

## 2023-2024 Highfields Leadership

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Cover photo: Residential student **Javid** (middle) opens up about his experience at Highfields; pictured here with Residential staff **Matt Rau** and **Ashley Carson**.



## Dear Friends and Partners of Highfields,



hank you for supporting Highfields' work with children and families.

As I begin my 18<sup>th</sup> year serving Highfields, I continue to be grateful for all of you who represent the donors, foundations, community leaders, and supporters who believe so strongly in our mission. Thanks to you, we can stabilize children and families in crises, strengthen them with skills and resources, and empower them to take control of their lives.

As you read this report and learn of the positive impact of our work, you will discover how your partnership with us makes a significant difference. The needs of children and families are greater today than ever before. With your help, they can receive the care and support they need to be successful.

I look forward to another year of leading Highfields and serving the mid-Michigan community. Thank you for traveling this journey with us.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Philson, LMSW, ACSW

President & CEO Highfields, Inc.

**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.



Javid

# Thanks to your support Javid is returning home

avid is a teenager who often got into trouble. Eventually, he was referred to Highfields' Residential Treatment Program and began treatment through the Phoenix Program. Phoenix focuses on changing students' thought processes and behavioral reactions to challenging situations. It also helps youth begin to take more responsibility for their actions.

Over the past 11 months, Javid has worked through his issues and gained perspective on his biggest challenges – like controlling his anger. He copes by working out, playing basketball, and participating in Highfields' Anger Control group.

Javid has also enjoyed some of the benefits of Highfields, especially off-campus trips that are a part of the Summer Enrichment Program. "We went to a Detroit Tigers game, the Henry Ford Museum, and even the Detroit Zoo," said Javid. "I enjoy doing these things because I never had the chance to before."

Javid has struggled not having the freedom he once had. However, he's set to return home soon and is looking forward to it. "I'm excited to get back and see my family, get a job, and go to the gym," said Javid.

Highfields is proud to have a residential program that can be a safe haven for youth like Javid. It is our goal to strengthen, stabilize, and empower children and families so that they can make the right decisions moving forward.

I'm excited to get back and see my family, get a job, and go to the gym.

—Javid

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



Brooke with her husband and son

### Thanks to your support

## Brooke has found harmony

Prooke had spent years living in a cramped apartment with her husband, three children, and two pets. All of their belongings were packed into boxes that filled the apartment, while Brooke and her husband slept on the pull-out couch. However, in November 2022 a Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworker contacted Highfields and referred Brooke to the Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) program. It was at that point that Brooke met her Highfields counselor, Meghan Wright. "From that point on, it has been an absolute blessing," Brooke said.

Their first task was to take care of the boxes that had consumed their living space. Each time they met, Meghan and Brooke would tackle and reorganize a new room. Room by room, a sense of relief washed over Brooke. "To be able to get rid of that last box after living out of them for 10 years, I cried," said Brooke.

Looking back on the journey, Brooke had found herself in a state of depression and anxiety, with no motivation to get started on the tasks at hand. All she wanted to do was sit down and escape the chaos. Meghan's unwavering support helped show Brooke that she was capable of taking control of her life. "Brooke and her family's story is a great example of the impact that compassion and guidance can have on a struggling family," said Meghan.

Brooke and her family eventually took a major step forward with buying their first home. Brooke received a promotion at work and her husband received a raise.

With a newfound confidence, a thriving home, and a promising future, Brooke, her husband, and their three children look forward to the next chapter of their lives.



Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) helps families create solutions to prevent out-of-home placement for the children. A counselor meets with the family in their home for at least three hours a week at times most convenient for them.



Ozzie with Reaching Higher Site Coordinator Curtis Richard

### Thanks to your support

## Ozzie is exploring new passions

**zzie**, 15, is a high school student in the Jackson area and a student in Highfields' Reaching Higher Program. He began with the Reaching Higher Program in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and it quickly became more than just an extracurricular activity for him. The program has helped Ozzie discover new things and make new friends.

Ozzie enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons and Magic: The Gathering with his Reaching Higher classmates. "Reaching Higher has definitely helped me with strategic thinking," Ozzie said, as he reflected on his years in the program. He also likes playing mystery games, doing puzzles, and solving math problems.

Ozzie's program is led by Curtis Richard, a site coordinator for Reaching Higher at daVinci Primary. "Ozzie is a smart, inquisitive student who loves to help other kids. We have seen his confidence and his ability to express himself grow each day, and he sets the example for a positive attitude. He is our Reaching Higher ambassador and has achieved the most days attended for the past two years in a row," said Curtis.

Ozzie also enjoys going on field trips with the program. "My favorite field trip was when we went to Highfields; it was a lot of fun," Ozzie said. The students were able to do a scavenger hunt, make smores over a campfire, and enjoy the beauty of nature.

As he enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Ozzie is excited about the upcoming school year. "I love music, and school allows me to expand my knowledge in music," said Ozzie. He plays two instruments, the cello and the violin, but he prefers the cello. Ozzie is grateful for the Reaching Higher Program and is happy for all the memories he has made from it.

I love music, and school allows me to expand my knowledge in music.

—Ozzie

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.



Kris McVicar

#### Donor

## A gift of empowerment

ris McVicar donated a life insurance policy to Highfields in 1996. At the time she was a young professional in her 20s. She had heard about Highfields and wanted to support their mission of serving children and families in the community. "Donating a life insurance policy is a way for me to give a lot more than I could

ever be able to give in my lifetime," said Kris.

Kris grew up in the mid-Michigan community. However, in 2008, Kris and her husband moved to Portland, Oregon, but distance did not diminish her connection to Highfields. Even miles away, she remained dedicated.

Kris and her husband eventually moved back to Michigan and met with Highfields' CEO Brian Philson. During that meeting, Brian extended a warm invitation for Kris to join the Board of Directors, and she agreed.

Kris served six years on the board and remains a large advocate for Highfields through the Robert Drake Society and as a member of the Endowment Committee.

Kris supports Highfields' many programs and services through the life insurance premium she pays each month. She also receives tax benefits, in addition to supporting families and children for years to come.

My gift will ensure that Highfields' work continues.
I hope that I can set an example to other donors as a way to maximize their gift."

—Kris McVicar

### 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 x373** or **ljurasek@highfields.org.** 

## Highlights of 2022–2023

## None of this would be possible without you!

### **Putt for a Purpose**



On June 6<sup>th</sup> we held our **42**<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Golf Outing** with Title Sponsor **Lyman and Sheets** at **Forest Akers West**. Thanks to community sponsors and supporters, we raised over \$60,000 for children and families in our programs!

## Strengthening Families Breakfast



Our annual **Strengthening Families Breakfast** was held at the Kellogg Center on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters like you, we raised over \$225,000 to help fulfill our mission!

### **Making an Impact**

Thanks to Jackson National Life Insurance Company, we were awarded a grant of \$11,500 to support our Family Preservation Program and help families in the tri-county area with immediate and emergency needs.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the **Dart Foundation**, we were able to accomplish technology upgrades to increase security and efficiency.



The **Granger Foundation** gave a generous grant of \$150,000 over three years – \$50,000/ year – to implement Phase 2 of our Trauma Informed Design Project. This year included installing new signs that make our campus more welcoming to students and families.

## Therapeutic Support for Residential



Residential students create beautiful artwork thanks to a \$7,500 grant from **The James and Kimberly Currie Foundation** for a Fine Art Therapy Program.



Recognizing the importance of creative arts, the W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation provided a grant of \$7,500 to provide art workshops for students in partnership with REACH Studio Art Center in Lansing.



The Residential houses have brand new furniture thanks to a \$10,500 grant from the **Joe D. Pentecost Foundation**.

### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**



Our internal DEI Council continues to take on special projects to create a culture of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion across the agency thanks to a grant from the **Community Foundation**.

### **Giving Tuesday**

Thanks to donors on **Giving Tuesday**, we raised \$3,750 to provide gift cards to teenagers in our counseling programs for the holidays.

#### **Toy Drive**



Community members donated over 600 toys for children in our programs during our annual **Holiday Toy Drive** in partnership with **WLNS** and local mid-Michigan **Ford Dealerships**.

### Scholarship and award recipients

Thank you for supporting our mission!



2023 Aldinger Scholarship Recipients

Lillian Bieszke Mary Jo Cox Abigail Eddy Aliyah Henderson Anamile Morejon Alayssa Murine Kayleigh Payne Kenric Robinson Randi Tollison Darci VanWormer Maleena Wright



2023 Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award recipients Kurt and Barbara Guter



2023 Highfields Partnership Award recipient AF Group, accepted by Robert Saxton and Jeff Hertrich

## **Community impact**

During 2022-2023, Highfields...

### SERVED 3,221 children and families



Nine students graduated from Ingham Academy, a day treatment program for court adjudicated youth that is operated by Highfields, Ingham County Circuit Court, Ingham Intermediate School District, and Peckham, Inc.

#### EMPLOYED 179 staff



Kelly Corbett, 2023 recipient of the Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award

### AND CHANGED LIVES 1 family at a time



The Williams family was able to send their son, Mark, to camp thanks to your support.

PROVIDED SAFETY NET SERVICES THROUGHOUT 11 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 neglectCounseling for families with children returning from out-of-home
- placements

  Intensive counseling programs for children struggling with a
- 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

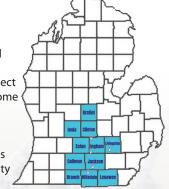
#### **Residential services**

■ 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 lean more about our programs that help children and families by visiting www.highfields.org.



## You changed lives!



"Today my daughter has the biggest personality; she's goofy, fun to be around, and loves hanging out or doing normal teenage things. She isn't constantly looking over her shoulders or worried to go out and have fun. My daughter is back and better than ever. I can't thank Highfields enough. They saved my little girl."

—Rachel, former Highfields client (pictured with her daughter)

"My daughter has had services through Highfields since 2019. I could not be happier. The staff is friendly and very proactive. Highfields makes the community a better place with the knowledgeable workers and all of its resources. Being able to have a say in my daughter's therapy and treatment is very important to me."

—Kayleigh, Highfields client and Aldinger Scholarship Winner (pictured with her family)





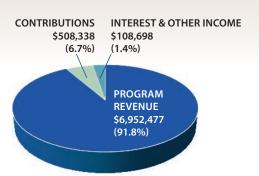
"The art therapy classes are a lot of fun. I've always enjoyed art, and I draw a lot in my free time. Mr. Smith is a great teacher who helps us with different techniques like blending. Art is very therapeutic, and it helps to have a few hours to calm down and be creative."

—Andrew, former Highfields Residential Student

## **Financial overview**

During 2022-2023, Highfields...

GENERATED TOTAL REVENUE OF \$7,569,513



AND SPENT A TOTAL OF \$8,351,331



## Thank you to our generous donors

e are grateful to the following supporters who made financial contributions to Highfields from May 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.

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:

Dr. Carol Beals Sara and Jared Bennett Jenny Bond Elizabeth Boyd Melanie Dart and David Howland Dean Transportation, Inc. **Amanda Denney** Nancy Drake Hurst John Drake Richard and Whitney Duffield Robert and Talitha Easterly Mark and Brenda Emmert Michael and Trish Foster Brian and Kelly Gallagher John and Tammie Gingas Margaret-Ann Griffith Kurt and Barbara Guter Thomas and Marsha Hacker Jeff and Elizabeth Hertrich Justin and Lara Hewson Josh and Jenn Jelenek Tom and Lisa Jelenek **Timothy Johnson** Laura and Chris Jurasek Laux Construction, LLC Rebecca and Krista Lott Olivia Martin and Jerry Muskat-Martin **Richard and Mickey Martin** Kris and Bill McVicar Mike and Anna Miller

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Junior League of Lansing

Janette Trachsel\*

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The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Capital Region Community Foundation
Citizens Charitable Foundation
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Dr. Carol Beals Kira Carter Robertson

#### TRIBUTE GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Bob Bell Cathi Drake The Honorable Robert L. Drake Christina Dault Encelewski Edward Struzinski



Residential staff member Ashley Carson has fun with the students during their summer field day.

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**Accident Fund Insurance** 

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#### BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS \$1 TO \$999:

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Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices Chums, Inc. Greater Lansing Chapter Ennis Center for Children Family Barber Shop II Glenn Buege Chevrolet Graff Chevrolet-Okemos Horizon Bank KIA of Jackson KIA of Lansing Kiwanis Club of South Lansing **Knights of Columbus Council** Ladies Cedar Club of Lansing LAF Automotive Group Lezotte Miller, Barbara Lezotte Michigan Manufacturers Association Mitchell's Department Store Mount Hope Community Church Ministries Mutual of Omaha Network for Good Nowak Law, PLLC Okemos-Saint Martha Council No.10.006 Paradise Motor Sales, Inc. Pauli Ford PayPal Giving Fund **RGC Employees Club** Serra Auto Campus Team One Charlotte United Way of South Central Michigan **USAA** Williams Autoworld

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Bill and Rosie Clark



Highfields' newest Board Members L-R: Amanda Toy, Shannon Scholten, Jeff Roman, Jarrod Lynch, Carol Giacoletto, and Robert Burgee (not pictured: Kellee Christenson and Taylor Moberg)

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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.

Scott Pantaleo Mark and Chervl Pardee Barbara Jean Parsons Rich and Sue Patterson Ralph and Mary Pax Dione Pena John and Ellen Peters Sara Pettit Anna Petty Carma Philip Philson Family Drew and Claire Philson Rita Pincumbe Colleen Pitmon Molly Ploe Darrell Potie Nicole Powers-Heinig and Brian Heinig Jeanette Pung Tom and Toni Reder Charles and Claudia Remenar Carlye Reynolds Tanda Reynolds and George Potter Patrick Rhadigan **Amanda Robbins** Chris Robinson Ryan and Danielle Robinson Mark and Carol Rodge James and Susan Rundborg Alexander Rusek Ruth L. Sablich Robert and Michele Saxton Alice Schehr Nobel and Pam Schuler Kelly Schultz Benjamin Schwendener\* Brenda and Kenneth Seelman Harold and Laura Shaver Patti Sholler-Barber Judge Kristen Simmons Christopher and Erica Simpson Jamie Smathers John and Deborah Smith Anita Snyder Janet Reynolds Snyder M.J. Stafford Jeffrey and Kimberly Stevens William and Rita Stoskopf

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Anonymous
American 1 Credit Union
Rebecca Armstrong
Art's Pub
Beggar's Banquet
BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse
Patricia A. Brown
Buddies Pub
Capital City Market
Capital Prime

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L-R: **Brian Philson, Kelly Corbett,** and **Anne Brown** at the 2023 Highfields Employee Banquet

\*Deceased

Zynda's Food and Drink

Zap Zone

Highfields, Inc.

5123 Old Plank Road Onondaga, MI 49264 Non-Profit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Permit #375 Lansing, MI



STABILIZE

STREAM CHIEFEN

EMPOWER

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the Kellogg Center 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.



"My girl is back better than ever and I can't thank Highfields enough. They saved my little girl." For your head Brian Philson, President & CEO shares successes and challenges

For your heart
Client families share how
Highfields is making a
difference in their lives

For your hands
An opportunity for you to contribute to the work we are doing



RSVP to Laura Jurasek (517) 628-2287 x373 ljurasek@highfields.org



ONONDAGA CAMPUS and Administrative Offices 5123 Old Plank Road Onondaga, MI 49264 517-628-2287

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