

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highfields Presents 2023 Citizenship and Partnership Award Recipients

Lansing, MI – March 28, 2023 –Highfields will present the 2023 **Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award** to Kurt and Barbara Guter. The Citizenship Award is awarded “to individuals who through commitment of time, deeds, and leadership, have brought together many citizens from all parts of our community and engaged their talents to create special opportunities for youth and families to grow stronger, thereby enriching the fabric of our community.”

Kurt and Barbara have supported Highfields since 2012, becoming more and more involved every year. They care about the impact of their gifts on Highfields and how they will ripple through the community. The Guter’s have provided funds for Highfields’ staff to attend important training, like the Building Bridges Initiative, to increase staff knowledge and commitment to building a “bridge” between youth and their families.

“We are pleased to honor Kurt and Barbara for their outstanding support of Highfields, and their community leadership on so many different fronts as they demonstrate their commitment to creating a better tomorrow for everyone,” said Brian Philson, Highfields’ President and CEO.

The 2023 **Highfields Partnership Award** will be awarded to the AF Group. This award is given annually to a company or organization that has contributed to the fulfillment of Highfields’ mission.

AF Group has partnered with Highfields for 23 years in a variety of unique and meaningful ways. They awarded several grants which enhanced safety for youth, including the gym renewal project at Malcolm Williams School on campus in Onondaga, and the fire safety project to install a sprinkler system in one of the student homes. They have also supported Highfields’ Annual Golf Outing, which raises funds for families and children in Highfields’ counseling programs.

“AF Group has been a longstanding and generous partner of Highfields and is instrumental in helping us to change lives throughout the mid-Michigan community,” said Philson.

The Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award and the Partnership Award will be presented at Highfields’ Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 26th at Hidden Gem in Holt.