

The Impact of Philanthropy in Detroit

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

Neighborhood Service Organization facilitates dreams for Detroit’s most vulnerable communities by bridging gaps in housing, health, and well-being.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Kelly Thomas, Vice President of Talent Management; Kevin Smith, CFO; Paris White, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives; Linda Little, President and CEO; Katrina McCree, Chief Community Impact Officer; Tonya Thompson, Executive Office Manager; and Brad Bishop, Chief IT and Facilities Officer.

As its name implies, the ideal of community lies at the very heart of Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO). Since 1955, the nonprofit’s comprehensive programs and compassionate staff have impacted countless children, families, and adults across greater Detroit.

“Our mission is to facilitate dreams for underserved populations by providing equity for all through innovative solutions that bridge gaps in housing, health, and well-being,” says Linda Little, president and CEO.

A renowned leader recognized for her ability to transform health care ecosystems, Little leverages hard-earned experience across for-profit and not-for-profit health care systems, managed care, and government health programs to enhance community outcomes. Under her direction, NSO delivers community-based primary and behavioral health care through their four 360 Neighborhood Wellness Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC’s), comprehensive housing solutions, and well-being services for more than 12,000 individuals.

“With the support of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, Neighborhood Service Organization was formed with a focus on community basic needs,” says Little. “Now, we’ve evolved to provide a full continuum of services that support our community’s most vulnerable neighbors.”

Creating Safe Havens

One of the largest forces working to resolve homelessness in Detroit, NSO provides supportive services and a safe haven for populations experiencing housing insecurity. The organization’s emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing programs connect those in need with vital care and assistance. NSO provides street medicine and outreach initiatives

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—Linda Little, NSO President and CEO

to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness receive the essential healthcare and support they need to improve their well-being and transition towards stable housing.

“Hope is the first thing people lose when suffering housing instability,” says Little. “Our programs restore it by helping unhoused populations realize they can achieve and sustain housing.”

Part of a \$25 million vision to alleviate homelessness across metro Detroit, NSO’s innovative Detroit Healthy Housing Center pairs emergency shelter and permanent housing transition services with essential health and wellness care. The DHHC 360 Wellness center is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic that provides care to emergency shelter residents.

“Our ‘housing first’ approach provides case management services that help individuals secure entitlement benefits and connect with permanent housing solutions, which can include family reunification,” Little explains. “We provide rapid rehousing for those who qualify. From there, our supportive housing services transition individuals into permanent housing.” This includes converted apartment units across NSO’s Bell Building and Detroit Healthy Housing Campus.

Holistic Health

“When one sector of our community is unhealthy, we all suffer. But when we come together to support one another, our communities grow stronger,” she continues.

That ethos underlies NSO’s commitment to be the premier provider of holistic care in the communities it serves. Across metro Detroit, the organization’s 360 Neighborhood Wellness Centers, and community outreach programs provide primary care, dental, and behavioral health services focused on treating the whole person—including comprehensive support for children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

“Our diverse programs reduce inequities by eliminating barriers to care. But we can’t do it alone,” says Little. “Fundraising, donations, and sponsorship opportunities keep our organization’s services in reach for thousands in need.

“Connecting with Neighborhood Service Organization brings fulfillment and enrichment beyond imagination,” she concludes. “Together, we thrive.”



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