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**Highfields supports staff during pandemic**

*Onondaga, Michigan*– **April 17, 2020** – Since 1962, Highfields has grown from a small residential campus to a multi-purpose human services organization, serving roughly 7,000 people each year. Highfields’ staff are a vital part of supporting children and families in order to stabilize, strengthen and empower their life, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highfields has been committed to providing help to staff through a COVID-19 Relief Fund as well as Hazard Pay for all essential employees caring for clients.

The Staff Relief Fun helps emerging needs as it relates to the current pandemic, supplying staff with up to $200 to assist with related needs, such as, rent, groceries and technology for online educations.

“Eric has worked with a teacher to join in a zoom instructional meeting she was having with her class in order to observe his client ‘in the school setting,’” said Lori Bargesser, Multisystemic Therapy Supervisor. “As a result, he is better equipped to support the school and family as they implement interventions to address the client’s referral behaviors.”

Eric is only one of many Highfields employees who has gone above and beyond to help make sure clients are still receiving opportunities needed for proper care, which is why Highfields also implemented Hazard Pay. Essential staff on campus and in the field will receive supplemental pay in order to help with additional costs caused by COVID-19.

“Kelly goes above and beyond her own responsibilities,” said Beth Rubley, Family Reunification counselor. “She cares not only for her clients, but the staff that she supervises on a daily basis. She checks in on all of us weekly especially while times are rough.”

Highfields is dedicated to supporting staff during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to ensure help is given to children and their families through safe and healthy practices.

*Highfields is a nonprofit human services organization which provides home-based counseling, residential care for young men ages 11-17, and experiential education and support programs for children, youth, and families in 13 mid-Michigan counties. For more information, please visit* [*www.highfields.org*](http://www.highfields.org)*.*

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