A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each year for the past few years, I have thought, “This is the year I will pull back, bring in someone new, and retire.” However, it seems that every time I try to leave, I am drawn back in by the wonderful work we do here at Ennis. It is my ultimate plan to move to part-time and begin focusing my time on public policy, fundraising, and coaching those on their way up. It will be at least 2019 before I can begin that process.

As I prepare for my own transition, many others at the executive level are beginning to look at retirement within the next several years as well. The upcoming year will include the internal movement of multiple staff members to Vice President and COO positions. However, our succession planning extends beyond the executive level: a number of young staff—many of whom have begun pursue Masters Degrees and licensure—are now in training for leadership roles. I am confident that these people believe in Ennis, carrying both the energy that makes our work possible and the heart behind what we do. The agency is excitingly blessed.

This year, like each year before it, has been filled with both challenges and blessings. We have faced significant challenges within our organization but were able to correct the issues and move forward. We are also seeing the development of a partnership between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and commercial insurance companies. In this arrangement, the insurance companies manage the state and absorb the risk, as many states do not have the money to sustain themselves in the event of a major lawsuit or other high-level legal issue. This system is already in use in 34 other states. Ennis has been positioning itself to do more, strive for excellence, and diversify services in order to maintain our competitive edge in this new system. A great example of this is our recent acceptance of a contract to train, navigate, and recruit foster families in 17 counties. We will be expanding into the “thumb” region, up to Harrison, and down M-127 to Lansing. Starting in March of 2018, we will be working with 19 different DHHS offices. We see this as a way to demonstrate that we are able to provide quality services in every type of area.

After years of diligent work and conversation, we are now providing mental health services inside five churches in Genesee County. It has long been our belief that more community members may seek counseling if it were provided in a location where they already feel comfortable. This has proven true, and we have recently been asked by the State of Michigan to extend and expand the contract.

These are just a few examples of what Ennis Center is doing to ensure sustainability. However, we would not be able to provide these services to youth and families in our communities without your support, and I want you to know how much we appreciate each and every one of you. Students from the Flint location of Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine continue to volunteer with us, and were very fortunate this year to have received even more Christmas gifts for our youth than in years past. This is all thanks to you: the community.

I have been a child welfare service provider for a very long time, and every time I think I have seen it all, I realize that there is still much work to be done. Many children in our care have experienced severe abuses and trauma. With each case, Ennis staff members come together, supporting one another both professionally and emotionally. I want to make sure that I thank our staff for helping make Ennis the agency that it is. They have a difficult job that challenges them each and every day and they should be recognized for the work they do. Thank you!

We have been abundantly blessed this year, yet our list of needs is still long. Our greatest need will always be safe, happy foster homes to place children in. You can help by simply talking to one person a day about Ennis Center’s need for more foster homes, and asking them to tell one other person.

It is my greatest hope that Ennis Center for Children continues to improve, expand, and serve with compassion every day. Thank you all again, so much.

Bob
Foster Care
Ennis Center is licensed by the State of Michigan to provide services to children from birth to age 21 who have experienced abuse and/or neglect. Ennis Center’s foster parents participate as full partners with our certified, licensed staff to provide temporary, safe care in a stable family environment, while working to reunify and preserve birth families whenever possible, or seek permanent adoptive families when needed.

Treatment Foster Care
A community-based model program for youth that utilizes licensed foster care homes and provides gender-specific and intensive in-home services to males and females who may struggle in placements. Youth entering the program may be returning to the community from a residential placement or are being diverted from a residential placement and do not have appropriate homes to return to within their community.

Specialized Group Care
A community-based model program for adjudicated youth that utilizes licensed foster care homes and provides gender-specific and intensive in-home services to males and females ages 13 to 17 years. Youth entering the program may be returning to the community from a residential placement or are being diverted from a residential placement and do not have appropriate homes to return to within their community.

Adoption
Ennis Center is a member of a specialized recruitment effort to find permanent homes for children and adolescents available for adoption in our foster care programs, as well as those outside of our program, and is currently the third largest specialized adoption agency in the state.

Community-Based Delinquency
Specially trained staff works intensively with delinquent Wayne County youth and their families to help the youth become productive members of the community.

Youth Assistance Program
YAP works with youth who have come to the attention of the juvenile justice system and are at risk of continued involvement in the system.

SafeNet
Specifically for teenage sexual offenders, SafeNet is a reintegration/transition, relapse prevention and diversionary treatment program. This program combines the use of tethering, voice monitoring, psychiatric and psychological testing, polygraph testing, Abel Assessment, therapy, and safety contacts to assure community safety and progressive treatment growth.
Behavioral Health Programs
These programs are designed to provide intensive services to children between the ages of 7 and 17 and their families, who have multiple service needs and require access to various mental health, clinical and community services. These programs’ primary goals are to promote normal developmental milestones, support and promote healthy family function, preserve and reunite families, and reduce the need for institutional care in psychiatric hospitals and other placements.

Fostering Creativity
Fostering Creativity is a free Therapeutic Arts program offered at Ennis Center for youth ages 5 to 23, in out-of-home placement/foster care in Genesee and Oakland Counties, made possible with funding provided by the Ruth Mott Foundation, the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, the Bernard J. and Camille Cebelak Foundation, the Ticket to Dream Foundation, and Hagerman Foundation.

The program offers a variety of 6 to 12 week therapeutic art classes in the areas of: painting, music, production and recording, expressive writing, photography, comics as personal narrative, and 3D art. Each two-hour class is facilitated by an experienced and skilled art instructor with the Art Therapist present.

Throughout the year, youth participants develop and strengthen skills in a variety of artistic mediums and learn ways in which art can be used as a tool for deeper self-awareness and positive self-esteem, improving academic performance and encouraging stability in foster/adoptive placement.

Outpatient Counseling Services
Outpatient Counseling Services provide individual and family counseling by professionally licensed therapists. We offer many services and specialize in individual therapy for children, teens, adults and family therapy, as well as marriage counseling. Experienced clinicians are available at each of our locations and are able to assist with a variety of mental health issues. We accept most insurance(s) including: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Blue Care Network, HAP, McLaren, Medicare and Medicaid.

Ennis Counseling Center
Ennis Counseling Center is stationed at six (6) local churches in Genesee County, New Jerusalem Full Gospel Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Metropolitan Baptist Church, New Life Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C, First Trinity Baptist Church and Ebenezer Ministries. All counseling services are provided by professional licensed therapists. Program is funded by CDBG and the State of Michigan.
REVENUE & EXPENSES
For Year Ending September 2017

LIFE CHANGING WORK
By the Numbers

Children in foster care
Children adopted
Children adopted from foster care
Foster families
At-risk teens served

255 133 95 166 43
Fostering Creativity

2016 Art Show
On Friday, December 8, 2016, Fostering Creativity hosted its Third Annual Fostering Creativity Art Show in Flint. The show featured art work and performances created throughout the year from over 50 youth participants. Over 200 community members, including family members, staff, and college students attended the show as part of the Flint ARTWALK.

2017 Calendar
Ennis Center produced its fourth annual calendar, which featured the artwork of 13 Fostering Creativity youth participants. The calendar cover and each month featured a piece of artwork—painting, drawing, or photography—created by kids in care and was sponsored by a community business or organization.

Flinn Grant for Pontiac Location
This year, Ennis Center’s Fostering Creativity program became available to children in foster care with Ennis Center’s Pontiac location. This expansion was made possible by a grant from the Ethel & James Flinn Foundation. Children were able to participate in a range of therapeutic arts classes, including Bangtown Studio On-The-Go, Mixed Media, and Three-Dimensional art.

Success Story
Julian was 17 years of age at the time of his adjudication. He was raised by a single mother of three children. Despite the challenges of growing up without his father, who was murdered in 2006, Julian continued to stay focused on his education. At one time, he even carried a 3.2 GPA while attending Martin Luther King High School. However, in December of 2016, he was charged with Assault and Battery and placed on Level 1 Probation.

With a positive attitude, Julian decided to focus his time on his educational goals and football. Many of his coaches stood as mentors for him, and with the support of his mother, he completed his probation successfully in June 2017. Julian is presently a 12th grade student at Central High School and is scheduled to graduate in June 2018. Julian has stated that after graduation, his goal is to enroll in college and play football.
**FOSTER CARE & LOVE**

"Adopting one child won't change the world..."

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**Kimmel Adoption Story**

The first child we took placement of was a six year old boy. He had been severely neglected and was removed from his parent twice in his short life. His second removal was at the age of four, when he was found wandering the streets with his three-year-old sibling looking for food. This little boy was so delayed due to a lack of support in the home that we had to hold him back in school to assist him with learning, development, and social interactions. He was kicked off the bus, suspended for hitting a teacher, hiding under desks, ripping posters off the wall, and failing his subjects in 1st grade. He was diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder, PTSD, ADHD, and identified as cognitively impaired. We committed to helping him through all of his struggles and adopted him when he was seven years old.

He's now 14 years old. He continues to have struggles, but he's receiving assistance in school to pass his classes and no longer has behavioral issues in school. He is a very loving, likeable young man, known by everyone in school because of his friendliness. He will likely always need guidance and assistance, as he's easily manipulated by others and lacks impulse control, but we are continually reminded by those that have known him since he first was placed in our home what an improvement he made and how far he's come.

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**Ennis Center’s Staff Adoption Story**

Two days before Christmas, we accepted placement of four children, who ranged in age from four weeks to four years old, after we learned that they had been separated due to the lack of an available home willing to take them all. These children came from an extremely abusive and neglectful home. The three year old had been bound naked and left to lie in a bathtub all day with urine soaked underwear on his head. The three and four year olds were urinated on if they wet the bed. The 14-month-old was left in a car seat or high chair all day and unable to walk. There had also been domestic violence in their birth home between the parents. These children were aggressive toward one another, often hitting, biting, and pulling one another’s hair to the extent that they had to be separated most of the time or closely monitored. Even in daycare, they could not be in with children their age or younger due to their aggressive, violent behaviors towards others. Multiple services were sought out for the children including Early On, Early Head Start, and Infant Mental Health. The two oldest children were placed with their biological grandparents after 6 weeks. We adopted the two younger children as soon as they became eligible. The two we adopted were diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder, PTSD, Intermittent Explosive Disorder, and Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

Our children are now six and seven years old. The oldest is getting all A’s in first grade and made dramatic improvements in her behavior. The youngest continues to struggle with anger and defiant behaviors, but has made improvements and continues to progress daily. Having these children in our home has filled our lives with joy and allowed our family to grow in a way that never would have been possible without them.

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**Rose’s Story**

Our family brought baby Rose home from the hospital when she was 5 days old, as our foster daughter. This was the second baby placed in our home, and we could not have been more thrilled to have her, as our first newborn foster-daughter ended up leaving unexpectedly after only 24 hours. While we did receive a lot of phone calls for potential placements, our licensing worker was diligent in working with us on finding a foster care placement that we felt would be a good fit for our then family of 4. We went through the court process with Rose, while enjoying every minute of her babyhood, and were blessed with a very kind foster care-worker during this time. When parental rights for Rose were terminated, we were determined to adopt her and add her to our forever family. We continued along the court and paperwork process for adoption, and again were assigned an amazing worker in the Ennis Adoptions department. Finally, after a total of nearly 9 months, we finalized our adoption of Rose! We are so incredibly blessed and happy to call her our daughter, and to have been able to be with her for most of her sweet little life!
ADOPTION STORIES
but for that child, the world will change.”

Relative Adoption Story
A relative stepped forward when she learned that her four nephews were removed and in foster care. She accepted placement of all four boys ages 3-10. The relative had no children of her own and had not intended on having children, yet opened her home to these children without hesitation. The relative went through the process to become a licensed foster parent to maintain placement of the boys. This foster parent took on the task of caring for these four boys and all of their behavioral issues—including multiple suspensions from school, defiant behavior in the home, physically and verbally aggressive behaviors, and mental health issues. Through her determination to provide a loving home and dedication to meeting their needs, she was able to assist in obtaining needed services for the children which included therapy, special education testing and implementation of a behavior plan to assist them in school. Although the behavior of these boys was often challenging, the foster parent maintained her commitment to the children and demonstrated to them that she would be a consistent person for them to the extent that she eventually adopted all four of the boys. This is a tremendous accomplishment, given the difficulty in locating a foster home that would accept and maintain placement of four boys with the issues they overcame. The boys have since been adopted and continue to make amazing progress in their permanent home.

Meet the Squires
Mr. and Mrs. Squires have been licensed foster parents for six years. Since 2012, they have fostered 12 children and adopted two children. The Squires are incredible foster parents. They will take placement of a child in an emergency for short or long-term placement. They have taken children of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, ages and genders. Mr. and Mrs. Squires have opened their homes and their hearts to children with disabilities and children who have suffered a significant amount of trauma. They have so much love to give and have shared their love with so many children in need of a loving and stable environment. The Squires have demonstrated patience and guidance to every child that has been placed in their home. This family is absolutely incredible and we are grateful that they continue to share themselves with children in need of a loving home.

Reunification Story
After coming into foster care in December of 2016, Ben and Tony were placed with first time foster parents, Christopher and Stephanie Price. The Price family opened their arms and heart and home to these children and provided them with nothing but love. The boys’ biological parents jumped on the bandwagon as soon as they knew what they had to do to get their children back. They called around and found out where they should go to get the services they needed.

The biological parents were only ever late for one visit due to weather and never missed a visit with the boys. They put intentional effort into interacting with their boys with love and care, and showed a genuine desire to become better parents. Both parents gained employment and were able to save enough money to move into their own apartment.

The boys’ foster family was also very instrumental in working with the parents to ensure that the children had what was necessary to live at home, and on October 30, 2017, Ben and Tony were reunited with their parents.

Even now, the parents and foster parents remain in touch. The entire process lasted less than 10 months, which is well below the average amount of time children spend in foster care. This story serves as a reminder of our mission: to preserve families when possible and create new ones when necessary.

Ennis Center is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization licensed by the State of Michigan and nationally accredited by the National Council on Accreditation of Services for Families & Children. Contributions are tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law.
October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

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October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

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Rowe Professional Services
Ruggeros Italian Restaurant and Bar
Ruth Matt Foundation
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Shanti Counseling Services
Signs by Crannie
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The Columbus Foundation
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The Laundry
The Woods Church - Chesterfield
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GIVING COMMUNITY

Grants

TICKET TO DREAM
Ennis Center is part of the Mattress Firm Foster Kids program and is a recipient of Ticket to Dream grant funds. Through these programs, we receive funds and in-kind donations to support our kids in foster care. We have received a grant to support Fostering Creativity, as well as funds to help our kids participate in extracurricular activities, funds for emergency placements, school supplies, and toys for the holidays. Olympic gold-medalist and former foster child Simone Biles, is a spokesperson for the organization and her promotional advertisements run regularly.

FOSTERING CREATIVITY
Ennis Center received grants from the Ruth Mott Foundation, Hagerman Foundation, Bernard J. and Camille Cebelak Foundation, and the Ticket to Dream Foundation to fund Fostering Creativity at our Flint location. The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation contributed the second installment of a grant to fund Fostering Creativity in our Pontiac location.

STATE OF MICHIGAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
In 2017, Ennis Counseling Center received funds from the State of Michigan and the Community Development Block Grant to expand the church-based outpatient counseling program. The expansion partners our agency with Genesee County churches to offer mental health counseling services in communities that are statistically less likely to seek them out. Services are provided to clients free of charge regardless of their insurance status.

Donations

SEALIFE AQUARIUM DONATION
For the second year in a row, SeaLife Aquarium in Auburn Hills, Mich. chose Ennis Center to be one of the benefiting organizations of their Annual Fun Fest, a special event where children in foster care and their families could enter free of charge. This year, joined by the LEGOLAND Discovery Center Michigan, they opened their doors to foster parents and foster children from all Ennis Center locations. In total, 89 adults and 222 children attended the event, valuing the donated admissions at over $6,000.

ANNOUNCING THE JOHN AND JUDY WRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP
Have you ever played two truths and a lie? I use it as an icebreaker frequently. Sometimes I switch up the lie, but my “truth” is always the same. “My family had 55 foster children in our home.” I say this for a few reasons. First, it usually throws people off, which makes the game more fun for me. It seems like a crazy number... and it is. But more importantly, as I am meeting new people, this one fact represents everything that I value. Compassion, generosity, giving back to the community in the ways you can, and with enough love in your heart, miracles can happen.

I find myself incredibly lucky to have been raised by John and Judy Wright and witness firsthand their work as foster parents with Ennis Center for Children. Their extraordinary work as dedicated foster parents has been recognized at the local and state level. In an effort to further recognize the Wrights for their dedication, exemplary work, and carry forth their legacy, our family has partnered with Ennis Center for Children to create the John and Judy Wright Scholarship Fund. This scholarship will provide essential financial support to Michigan’s foster children who have overcome exceptionally challenging beginnings to pursue a higher education.

Creating this scholarship was important to us for a number of reasons. First, it felt like a natural progression of the life changing work our parents have already done. With only 3% of foster care alumni completing a bachelor’s degree, we understand the extreme challenges these young adults face and we want to support any foster child seeking higher education.

Secondly, my dad met my mom while he was an instructor at a community college. My dad always made our education a priority, which is something I never take for granted. I was 16 when our family welcomed our first foster baby. I remember college tours with my mom pushing baby girl in a stroller while my dad told me that education was the key to unlocking my future. Baby girl is now 16, starting college tours herself. We hope to do for students like her what our parents did for us; remove barriers and burdens to let them focus on their future.

If you know a child in the foster care system looking for support pursuing higher education, or if you are interested in making a tax deductible contribution, please visit jjwrightscholarship.squarespace.com.

As the daughter of John and Judy Wright, I could not be more honored to be announcing this scholarship. It represents everything I value; compassion, generosity, giving back to the community in the ways you can, and with enough love in your heart, miracles can happen.

jjwrightscholarship@gmail.com   jjwrightscholarship.squarespace.com   Facebook.com/JJWrightScholarship

MattressFIRM® Foster Kids

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Halloween Party
In 2016, Theresa Cooke and Jim Hawrys hosted a Halloween party for Ennis Center for Children. The event served as a fundraiser for employee incentives at our Flint location.

Ennis Center Annual Picnic
Picnic Ennis Center’s Annual Picnic proved, once again, to be a wonderful, fun-filled day for Ennis Center foster families and staff alike. Over 400 people attended, and there were tons of games, crafts, and activities for the kids to enjoy. Ennis supporters, staff, and several sponsors donated and volunteered to make this event happen, giving their time and providing food and drinks for our families.

Paint Our Town Blue March 2017
In March 2017, Ennis Center partnered with Priority Children, Whaley Children’s Center, and Weiss Child Advocacy Center to “Paint Our Town Blue,” a campaign designed to bring awareness to child abuse and neglect in Genesee County. The campaign used the hashtag #SpeakUp810 to encourage people to report suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect. Ennis Center President and Founder Bob Ennis spoke at both the campaign’s kickoff breakfast, hosted by Flint Institute of Music, and its press conference at Hurley Medical Center.

Holiday Parties
Each year, Ennis Center locations host Christmas parties for Ennis foster and adoptive families in each of the four counties we serve. The fun-filled nights were hosted by UAW Local 659 (Flint), UAW-GM Center for Human Resources (Detroit), Troy Hope Church (Pontiac), and Community of Christ (Port Huron). Many other donors and friends of Ennis Center provided food and gifts to our families, including Deluxe Dental, who donated multiple televisions and gift cards to give to our foster parents.

Wendy’s Charity Classic
Ennis Center Alumnus Mark Chatman was the keynote speaker at this year’s Wendy’s Charity Classic Golf Outing. We received a donation from the Starboard foundation as a result of fundraising efforts from this event.

Bowling Fundraiser
Ennis Center’s 5th Annual Bowling Fundraiser was a success. Over 100 people bowled at the event. In an unprecedented upset, the Beauty Image Team took first place over the two-year reigning champion, Reflective Productions and Recording. Thanks to the generosity of many community businesses and restaurants, we were able to give away door and raffle prizes, including a flat screen television donated by Deluxe Dental.

24th Annual Scramble for Kids Golf Outing
Ennis Center’s 24th Annual Scramble for Kids Golf Outing was a success. Over 140 people attended the event, which featured course entertainment, door prizes, and a silent auction sponsored by a wide array of local businesses.

Dr. Hershey’s Back to School Drive
Dr. Hershey’s office donated backpacks and school supplies for kids headed back to school in the fall of 2017. They also donated funds to support kids in foster care with Ennis Center.

Making Our Children Smile
Ennis Center received a donation of a 2015 Chrysler Town & Country from Norwood Jewell’s Making Our Children Smile Charity. The donation was announced at a press conference held at the Al Serra Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram showroom on March 28, 2017. This van has allowed Ennis Center to transport children in our foster care and therapeutic arts programs, and complete pickups and drop-offs of urgently needed items, including bedding and clothing.
How Can You Help? Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent.
Ennis Center provides its foster parents with training, ongoing support and financial reimbursement.
Please call 888-200-8915 to learn more about how you can make a difference in the life of a child.

EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT ENNIS CENTER FOR CHILDREN

Create a goodsearch account and the search engine, powered by Yahoo, will donate money to Ennis Center when you search the internet or shop online.

Once you are registered for GoodSearch and Ennis is your cause of choice, you can use the site’s GoodShop feature to get the latest coupons and offers at thousands of top retailers. When you shop with GoodShop a percentage of your purchase is donated to Ennis Center.

If you shop at Kroger and use a Kroger Plus Card, you can link your card to Ennis Center.
Every time you shop, just swipe your card or enter your phone number and we automatically start earning donations.

Sign up at: www.krogercommunityrewards.com
Be sure to have your Kroger Plus Card ready.

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Ennis Center every time you shop, at no cost to you.
When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Ennis Center. Make sure to designate Ennis Center as your charity of choice to begin donating.

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IF FOSTER PARENTING OR ADOPTING ISN’T FOR YOU, CONSIDER A DONATION TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

• Operational Fund
Supports our overall agency and its programs for children and families. This contribution allows our leadership to apply your gift to the area of greatest need

• Youth Special Needs Fund
Ensures that our children get what they need (tutoring, drivers training, special medical devices, etc.) and are afforded the same opportunities as their peers

• Holiday Fund
Helps provide holiday gifts and holiday parties for our kids, many of whom come from poverty and may not know the warmth of the season

• Endowment Fund
Will help ensure Ennis Center is a lasting resource for children and families in need

• Scholarship Fund
Awards scholarships to former Ennis Center foster children pursuing a college or technical school degree

OFFICE LOCATIONS:
Genesee County: 129 E. Third St., Flint, MI 48502 • (810) 233-4031
St. Clair County: 222 Huron Ave., Port Huron, MI 48060 • (810) 990-1424
Monroe County: 125 S. Monroe Street, Suite #302, Monroe, MI 48161 • (734) 349-6546
Oakland County: 91 S. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, MI 48329 • (248) 334-2715
Wayne County: 20100 Greenfield Rd., Detroit, MI 48235 • (313) 342-2699