



Building Dedication to Honor the Dart Foundation's Legacy Gift to Highfields

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 20, 2019, Onondaga, Michigan – On Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 1 p.m., Highfields will formally dedicate its new, state-of-the-art family treatment and education center, which was made possible through a generous \$600,000 legacy gift from the Dart Foundation.

The building dedication ceremony, at 5123 Old Plank Road in Onondaga, will feature remarks from Highfields' President and CEO Brian Philson and Dart Foundation Vice President Jim Lammers.

"Highfields is grateful to the Dart Foundation for its continuing support of our mission to serve the youth and families of mid-Michigan," said Brian Philson, President and CEO of Highfields. "This generous donation has created an amazing family treatment and education center that will directly impact the quality of services to children and families."

The Dart Family Treatment and Education Center is part of a \$1,000,000 campaign to improve the Onondaga campus, which includes contributions from other local funders. The Dart Foundation also provided funding for \$150,000 in upgrades to the existing kitchen and dining hall, bringing its total contribution to the campaign to \$750,000.

The Dart Family Treatment and Education Center provides housing for up to 24 people and includes a multi-purpose common area. It allows Highfields to offer a comfortable and respectful space to youth and families during family treatment weekends. The new space also allows Highfields to have families gather in attractive, dedicated meeting space instead of crowding into a wellness room. The new center's housing replaces aging and inadequate cabins currently used by families during their stays. Highfields also plans to use the new center for banquets, treatment groups, dinners, ceremonies and holiday celebrations.

Family Opportunities

Learning Opportunities

Youth Opportunities

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www.highfields.org



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 about 7,000 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.

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