educational support systems evolve, your generosity ensures we can continue standing in the gap for Michigan's most vulnerable children.

With hope for the future,



Heather Martinez Chief Executive Officer

P.S. If you haven't donated since our rebrand last August, now is the perfect time to reconnect with our mission. Our new name reflects our bold belief that homes, schools, neighborhoods, and communities should be places where diverse abilities are not just supported, but anticipated, welcomed, and celebrated.



*Scan to join our bold effort to support exceptional children.*