



Highfields
Changing Lives,
Strengthening Communities

Annual Report
2023-2024



You make an impact!

2024–2025 Highfields Leadership

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*Deceased

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Residential Services Director

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Director of Quality and Education
Mindfulness and Meditation
Coordinator

Cover photo: John learned valuable communication skills throughout his time at Highfields' Residential Program.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your continued support of Highfields' work throughout mid-Michigan.

As I begin my 19th 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.

This report highlights the amazing stories of changed lives. Because of your partnership, **John, Kayleigh, Alayah, and Freva** have the tools and support they need to be successful and create brighter futures.

Thank you for positively impacting children and families in our community.

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.



Stabilize

John

Thanks to your support

John is ready for the next chapter!

Sixteen-year-old **John** came to Highfields’ Residential Treatment Program in February and is preparing to return home.

“At first, I was nervous to come to Highfields,” he said. “But now it’s like a home away from home.”

John was referred to Highfields because of his choices to steal cars and credit cards. He came to Highfields with an argumentative attitude toward both his peers and the staff.

“I argued so much at the beginning,” said John. “My biggest challenge here was learning how to not argue so much.”

John learned valuable communication skills throughout his time at Highfields. Residential Director Tyler Jones says, “John can now express his opinions effectively, without being rude.”

John has taken advantage of the different programs and services Highfields offers. He did community service outings in Onondaga, completed work sessions to earn money, and participated in Transitions Group, which teaches skills like budgeting to help students before they return home.

John is passionate about the Black Lives Matter movement. He is looking forward to returning home, getting off probation and finding a job. His dream job is to work with people either as a mentor or therapist.

“ My biggest challenge here was learning how to not argue so much. ”

—John

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

Strengthen



Kayleigh, Alayah, and family

Thanks to your support

Kayleigh and Alayah are progressing!

In 2019, **Kayleigh** began seeing destructive behavior from her 8-year-old daughter **Alayah**. Alayah would exhibit aggressive behavior toward other kids, experience meltdowns, and once even locked Kayleigh out of the house. Kayleigh was referred to Highfields for support.

"We went through a lot of changes in the beginning," said Kayleigh. "It took getting the right therapist for her to be successful." The right therapist in Alayah's case was Highfields' Amy Green.

Amy is an Autism Spectrum Disorder Case Management Counselor. Amy helped Kayleigh discover parenting tools that she didn't realize she had. Kayleigh has learned to put her foot down when there is a conflict. She also set boundaries to minimize Alayah's dependence on technology.

Alayah has had a lot of additional help throughout the years. She has undergone In-Home Services, Occupational Therapy, Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy, and Trauma Therapy.

"I'm so proud of the progress she has made from when I first met her," said Amy. "Alayah has done a great job over the years, and her recent behavior is reflecting that."

Kayleigh agrees, stating: "Alayah is able to identify her emotions now and has become better at communicating," said Kayleigh. "I am so proud of her progress. Highfields did a wonderful job, and I recommend their services to anyone."

“ Alayah is able to identify her emotions now and has become better at communicating. ”

—Kayleigh

Highfields provides targeted case management services for consumers receiving services through Autism Benefit in the state of Michigan. We assist families in navigating the range of services available to their children and developing a plan for success.



Empower

Freva

Thanks to your support Freva is finding creativity

Twelve-year-old Freva is a 5th grade student in Highfields' Reaching Higher Program. He joined Reaching Higher in the fall of 2023, and it has quickly become one of his favorite programs.

"I am able to do all of things I love at Reaching Higher," said Freva.

The goal of Reaching Higher is to reinforce academics that students learn throughout the school day and to help improve behavior in the classroom. Each day, the students work on schoolwork and different enrichment activities. This is to expose kids to new and different hobbies, life skills, and recreational activities they may not have experienced.

"I love math, and I also like being creative during craft time," said Freva.

Reaching Higher has helped Freva become more social and do better in school.

"Freva has truly blossomed in the program," said Amy Atkinson, Site Coordinator. "He is a leader both academically and socially."

Freva enjoys his schoolwork, hanging out with friends, and playing basketball. He is thankful for Amy and the teachers in the program who spend time helping him succeed.

"Ms. Amy believes in me," said Freva. "Reaching Higher helped me learn a lot about who I am and that I can do anything I set my mind to in the future."

“ I love math, and I also like being creative during craft time. ”

—Freva

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.

Support



Larry Parker

Donor

Visionary supporter

Lansing native **Larry Parker** heard of Highfields back when it was called Camp Highfields. So he was no stranger when he was asked to join the Board of Directors in 1991 under past CEO Carl J. Latona. “Even after I finished on the board, I remain involved through the Golf Committee, attending meetings and the annual Strengthening Families Breakfast,” said Larry.

Larry has been advocating for Highfields for decades. In the early 2000s, Larry was highlighted in an article for Highfields’ Newsletter. Larry said in the article: “We need to be less reliant on the state. We need more grants and personal contributions for growth. Long-term commitment of funds and exposure are very necessary.” Larry maintains these views in 2024, and it is a testament to Larry’s dedication and support for Highfields through the years.

Larry is responsible for bringing in a large portion of Golf Outing auction items each year. He is a member of the Robert Drake Society and the Emeritus Board of Directors. He believes strongly in the Residential Program and the importance of helping youth looking for a second chance. “I grew up without a father, so I can relate to some of the issues these kids are going through,” said Larry.

Larry spends a lot of his time volunteering in the community. He has remained an influential donor of Highfields for many years.

“ I grew up without a father, so I can relate to some of the issues these kids are going through. ”
—Larry

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 2023–2024

We couldn't do it without you!

Putt for a Purpose



On June 5, 2023, we held our **43rd Annual Golf Outing** with Title Sponsor **Lyman and Sheets** at **Forest Akers West**. Thanks to corporate sponsors, golfers, and supporters, we raised over \$70,000 for children and families in our programs!

Strengthening Families Breakfast



Our annual **Strengthening Families Breakfast** was held at the Kellogg Center on October 11th. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters like you, we raised over \$150,000 to help fulfill our mission!

Making an Impact



AF Group awarded Highfields a safety grant for \$15,400 to replace and repair the basketball court at our Onondaga Campus.

Thanks to **Jackson**, we were awarded a grant of \$13,500 to support our Family Preservation Program and help families with emergency needs.



Thanks to a generous donor, we continue to educate children and families on the benefits of mindfulness through our **Mindfulness and Meditation Program**.

We made significant upgrades to our residential student houses, including new desks and equipment, thanks to the **James and Kimberly Currie Foundation** and the **Joe D. Pentecost Foundation**.



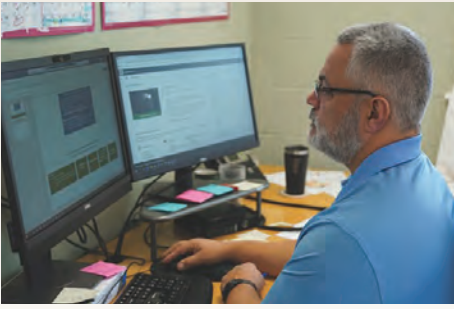
The **W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation** provided a grant to Highfields for \$7,600 to continue art workshops in partnership with **REACH Studio Art Center**.

Thanks to the **Lansing Area Community Trust Fund**, Highfields received a grant of \$15,000 to support projects that enhance the safety and wellbeing of our staff and the families we serve.

Agency Support

We completed a multi-year grant to support capital improvements thanks to the **Granger Foundation**.

We are grateful to **MNA Nonprofit Relief Grant** for providing \$25,000 to continue our essential work with families.



The **Dart Foundation** gave a generous grant of \$120,000 to support essential technology upgrades to increase efficiency for our staff.

Toy Drive



The holidays were much brighter for families in our programs thanks to donations of about 900 toys and items from the community during our **Holiday Toy Drive!** Huge thanks to our partner **WLNS** and local mid-Michigan **Ford Dealerships**.

Giving Tuesday

Thanks to donors on **Giving Tuesday**, we raised over \$5,000 to provide gift cards to teenagers in our counseling programs for the holidays.

Excellence Standards



Highfields achieved full accreditation from the **Council on Accreditation**, meeting the highest national standards.

Scholarship and award recipients

Thank you for supporting our mission!



2024 Aldinger Scholarship Recipients

Mary Jo Cox
Taneekia Donnelly
Aliyah Henderson
Monique Jackman
Kayleigh Payne
Kenric Robinson
Ji'ri Ash-Shakoor
Emily Thompson
Darci VanWormer



2024 **Robert L. Drake Citizenship Award** recipient **Pat Brown**



2024 **Highfields Partnership Award** recipient **Michigan Federation for Children and Families**; award accepted by Federation Executive Director **Janet Reynolds Snyder** and **Rose Homa** (far left)

Community impact

During 2023–2024, Highfields...

SERVED **3,412** children and families



Three 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 **216** staff



Erin Lampani is the 2024 recipient of the **Carl J. Latona Distinguished Service Award**

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

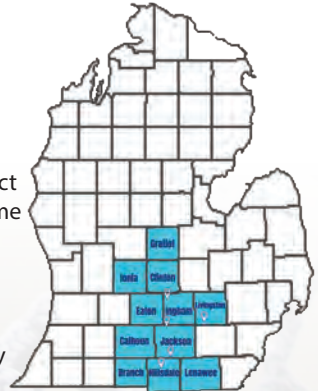


8-year-old **Ethan** attended Soccer Kickers camp, thanks to you!

PROVIDED SAFETY NET SERVICES THROUGHOUT **11** counties OPERATING FROM **4** 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.
- **Horizon:** 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!



“Since being at Highfields, I am building relationships with the staff, and I am learning how to get along better with my peers. I am hoping to get a job and return to school.”

—Austin, Residential Student

“We were fortunate enough to find Highfields. While my son still faces challenges, I now have a good idea of how to navigate and where to ask for help. I look forward to continuing this journey with the valuable tools and support I’ve gained.”

—Mary Jo, former Highfields Client



“Highfields has provided us the tools we needed to thrive as a healthy, happy family. Our family is in a better place emotionally, mentally, and financially. I cannot thank Highfields enough for all the love and support they have provided to our family and the difference they have made.”

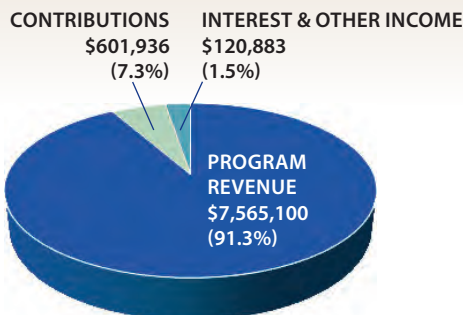
—Sara, former Highfields Client



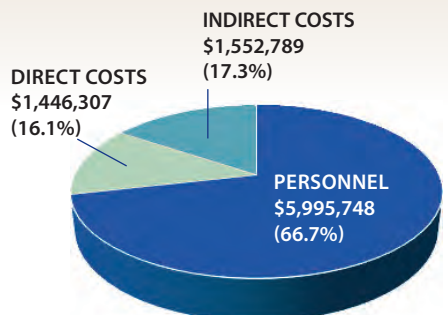
Financial overview

During 2023–2024, Highfields...

GENERATED TOTAL REVENUE OF
\$8,287,919



AND SPENT A TOTAL OF
\$8,994,844



Thank you to our generous donors

We are grateful to the following supporters who made financial contributions to Highfields from May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

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
Gary Climes and Theresa McKenna-Climes
Melanie Dart and David Howland
Amanda Denney
Nancy Drake Hurst
John L. Drake
Richard and Whitney Duffield
Robert and Talitha Easterly
Mark and Brenda Emmert
Michael and Trish Foster
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Margaret-Ann Griffith
Kurt and Barbara Guter
Thomas and Marsha Hacker
Bart and Karen Hawley
Jeff and Elizabeth Hertrich
Josh and Jenn Jelenek
Tom and Lisa Jelenek
Timothy Johnson
Laura and Chris Jurasek
Rebecca and Krista Lott
Olivia Martin and Jerry Muskat-Martin
Richard and Mickey Martin
Kris and Bill McVicar
Mike and Anna Miller
Dan and Lizzie Mills
Timothy and Barbara Monroe
Michael Oakes
Brian and Bonnie Philson
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Elaine Putvin
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David and Nancy Roush

Gerald Sambaer
Kevin and Shawna Shaw
Michael Sheets
Edward and Kendra St. John
Capt. Anthony Stewart
Randy and Leigh Ann Thayer
Dan and Hope Thelen
Peter and Erika Tratt
Joel and Cheryl Walter
Rebecca Wildenthal
Mike and Nancy Zamiara

ROBERT DRAKE SOCIETY – Those who have included Highfields in their estate planning:

Anonymous
John H. Aldinger Irrevocable Trust*
Sara and Jared Bennett
Albert Biergans*
John* and Jenny Bond
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Louise R. Breisch*
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Minerva Dee*
Mary Ann Dovey Trust*
The Honorable Robert L. Drake*
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Lena M. Dunsmore*
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Ted and Joanne Hacker*
Donald* and Paulette Hodney
Richard and Margaret Howard
David L. Howland and Melanie S. Dart Trust
In memory of Virgilene M. Hunt*
Tom and Lisa Jelenek
Elsie Kahres*
Lucille Keller*
Peter and Judy Kubacki
Mary La Selle*

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Brian and Bonnie Philson
Claudia Remenar
Shirley Richards*
Armin Sage Roe Fund*
Grant* and Sandra Santimore
Earl W. Schuon*
Ruth E. Struble*
Janette Trachsel*
Elsie Trachsel*
Wayne Yanz*

*Deceased

BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS \$1,000 OR MORE:

AF Group
Auto-Owners Insurance
Bethesda Plumbing & Piping, Inc.
Board of Water and Light
CG Financial Services
Clark Construction Co.
Clark Trombley Randers
Colliers Engineering & Design
Dart Bank
Easterly Law
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, PC
Financial Technology
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC
Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis & Dunlap, PC
Growth Works
Grua, Freeman, Tupper & Young, PLC

FOUNDATION & GRANT SUPPORT

American Online Giving Foundation/Benevity
Capital Region Community Foundation
The James and Kimberly Currie Foundation
Dart Foundation
Granger Foundation
Ingham County Bar Foundation
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Lansing Area Community Trust Fund
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Joe D. Pentecost Foundation
Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish
R.E. Olds Foundation
Shamrock 555 Foundation
The Barry H. Tigay Family Foundation
W.B. and Candace Thoman Foundation

TRIBUTE GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Carol Beals
Judge R. George Economy
Ron and Kathy Jackson
Mark Kellogg

TRIBUTE GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Robert L. Drake
Joan Latona
Duane Vernon



Hunt Elementary Reaching Higher students

Peter and Judy Kubacki
 John and Frances Loose
 Jean R. Lyon
 Wallace and Linda Markham
 Brian and Colleen Murray
 Louis Nigg and Michele Eaddy
 Lawrence and Candy Parker
 Charles and Claudia Remenar
 Ronald and Melinda Risher
 Jeff and Brooke Roman
 Jacob and Elizabeth Sabins
 Tom Shewchuk
 Mark and Nicole Tithof
 Stephen and Debra Zynda

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 Gary Anderson
 Michael and Carol Anderson
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 John Holmstrom
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 Duncan and Necia Black
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 Stephen and Cheryl Blonde
 Tiffany Bock
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 Nathan Boerma and Amber
 Crosby-Boerma
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 Melanie Brender
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 Theresa Clay
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 Justin and Erica Clement
 David and Noel Closs
 David and Reva Coats
 Theron and Amy Coe

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 Physicians Health Plan of Mid
 Michigan
 Plante Moran
 Springville United Methodist
 Church
 Wells Fargo Advisors
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 Amazon Smile
 Avery Eye Care
 BRV Benefits
 Chalgian & Tripp Law Offices
 Chums, Inc. Greater Lansing
 Chapter
 Coral Gables
 Ennis Center for Children
 Family Barber Shop II
 Glenn Buege Chevrolet
 Graff Chevrolet-Okemos
 Gregory Eaton Associates, Inc.
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 LaFontaine Automotive Group
 LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill
 Mitten Home Team at Keller
 Williams Realty

Mutual of Omaha
 Okemos-Saint Martha Council
 No.10,006
 Onondaga Community Church
 Paradise Motor Sales, Inc.
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 and Estate Planning Section
 Team One Charlotte
 The Hundred Club of Greater
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**INDIVIDUALS
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Anonymous
 Marilyn Baird
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 Patricia A. Brown and Arnie
 Greenfield
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 Lisa Drake and Robert Brumbaugh
 David and Sherri Drayton
 Troy and Patricia Elliott
 Stacy Ensign
 John and Cindy Evans
 Kenneth Frankland
 Carol Giacometto
 Alton and Janice Granger
 Jerry Granger Gift Fund
 Bill and Kim Hufnagel
 Chad Karsten
 Toni Klus



New Board Members **Jorma Duran** and **Sam Davis** (center left and center right) pictured with Past Chair **Robert Easterly** (far left) and Highfields President/CEO **Brian Philson** (far right)

Paul Colligan
 Paul and Tracy Collins
 Michael and Margaret Crawford
 Vickie Crouch
 Julie Culp
 Barbara Curtis
 Douglas and Luanne Dancer
 Mike and Wendy Danko
 Steven and Tracy Darnell
 Sam Davis
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 Thomas and Mary Jo Gallagher
 Kelsie Galloway
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 C. Keith and Mary Groty
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 Kristin Gustafson
 Matt Hanes
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 Malcomb Hardy
 Kim Harless
 Charles Hathaway
 Charles Hauser
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 Darrell and Judith Herriff
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 Tom and Toni Reder
 Tanda Reynolds and George Potter
 James and Mary Rienstra

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 American 1 Credit Union
 Art's Pub
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 BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse
 Boston's Pizza Restaurant and Sports Bar
 Brookshire Inn and Golf Club
 Patricia A. Brown
 Capital City BBQ
 Capital City Market
 Capital Prime
 Champps Restaurant & Bar
 Coffee Barrel
 Coral Gables
 Corey's Lounge
 Courthouse Pub & Grill
 Creative Wellness, Inc.
 Crunchy's
 Dagwood's
 Douglas J Aveda Institute
 Richard and Whitney Duffield
 Dusty's Cellar
 Eldorado Golf Course
 Kyle Eveleth
 Fiesta Charra
 Foods for Living
 Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
 GM Lansing Social Club
 Graff Chevrolet – Okemos
 Graff Nissan
 Harrison Roadhouse

Hastay's Greenhouse
 High Caliber Karting and Entertainment
 HopCat
 Jackson National Life Insurance Company
 Joe's on Jolly
 JTV
 Doug Koons
 LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill
 Lucky's Steakhouse
 Meridian Sun Golf Club
 Midtown Brewing
 Justin Miller
 Taylor Moberg
 Mount Hope Community Church Ministries
 Morton's Fine Catering
 Nuthouse
 Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom
 Old Nation Brewing
 One North Kitchen & Bar
 P.F. Chang's
 Lawrence and Candy Parker
 Pizza House
 Plante Moran
 Playmakers
 Potter Park Zoo
 Kevin and Shawna Shaw
 Showroom Shine
 Stillwater Grill
 Sweet Encounter Bakery
 Tavern and Tap
 Taylor Made Auctions
 The English Inn
 The Old Bag of Nails Pub
 The Peanut Barrel
 The People's Kitchen
 The Plant Professionals
 The Purple Rose Theatre Company
 The Soup Spoon Cafe
 Timber Ridge Golf Course
 Williamston Theatre
 Zynda's Food and Drink



L-R: Former Highfields employees **Jill Clark, Jill Peck, Pat Gundrum,** and Highfields Vice President **Tim Monroe** pictured at the 2024 Annual Meeting



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.

Highfields, Inc.

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Be Our Guest

Strengthening Families Fundraising Breakfast

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Eagle Eye Golf Club and
Banquet Center

15500 Chandler Rd, Bath, MI



R.S.V.P.: [highfields.org/events/breakfast](https://www.highfields.org/events/breakfast)

Your support can make a difference in the lives of children and families.



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