

# EAGLE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2020



### The new Career and Trades Center



Hello, Friends!

The beginning of 2020 has been full of planning for this year's exciting projects. In the next nine months, we're going to develop a 5-year vision, define our distinctives across all programs, and position Eagle Village for future growth. We're also continually committed to investing in our staff, and preparing our kids for the future to the best of our abilities.

For those of you who may not have seen our Career and Trades Center update, we're almost finished!

That means we'll be able to start using the building soon to teach each of our teenagers in the Passages program a trade that they'll be able to use when they enter adulthood. Equipping our young adults in this way not only helps them succeed in their careers, but it also prepares them to support families of their own.

At the end of the day, preparing our kids to love and care for their future families is one of our main goals—we would love to work ourselves out of a job!

Until then, thank you for working with us to support and invest in our kids here at Eagle Village.

With gratitude,

*Cathey L Prudhomme*

Cathey Prudhomme





# 5 Positive Outcomes of Family Time

With kids in sports, music, and other extracurricular activities, and parents busy with work and keeping the household running, family time can often get pushed to the back burner.

But spending time together is just as important now as it has always been—not only does it teach kids important lessons, it builds family relationships that will last long past high school graduations.

Check out these five positive results of spending time with family.

## **1. Builds children's self-esteem**

Children who spend quality time with their loved ones develop a strong sense of self confidence. They know that they are loved, and they can find their value in how their parents feel about them, not what their friends think or say.

## **2. Strengthens family bonds**

Doing activities together, no matter how simple they are, will help your kids develop strong relationships with each other and with you that will last long after they leave the house.

## **3. Develops positive behaviors and good decision-making skills**

Spending time with parents who model good choices helps children develop positive behaviors, because their parents are influencing them. Kids will often do what they see their parents doing.

## **4. Encourages communication**

When you spend consistent time with your children and talk to them often, they'll find it easier to approach you when they're struggling with something.

## **5. Teaches children good parenting skills**

Your example of parenting teaches your children how to be parents—so if you're invested in your kids, they'll want to invest in their kids. Likewise, if you are distracted and don't spend time with your family, they're much more likely to do the same thing.

So whether you're going on an outdoor winter adventure, having a cozy game night, or enjoying Saturday morning breakfast together, make sure to make time for your family. You won't regret it.

## DONOR FEATURE

# JEREMY WINKLE

### How did you become involved with Eagle Village?

I first learned about Eagle Village from Craig Weidner about 20 years ago. Since then I have gotten more involved with helping to organize and host an annual charity golf outing.\*

### How do you see Eagle Village impacting the community?

Eagle Village cares for the forgotten in our community. Everyone should be given a chance to succeed, and Eagle Village does that for so many youth from all over Michigan.

### What is important to you about what Eagle Village does?

Every time I am on the campus I see kids that just need a chance to be loved. Eagle Village does that for so many of these kids.

### What motivated your initial involvement in the annual Charity Golf Outing?

About 10 years ago I was visiting Eagle Village with a friend, Bill Rzepka, and Craig Weidner shared with us that the annual golf outing was no longer going to be happening because the previous leadership for the event was stepping back. Bill and I told Craig we would take it over and host it in Cadillac.

### What is a good way for someone to get involved with Eagle Village?

The best way to get involved at Eagle Village is to start with a visit. Once you get on campus and see the kids and what the staff is doing to help them, you will naturally be drawn in. Everyone that has heard about Eagle Village but doesn't really know what they do needs to set up a visit.

*\*Annual golf outing has raised over \$250,000 over the years.  
Below (l-r): Jeremy Winkle, Pete Suminski, Dan Minor, Greg Bosscher*



## YOU ARE HELPING KIDS FEEL VALUED

When you give to the Eagle Fund, you are showing kids that they matter, which boosts their confidence and reminds them of their worth.

With the money that you contributed to the Eagle Fund last year, here are some of the things we were able to purchase or update for the homes our kids live in:

- Refrigerators
- Bathrooms
- Chairs and tables
- Mattresses
- Window blinds
- Furniture

We're looking forward to another year of investing in our kids in 2020—here are a few of the projects and updates that we're hoping to accomplish.

- Stainless steel countertops
- New roofs for some of our homes
- Energy-efficient lighting in the Lighthouse Academy
- Window blinds
- Xbox 1

These are just a few of the ways that we're planning to invest in our kids this year—just like any home, our campus needs practical updates. They may not be exciting, but they do help us love and invest in our kids, as we use our resources well.

Thank you  
for valuing  
our kids  
with us!





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VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE!



## What exactly do you do?



With all the different positions and job titles at Eagle Village, sometimes it can be confusing trying to figure out what a person does. Here are a few of our common positions:

### Youth Care Worker

Also known as Youth Specialists, our Youth Care Workers offer support and care for the kids living at Eagle Village. They are responsible for direct supervision of youth and ensure their physical, emotional, and safety needs are met.

### Licensed Family Therapist

Family Therapists advocate for children and families to make sure they receive the best possible care and treatment available. The Family Therapist works closely with other members of our staff to promote the social, emotional,

psychological, physical, and spiritual well-being of youth.

### Experiential Specialist

Experiential Specialists are responsible for the therapeutic and recreational activities of our residential youth. They utilize specialized activities and daily recreational events to influence youth and families to improve their relationships with their families, community, and personal physical and mental wellness.

### Family Visitation Specialist

Our Family Visitation Specialists drive our youth and their families all over Michigan for a variety of different reasons including home visits, doctor appointments, and family weekends that occur on our campus.