



Highfields, Inc.
5123 Old Plank Rd.
Onondaga, MI 49264

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #375
Lansing, MI



Why Me?

You helped Chadelena get back on her feet when she was alone and struggling. Now she is reunited with her children, and stepping up to be the mother she needs to be.



Chadelena holds her two youngest children, Serenity (left) and Odin.

Outpouring of Support at Highfields' Annual Meeting



Citizenship Award recipient, Rich Martin



New board member Becky Bednarski (left) and Kirstyn Shiner, Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator, accepted the Partnership Award for Jackson National Life

Over 120 individuals came together to celebrate award and scholarship recipients, outgoing board members, and new board members at Highfields' Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 26. Rich Martin was presented with the Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award and Jackson National Life received the Highfields' Partnership Award. Ten new board members were inducted and thirteen individuals received Aldinger Scholarships.

BRIGHT FUTURES

Summer 2017

Volume 17, Number 2

"I've been a good mom. Why did this happen to me?" Chadelena wondered as she looked back on the past year.

And what a year it was. It all started when Chadelena got involved in a relationship that turned abusive. It threatened her safety and the safety of her children, so the children were removed from her care...on her birthday.

"It was a turning point for me," she said. "I went from having three kids to having no kids and being by myself. I was scared."

She filed a Personal Protection Order against her abuser and was able to distance herself from him. Then she

started taking the steps to get her children back. She was referred to Highfields' Family Reunification Program (FRP) which helps children adjust back into their family home from foster care.

"It was a turning point for me. I went from having three kids to having no kids and being by myself. I was scared."

Chadelena was nervous to parent her children again, especially her 2-year-old daughter, Serenity, who was placed

Continued on next page.

**Highfields Board of Directors
2017-2018**

Officers

Mark Kellogg, Chairperson
Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap, P.C.
Lizzie Mills, Chairperson-elect
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC
Mark Emmert, Past Chairperson
The Dart Bank
Carol Giacometto, Treasurer
Retired, JP Morgan Chase Bank
Sam Davis*, Secretary
Ingham County Sheriff Department

Directors

Peg Asmus
Community Member
Elaine Barr
Legal Services South Central Michigan
Rebecca Bednarski*
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Bill Bockwitz
Retired, Spring Arbor University
Bill Clark
Clark Construction Company
Brandle F. Ekren*
Lansing Board of Water & Light
Erika Fussman*
MSU Federal Credit Union
Matthew J. Greenberg
Miller Canfield
Jeff Hertrich
Accident Fund Holdings, Inc.
Eric Jamison
Michigan Attorney General's Office
Karen Johns
Retired, Department of Human Services
Tim Johnson*
Eaton Rapids Medical Center
Chivon Kloepper
WLNS TV 6
Andy Kurnicz*
Accident Fund
Kris McVicar
Bank of America
Matthew Nowak*
JKY Legal Group, P.C.
Nick Oertel
Foster, Swift, Collins, and Smith, P.C.
Doug Peters
Christman Constructors, Inc.
Tom Reder
Bergmann Associates
Tanda Reynolds
Retired, Department of Human Services
Mike Sheets*
Lyman & Sheets Insurance Agency
Tom Shewchuk
City of Ann Arbor
Chris Simpson
Veterans Administration Office in Indianapolis
Jon E. Stoppels*
City of Eaton Rapids
Peter Tratt*
Plante Moran *new board member

Directors Emeritus

Hon. Robert L. Drake* Derwood L. Boyd*
Frank L. Guerriero* Jo Hacker
Harold E. Hicks* Dr. Olivia I. Letts
Mary McCarthy* Shirley L. Richards
Grant A. Santimore Duane R. Vernon
Malcolm M. Williams* *deceased

Senior Leadership

Brian Philson, L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Timothy M. Monroe, M.S.W., L.M.S.W.,
A.C.S.W., D.C.S.W.
Vice President
Jill Clark, M.S.W., L.M.S.W.
Director, Community Services—South Team
Chris Robinson, M.S.W., L.M.S.W.
Director, Residential Services
Beverley McGill, M.A.
Director, Fund Development
Edward St. John, MBA
Director, Finance
Lara Hewson, MSW, LMSW, IMH-E® (III)
Director, Quality and Education

Why Me? (cont.)

in foster care when she was only 4 months old.

"I was scared because I really didn't know my baby," said Chadelena. "Am I going to know why she's crying? Will she cry because she doesn't know me?"

Highfields' FRP therapists Erin Smith and Derrick Byrd came to her rescue and helped her prepare for her children's return. One area they focused on was the family's safety. They helped Chadelena develop a "safety plan" to help her be aware of her surroundings and know where the exits are in case any incidents occur in the future.

"The safety plan we created was so helpful," said Chadelena. "Derrick would often come over and go over the plan with me multiple times and because he did it so often, it kept me alert and I feel prepared."

When Chadelena's children came back home, she focused on re-connecting and spending quality time with them.

"I'm able to appreciate the small things more because I missed so much when they were gone," she said.

Chadelena is grateful for Erin and Derrick's support with finalizing her case and reuniting her family.

"I'm able to appreciate the small things more because I missed so much when they were gone."

"Erin and Derrick never judged me and I appreciate that so much," she said. "They are going to change lives... because they changed mine." **BF**

You can help people like Chadelena!

You can help Highfields continue to change lives and strengthen communities for future generations. We offer different options so you can choose the gift that works best for you. If you'd like to learn more about including Highfields in your will, please contact Bev McGill at 517-628-2287 x332 or bmcgill@highfields.org.

Highfields Wins MAAA Championship

For the first time in over a decade, Highfields' basketball brought home a State Championship from the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association.

Head Coach and Residential Counselor, Matt Rau, said, "I just kept reminding the kids of their goals, and how close we were to accomplishing them. I think it taught them that with hard work and perseverance you can accomplish anything you set your mind to." **BF**



Highfields' team and Head Coach, Matt Rau (far right)

New Leadership!

We wish Derek Hitchcock well as he moves into retirement in June, and welcome Chris Robinson as our new Director of Residential Services. Lara Hewson has also joined our leadership team in 2016 as the Director of Quality and Education.

The Sky's The Limit!

Reaching Higher benefits at-risk students



Hailie, age 10

"I love STEM!" said Hailie, a student in Highfields' after-school program, Reaching Higher.

Do you know what STEM stands for? If not, you're not alone. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It's also one of Hailie's favorite enrichment activities.

Enrichment activities are a big part of Reaching Higher. Aside from reinforcing academics and offering homework help, Reaching Higher devotes a large amount of time for fun! These activities help increase students' self-esteem, enhance communication skills, and relieve stress. (It's usually their favorite part of the day!)

The STEM activities teach students how to build structures like buildings, tables and cubes using different objects. Most of the activities are hands-on and designed to help students work together as a team to create new ideas.

"I had never heard of STEM before Reaching Higher, but now I'm really interested," said Hailie. "I even like to go home and build things with my family."

The enrichment activities change every two weeks. This year, students have learned how to paint using charcoal and pastel, survive in the wilderness, exercise, and cook healthy food.

"Reaching Higher has given me a lot of opportunities to try new things and I'm grateful to be a part of it!" said Hailie. Although women fill close to half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold only 26 percent of STEM jobs. Thankfully, there are several organizations encouraging young women to study STEM and many offer scholarships. **BF**



Reaching Higher students Mykalah (left) and Shanelle play educational games

Our Golf Outing is almost here!

Monday, June 12, 2017 at Forest Akers West

Thank you to our sponsors!

Title Sponsor: **LYMAN & SHEETS**
Insurance Agency

Gold Sponsors: **DARTBANK** **ORCHID**

Silver Sponsors: **Bergmann associates** **Dean TRANSPORTATION** **Maner Costerisan**

Highfields services

Highfields is a nonprofit human services organization providing opportunities to children, youth and families through home-based counseling programs, a residential treatment facility, and educational services.

Highfields provides 17 different programs in 12 counties and serves over 8,300 individuals every year.

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

To create bright futures for children, their families and communities.

Our Locations

Onondaga Campus
5123 Old Plank Rd.
Onondaga, MI 49264
(517) 628-2287

Jackson Office
1206 Clinton Rd.
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 783-4250

Lansing Office
4305 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 887-2762

Howell Office
204 S. Highlander Way, Suite 3
Howell, MI 48843
(517) 262-0874

Hillsdale Office
51 S. Howell St.
Hillsdale, MI 29242
(517) 212-8168

Website

www.highfields.org

