



You empower families!



Highfields
Changing Lives,
Strengthening Communities

Annual Report
2017-2018

2018–2019 Highfields Leadership

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Cover photo: Jean and her daughter Rebekah overcame challenges together, thanks to you!
Photo Credit: Dave Trumple



Dear Friends of Highfields,

Greetings and thank you so much!
As I begin my 13th year at Highfields, I am humbled by the incredible support of donors, foundations, communities, and staff who believe strongly in our mission to serve children and families.

When I think about the great number of children in our programs who have been victims of trauma, I can't help but think about my own family. Over the past year, I have been blessed to watch my daughter get married. I have smiled at each milestone my granddaughter achieves.

Many of our clients are not so fortunate. That is why I'm passionate about finding ways to help children and families in all of our programs heal from trauma and develop strong relationships through evidence-based practices and especially our new trauma-informed campus design.

With your help, we are able to *stabilize* families in need, *strengthen* them with skills, and *empower* them to use the skills to take control of their lives. As you read the following stories of perseverance and hope, I invite you to think about your own family. What would you do if your family were in crisis?

I'm looking forward to a year of new ideas and enthusiasm for the clients we serve. I'm grateful to have you with us on our journey.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Philson, LMSW, ACSW
President & CEO

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

Stabilize



Thanks to your support

Dontrell re-focused his priorities at Highfields

"My dad has spent most of my life in prison. When I was 10 years old, I began to let negative influences take hold of me. I was getting into shootouts and robbing people and not thinking about the consequences of my actions.

I had my daughter when I was 13 years old. This changed a lot for me. I wanted money so I could provide for my daughter. I tried to make money the right way, but I didn't feel like it was enough, so I started making money the wrong way. It put me in a lot of dangerous situations. I was caught committing crimes and was placed at Highfields Residential Treatment Program.

Highfields has helped me prioritize my life. Before I felt that money was the only thing that mattered, but now I realize that being there for my family and my daughter is more important than anything. I can see that my past behaviors were taking me away from family. I understand I need to change in order to be supportive of my family.

I believe that if I hadn't come to Highfields, I would be dead or in prison. I have a second chance at life now, thanks to Highfields."

—Dontrell

"Most of our residential students have been victims of trauma. If we can update our campus into a trauma-informed design and make it feel more like home, it can reduce some of those triggers and help students be more open to receive treatment."

—Chris Robinson, Residential Director

Highfields Residential Treatment Program serves young men ages 11-17 with behavioral problems.

Strengthen



Thanks to your support

Crystal sees positive changes in son Javon

"Reaching Higher has made a significant difference in my son's life. Javon has become more social, active, and confident.

Before Reaching Higher, Javon never really had friends. He was bullied at school and was becoming depressed. He would always decline coming on family trips and would just play video games instead.

When he started attending Reaching Higher, that all changed!

He comes home with a smile, grabs his bike, and meets up with his new friends.

He is more active and enjoys going to the beach or playing in the yard.

He began expanding his knowledge in robotics and academics and even physical sports that he usually shied away from.

Reaching Higher inspires Javon to get up in the morning, especially if it's field trip day!

I love Reaching Higher, and I couldn't have asked for a better program for my once struggling child."

—Crystal

"Before Reaching Higher, I played video games all day and sometimes all night. Now I have a new outlook on life! I made lifelong friends in Reaching Higher. We play basketball, use robots, and go on field trips. I'm so happy to be in Reaching Higher."

—Javon

Reaching Higher is an out-of-school-time program serving at-risk children in eight area schools.

Empower



Thanks to your support Jean and daughter Rebekah are closer than ever

"Rebekah started going through a very difficult time when she was a teenager five years ago. Her father and I had divorced. I was working and not home as much with the kids. Her grandmother had passed away, and her older sister married and moved out.

The combination of events took its toll on her, and she started acting out in ways that were opposite of her true character. We ended up going through the juvenile court system because of some of these actions.

Through the court system, we were referred to the Highfields Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Program. The program just resonated with me because it was so encompassing. The counseling involved our friends, family, and school, and Rebekah and I could work together.

The program is pretty intense and time-consuming...but then so is raising children! Our children are worth every effort we have to fight for them.

Rebekah no longer exhibits that hard exterior she hid behind as a teenager. She resembles the character she was born with. She is kind, loving, and always thinking of others. **"**

—Jean

"Today, I am a mother of two. I am married to my high school sweetheart. My mom and I have a great relationship, and I can come to her with anything that I have on my heart. I'm grateful for MST for giving us the skills to communicate openly and honestly during a tough time."

—Rebekah

Multisystemic Therapy is an intensive, family-focused and community-based treatment program for troubled youth.



Donor

“I believe in this.”

Highfields supporter Steve Zynda has been practicing mindfulness and meditation techniques since he was a stressed-out law school student. “It really helped me a lot,” said Zynda. “I was amazed at how much more focused I felt. I’ve been a big believer in it for the rest of my life.”

Zynda had an idea to bring a mindfulness and meditation initiative to Highfields. He met with Highfields President and CEO Brian Philson to share his vision.

“The clients that Highfields deals with have a lot of stress in their lives,” said Zynda. “It seemed like a natural fit to teach them tools to reduce stress and anxiety and bring something positive into their lives.”

Philson took the idea and ran with it.

“With all the busyness and chaos in today’s world, Highfields is lucky to have a supporter like Steve who understands the importance of teaching clients life-long skills that they can use to relax, focus, and enjoy life more,” said Philson.

Highfields’ staff is being trained in mindfulness and meditation techniques so they can teach clients how to practice in their daily lives. The techniques will enhance treatment for clients and help them cope with challenges.

“I believe it will benefit Highfields and the communities they serve,” said Zynda. “I’m happy that Highfields understood my vision and is taking the initiative to make it work.”

Your gift makes a difference to children and families. To make a donation to Highfields or include Highfields in your will, please visit www.highfields.org/get-involved or contact Bev McGill at 517-628-2287 x332 or bmcgill@highfields.org.

Highlights of 2017–2018

None of this would be possible without you!



Putt for a Purpose

You helped raise over \$75,000 for families in Highfields programs at our **37th Annual Golf Outing**, including over \$6,700 for camperships for children with special needs! Special thanks to Title Sponsor **Lyman and Sheets**.



Celebrating 55 years!

Thanks to amazing donors and client speakers (pictured above) at our **Strengthening Families Breakfast**, we met our **\$25,000 Dart Foundation Challenge Grant** and raised over \$114,000 to support our mission!



Five-year anniversary

Highfields celebrated its five-year anniversary of providing **Multisystemic Therapy (MST)** for families in **Livingston County**.



Community gives back

Over 270 donations of toys, books, and clothing items were delivered to families through our **14th Annual Toy Drive** sponsored by **WLNS** and participating **Ford Dealerships**.



Trauma-informed campus

Thanks to the **Dart Foundation** \$150,000 grant, our kitchen and dining hall are updated to a trauma-informed design. The **Granger Foundation** provided funds to renovate the school on campus.



Art expansion program

Thanks to a grant from the **W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation**, we expanded our art program with **Schuler Arts Studio** by adding four additional days of art classes on campus.



Hip hop therapy

The music studio on campus received professional upgrades, new furnishings, and state-of-the-art video equipment, thanks to the **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation**.



Locker room remodel

The student locker rooms were updated, thanks to grants from the **Joe D. Pentecost Foundation** and **R.E. Olds Foundation**.



Immediate needs

We were able to meet needs for families and children with special needs, thanks to **Capital Area United Way**.



Streamlined reporting

Thanks to a grant from **The Community Foundation**, our staff can use **FAMcare** and **SharePoint** to uniformly report on client data and increase efficiency.

Scholarship and award recipients

Thank you for supporting our mission!



Nineteen applicants were awarded **Aldinger Scholarships** to pursue educational dreams. Students pictured here received a \$1,000 scholarship. L-R: **Jaylah Ash-Shakoor, Stephen Fedewa, Aliyah Henderson, Jenny Lam, and Jorge Morejon**. (Not pictured: **Michelle Caraway, Paige Curl, Ethan Eddy, Jarrett Gregory, Alexandra Hagerty, Dalton Harrison, Michelle Sunkle, Logan Patterson, Judah Pemble, Jarod Taylor, Kayla Thompson, Sarah Williams, Jacob Willinger, Curtis Wright**).



2017 Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award
recipient
John Evans



2017 Highfields Partnership Award
recipient, **The Community Foundation**.
Laurie Baumer accepted the award.

Community impact

During 2017–2018, Highfields...

SERVED **7,627** children and families



Hunt Elementary Reaching Higher students took on the Highfields Breakthrough course.

EMPLOYED **267** staff



Sandy Tropp, 2018 recipient of the *Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award*

AND CHANGED LIVES

1 family at a time



Former Community Services client, Jess, embraces her children.

PROVIDED SAFETY NET SERVICES THROUGHOUT **13** counties

OPERATING FROM **5** regional offices

Community services

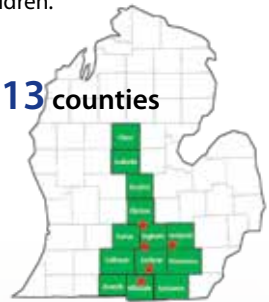
- Family violence counseling
- Intervention programs helping boys and girls overcome social and educational struggles
- Early intervention programs confronting child abuse and neglect
- Counseling for families with children returning from out-of-home placements
- Intensive counseling programs for children struggling with a mental health disorder
- On-site counseling at hospitals to redirect behavior for families
- Programs for families of teens with a severe emotional disability or anti-social behavior

Residential services

- Full-time residential treatment for young men ages 11–17 with behavioral problems

Educational services

- **Reaching Higher:** Hands-on after-school programs
- **Ingham Academy:** A day treatment program that is operated by Highfields, Ingham Intermediate School District, Ingham County Circuit Court and Peckham Inc.
- **PRIDE:** Evening reporting program for youth involved in family court
- **Breakthrough:** Teamwork development program for organizations and groups



If you'd like to learn more about our programs that help children and families, visit www.highfields.org

You helped change lives!



“Before Ingham Academy, I was at a really low point in my life. I really needed someone to encourage me. At Ingham Academy I could go at my own pace, and that helped me go further, faster! I never thought I would graduate, so this is a big accomplishment for me.”

—Rochelle, Ingham Academy Graduate, Class of 2018

“I started committing crimes when I was 11 years old. I wanted money, and that was the only way I knew how to get it. Highfields has taught me to be more mindful of my decisions and to think about the consequences of my actions.”

—Marshaun, Residential Student



“Drugs caused so many problems in my life. I was fighting with my partner, unstable, and unhealthy. I was referred to Highfields to help keep my family together and find ways to cope and stay clean. Highfields helped me stay on the right path.”

—Amanda, Community Services Client (pictured with her daughter)

Financial overview

During 2017-2018, Highfields...

GENERATED TOTAL REVENUE OF	\$9,148,639
92.4% PROGRAM REVENUE	\$8,457,275
7.2% CONTRIBUTIONS	\$658,445
.4% INTEREST & OTHER INCOME	\$32,919
AND SPENT A TOTAL OF	\$9,121,050
68.8% PERSONNEL	\$6,273,416
18.5% DIRECT COSTS	\$1,689,275
12.7% INDIRECT COSTS	\$1,158,359

Thank you to our generous donors

We are grateful to the following supporters who made financial contributions to Highfields from May 1, 2017, through April 30, 2018.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES GIVING SOCIETY – Individuals and businesses who have a current multi-year commitment of \$1,000 or more per year for five or more years:

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Emily Matthews, Dart Foundation Manager, (left) and **Ariane Dart**, member of Dart Foundation's Board of Directors, visited campus.

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Maner Costerisan helped make the holidays brighter by donating gifts for residential students to take to their families.

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We are grateful to our donors and wish to be as accurate as possible.

If a mistake has been made, please contact Bev McGill at (517) 628-2287 ext. 332 or bmcgill@highfields.org so that we can correct it.

Thank you.



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Longtime Highfields supporter **Ken Frankland** gave students a tour of the State Capitol as part of Highfields "Tour Michigan" initiative for the Residential Program.

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We welcomed five new board members at our Annual Meeting. L-R: **James "Woody" Woodfork Jr., John Evans, Anne Brown, Claudia Remenar, and Nannette Norwood.**

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Board Member **Claudia Remenar** engaged with Highfields students during an art workshop. The art program is made possible thanks to the **W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation**.

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