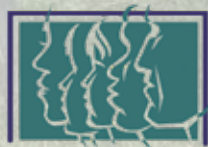




You make an impact!



Highfields
Changing Lives.
Strengthening Communities

Annual Report
2020-2021

2021–2022 Highfields Leadership

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Coordinator

Cover photo: Residential student Amarion (right) opens up about his "second chance" at Highfields. Pictured here with his Highfields' family counselor, Curtis LaFond.



Dear Friends of Highfields,

Greetings and thank you!
Throughout the past year, I have been inspired and encouraged by your overwhelming support and partnership with Highfields. It means so much to the thousands of children and families we serve in mid-Michigan communities.

As I begin my 16th year at Highfields, I continue to be grateful for the donors, foundations, community leaders, and staff who believe so strongly in our mission. Thanks to your help, we are able to **stabilize** children and families in need, **strengthen** them with skills and resources, and **empower** them to take control of their lives. As you read the following stories about Amarion, Jamie, and the children from our Reaching Higher program, you will discover how your support makes an impact. Your continued passion for our mission provides essential resources and opportunities to so many families in need of support.

The challenges and needs of families continue to be great, but with your help we will prevail and succeed.

I am looking forward to another great year of rising to challenges and seeking new opportunities. I am thankful for your willingness to travel 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

Amarion

Thanks to your support

“Highfields gave me a second chance.”

Seventeen-year-old Amarion hung out with a dangerous crowd in Flint, Michigan. One night, a disagreement between friends became violent, and the police became involved. Amarion was referred to Highfields’ Residential Treatment Program to reflect on his choices, receive treatment, and turn his life around.

“Highfields gave me a second chance,” he said.

Thanks to Highfields’ staff, and especially his family counselor, Curtis LaFond, Amarion opened up about his feelings of grief and frustration.

“He’s been through a lot of trauma,” said Curtis. “But he remained highly motivated to complete the program and focus on school and his future.”

Amarion participated in Highfields’ Transitions Group, which teaches life skills to students. He learned how to write a resume, interview for jobs, manage money, and open a bank account. He flourished in school as well.

“Amarion could have easily graduated early from Highfields because of his intelligence and goal-oriented attitude, but he wanted to finish his senior year in person in the fall,” said Curtis.

After leaving Highfields, Amarion plans to move to Mississippi and live with his family, finish high school, and play football. He aspires to attend college for sports recruiting.

“Highfields helped me build character and become a leader.”

—Amarion

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

Strengthen



Highfields' Multi-Systemic Therapist Lacey Semenok helps families during times of crisis.

Thanks to your support “I have my son back.”

Jamie's* son, Cole*, has suffered with severe social anxiety ever since he was a little boy. He started having major issues when he entered high school. Jamie noticed Cole's grades were dropping, he was hanging out with a new group of friends, and he started smoking marijuana.

“These were classic signs that told me something was going on,” she said.

Within a couple of months, Cole was doing hard drugs and sneaking out of the house every night. He was hospitalized multiple times for suicide, depression, and anxiety.

“It was the scariest thing I have ever experienced as a parent,” she said. “I didn't know what to do, but I had to save him.”

The police became involved and put Jamie in touch with Highfields' Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Program. Initially, Jamie was nervous, but she knew this was something that needed to happen.

She met with Highfields' MST Therapist Lacey Semenok twice a week to discuss Cole's needs and the needs of their family. Lacey helped Jamie put her thoughts and ideas on paper and execute plans to make sure Cole stays safe. They worked with Cole to find healthy ways to help him cope with anxiety, depression, and school.

*Names have been changed to protect the confidentiality of the clients.

“Thanks to Highfields, things have changed for the better. I have my son back.”
—Jamie*

Multi-Systemic Therapy is an evidence-based program designed to help children ages 12–17 who are experiencing serious clinical problems.



Reaching Higher students participated in a three-month NASA STEM project.

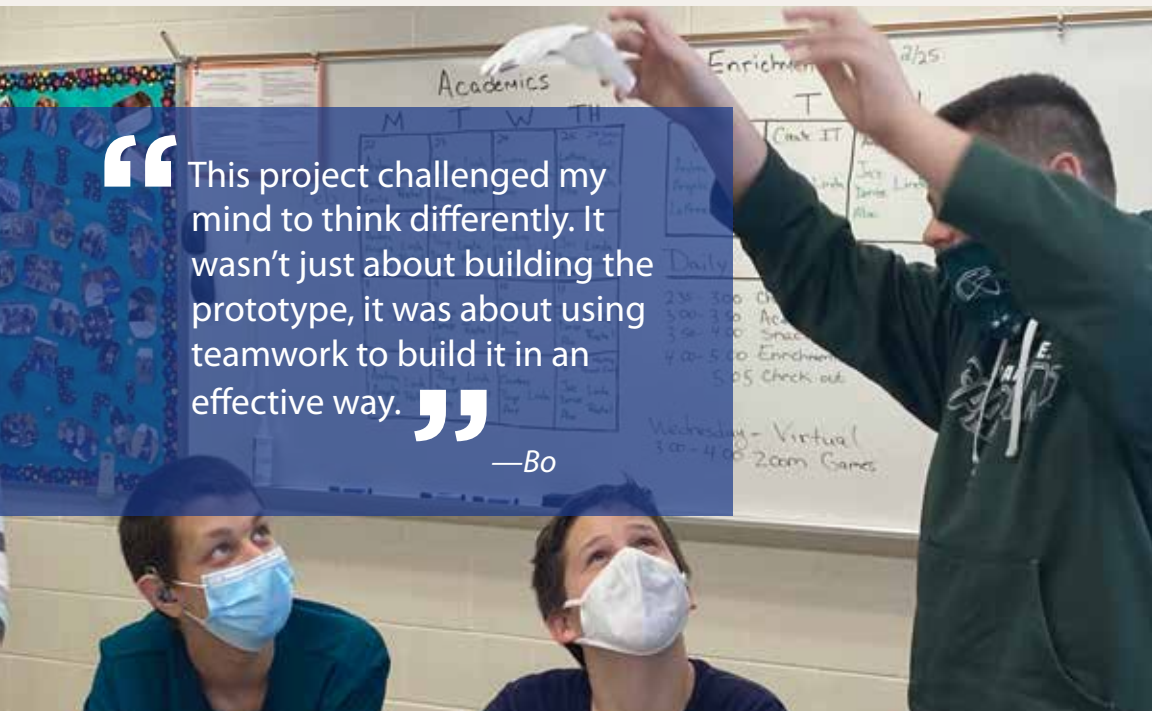
Empower

Thanks to your support Highfields students reach for Mars

Springport Elementary was one of 10 schools in Michigan selected to participate in a three-month NASA STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Project. Students in Highfields' Reaching Higher Program worked with NASA experts to create a prototype for a spacecraft parachute to be shared as a possible option for the launch to Mars.

The project didn't come with instructions, only a guide to encourage students to think creatively and pay attention to details. The prototype could only weigh a total of 50 grams and had to be tested three times at a height of two meters.

Students took on different roles throughout the project like builders, fixers, and suppliers. They worked through challenges by communicating their problems, trying multiple builds, and producing a prototype that worked. After multiple tests, the most successful design consisted of a grocery bag and paper tube which carried 10 pennies worth of cargo, within the designated limits.



“ This project challenged my mind to think differently. It wasn't just about building the prototype, it was about using teamwork to build it in an effective way. ”

—Bo

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



Richard Duffield

Donor

A father gives back

Richard Duffield was first introduced to Highfields 8 years ago by Dart Bank. He was a group benefits agent searching for new organizations to work with and also became a father for the first time.

“I started to learn over the course of working with Highfields and having children at the same time, how important and impactful role models are for children to grow up in positive environments,” he said.

Richard became involved with Highfields as more than just a business partner; he became a donor and supporter of Highfields’ events. He serves on the Golf Outing Committee, participates in the Golf Outing, and hosts a table at the annual Strengthening Families Breakfast.

Richard resonates with Highfields’ mission and their programs in the community dedicated to keeping families together. He knows that things can turn sideways in an instant as a parent, and he appreciates the work Highfields does working alongside families with support and empathy.

“The importance of Highfields in my life has grown over time. I know deep down in my heart the huge task and influence Highfields has over making communities better. I will continue to support Highfields at any capacity I can.”

—Richard Duffield

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](mailto:Ljurassek@highfields.org) at 517-628-2287 x373 or [ljurassek@highfields.org](mailto:Ljurassek@highfields.org).

Highlights of 2020–2021

None of this would be possible without you!

Putt for a Purpose



Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and golfers, our **40th Annual Golf Outing at Forest Akers West** raised \$60,000 for children and families in our programs. Special thanks to **Title Sponsor Lyman and Sheets**.

Strengthening Families Virtual Breakfast



Our first-ever *virtual* **Strengthening Families Breakfast** was a success thanks to donors like you. Your support helped us raise \$110,000 to support our mission.

Jackson Support



Highfields received a \$72,824 grant from the **John George, Jr. Student Loan Fund** for capital improvements to Highfields' Jackson office and to help sustain local Reaching Higher out-of-school-time learning programs.

Campus Upgrades

Thanks to the support of the **Dart Foundation**, Highfields installed an HVAC unit in the historic Jean Schultz Center on campus to provide comfort for guests, students, and employees.



The **Granger Foundation** supports Highfields' Trauma Informed Campus Design by upgrading the façade of Malcom Williams School on campus.



Thanks to the **Joe D. Pentecost Foundation**, Highfields' staff is equipped with new radios to ensure the safety of students and improve communication on campus.



The **R.E. Olds Foundation** granted funds to upgrade the cameras and security system on Highfields' campus.

Residential Program Relief

The **Juvenile Justice Subcommittee** of the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services** granted Highfields \$5,000 for intensive Motivational Interviewing training for Residential employees.



Highfields' Residential Treatment Program received a generous grant of \$10,000 from the **Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation** to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.



Highfields is grateful for the **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation** and the continued support of our music studio on campus.

Immediate Needs

The **Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish** granted Highfields \$1,000 for immediate needs for families in Jackson County.

Toy Drive



Community members donated 566 toys that gifted 232 children and 104 families during our **Holiday Toy Drive**, which included the use of an Amazon Wish List. Special thanks to **WLNS** for their continued partnership.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



Thanks to a \$30,000 capacity building grant from the **Capital Region Community Foundation**, Highfields will carry out an agency-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative to enhance the organization's culture and work with families in the community.

Scholarship and award recipients

Thank you for supporting our mission!



Aaron Brown



Evelyn Trumpey



Marissa Vanwormer

2021 Aldinger Scholarship Recipients

Lillian Bieszke
Aaron Brown
Taneekia Donnelly
Monique Jackson
Anamile Morejon-Quesada
Jorge Morejon

Danielle Shortle
Emily Thompson
Randi Tollison
Evelyn Trumpey
Marissa Vanwormer
Sarah Williams



2021 **Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award** recipient
Stephen Zynda



2021 **Highfields Partnership Award** recipient **W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation**, accepted by trustee and chair **Frederick M. Baker, Jr.**

Community impact

During 2020–2021, Highfields...

SERVED **5,742** children and families



Four students graduate from **Ingham Academy**, a day treatment program for court adjudicated youth that is operated by Highfields, Ingham County Circuit Court, and Ingham Intermediate School District.

EMPLOYED **238** staff

AND CHANGED LIVES **1** family at a time



Tim Monroe, 2021 recipient of the *Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award*



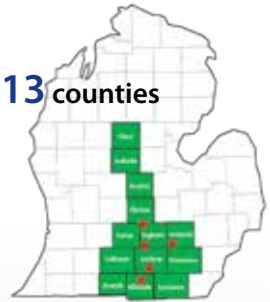
Former **Families Together Building Solutions** client Robin and her son, **Jonathan**, have a fresh start, thanks to you.

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 out-of-school-time learning program
- **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!



“Thanks to Highfields, I know what real friends and positive influences look like. I’m encouraged by the staff to keep a positive attitude and have a better outlook on my future.”

—Jonathan, former Residential Student

“Moving from Honduras to the United States with my family was difficult. I struggled to adapt to a new life and a new country and made some bad choices. I have a hard time trusting people, but Highfields taught me how to interact with others in positive ways. I’ve overcome a lot of challenges.”

—Angel, former Residential Student



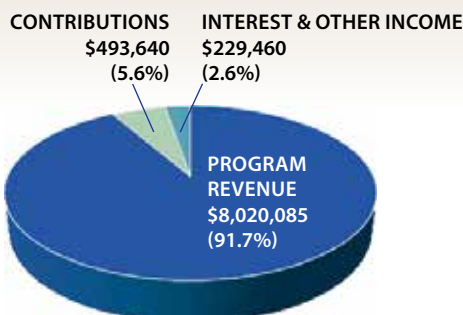
“Happiness within our family had been missing for a long time. We were close to hitting rock bottom. If it wasn’t for Highfields, I’m not sure where my family would be. Highfields helped give me the confidence to be the mother I needed to be for my daughter.”

—Charlene, former Multi-Systemic Therapy Client

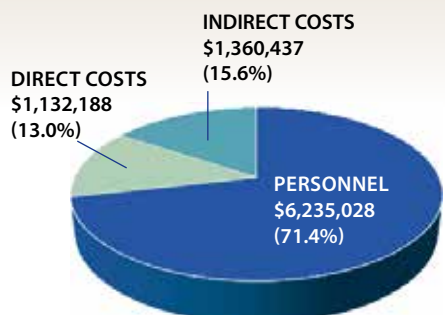
Financial overview

During 2020–2021, Highfields...

**GENERATED TOTAL REVENUE OF
\$8,743,185**



**AND SPENT A TOTAL OF
\$8,727,653**



Thank you to our generous donors

We are grateful to the following supporters who made financial contributions to Highfields from May 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.

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Highfields' Reaching Higher students safely participate in arts and crafts activities.

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Highfields' Mindfulness and Meditation Coordinator Becky Womboldt practices mindfulness with North Elementary School students.

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Don and Judy Fehrenbach

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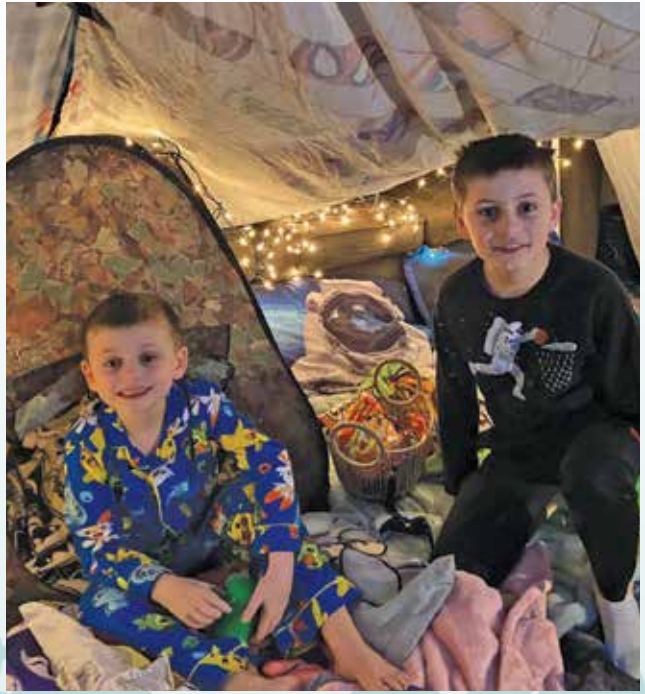
Will Robinson



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.

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Reaching Higher students show off their fort during a virtual sleepover party.

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 Lucky's
 Maru Sushi & Grill
 Meijer Store #30
 Mel Micke
 MSU Forest Akers West
 Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom
 Lawrence V. and Candy Parker
 Pilgrim's Run
 Playmakers
 Saylor's, Inc.
 Chris Shellberg
 Patricia Sperti
 Stillwater Grill
 The Christman Company
 The English Inn
 The Soup Spoon Café
 Wheat Jewelers

New mural painted inside the relocated music studio on campus.



Highfields, Inc.

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Mark your calendar for our
**Strengthening Families
Fundraising Breakfast**

**Thursday, October 7, 2021
at the Kellogg Center
8:00 am – 9:00 am**

A virtual option will be available.

YOUR INVITATION IS ENCLOSED.

RSVP to Laura Jurasek at
ljurasek@highfields.org or online at
www.highfields.org/breakfast2021



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