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Lansing area residents receive Highfields scholarship funds

Two Lansing-area residents will continue their education after high school thanks to **Highfields'** Aldinger Scholarship Fund. **Megan Smith**, 18, of Mulliken, Mich. and **Maxwell Bradstreet**, 17, of Lansing each received \$1,000 during Highfields' 5th Annual Strengthening Families Breakfast Oct. 26.

"I am trying to put myself through college, while finishing high school," Bradstreet wrote in his application. "I hope to earn a bachelor's degree in philosophy and then a law degree."

Bradstreet battled a drug and alcohol problem since an early age, but since his October 2010 enrollment in the Ingham Academy, he has stopped using and volunteers monthly. He said that since his involvement with Highfields, he has not broken the law and is currently enrolled at Lansing Community College.

The daughter of an unemployed single mother with four children, Smith wanted to continue her education, but knew her family couldn't afford it. She and her family participated in Highfields' Families Together Building Solutions program, which is designed to prevent the need for out-of-home placements for children, and has since been accepted to college due to improved grades and high ACT score.

“I know my mother would not be able to help me pay for college,” Smith wrote in her application. “I would be grateful for any assistance.”

Smith plans to attend LCC to complete general education classes and transfer to a university to earn a degree in office management. She will begin college in the spring of 2012.

Each year, Highfields provides \$1,000 each to four applicants a year who have received services through the organization. The scholarship fund was created in 1996 through a donation from John H. Aldinger Jr. and helps support educational programs and opportunities that may not be available otherwise.

“The fund’s purpose is to support the pursuit of educational opportunities by children, youth and adults who have received serves through any of Highfields’ various programs,” says **Brian Philson**, president/CEO. “Our goal is to help children and youth we have served gain additional educational opportunities.”

Anyone who received services from Highfields, as a child or youth, or anyone representing them is eligible to apply for a scholarship, which is awarded in June and October each year. Applications are reviewed in May and September and approvals are sent directly to the educational institution in the applicant’s name. To obtain an application or learn more about the fund, contact Highfields at 517-628-2287 or visit www.highfields.org.

Founded in 1962, Highfields Inc. is a not-for-profit organization providing home-based counseling, residential care, experiential education and support programs for families, youth and communities throughout mid-Michigan. Highfields’ campus is located at 5123 Old Plank Rd., Onondaga.

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