EMBARGOED UNTIL JULY 9, 2025

826michigan Moves Headquarters to Ypsilanti to Expand Impact and Deepen Community Roots

Move supports vision to reach 25,000 new writers in Southeast Michigan by 2030

Ypsilanti, MI — July 9, 2025 — After twenty years of inventive storytelling, wild creativity, and fictional robot repairs, 826michigan announced today that they are relocating their headquarters from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti in a bold move to dramatically expand impact and better serve young writers across Southeast Michigan.

The nonprofit, known for its inventive approach to writing and literacy education, and its beloved Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair storefront, is moving their offices into Eastern Michigan University's College of Education. With this new space, 826michigan will embed itself within the community that represents its largest student population, and take a significant step towards their audacious goal of reaching 25,000 new writers by 2030.

The move also represents the evolution of two decades of work, partnership, and imagination across Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Ypsilanti.

"Our story, now twenty years old, has become quite the tome," said Executive Director Megan Shuchman. "It's full of plot twists and pivotal shifts—each one leading us to a stronger, more focused version of ourselves. This next chapter will allow us to place our operations where our impact can grow most meaningfully—right alongside the students, families, and educators we serve. We are grateful to EMU for inviting us to deepen our decades-long partnership, and look forward to all that is to come for our Ypsilanti students, and beyond."

From a quirky basement on State Street in 2005 to a downtown Ann Arbor robot supply store that charmed and inspired thousands, 826michigan has grown from after-school tutoring and drop-in workshops to a robust mix of in-school programming, field trips, and

writing and literacy support in Title 1 classrooms and after-school programs across their three service cities.

Now, with the backing of their long-time partners at EMU, they're creating a new kind of learning space—where future educators and young writers will learn from each other daily. Ypsilanti Community Schools students will take inspiring field trips onto a college campus, and EMU students will support powerful literacy programs inside their own college halls.

"This is exactly the kind of strong partnership we aim to foster," said Ryan Gildersleeve, Dean of EMU's College of Education. "Our students benefit from real-world teaching opportunities, local youth see themselves belonging on a college campus, and together we advance critical educational goals. It's a win-win-win."

And fear not: the Robot Supply & Repair lives on. While their physical shop powers down, its virtual gears are spinning faster than ever at onwardrobots.com. Robot fans everywhere can still find the gadgets, gizmos, and student publications they've come to love—now just a click away.

"It's another evolution for 826michigan," said Communications & Development Manager Amy Sumerton, who was the nonprofit's Program Director for its first fifteen years and instrumental in the organization's founding. "We're carrying forward everything that made our work special while adapting to what students, teachers, and families need most today. This move allows us to direct more resources into the programs themselves."

826michigan's programs, which serve 4,500 students annually across their three service cities, in Ann Arbor and Detroit will continue to thrive and grow. In Ann Arbor, 826michigan is working with the Ann Arbor District Library to host the same vibrant programming families know and love at branch locations across the city. In Detroit, they're actively pursuing a new, program-focused space—while continuing their powerful work with schools and educators across the city.

As always, 826michigan's work remains grounded in their commitment to equity, creativity, and community. Their new strategic vision, adopted in 2024, centers around agility, balance, and belonging—and this move reflects all three.

Join 826michigan as they celebrate their journey and embrace this next chapter:

- **Attend their "we love you robots" open house** on July 14 @ 5-7p at 115 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
- **Meet Executive Director Megan Shuchman to learn more about the organization's recently-launched strategic vision** over coffee on July 11 @ 9:30a or for a glass of wine or mocktail on July 21 @ 5:30p at 115 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor
- **Share a memory** of the Liberty Street space via this Google Form

For more information, visit 826michigan.org or contact Communications & Development Manager Amy Sumerton at amy@826michigan.org or 734.417.3575.

About 826michigan
826michigan is a nonprofit writing and literacy organization that has served K-12 students in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Ypsilanti since 2005. 826michigan.org.

Enclosed Photos *photo credit: 826michigan*

1. Ypsilanti Community Middle School students become published authors (Ypsilanti, MI, May 2025)
2. Estabrook Elementary School students become published authors (Ypsilanti, MI, March 2025)
3. Former EMU student Marisol Castro volunteers during a Holmes STEAM Elementary field trip (Ypsilanti, MI, Winter 2024)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3