

ENGAGE



WRITE

EVERY

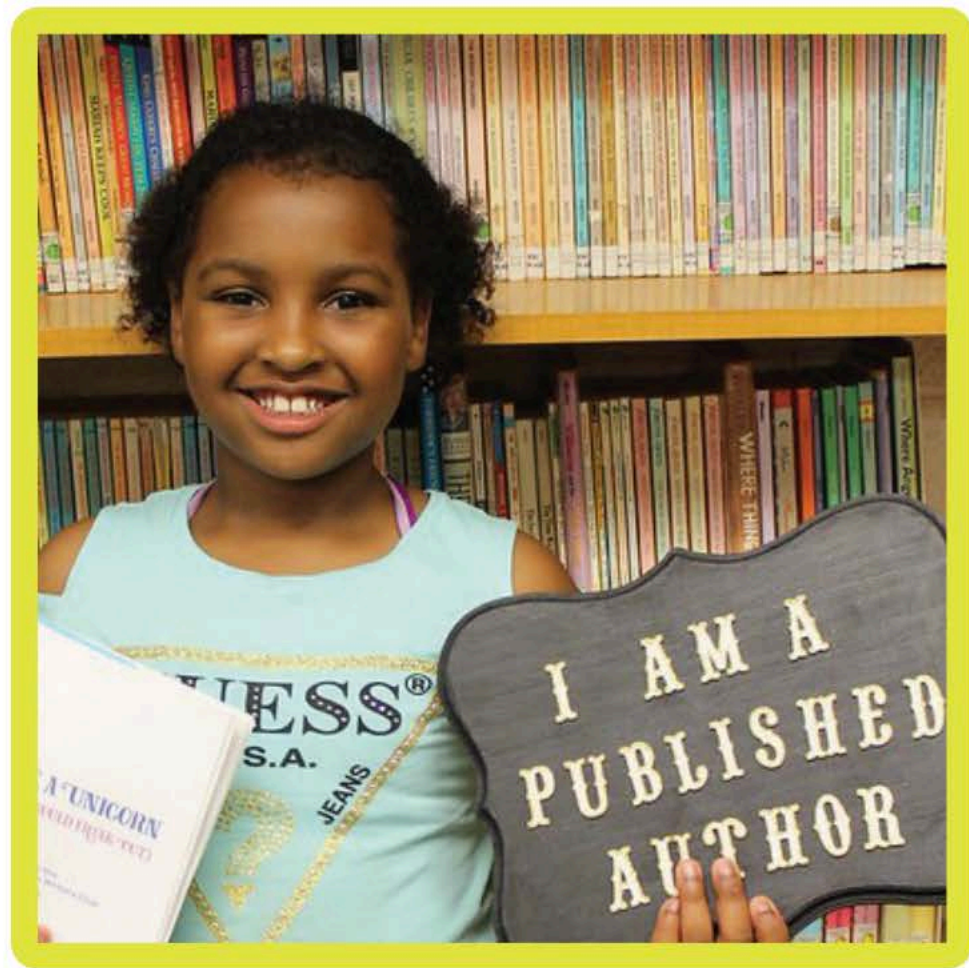
ASTOUND

GROW



EXCITE

FLOURISH



2019

026 MICHIGAN

SPARK



LEAD

GROWING THE WRITERS OF THE FUTURE



Dear Friends,

What a year it's been, and we couldn't have done it without you! I am so grateful for the ways you have helped 826michigan grow through such a rapid season of change. We have stretched ourselves remarkably over the past twelve months—in some ways

that we would not have imagined when we started this work fifteen years ago—all to ignite a love of words and learning in the families and students we serve.

As you may have noticed, we've welcomed new leaders into our robot family, including Development Director, Ken Zahrt, and waved farewell to some of our favorites as they face new adventures, including longtime Program Director, Amy Sumerton (distinguished as 826michigan's first staff person EVER). We've added new programs—hello, Songwriting Workshop with Third Man Records, and improved others, including our In-school Projects, to ensure continued academic relevance and positive impact on our students. Best of all, we've witnessed countless stories of growth in ourselves and in our students that are shaping the future in tremendous ways.

Through this year of change and transition, we adapted and grew as we confronted some rather uncomfortable, yet dare I say classic, nonprofit challenges. For instance, there was the night we hosted about 50 people in our Detroit writing lab and our in-center toilet stopped working. Thank goodness for elevators and an entire suite of public restrooms on our building's entry level! There were also more serious moments when we questioned if continuing to expand our work in the way that we have—especially in these last four years—is the best way forward.

It was in the midst of our resolve to continue, full steam ahead, that we were reminded that our students pursue their goals with determination each day, too. Whether in thoughtful dialogue about a tricky homework assignment, or lively debate about a fictional character's relevance to reality, or the rigorous back-and-forth of the editing and revision process, we see steadfast growth in the young people we serve each day and are inspired by their example. We hope you will be too as you read some of the stories and quotes we've shared here.

826michigan's students are real girls and boys, experiencing real life daily—going to school in districts that don't always have adequate resources; adjusting to new identities after the birth of a sibling, or second marriage of a caregiver, or death of a loved one; leaping into unfamiliar social territory in the transition from eighth to ninth grade; building new friendships and mourning the fading of old ones. Throughout all of these

changes (that surely you remember experiencing), our young writers remain filled with wonder, imagination, and hope. They challenge us to remember that editing and revision is the hardest part of the process, but so critically important to becoming our best!

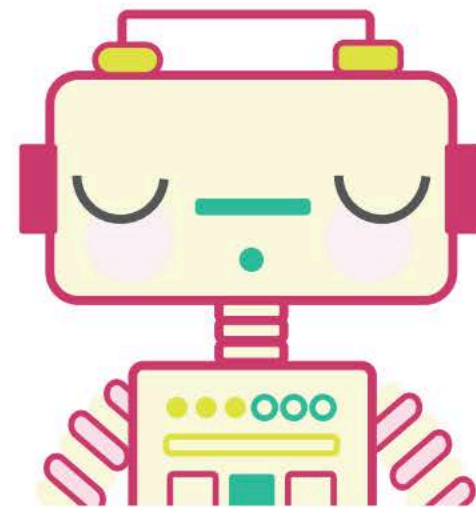
So that's how you've helped us grow this year—into an extended season of revision after one and a half decades of writing page after page after page of all things innovative or new. We've taught our students how important this stage is to crafting the tale that can be their very best, and now 826michigan is primed to grow into our next stage of maturity in service to some of the brightest and best youth writers across Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and Detroit.

Thank you for all the ways you've partnered alongside 826, and we invite you to join us in our continued journey. Please support 826michigan and our students' #826StoriesofGrowth by making a year-end gift today.

With gratitude,



Naimah Wade, Ph.D.
Executive Director, 826michigan





826michigan supported **91** teachers across **77** public and public charter schools in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti.

"I believe my leadership skills in the workplace were enriched after having worked with the students at 826. Because the children are honest, emotional, surprising and inspiring, working with them continually improves how I approach all relationships in my life."

-After-school Program Volunteer



396 caring volunteers from the community collaborated with students an astounding 1,440 hours as tutors, robot store shift workers, copy editors, graphic designers, and more!


"[At 826] I had the deepest pleasure of meeting different people from different backgrounds with different cultures, ideals, and values. 826 unites us all, both students and staff. 826 is a place that allowed me to believe in myself, and the magic wand [that] lies in the power of what we are able to do."

-Former 826michigan student and intern, Madeeha Khan

"826michigan gave the students a new outlook on how fun writing can be, and gave me ideas on how to implement writing into the classroom curriculum...I think you're doing a great job."

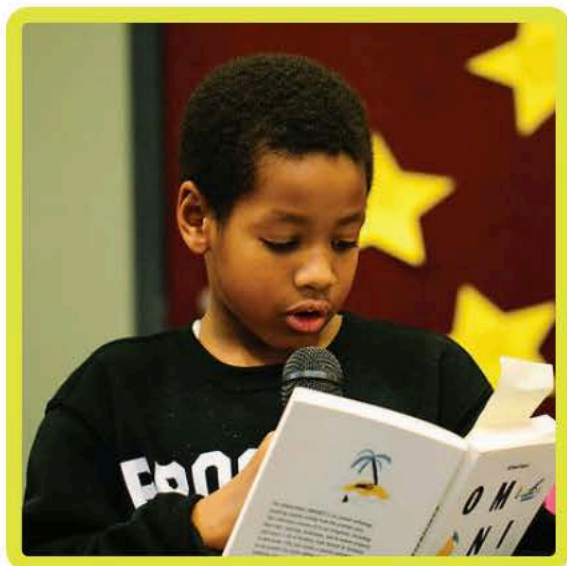
-Alice Prince, teacher



826michigan published  books filled with original works including the 2019 Young Author's Book Project, In Our Defense, a collection of poems by elementary students in Detroit, and the tenth-anniversary edition of the OMNIBUS anthology.

Please consider supporting our students' **#826STORIESOFGROWTH** by making a year-end gift today!

Contributions can also be made online at **826MICHIGAN.ORG**.



2,654 students ages **6** to **18** participated in 826michigan programs in schools, our local public libraries, and our very own writing labs in **3** cities.

