



## **\$750,000 grant allows Highfields to build new family treatment center**

*Dart Foundation gift also allows for kitchen, dining hall renovations*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Brian Philson, Highfields President and CEO  
(517) 628-2287  
[bphilson@highfields.org](mailto:bphilson@highfields.org)

Emily Matthews, Dart Foundation Manager  
(517) 244-6688  
[Emily.Matthews@dart.biz](mailto:Emily.Matthews@dart.biz)

June 14, 2018, Onondaga, Michigan – Highfields Inc., a multi-purpose human services organization for children and families, has secured funding to build a new education and family treatment center on its Onondaga campus thanks to support from the Dart Foundation.

The \$750,000 in grants will greatly enhance the organization's residential treatment program for youth and families as well as pay for upgrades to the existing kitchen and dining hall.

In all, the Dart Foundation donation includes:

- **\$600,000** for the William and Claire Dart Family Treatment and Education Center, which will provide housing for up to 24 people and include a multi-purpose common area. The new center will allow Highfields to offer a comfortable and respectful space to youth and families during family treatment weekends. The new space also will allow Highfields to have families gather in attractive, dedicated meeting space instead of crowding into a wellness room. The new center's housing will replace aging and inadequate cabins currently used by families during their stays. Highfields also envisions using the new center for banquets, treatment groups, dinners, ceremonies and holiday celebrations.
- **\$150,000** in upgrades to the existing kitchen and dining hall. The upgrades will make the kitchen more functional and efficient and the dining hall more welcoming. The upgrades will include replacements to current appliances and equipment, which are outdated and nearing the end of their life expectancy.

*Family Opportunities*

*Learning Opportunities*

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*Main Office • 5123 Old Plank Rd. • Onondaga, MI 49264 • 517-628-2287 • 517-628-3421 (fax)*

*Lansing Office • 4305 S. Cedar St. • Lansing, MI 48910 • 517-887-2762 • 517-887-2982 (fax)*

*Jackson Office • 1206 Clinton Rd. • Jackson, MI 49202 • 517-783-4250 • 517-783-4164 (fax)*

*Hillsdale Office • 51 S. Howell St. • Hillsdale, MI 49242 • 517-212-8168 • 517-212-8169 (fax)*

[www.highfields.org](http://www.highfields.org)



The project begins in the summer of 2018 and is expected to be completed by spring of 2019. This is part of a \$1,000,000 campaign to improve the Onondaga campus, which includes contributions from other local funders.

“We are grateful to the Dart Foundation for its continuing support of Highfields and our mission to serve the youth and families of mid-Michigan,” said Brian Philson, President and CEO of Highfields. “This generous donation will result in significant improvements to our Onondaga campus and directly impact the quality of service we can provide to those who benefit from our programs.”

Highfields has been changing lives and strengthening communities since 1962, when it began as a residential camp for troubled boys in Ingham County. Highfields has grown over the years into a multi-purpose human service organization that provides life-changing resources to 8,300 people each year. Highfields operates five offices in 13 counties in central and lower Michigan. The organization provides three branches of service: Residential, community and educational.

The donation represents a longstanding commitment to Highfields by the Dart family and Dart Foundation, a private family foundation established in 1984 by William A. and Claire T. Dart. Claire volunteered at Highfields in the organization’s early years, and the Dart Foundation has provided financial support to Highfields since 1988. The Dart Foundation previously has provided more than \$2 million in grants to Highfields.

“Highfields has always held a special place in the hearts of the Dart family,” said Ariane Dart, a member of the foundation’s Board of Directors. “It is satisfying to know that this well-deserved grant will improve the environment for area youth and families who rely on these programs to change their behaviors and transform their lives. It will be truly exciting to see local people enjoying this new building and facility improvements long into the future.”

More information about Highfields and its programs is available at [www.highfields.org](http://www.highfields.org).

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