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### 2016 Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award Recipient Named

*Onondaga, Michigan – February 29, 2016* – Breakthrough and Reaching Higher After School Program Manager Brenda Weck has been named the 2016 recipient of the Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award. Brenda was honored with the award at Highfields' Employee Recognition Banquet on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at Cascades Manor House in Jackson. She was chosen for the award by her peers for her leadership and dedication to Highfields.

“Carl Latona would be honored to have his name associated with Brenda,” said Brian Philson, President and CEO of Highfields. “She is a great example of honoring the mission of Highfields through service to others.”

The award recognizes integrity, passion to help others, perseverance and commitment to excellence. It is named for Carl J. Latona, who served as President and CEO of Highfields for more than 25 years.

Brenda has been working for Highfields for nineteen years. She started as a Residential Counselor and worked with the youth for two years. Then she worked as the Human Resources Specialist for nine years. For the past eight years, Brenda has been the Manager for Breakthrough and the Reaching Higher After School Program.

“I am honored to receive this award,” said Brenda. “I’ve always had the understanding that the effort I put into my job is not necessarily a visible thing and would most likely not be recognized by an outside entity, but it is a very tangible thing for the person receiving services and that is what matters most.”

Brenda is humbled to receive the award. She believes that there are many employees at Highfields like her who are making a difference in people’s lives every day.

“Knowing that others benefit from me just doing my day to day job, how could I not give my all in everything I do?” said Brenda.

Highfields is a nonprofit human services organization which provides home-based counseling, residential care, and experiential education and support programs for children, youth, and families in 10 mid-Michigan counties. For more information, please visit [www.highfields.org](http://www.highfields.org).

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