



**For Immediate Release:**  
December 11, 2012

**Contact:** Brian Philson, President/CEO  
517-628-2287

## ***Governor appoints Highfields' president to state board***

**Gov. Rick Snyder** has appointed **Brian D. Philson**, president and chief executive officer of **Highfields Inc.**, to the **Michigan Board of Social Work**. Philson's four-year term begins on January 1, 2013, and expires at the end of 2016.

"Philson's experience helping thousands of mid-Michigan families through Highfields' programs will be extremely valuable in the board's mission to promote and protect the welfare of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens," says Rich Martin, Highfields' board chair.

Philson joined Highfields in July 2006 as vice president of programming and was named president and chief executive officer in August 2008. He is also an adjunct instructor for **Spring Arbor University** and Siena Heights University, a trainer of juvenile justice practitioners for the **National Partnership for Juvenile Services**, a consultant for the **National Institute of Corrections**, and an appointee to the **Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice** from 2005 to 2012. He is the former director of the **Jackson County Youth Center**.

Philson earned a master of social work degree at **Michigan State University** and a bachelor of arts degree in social work at **Spring Arbor University**. He has been recognized nationally for his work within juvenile justice, including the 2007 Individual Award for Excellence from the **Juvenile Justice Trainers Association**.

-- more--

He is the past president of the **Michigan Juvenile Detention Association** and the past vice president of the **National Juvenile Detention Association**. In addition, Philson is a member of the **Rotary Club of Lansing** and serves on the Concord Community School Board in Jackson County.

Founded in 1962, Highfields Inc. is a non-profit organization in its 50<sup>th</sup> year of providing home-based counseling, residential care, experiential education and support programs for families, youth and communities throughout mid-Michigan.

###