Highfields

Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

Annual Report 2016–2017

*You are **providing opportunities!***

2017–2018 Highfields Leadership

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Cover photo: **Aiden** and his little sister **Isis** attended YMCA Summer Camp thanks to you!
Special thanks also to the **Loose Family Charitable Fund**.

Highfields
Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

Dear Friends of Highfields,

Greetings and thank you!

Once again, because of you, Highfields is making a difference in the lives of 8,300 individuals!

The lives of Kamren, Herbie and Debbie are forever changed because of your support. As you read their stories of change and success, I hope that you are inspired by Highfields' mission of changing lives and strengthening communities.

I am encouraged by Kamren's story of her academic turnaround, and I know that there are hundreds of other students who are equally impacted by Highfields' educational programs. I am excited to share that we will be expanding Highfields' after-school presence this fall to nine schools.

As you read about Herbie and Debbie, please know that their success was made possible because of your generosity. Herbie has a job now and has his eye on an even brighter future. Debbie and her entire family were impacted in a truly powerful way through donated camperships. They and so many others are in a better place and thriving because of your support. I truly love seeing children and families improve their lives because of our combined efforts. None of this would be possible without you!

As I begin my 12th year at Highfields, I am honored to be associated with the great work of this organization. I come to work every day with energy and enthusiasm because I know the work we do is making a difference and that we have great donors, foundations and communities that believe in us and our mission.

I'm looking forward to another excellent year with you. We are privileged to have you with us on our journey.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Philson, LMSW, ACSW
President & CEO

Our mission is to provide opportunities to children, youth and families to become more responsible for their own lives and to strengthen their relationships with others.

Thanks to your support

Aiden and Isis went to camp!

At just 3 years old, Aiden had exhibited mental health issues that affected his speech, behavior and development. Now age 7, he is diagnosed with Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder, a childhood condition of extreme irritability, anger and frequent intense temper outbursts.

"Aiden can be violent and destructive, but also sweet, caring and loving," said Debbie, Aiden's mother. "It's draining, and sometimes I need a break."

Debbie was referred to Highfields' Wraparound Program through LifeWays Community Mental Health. Wraparound provides community-based support and individualized planning for children with severe emotional and behavioral disorders and their families. Through special donor support, Wraparound was able to help Debbie send Aiden and his sister Isis, age 5, to camp.

"So much time, effort and money goes into Aiden's care, and there's not much left over for Isis," said Debbie. "I feel like she misses out on a lot, so I was extremely happy when I found out she could have a normal childhood experience."

Aiden and Isis attended Day Camps through the YMCA in Jackson. They've been to water parks, science museums, zoos and theme parks across the state.

"Without the donated campership, I couldn't afford to send them to one week of camp," said Debbie.

With the kids at camp, Debbie gets to enjoy a much deserved break.

"The other night before camp Aiden didn't sleep at all, and neither did I," she said. "I was so tired I could barely stand. After I dropped him off at camp, I came home and took a nap. Having that time really means a lot."

"Reaching Higher definitely helped me overcome my challenges."

Thanks to your support

The sky's the limit for Kamren!

Thirteen-year-old Kamren was struggling when she joined Highfields' after-school program, Reaching Higher. She was in sixth grade at Springport Middle School, and her grades were bad. She didn't have a lot of friends, and she didn't care about her future. Thankfully, her teacher, Dan Bright, encouraged her to join the after-school program. It changed her life.

Reaching Higher helps at-risk students live up to their potential by strengthening their academic and social skills. Facilitators offer homework help and lead exciting "enrichment" activities to inspire students.

Kamren's teachers explained that improving her grades would help her get into college and get a good job. She took advantage of the extra homework help and was able to improve her grades.

"In fifth grade I had a bunch of F's and a few C's," said Kamren. "Then in sixth grade and seventh grade I had all A's! I don't think I would have improved as much as I did without Reaching Higher."

Kamren's social skills have improved as well. She's involved in the student council, yearbook, choir and basketball. She also made good friends that she met through the program.

"Reaching Higher definitely helped me overcome my challenges," said Kamren. "I'm not as shy I as I used to be, and my grades have improved so much! I'm on the Honor Roll and a member of the National Junior Honor Society."

Thanks to Reaching Higher, Kamren was able to turn her life in a new direction and make the right steps toward her future!

Thanks to your support

Herbie moves on!

After six months of hard work, 16-year-old Herbie finally graduated from Highfields' Residential Program in June.

"I thought it was too good to be true," said Herbie. "I felt really happy and accomplished. It was a long time coming."

Herbie is far from the kid he used to be—stealing cars, violating probation and running away from home. He's made big changes in his life that he credits to Highfields' program and staff.

When he was at Highfields, he participated in group sessions like Anger and Control, Substance Abuse, and Mutual Support. The sessions helped him work through his problems and change his mindset.

"The staff helped me realize why I was angry and were very hands-on with helping me de-escalate and relieve stress," said Herbie.

He also took advantage of opportunities to work on campus and play on the basketball team. Putting his effort into positive activities helped him stay out of trouble.

Since Herbie returned home, he hasn't violated his probation or gotten into any trouble at home. He recently got a job at Steak 'n Shake and can't wait to start earning money. He starts driver's training in the fall and is saving up money for a car.

His father, Herbie Brewer, Sr., couldn't be more proud of his son.

"I can definitely see a change in Herbie since he came home," he said. "He's more motivated to help out around the house, and he's been staying out of trouble…. I think he's going to be okay."

Herbie agrees, "Highfields gave me a wakeup call. I realized I don't want to be locked up my whole life. I want the freedom to do whatever I want to do."

"Highfields gave me a wakeup call."

Your gift makes a difference to children and families. To make a donation to Highfields or include Highfields in your will, please visit **www.highfields.org/get-involved** or contact Bev McGill at 517-628-2287 x332 or bmcgill@highfields.org.

Board Member

"I see myself in these kids."

Chris Simpson lost his way a few times growing up. As a child he tended to get into trouble and hang around bad influences. After high school, he didn't know what direction to go in and didn't have a father figure to guide him.

He enlisted in the United States Army, and it changed his life. He learned how to be more responsible and had a clear vision of where he wanted his life to go.

After serving, he entered the police force in Jackson, policing the neighborhood where he grew up. It was tough, but he found his passion in helping others. That was 25 years ago. Last year, when he heard that Highfields was looking for board members, he reached out to CEO Brian Philson for a meeting. After they met, Brian appointed Chris to Highfields' board…and he was thrilled to accept!

"I'm attracted to Highfields because they help kids who have challenges," said Chris. "When I think of the boys in the Residential Program, I wasn't too far from that. I see myself in these kids."

Chris serves on the Program Committee and enjoys hearing firsthand the success stories about kids who turned their lives around because of Highfields.

"It gives me goosebumps to hear stories come full circle," said Chris. "That scenario that Highfields helped someone and now they want to give back and help others who struggle like they used to…you can't beat that circle."

After hearing stories like that, Chris feels motivated to donate his time and money to support Highfields' mission.

"I donate because it is needed," said Chris. "I feel fulfilled being a part of the Highfields family and reaching back and helping others."

"I feel fulfilled being a part of the Highfields family and reaching back and helping others."

Highlights of 2016–2017

Look what you helped us accomplish!

Music Studio

Residential student **Dwight** raps in the new music studio on campus, which was made possible thanks to the **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation.**

Golf Outing

Thanks to our supporters, our **36th Annual Golf Outing** raised over $62,000 to meet needs for children and families. Special thanks to our Title Sponsor, **Lyman and Sheets**.

Breakthrough Pavilion

Our new **Breakthrough Pavilion** is complete, thanks to support from **Christman Constructors, Bergmann Associates** and the **Dart Foundation.**

Staff Training

We sent more than 50 staff to advanced professional trainings, thanks in part to the **Granger Foundation.**

Annual Breakfast

Thanks to generous donors, we met our **$25,000 Dart Foundation Challenge Grant** and raised over $100,000 to help support children and families at our **Strengthening Families Fundraising Breakfast**.

Immediate Needs

We were able to meet needs for families in treatment, including children with special needs, thanks to **Capital Area United Way** and **Hillsdale County Community Foundation**.

New Leadership!

Lara Hewson, MSW, LMSW, IMH-E® (III), Director of Quality and Education

Chris Robinson, MSW, LMSW, Director of Residential Services

We're Growing!

In October 2016, we expanded our **Families Together Building Solutions** program to serve clients in Clare and Isabella counties.

Congratulations!

Aldinger Scholarship recipients L-R: **Kayla Thompson, Jarod Taylor, Hunter Stephenso, Lisa Neino, Monique Jackman, Samantha Hopkins, Michelle Hopkins, Jarrett Gregory, Ethan Eddy, Denise Dornbush,** and **Paige Curl** (not pictured: **Miranda Pahl** and **Nakia Smith**)

2016 Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award recipient **Rich Martin**

2017 Highfields Partnership Award recipient, **Jackson National Life**. New board member **Becky Bednarski** (left) and **Kirstyn Shiner** accepted the award.

More **Highlights**

- Over 270 toys, books and clothes were delivered to families in need through our **13th Annual Toy Drive** sponsored by **WLNS** and participating **Ford Dealers**.
- Thanks to **Jackson National Community Fund**, we were able to update **Samuel Dault residential house** with new furniture.
- We will expand our programming to **Washtenaw County**.
- Our after-school program, **Reaching Higher**, will expand into three Lansing-area schools.
- We will be expanding our **Music Program** to include video, thanks to the **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation**.

If you'd like to learn more about our programs that help children and families, visit **www.highfields.org**.

Community impact

During 2016–2017, Highfields...

SERVED

8,289 children and families

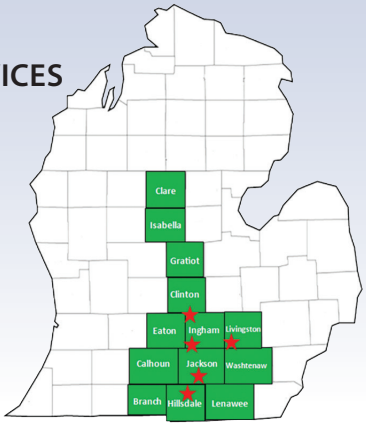
MSU Summer Scholars take on Highfields' **Breakthrough** program.

PROVIDED SERVICES THROUGHOUT

13 counties

OPERATING FROM

5 regional offices



EMPLOYED

266 staff

Becky Womboldt, 2017 recipient of the ***Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award***

AND CHANGED LIVES

1 family at a time

Residential student **Marshaun** and his family spent quality time together during a **Family Treatment Weekend**.

Highfields' services provide a safety net

Community services

- Family violence counseling
- Intervention programs helping boys and girls overcome social and educational struggles
- Early intervention programs confronting child abuse and neglect
- Counseling for families with children returning from out-of-home placements
- Intensive counseling programs for children struggling with a mental health disorder
- On-site counseling at hospitals to redirect behavior for families
- Programs for families of teens with a severe emotional disability or anti-social behavior

Residential services

- Full-time residential treatment for young men ages 11–17 with behavioral problems

Educational services

- **Reaching Higher:** Hands-on after-school programs
- **Ingham Academy:** A day treatment program that is operated by Highfields, Ingham Intermediate School District, Ingham County Circuit Court and Peckham Inc.
- **PRIDE:** Evening reporting program for youth involved in family court
- **Breakthrough:** Teamwork development program for organizations and groups

Personal impact

"Highfields provided an amazing experience to me and my family during a difficult time! I would highly recommend Highfields to other families during their time of need. Thank you for everything."

—Mandy, Community Services Client (pictured here is her daughter, MacKenzie, with a toy from Highfields' Holiday Toy Drive)

"It is a miracle that I am attending college and functioning as a member of society, thanks to Highfields."

—Hunter, 2017 Aldinger Scholarship Recipient

"I haven't been able to buy new clothes in a long time. I'm so appreciative because I never thought I would have someone to help me through all this. It really means so much."

—Marcus, Residential Student (Marcus received a laptop and clothes for school, thanks to the Richard D. Letts Fund)

Financial overview

During 2016-2017, Highfields...

GENERATED TOTAL REVENUE OF	$8,969,900
96.3% PROGRAM REVENUE	$8,633,937
3.3% CONTRIBUTIONS	$294,939
.49% INTEREST & OTHER INCOME	$41,024

AND SPENT A TOTAL OF	$8,958,876
69.17% PERSONNEL	$6,189,818
17.5% DIRECT COSTS	$1,566,491
13.4% INDIRECT COSTS	$1,202,567

Thank you to our generous donors

We are grateful to the following supporters who made financial contributions to Highfields from May 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES GIVING SOCIETY – Individuals and businesses who have a current multi-year commitment of $1,000 or more per year for five or more years:

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Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, LLC
MSU Federal Credit Union
The Muffler Man
Orchid Orthopedic
PAR Rehab Services
Plante & Moran CPA
Two Men And A Truck, International
Wells Fargo Advisors

*Deceased

Cameron made a design at Schuler Arts in Albion thanks to a grant from the **W.B. & Candace Thoman Foundation**.

FOUNDATION & GRANT SUPPORT

Altman Foundation for Children
Capital Area United Way
Capital Region Community Foundation
Dart Foundation
Granger Foundation
Hillsdale County Community Foundation
Jackson National Community Fund
The James and Kimberly Currie Foundation
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Loose Family Charitable Fund
Richard D. Letts Fund
W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation

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Sam Dault
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Miller Tool & Die Company
Mitchell's Department Store
Okemos Auto Collection
Onondaga Community Church
Paradise Motor Sales Inc.
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RGC Employees Club
Schupan Recycling
Spring Arbor University
Strange Matter Coffee
Sundance Chevrolet
Team One Charlotte
Two Men And A Truck, Greater Lansing
University Club
Williams Autoworld

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We are grateful to our donors and wish to be as accurate as possible. If a mistake has been made, please contact Bev McGill at (517) 628-2287 ext. 332 or bmcgill@highfields.org so that we can correct it. Thank you.

Highfields
Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

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Lou and Diann Ebare
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Rachel Hoekstra
Al and Joan Holderied
Dean Holland
The Hollow Family
Rebecca Holnagel
Gloria G. Holt

Brothers **Liam** (left) and **Simon** received donated coats from Highfields' **Holiday Toy Drive**.

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James and Sally McCoy
William and Denise McCullen
Matt McMurtrie
Edward and Judith McVicar
Stacey Meuche

Ten new board members were inducted at our Annual Meeting. L-R: **Sam Davis, Jon Stoppels, Tim Johnson, Erika Fussman, Brandie Ekren, Peter Tratt, Mike Sheets, Andy Kurncz, Becky Bednarski**, and **Mark Nowak**.

Lizzie and Daniel Mills
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Phyllis Monroe
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Highfields' staff **Jahshua Smith** (left) and **Russell Davis IV** presented "The Therapeutic Value of Hip Hop" at the Michigan Federation for Children and Families Residential Treatment Conference.

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