

EAGLE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018



Dear Friends,

I can't begin to tell you how excited we are to be in 2018. This year holds so much promise both for the youth and families we serve and also Eagle Village itself. We have a **lot of plans**, some **dreams**, and a **big vision** for what Eagle Village can become in the future. The story began in 1968...now it's time to write the next chapter.

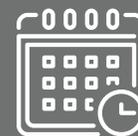
We hope you will **come along on this journey** that has been 50 years in the making. Let's go!

With gratitude,

Cathey L Prudhomme
Cathey Prudhomme

SAVE THE DATE!

Please plan to join Eagle Village in celebrating 50 years of helping kids and families at our Founders Day Program and Picnic on the campus of Eagle Village.



**Saturday,
June 23, 2018**

More details to come this spring! Questions in the meantime? Contact Barb at 231.832.7249 or email bfrahm@eaglevillage.org.



New to Eagle Village

We are proud to announce we are now offering therapy services to those outside our residential and foster care cases. Our licensed therapists can help with a wide variety of issues and are especially equipped to work with foster care families, histories of trauma, grief, and family challenges.

We offer:

- ▶ Spiritual-based counseling
- ▶ Marriage counseling
- ▶ Family therapy
- ▶ Grief counseling
- ▶ Trauma therapy
- ▶ Therapy for depression, anxiety, and PTSD
- ▶ Pre and post-adoption counseling
- ▶ Child and adolescent counseling
- ▶ Psychological testing and assessments
- ▶ Teletherapy

Call 231.832.7293 for more information or to set up a session now!



5 WAYS JUST ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It can be hard to know how to make a difference. In a world with so many needs, where do you start? How do you help, especially if your time is limited? At Eagle Village, we know of a few ways just one person can make a big impact. Pick one of these to try, or, if you are feeling particularly awesome, try for all five!



DONATE A SKILL

Many of the kids we serve haven't been taught basic life skills yet. Some have never learned how to boil water, put on makeup, or monitor finances. By **donating your skill**, you can teach these kids something useful for their future while also demonstrating that adults in the world care about them.

purchase them and drop them off at our campus in Hersey, or you can even have them shipped directly to us.

Bonus tip: if you shop on Amazon, use the link smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1868217 and choose Eagle Village, Inc. in Hersey, Michigan. Eligible purchases made through AmazonSmile earn us additional donations.

us not only raise more donations, but it also helps increase awareness and spread the news of the work we are doing through your social network.

Facebook Fundraisers are easy to start and maintain with Facebook handling all of the monetary transactions. Start a fundraiser now by going to the **Eagle Village Facebook page** and clicking on "create a fundraiser."

that tradition by telling people about Eagle Village, sharing our information, or bringing your friends to **visit us on a tour** or to volunteer.



INVITE US TO SPEAK

Are you a part of a rotary, service group, church, or just well-connected in a community? We'd love to **share the work we are doing** with those you know, formally in front of a group or simply over a cup of coffee with your friends. Give us a call at 231.832.7235 to schedule a speaker.



PURCHASE SOMETHING OFF OUR WISH LIST

Visit our **wish list** to find items we would like to have for our kids. You can



START A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER

Another way you can help is by starting a **Facebook Fundraiser**. This helps



BRING YOUR FRIENDS

We've been around for 50 years, but we are still a well-kept secret. Help us break

HOW A TEEN TURNED HER LIFE AROUND: BECCA'S STORY

Since its founding in 1968, Eagle Village has helped thousands of kids and families overcome abuse, neglect, behavior issues, and attitude problems. Recently, one of those kids found her own success after coming to Eagle Village with low self-esteem, no plan for her life, and a strong dislike for school. Now, however, she dreams of a bright and positive future.

LIFE BEFORE EAGLE VILLAGE

Before Becca came to Eagle Village, her family moved around a lot. Her parents brought her and her siblings from place to place with different roommates and living situations.

"I WAS ONE OF THOSE KIDS THAT STAYED OUT ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT. I DIDN'T REALLY COME HOME UNTIL LATE, LATE, LATE."

"We were in bad neighborhoods all the time, just anywhere that was cheap," she said. The frequent moves meant she missed a lot of school, which she didn't like anyway. CPS was soon involved. "I was one of those kids that stayed out all day, all night. I didn't really come home until late, late, late."

One night, while they were living with an aunt's friend, the roommates in the upper level of the home got into an altercation and the police were called. With a warrant for arrest out on both of Becca's parents, she and her siblings were removed and Becca was brought to Eagle Village.

STARTING OUT

"I wasn't sure about it, I mean...what if this place doesn't help me?"

With fears of what could happen next, Becca started her residential program.

"I would say due to her family situation and her circumstances, she was...she pretty much had a low self-esteem when she came into the program," said Micaela Chappelle, Becca's Family Therapist at Eagle Village. "Becca was unsure of who she was."



Becca and Eagle Village Experiential Specialist, Jamie Samuels

Becca calls herself "very determined" though, and proved it as she got to work. She advanced through the levels of the Passages Program, the residential program at Eagle Village designed for teens preparing for independence. This meant participating in group activities, therapy, learning life skills, and attending school daily, something she was surprised to find she enjoyed.

"I really like to learn. Before I came to Eagle Village, I didn't. I didn't even like school. Now...I need the books. I need to know all of this."

CONTINUING HER SUCCESS

Becca has now graduated from high school and the Eagle Village program. She plans to continue her education, first with Cosmetology School. After getting licensed she wants to work as much as she can so she can pay her way through college to get a degree in therapy or social work.

Her desire to help others starts with the kids at Eagle Village she is leaving behind. "They need lots of help still. Some of them don't open up the door to get the help, to receive it, because whatever happened in their past is scaring them, making them not want to open up the door." She hopes, however, that through her own experiences she will be able to help kids just like them find their own success someday.



Listen to Becca share part of her story at eaglevillage.org/beccas-success-story.

2017 OVERVIEW

247

VOLUNTEERS

6,500+

LIVES TOUCHED

6

INTERVENTION CAMPS

172

RESIDENTIAL CASES

17

FINALIZED ADOPTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 6-8

Youth Challenge Weekend:
Conflict Resolution

APRIL 20-22

Family Challenge
Weekend: Boundaries

JUNE 23

Founders Day

JUNE - AUGUST

Registration for summer
camp is now open for the
June-August 2018 season!

Visit eaglevillage.org/summer-camps to register
or for more information.



EAGLE VILLAGE

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Why We Love the Work We Do (Even Though It's Hard)



IT STARTS WITH THE KIDS

The kids in our care come to us because they are victims of abuse or neglect and/or because they are struggling behaviorally or emotionally. We look at their histories, read their case files, listen to their stories, and then we see them for who they truly are—just kids. They are just kids that have had a hard past. They didn't choose it. Now, they need someone to help them. That's us.

WE SEE A NEED (AND WE SEE HOW TO FILL IT)

We asked our staff recently why they

loved working with our kids. They said things like “just to see them smile and actually be able to be a kid is totally worth it for me” and “you never know what they are going to say, but when you take the time to listen, it's usually worth your time.”

“The boys and their families that I work with tend to get overlooked and/or misunderstood and labeled in our society,” says Phylcia Rosema, Family Therapist at Eagle Village. “They are great young men who were not given a fair chance and deserve to have someone care about them, support them, and help them be successful.”

The kids notice how much staff members care too. “I had confidence in myself and that's the first time in forever,” Candace said when she prepared to leave Eagle Village. “I feel very successful about myself and I also feel successful because your staff have helped me a lot... my Program Coach, Ms. Keren, Ms. O... because ya'll care for all of us and most staff understand what we go through. Most of the

staff are caregivers and they all care about our health and wellbeing. I also feel that you all listen to our needs before your own. I feel that this place helped me the most out of all of the placements I've been in because the staff here actually listened to me when I'm upset.”

IT ENDS WITH US

As individuals, we can't care for these kids like they need and deserve. It truly does “take a village.” Our staff numbers range 160-190, peaking during the summer when we offer intervention camps. We work in teams, complete weekly trainings together, and treat each other the best we can.

“It seems more like a family—doesn't seem like you're coming to a place of employment,” says Nick Blue, Eagle Village Program Coach.

Eagle Village is currently looking for more staff members. Do you know someone perfect to join our team? Please send them to eaglevillage.org/employment today!