

December 2018



Thank you for an amazing 2018!



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Hello Friends,

As we enter into 2019, we can't help but look back on this past year with a feeling of excitement for what has been accomplished and motivation to achieve even more in the coming year.

Just this past semester, we have seen so much growth in our students in CAN's After School Programs--

At Green Baxter Court, A. has had an up and down year, but has grown so much. A. has trouble regulating his emotions, so staff would sit down with him to talk about different outlets he could use when he feels upset.

Since then, he has found a coping tool that works for

him and he has been so much calmer and focused. We are excited to see him adding "tools" to his "emotional toolbox" as he continues to grow and flourish in our After School Program.

At Mitchell, when K. joined the program this fall, she really struggled emotionally. On many occasions, she would have an uneven emotional response to certain stimuli/changes. One day in particular, she began to "freak out" and Libby, our Mitchell Director, shares that she knew this was a great opportunity to help her practice gaining emotional stability. She sat with K. and calmly explained that it is the grownup's job to make sure everyone is safe and if there is ever a problem, she wouldn't leave K. behind.

Libby checks in with K. every day. When she comes to the After School Program, she asks her: "K. -- what are two things we aren't going to do today?" Her response "whine and freak out" is lined with a huge smile -- she understands that she is in control of herself and that she can choose to have a good day.



Growth can happen in incremental ups and downs and it's not always easy to measure. Each and every day, CAN staff, interns, and volunteers work with our students to take baby

steps and giant leaps into becoming successful, self-sufficient adults. In small ways and in big ways, these students overcome internal and external obstacles with the strength of a thousand warriors and we are so very, very proud of them.

We are grateful for the year we have had and the amazing people we have had the joy to know and work with.

Here's to an awesome 2018 and a rockin' 2019!

Sincerely,
Your Friends at CAN

What's Happening at CAN?



CAN had another successful year of gift-giving and merry-making as Santa made the rounds to visit the young people at all of our locations during our holiday parties!

Thanks to so many generous donors, all 200+ of CAN's children and youth each received 4 gifts of exactly what they and their parents asked for this Christmas, and one extra gift at

the party just for fun =)

What we love the most is seeing our families come together to enjoy a holiday that otherwise can be extremely stressful with so much pressure to provide so your child doesn't feel left out.

What an incredible week and a great way to wrap up 2018!

CAN Spotlight

Thank you SLATE Mentors!



CAN is proud to partner with SLATE (Service Learning And Trans-disciplinary Education) every year for many years. This year, we have partnered 25 mentors with 25 CAN teens!

SLATE mentors will connect with their teens to do fun activities like going to the movies, ice skating, etc. and, more importantly, start to build a meaningful relationship with their mentee. Some mentors are able to also come in to tutor during After School Programs, partnering with the student to complete both personal and academic goals so they can create brighter futures for themselves.

Thank you, SLATE, for your amazing partnership and for making a meaningful impact on the lives of CAN's children and

youth!



Thanks to so many of you, we have matched **\$20,000** during our "Together We Can Create Brighter Futures" campaign!

If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, we hope you will consider a donation to this campaign, which will help cover the costs of new CAN programs at Bryant and Brick Elementary School in the coming years. The campaign will run until the end of January.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

Upcoming Events

Looking Ahead: What's Happening in 2019?

Bryant Community Center

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of hundreds of donors, construction workers, and CAN community and staff members, Bryant Community Center will be fully operational in 2019. We can't wait to operate After School Programs, larger food distributions, and more out of our new, beautiful facility!

Brick Community Center

Additionally, we are excited to begin operating out of Brick Elementary full-time. With the ability to fully commit to the Brick community, we will be better able to partner with

children, youth, and families to create brighter futures.

Programs & Services - How can you help?

After School Programs- Partner with school-aged youth to complete homework, read, and build a meaningful relationship.

Programs operate Monday-Thursday from 4-6pm.

Make a Meal- Sign up to prepare and deliver dinner served during CAN's After School Programs.

Drop-off any time before After School Programs with enough time to be re-heated if necessary.

CAN Art & Design- Partner with school-aged youth to experiment with and explore technology through the lens of art & design.

Mitchell program winter session will operate every Thursday from 4-6pm from January 17-March 7.

Read to Succeed- Partner with a Brick Elementary teacher to help students develop literacy skills during the school day for 1-2 hours a week (min.).

Program operates Monday-Friday any time between 9:00am-3:30pm.

Bryant Market Volunteer- Partner with CAN, Bryant, and Washtenaw families to operate an efficient, warm, and friendly food distribution.

New volunteers can sign up to start at the end of January. The Bryant Market operates every Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30am-1:00pm.

**By donating goods, money, or time,
you can make a difference!**

Call or email for more information:

info@canannarbor.org or (734) 994-2985

Looking for Ways to Get Involved?

Volunteer with Community Action Network!

**CAN could not be successful without the help of
countless volunteers like you.**

Visit

www.canwashtenaw.org/volunteer

for more information about how you can help CAN.

Email Katie at volunteers@canannarbor.org

or call (734) 994-2985 to get in touch!



After School Program Volunteer



Art & Design Program Volunteer



Bryant Market Volunteer



Make a Meal Volunteer



Read to Succeed Volunteer



Summer Camp Volunteer



VISIT CAN'S WEBSITE

Community Action Network partners with children, youth, and families from under-resourced Washtenaw County neighborhoods to create better futures for themselves and improve the communities in which they live.



Stay Connected



www.canwashtenaw.org || (734) 994-2985