



Highfields, Inc.
5123 Old Plank Rd.
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Reaching Higher student, Grace, and her mom, Kris

Putt for a Purpose on June 10th!

You can help put families on solid ground! Join Highfields and Title Sponsor, Lyman and Sheets, for our 39th Annual Golf Outing: Putt for a Purpose at Forest Akers West on Monday, June 10th. Tee off begins at 10:00am!

Title Sponsor



Protecting What's Important Since 1874

Gold Sponsors



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Fund a Need Auction: Adopt a Family Counselor!

Did you know we see over 300 families per week? 99% of our counseling services take place in client's homes, not our offices.

Why?

We believe in-home counseling offers the most effective treatment for children and families.

However, the contracts we receive don't cover all of the needs to serve a client effectively, due to fluctuating gas prices, travel to and from rural areas, and above and beyond opportunities. A donation of \$100 will help Family Counselors cover these needs.

BRIGHT FUTURES

Summer 2019

Volume 19, Number 2

The Best Thing We Could Have Done

Thanks to you, children and families have access to quality, life-enhancing programs.

Not a Day Care

Kris's children have been involved in Highfields' Out of School Time Learning Program, Reaching Higher, for a total of 13 years.

"It's not about having someone watch my kids after school," said Kris.

"Granted, I love that because I work until five and I don't have to worry, but that's not what it's about. I truly love what they do."

"It's not about having someone watch my kids after school."

Kris's son Noah started attending Reaching Higher at Da Vinci Primary School in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Her daughter,

Grace, joined the program in 2nd grade. Grace is now in 5th grade and loves everything about

the program, especially academic time where she can have extra help understanding her math homework.

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The Best Thing (continued)

“Before Reaching Higher, I would bring homework home every night,” said Grace.

Kris adds, “Our schedule was: dinner, homework, and then bedtime. We didn’t have time to just relax and do stuff together as a family. Family time is so important and I think unfortunately a lot of families don’t get the family time they need.”

Less Stress, More Fun

Thanks to the academic time, Grace can enjoy new activities at Reaching Higher, like Role Playing Games, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), cooking and robotics.

“I love that they give these kids exposure to things they don’t normally have,” said Kris. “My dad always said, ‘without exposure, there is no composure,’ and it’s true. If kids don’t have exposure to things, they won’t know how to handle themselves.”


Kris also notices positive changes in her daughter when it comes to dealing with her emotions. Once

when Kris came to pick Grace up from school, Grace was in the hallway. Her teacher said that Grace was in a bad mood so she decided to remove herself from the group, sit down and re-focus.

“They teach her coping mechanisms for when she does get angry, and she uses them at home too,” said Kris.

They don’t call it ‘stress management’ but indirectly they are using activities, tools and techniques to help children deal with stress in a healthy way.”

Reaching Higher has made a huge difference. Now Kris and her family have time to enjoy dinner together, relax and watch a Hallmark movie.

“It’s the best thing we could have done for our kids,” said Kris. 

Reaching Higher operates in nine different school sites in Ingham and Jackson counties. It is funded primarily through a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, with special support from donors like you to provide opportunities above and beyond basic programming.

Leave a legacy so the values you cherish will long be remembered.

You can help Highfields change lives and strengthen communities for future generations. Consider including Highfields in your will or estate plan. We offer different options so you can choose what is best for you. Please contact Bev McGill at 517-414-7933 or bmcgill@highfields.org for more information.



MythBusters!

Test your knowledge of these common myths related to Highfields’ programs and clients. You might learn something new!

Myth #1: Youth in residential treatment programs are bad kids, delinquents, and a threat to society.

Fact: Most of the youth we serve are victims of trauma. Over 90% of youths involved in juvenile justice have experienced at least one (and typically several) traumatic stressors.

Myth #2: The juvenile crime rate is increasing.

Fact: From all the reports from the media, some would think the crime rate for juveniles is increasing, but fortunately, it is decreasing. In 2017, law enforcement agencies in the U.S. made an estimated 809,700 arrests of persons under age 18, 59% less than the number of arrests in 2008.

Myth #3: The most effective way to teach students is through lectures.

Fact: Hands-on learning has significant advantages including increased retention and engagement. Research shows that learners retain only 5% of material presented through lectures and 30% of which is taught by demonstration. Hands-on participation, on the other hand, can lead to as much as a 75% retention rate.

Myth #4: Parents who lose their children to foster care rarely get their kids back.

Fact: Foster care is not forever. With the right help, children can and do return home to their families. This is the most common outcome.

Myth #5: What I give can’t help.

Fact: Every gift helps fight the stigma surrounding children and families in need. From \$5 to \$50,000—your support makes a difference.

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 13 counties and serves about 7,000 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
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Lansing, MI 48910
(517) 887-2762

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

Hillsdale Office
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Hillsdale, MI 29242
(517) 212-8168

Website

www.highfields.org

