

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S CENTER SERVICES



# SPOTLIGHT

Thursday April 11, 2024

Four Winds Casino

Shining a Spotlight on  
Child Abuse Prevention and Resiliency



Special Guest  
ANTWONE FISHER

PRESENTED BY:

GURLEY LEEP AUTOMOTIVE FAMILY

Diana and Mike Leep Jr & James and Kim Leep



Dear Friends of Family & Children's Center Services,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome you to our 5th Annual Raising Awareness Fundraiser. This special evening promises to celebrate achievement, recognition and giving. I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your support on behalf of the entire Family & Children's Center Community.

This year's theme focuses on the importance of providing catalysts for preventing child abuse. Tonight, we are thrilled to welcome American screenwriter, poet, lecturer, best-selling author, and children's rights advocate, Antwone Fisher to the stage. Antwone will truly inspire us as he shares his journey from a challenging and abusive childhood to the man he is today.

His conversation with local children's advocate, Mychael Winston, is sure to engage and uplift with messages of resilience and hope.

I am also proud to announce that Brian Conybeare, award winning journalist and ABC57 news anchor, will serve as our master of ceremonies for this special evening. Brian's compassion, engaging story telling, knowledge of local history, and dedication to the community makes him the perfect fit for this event.

Thank you for being here with us tonight as we shine a spotlight on child abuse prevention and resiliency. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

*Roxanne Ultz*

Executive Director



# Family & Children's Center

*Building strong families and healthy children*

## OUR VISION & MISSION

As a nonprofit, we have served thousands of families in St. Joseph County for nearly fifty years. Our programming provides a holistic approach to sound parenting practices and we hope to make our area a place in which children flourish free from abuse and neglect.

Our mission is building strong families and healthy children. We are dedicated to strengthening the holistic health of young families through our key programs Healthy Families, The Brain Train, Community Partners, Tech Crossing and parenting programs.

Your support tonight helps us provide these important services to even more families in need in St. Joseph County.





# SPOTLIGHT

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

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## WELCOME

WELCOME

BRIAN CONYBEARE  
Our Evening Emcee

INVOCATION

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## DINNER SERVICE

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

CONVERSATION WITH ANTWONE  
FISHER & MYCHAEL WINSTON

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## DESSERT SERVICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

ROXANNE ULTZ

TESTIMONIAL

KASASANDA YOBBE

PADDLE RAISE

DOUG OSTHIMER

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## SPONSOR MEET WITH ANTWONE

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# ANTWONE FISHER



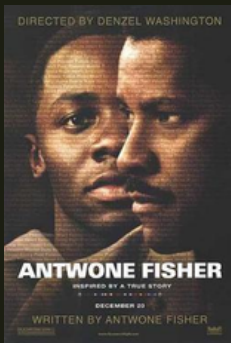
*"It don't matter what you tried to do, you couldn't destroy me! I'm still standing! I'm still strong! And I always will be."*

## Growing Up

Born in an Ohio prison to a teenage mother, Antwone Fisher became a ward of the state and was placed in foster care. He lived two years in a caring foster home, but was removed and suffered twelve years of abuse at the hands of his new host family. At age 14, he was relocated to a penal institution for teenage boys in western Pennsylvania where he remained until he graduated high school at age 17.

## Distinguished Service

Emancipated from foster care, he found himself in the world alone and experiencing homelessness in Cleveland, Ohio. He would enter the United States Navy to begin healing, a path he was on for 11 years. While serving active duty he was awarded the Navy E Ribbon; Two Navy Good Conduct medals; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with three Bronze stars. We are grateful for his distinguished service.



## Hollywood & Media

Antwone's work in Hollywood over the past 26 years is impressive, most notably the film entitled Antwone Fisher, directed by and starring Oscar winner Denzel Washington. Antwone garnered numerous nominations and awards for his screenplay Antwone Fisher, including being nominated for best original screenplay by the Writers Guild of America West and winning the Humanitas Prize, AFI Movie of the Year, ShoWest Screenwriter of the year by the National Association of Theater Owners, the Christopher Award, and the NAACP Award for Outstanding Motion picture. The film, Antwone Fisher, is part of the national film registry at the U.S. Library of Congress.

# MYCHAEEL WINSTON



*"The right person, at the right time, changes everything!"*

*Mychael Darnell Winston, SR.*

Mychael Darnell Winston Sr. was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. He is a devoted husband to his Jr High School sweetheart and father to three exceptional children. With firsthand experience of the impact of a lack of guidance (teenage parenthood and his only sibling sentenced to death row by age 22), he has dedicated his life to advocating for youth and exposing them to new possibilities.

Mychael lives by the motto, "The right person, at the right time, changes everything!". Mychael earned a degree in philosophy from Indiana University South Bend and has emerged as a community leader, specializing as a Professional Social Services Director and Gun Violence Expert. Under his leadership as the Group Violence Intervention Director, South Bend experienced a historic 35% decrease in gun violence. He excels as a Social Work Consultant, focusing on system establishment and implementation planning. Mychael is committed to mentoring individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering growth and leadership skills. He firmly believes in exposing youth to the fine arts and sciences to develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Through his dedication to providing quality education and transformative experiences, Mychael embodies a passion-driven approach in his everyday life."



# SPOTLIGHT

OUR KEY  
PROGRAMS



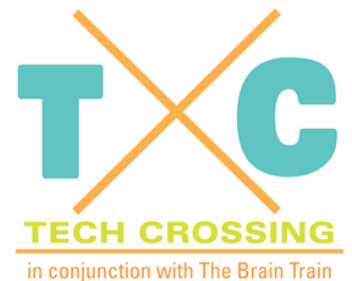
## Brain Train

A free program to help guide young parents to: engage in new and positive ways with their children to build positive relationships, and meet developmental milestones, become educated on age-appropriate play and safety precautions, and seek community resources for their family.



## Tech Crossing

Tech Crossing is a free program designed to educate families on technology skills and prepare pre-schoolers for kindergarten. A variety of materials and techniques are provided to successfully prepare children for school, including creating goals with families, using learning tools, and completing educational print outs.



# Healthy Families

A free program offering support and information to parents of newborn babies or expectant mothers about child development and what to expect as a new parent.



Healthy Families support specialists visit families at home on a regular basis to provide information, tools, and encouragement.

## Community Partners

Community Partners is a home-based case management program with services tailored to the family's unique needs and goals. This program helps families become self-sufficient by utilizing the resources available in the community and ensuring that families have the support they need to be successful. The staff will identify the resources, make the referrals, and assist families in accomplishing their goals by working together.



FAMILY & CHILDREN'S CENTER SERVICES



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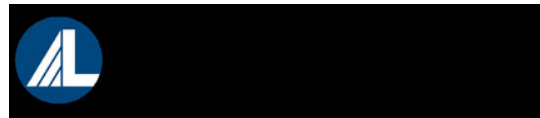
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