Highfields

Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

Annual Report 2019–2020

You create bright futures!

2020–2021 Highfields Leadership

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Cover photo: Reaching Higher student Amarrah shares "Camp in a Box" designed by staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highfields
Changing Lives, Strengthening Communities

Dear Friends of Highfields,

Greetings and thank you!

You inspire and encourage me with your actions and willingness to partner with Highfields as we serve mid-Michigan, and I so appreciate you! This past year, we have been challenged by a global pandemic, racial injustices, and economic hardships, yet we continue to not just survive, but thrive in these challenging environments.

As I begin my 15th year at Highfields, I am inspired by the continued support of donors, foundations, communities, and staff who believe in our mission of serving children and families. With your help, we are able to **stabilize** children and families in need, **strengthen** them with skills, and **empower** them to use those skills to take control of their lives.

As you read the following stories about Christian, Alison, and the children from our Reaching Higher program, you will understand how your support makes an impact. By providing clients with unique opportunities, strong role models, and second chances, you are helping further our mission each and every day. We continually need your support and ambassadorship to build strong, stable, and secure families who can thrive in their communities.

I'm looking forward to another year of engagement and support for the children and families we serve. Thank you for traveling this journey with us.

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

Christian

Thanks to your support

"Highfields changed me."

During the quarantine of COVID-19, kids like Christian became restless. He tried to find ways to pass the time, but after months of being stuck at home, he needed to get out.

He rode to the grocery store with some friends, trying to enjoy being outside the house. On the way home, there was an altercation with their neighbor, which escalated to the police being called. Christian tried to run away, but he was caught and arrested for carrying a weapon. Though the weapon wasn't his, he'd been in trouble in the past, so he was referred to Highfields' Residential Treatment Program to turn his life around.

Christian's focus at Highfields was to help redirect his reaction to traumatic situations, develop a positive way of thinking instead of acting on emotions, and learn how to follow the rules to create a routine. He was taught by staff how to become aware of his surroundings in order to recognize problematic situations. Christian also began setting goals to be a leader for others by actively listening to what they have to say and helping them to maintain a positive attitude while in the program.

> "Highfields changed me. Now, I can grow from my mistakes."
>
> —*Christian*

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

Alison (R) with daughter

Thanks to your support

"I'm overcoming abuse."

Alison experienced mental and physical abuse for years, but it wasn't until her oldest son was shot, barely surviving, that she finally gathered the courage to start a new life.

Alison wanted a better life for her children. However, she is affected with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from past abuse and trauma, and it affects her daily life. From parenting her children, to balancing finances, and keeping the house clean and safe for her family, the stress became too much for her handle.

Alison was referred to Highfields' Parenting Education Program. Thanks to support from her counselor, Sherronia, Alison opened up about her mental health. Sherronia helped her find ways to cope with her stress and shared resources for parenting and budgeting tools for managing her money. Sherronia helped Alison work on positive strategies to cope with her anxiety by setting boundaries, organizing items, cleaning frequently, and creating lists of chores for her kids to help around the house.

> "Highfields helped me overcome my anxiety. I learned how to take care of myself and give my children the life they deserve."
>
> —*Alison*

Parenting Education is an evidence-based parent education program designed to teach methods for improving relationships for families with children ages 3 to 17.

Empower

Elizabeth

Thanks to your support

"We are pivoting, not pausing."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Highfields' Reaching Higher staff used virtual strategies to reach students, including video chats, social media, phone calls, and pre-recorded videos. Over the summer, students like Elizabeth, Alex, and Audrey were excited to be able to continue Reaching Higher through weekly lesson plans and "Camp in a Box."

Reaching Higher staff created over 700 boxes of activities for students in order to provide them with games, crafts, and activities to enjoy during their time at home.

Elizabeth loved reading books and sharing what she learned with her classmates on Zoom. Elizabeth's mom, Jessica, shared her gratitude for the virtual field trips, journaling, and educational games that Reaching Higher staff created for her daughter and siblings.

"Elizabeth loves Reaching Higher," said Jessica. "All summer she looked forward to connecting with her friends and teachers during fun Zoom meetings."

Elizabeth's classmates Alex and Audrey also enjoyed "Camp in a Box." They played games together, baked recipes, and did arts and crafts that were created by Reaching Higher staff. Their mom, Holly, has been working from home since the beginning of the pandemic and has been trying to maintain a positive routine.

> "I am so thankful that Reaching Higher was available for the summer. Normalcy was something they both needed."
>
> —Holly

Reaching Higher is an afterschool program that provides elementary and middle school students with a learning environment that reinforces academics and teaches social skills.

Support

Pat Brown

Donor

"Highfields is always forward thinking."

Pat Brown has been a long-time supporter of Highfields since serving on the board over 20 years ago. Since then, she's seen a continued commitment and passion from the organization, even during uncertain times.

"Highfields is always looking to see how they can make a positive impact in people's lives," said Pat. "They're setting the bar high by working with other organizations and people in the community, overcoming challenges, and learning together."

Pat shows her support to Highfields in many ways, including planned giving. She included Highfields in her estate plan to make sure families and future generations continue to receive the support they need.

> "Planned giving helped me refocus my passion into helping others. Now, I have the chance to invest in brighter futures for children and families and make a larger gift than I could during my lifetime."
>
> *—Pat*

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 Laura Jurasek at **517-628-2287 ext. 373** or **ljurasek@highfields.org**.

Highlights of 2019–2020

None of this would be possible without you!

Putt for a Purpose

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, our **39th Annual Golf Outing** was a success! You helped us raise over $77,000 for families in Highfields' programs and $7,000 for camperships for kids. Special thanks to Title Sponsor **Lyman & Sheets**.

Strengthening Families Breakfast

Thanks to you, we raised over $192,000 at our **Strengthening Families Breakfast** to help support the Highfields mission of strengthening children and families.

Color Me Resilient

Thanks to the **Jackson Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee**, the "Color Me Resilient" project helped 105 children and youth express themselves positively through art.

Leadership Training

Highfields received a capacity grant from the **Capital Region Community Foundation** for training to enhance knowledge and skills for the Senior Leadership Team.

School Renovations

The **Granger Foundation** continues to support Highfields' Trauma Informed Campus Design by upgrading the Malcom Williams School on campus.

Therapeutic Art

Thanks to the **W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation**, students and their families have the opportunity to participate in art projects together during Family Treatment Weekends.

Residential Support

The **Lansing Rotary Foundation** provided operational support to the Residential Treatment Program through a generous grant.

Zip Line Upgrades

The **Joe D. Pentecost Foundation** helped fund zip line safety equipment for Breakthrough Program staff.

Basketball Camp

The **R.E. Olds Foundation** supported students with a summer basketball camp to learn new skills and promote teamwork.

Residential Music Studio

The **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation** helped relocate the residential hip hop music studio into a repurposed classroom.

Making Memories Program

Thanks to the **Lansing Exchange Youth Foundation**, students and their families will have the opportunity to go to Michigan's Adventure in 2021 as part of Highfields' Making Memories Program.

Toy Drive

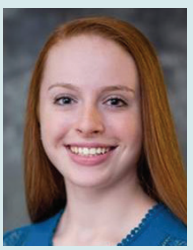
Sponsored by **WLNS and** participating **Ford Dealerships, our 16th Annual Toy Drive** provided over 200 donations of toys, books, and clothing to families for the holiday season.

Scholarship and award recipients

Thank you for supporting our mission!

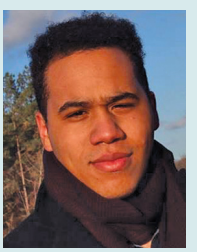
2020 Aldinger Scholarship Recipients

Shane Adams	Aliyah Henderson	Abigail Tiffany
Jaylah Ash-Shakoor	Sam Hopkins	Evelyn Trumpey
Aaron Brown	Jenny Lam	Darci VanWormer
Ella Brown	Jorge Morejon	Trevor Willard
Brandy Coates	Emily Owen	Sarach Williams
Denise Dornbush	Logan Patterson	

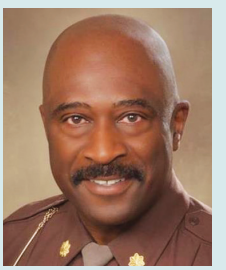


Ella Brown

Jenny Lam



Jorge Morejon



2020 Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award recipient **Sam Davis**

2020 Highfields Partnership Award recipient, **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation**

Community impact

During 2019–2020, Highfields...

SERVED 5,366 children and families

High-risk students graduate from **Ingham Academy** with high school diplomas.

EMPLOYED 246 staff

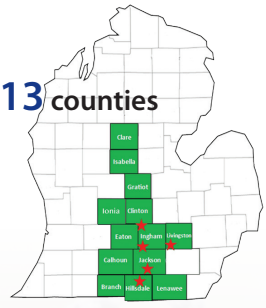
Ken Carpenter, 2020 recipient of the ***Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award***

AND CHANGED LIVES 1 family at a time

Sisters **Lillian** and **Katelyn** embrace their new winter coats donated by Mount Hope Church.

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

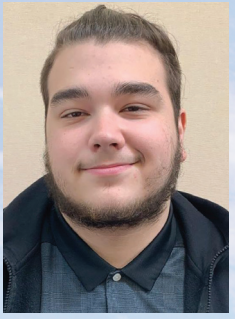
- Full-time residential treatment for young men ages 11–17 with behavioral problems

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

You can learn more about our programs that help children and families by visiting **www.highfields.org**.

You changed lives!



"I struggled with self-confidence when I was younger, causing me to skip school, get into fights, and do drugs. But since coming to Highfields, I found relief in having someone to talk to. Highfields taught me to be honest, and don't hold back from who I am."

—Ian, Residential Student

"I'd been into drugs since I was 12 years old. I fought with my dad, was sent to a detention center, and was almost homeless. It wasn't until I was introduced to Highfields, that I was given the resources and education I needed to overcome my obstacles. Thanks to Highfields, I learned how to maintain a positive structure in my life and keep fighting for the success I deserve."

—Logan, Community Services Client

"When I lost custody of my kids, I felt like I hit rock bottom. Thanks to Highfields, I found the resources and confidence to fight to get my children back. Highfields gave me a voice when I needed it the most. Now, I have both my kids and a brighter future."

—Robin, Community Services Client (L), pictured with counselor Theresa)

Financial overview

During 2019-2020, Highfields...

GENERATED TOTAL REVENUE OF	$8,457,565
95.1% PROGRAM REVENUE	$8,041,722
5.1% CONTRIBUTIONS	$428,631

AND SPENT A TOTAL OF	$8,863,546
69.4% PERSONNEL	$6,148,259
17.0% DIRECT COSTS	$1,509,830
13.6% INDIRECT COSTS	$1,205,457

Thank you to our generous donors

We are grateful to the following supporters who made financial contributions to Highfields from May 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020.

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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Janette Trachsel*
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*Deceased

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Carl J. and Joan E. Latona Trust

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Board of Water and Light
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Grua, Tupper & Young, PLC
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Lansing Ice and Fuel Company
Laux Construction, LLC
Lyman & Sheets Insurance Agency
Maner Costerisan, PC
Meijer, Inc.
Mercantile Bank
Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone, LLC
MSU Federal Credit Union
Orchid Orthopedic Solutions
Plante Moran
Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan
Wells Fargo Advisors

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Capital Region Community Foundation
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Granger Foundation
Jackson Community Foundation
Jackson Charitable Foundation
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Lansing Exchange Youth Foundation, Inc.
R.E. Olds Foundation
Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation
The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
The James and Kimberly Currie Foundation
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation

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Jacqueline Borszich
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Chad and Kim Bowen

The Smith family snuggling up with their new blankets donated by the Mennonite Community

Mark and Sherry Brackenwagen
The Bradford Family
Hillary Brandon
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Suzanne Brouse
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David and Noel Closs
David V. and Reva Coats
Jason and Rose Cody
Paul Colligan

Highfields
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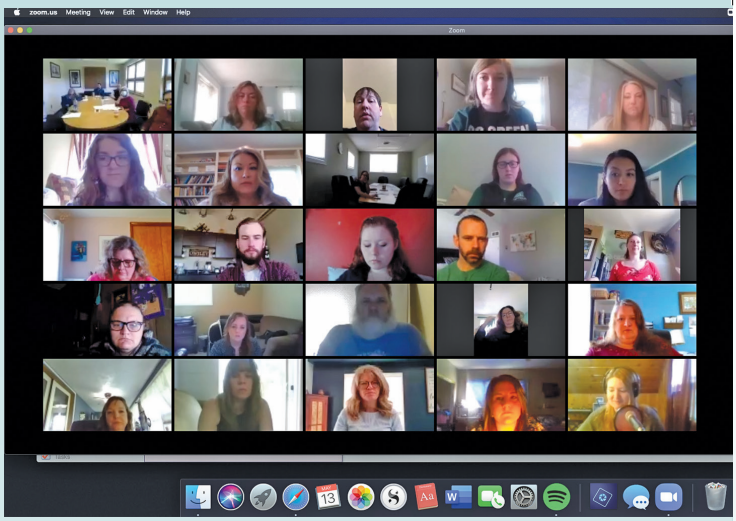
We are grateful to our donors and wish to be as accurate as possible.
If a mistake has been made, please contact
Laura Jurasek, Fund Development Director,
at (517) 628-2287 ext. 373 or ljurasek@highfields.org
so that we can correct it. Thank you.



Highfields' agency roundtable meeting over Zoom

Paul and Tracy Collins
Nicholas Colvin
Tatum Compton
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Jon and Debby Conroy
Charles and Karen Corley, PhD
Tom and Beckie Corner
Derek Courtis
John and Rita Craig
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Melissa Creamer
Jennifer and Steven Crichton
Leesa and Kevin Cruz
Marcelene Culberson
Douglas and Luanne Dancer
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William and Nancy Danhof
MacKenzie Danielak
Sam Davis
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Mark J. DeLuca
Sara Deprez
Elizabeth DeShone
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- Tyler (right), 2019 Student Performer

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Questions?
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