Dear Wayne Metro Stakeholders,

We know positive change in the face of poverty is achievable because we see it taking place in the lives of individuals and families we serve each day. Making a big impact requires participation from every member of our community: from government and corporate partners; philanthropy, education, and the health and human service sector; to residents, families, and our student leaders – all solving our most pressing social and economic challenges together. This is Collective Impact and the foundation of Community Action’s pursuit of maximum participation – including and welcoming all people, from all sectors, races, faiths, political parties, and genders to play a role.

Through Collective Impact we can go further together to forge Empowerment Pathways for families across Detroit and Wayne County. We can connect with those we serve to re-imagine what our human service delivery systems “ought to be” and engage with communities to heal, inspire, and accelerate social and economic prosperity. We can build power, mobilize and advocate to drive real and measurable change. And we can thrive together by listening, learning, and lifting people and voices up to transform lives today and for future generations.

Thank you for your continued partnership and investments in our mission and vision. We look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

LOUIS D. PISZKER
Chief Executive Officer

JODI ADAMOVICH
Board Chairperson

PICTURED ON FRONT COVER
Shamayim “Mama Shu” Harris, left
Taneka Hicks, top right
Patrick and Lisa North and family, bottom right
Read more about their inspiring journeys on pages 2–4
CHAMPION STORY: SHAMAYIM “MAMA SHU” HARRIS

Mama Shu has been a Wayne Metro Regional Advisory Council member for nine years, and has represented RAC 1 on the Agency’s Board of Directors for two. She is a visionary, fierce community activist, local celebrity, and beloved matriarch to the City of Highland Park. As the founder and CEO of Avalon Village, Mama Shu has transformed blight into beauty, creating an oasis where women, children, and neighbors can gather together in fellowship and pride.

Mama Shu assembled a team of engineers, futurists, artists, urban farmers, volunteers and donors from around the world to build a sustainable eco-village on Avalon Street between Woodward and Second. The Village currently owns 40 parcels of land and four houses, with plans to acquire many more. These once vacant, blighted lots and structures are being brought back to life as the Homework House (an after-school learning and activity center for neighborhood children), the Goddess Marketplace (an economic development initiative for women entrepreneurs), the Healing House (a center for holistic healing), a healthy cafe, activity courts, greenhouses, a micro library and more.

TANEKA HICKS

Taneka Hicks is an ambitious mother and a go-getter. Taneka turned to Wayne Metro in 2017 to get some help catching up on her water bill and quickly learned there was much more offered at Wayne Metro. Since enrolling in Wayne Metro’s Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP), Taneka maintained timely payments for a full year and was eligible to re-enroll for a second year. Over the last two years, Taneka opted in for additional wrap-around services including Weatherization, Minor Home Repair and placing her child into our Head Start Program. Taneka has received services, but is giving back to Wayne Metro and her community as a parent volunteer at our Cortland Community Impact Center in Highland Park.

Taneka currently is on the pre-enrollment list for Wayne Metro’s Leap to Teach Apprenticeship Program, and hopes to earn her Child Development Associate Certification within the next year.

“It’s been really a joy being connected with Wayne Metro and working in collaboration to make our neighborhood beautiful and to provide beautiful services for the people.”

“Wayne Metro is an organization that exists to help those in need. They have so many services that are beneficial to those with little to no income, so it’s worth the call.”
Patrick and Lisa North entered Wayne Metro’s Individual Development Account (IDA) Program with a vision of one day buying their dream home. Patrick, who was the primary earner, did not have the necessary credit score to qualify for a mortgage. They also didn’t have enough saved to make a down payment or cover closing costs. Patrick had some college education, but had not completed his degree. In January 2016, the couple got to work. Patrick opened a secure credit card to start building credit. They budgeted and saved, and started contributing to an IDA for homeownership.

The Norths worked fast. In under a year, Patrick finished his associate degree, received his first promotion, and purchased their first home. The Norths did so well, they didn’t have to use the IDA match on the home purchase, and instead used it to help Lisa expand her cosmetic business. Lisa has reached her savings goal, completed a business education, registered her business and opened a business account. Now, she is focusing on finishing her business plan.

Patrick has been promoted again at work, this time to a management role, and volunteers his time as a motivational speaker who helps Wayne Metro’s Homeless Department clients gain and regain employment.

“Wayne Metro truly has changed my and my husband’s life, and I cannot wait to see my business, Northstar Makeup, explode because of them.” - Lisa North

“Getting involved with an organization like Wayne Metro, they will get you on the right path to realize whatever goal you’re working to achieve.” - Patrick North

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Wayne Metro delivers a collective impact to create inclusive social and economic mobility so that people can achieve their goals. Wayne Metro answered over 130,000 individual requests for assistance in fiscal year 2019 in Wayne County, Michigan. Wayne Metro’s staff, volunteers and supporters collaborated with numerous partners to help individuals follow their own Empowerment Pathway. For fiscal year October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, Wayne Metro invested over $34 million in federal, state, local and private funds in the strategic focus areas of Family Stability, Quality Housing, and Economic Opportunities.

**FAMILY STABILITY**

*Project High Five* expanded to over 1,000 children and their families for its early childhood education and family support services. The Office of Head Start in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Wayne Metro five additional sites in suburban Wayne County. Project High Five nurtures children and families in the most formative stages of child development from birth to age five including pregnant women. Wayne Metro orchestrates a symphony of partners to achieve its kindergarten readiness goals such as parents and caregivers. This is made possible by donors like Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Wal-Mart, and Michigan Department of Education. Wayne Metro grew this work through relationships with the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, Brilliant Basics, and many other community gardens throughout Metro Detroit.

The Snack Wagon, Garden Grants, and Cortland Crops Produce Distribution infused more green into the diets and wallets of children and families. Wayne Metro answers this work through relationships with the United Way of Southeastern Michigan, Brilliant Basics, and many other community gardens throughout Metro Detroit.

Freedom Village broke ground to build six units of housing for refugee families in Hamtramck. This project continues Wayne Metro’s affordable housing work in partnership with Wayne County’s Office of Community Development.

**QUALITY HOUSING**

The Weatherization Training House completely transformed a boarded up two-story home into an energy-efficient training center, as well as a welcoming community gathering space. The House is part of the Cortland Community Impact Campus in Highland Park that combines resources from the Detroit Regional Chamber, GM, and the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, among others. Wayne Metro has invested over $2.6 million in the Campus and surrounding neighborhoods thanks to partners like the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

The Detroit Financial Empowerment Center will impact more than 700 families in its first year. The City of Detroit, Wayne County Treasurer’s Office and Wayne Metro have joined forces to help families who are struggling to pay their property taxes. Residents receive free, one-on-one professional counseling and referrals to other services. JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Skillman Foundation and others have united to keep Detroiters in their homes.

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

Detroit NextGen is a place-based Kresge initiative to advance the human services sector and accelerate social and economic mobility for low-income children and families in Detroit. The Kresge Foundation selected Wayne Metro to join a two year cohort of five human services organizations. This initiative works to integrate the delivery of services for better collective impact.

Civilla and Wayne Metro have joined forces to reimagine how human services is designed and delivered. Civilla, a Detroit-based non-profit design studio, designed, tested and piloted a universal digital application for assistance. This improved the client experience while simultaneously reducing the paperwork required and implementing a “no wrong-door” strategy.
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William Lane
Yvonne Herman

THANK YOU.

Your support helps Wayne Metro to carry out our Mission to empower people and communities to be strong, healthy, and thriving.

Accuracy and completeness of this list has been done to the best of our ability.
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MISSION

Guided by our belief that no one should live in poverty, Wayne Metro empowers people and communities to be strong, healthy, and thriving.

VISION

Through our work to diminish poverty, we envision communities where all people have hope and opportunities to realize their full potential.

STRATEGIC RESULT

Deliver a collective impact to create social and economic mobility for people and communities through advocacy, resources, and collaborations.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

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Mia Harnos
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Yvonne Herman
Chief Human Resources Officer

William Lane
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