



A CHILD'S COMFORT

"Everyone possesses a cherished item, yet such items can evoke memories of both positive and negative experiences," stated volunteer Jennie Cullin. "It was heartbreaking for me to learn that youth who have faced abuse and neglect often have to part with their treasured stuffed animals or dolls, as these items serve as reminders of their trauma." This realization inspired Jennie to leverage her passion for sewing and doll-making to assist these children.

Over the past few years, Jennie has generously donated numerous dolls and stuffed animals, which she meticulously repairs and customizes to ensure each one is unique. "For each doll, I create clothing that includes a dress and a pajama set, and I also include a special message intended to uplift the children," she explained. "The used stuffed animals have their stuffing replaced, and they are thoroughly cleaned and restored."

To ensure each precious item arrives safely, Jennie hand delivers them to Eagle Village on a regular basis, and we are grateful for her dedication in providing comfort to our children. The stuffed animals and dolls are then given to our youth as a special gift.



Learn more at eaglevillage.org/volunteer

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

"After experiencing what I had gone through, I didn't want to let anyone into my life and I couldn't trust anyone. I was convinced that no one could help me, and pushed everyone away by being a mean person. After spending some time at Eagle Village, I realized I was now safe and could start to trust people again.

KATY*

It was a tough journey, but I had Eagle Village staff to keep me on track. I remember one of the therapists saying don't give up, because I need to learn how to overcome what ever the world is throwing at me. My fearfulness of opening myself up to my peers became easier, and I became **COURAGEOUS**.

- Cope: I use my coping skills when those around me make me upset.
- Optimism: I now look at situations with optimism.
- Understand: I understand that life doesn't always go as planned.
- Respect: I learned how to respect myself and others.
- Amicable: I am now a friend and not a foe.
- Genuine: I will be real with myself and others.
- Encourage: I will encourage myself to do my very best.
- Overcome: I am able to navigate through tough situations.
- Uplift: I have the capability of lifting the spirits of myself and others.
- Success: If I set the right goals, I can do anything!



I used to live by a 'don't trust anyone' motto - Eagle Village taught me how to have a better attitude for a better future."

LIFE THROUGH THEIR EYES

**The stories are real, but the pictures and names have been changed to protect our youth.*

I was a fighter for all of the wrong reasons. I would throw my anger and punches at anyone who came near me or tried to help. I constantly felt like I had to fight because of my past. Everyone gave up on me, except for Eagle Village. It took months of staff and therapists building trust with me. I refused to attend school, I had no respect for authority, and I would shut down if anyone tried to help. After a while, I started to build bonds with my peers and staff, and allowed myself to be more open about my feelings in a positive way.

DENAE*

It's really helpful when you have people around you that are encouraging and helping you along the way. Eagle Village did the work, but I also had to put in the work too. I found that helping others really inspired me and gave me a purpose. I took on a leadership role at my house, and became a role model for the other youth. I listened to directions and stayed out of any drama or negativity. I laughed more and yelled less. I am now a fighter for all of the right reasons.

I didn't think that I would have a future - but, now it's possible. I want to have a job in something that helps others. I plan to continue being a leader.

YOU CAN HELP EAGLE VILLAGE YOUTH



Join Us!

We're coming to your neighborhood to share an update about the life changing solutions that we offer. We can't wait to see you!

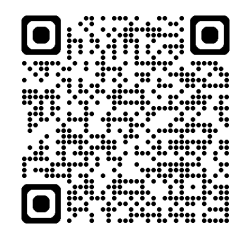
OCTOBER 8

9 AM - 10 AM

MIDLAND

CREATIVE 360

RSVP BY OCTOBER 5



PLEASE RSVP TO MISSY BEGGS AT 231.305.6510 OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER ONLINE.

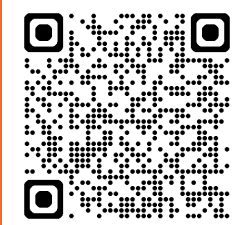
OCTOBER 10

4 PM - 5:30 PM

TRAVERSE CITY

BLACK STAR FARMS | OLD MISSION

RSVP BY OCTOBER 7



SOARING INTO SUMMER AT EAGLE VILLAGE

Some of our youth have never had the opportunity to experience basic childhood pastimes like riding a bike or fishing. All thanks to volunteers, donors and staff, we were able to give our youth a summer to remember. Here's a recap of their fun in the sun!

CAN DO CANOE ATTITUDE

"Canoeing at the lake was pretty scary! I freaked out when I saw a snake, and did not want to go out into that water. It took a minute for me to calm down, and I didn't like how the life jacket fit around my neck. I just felt uncomfortable! The canoe was really wobbly too!

After a little bit of just sitting in the canoe close to the shore, I got comfortable with the paddle and balancing.

I had to talk to my partner to let them know where I wanted to go, and which side I was paddling on. I got a little frustrated at first being with someone who was younger and more scared than I was. But, it gave me the chance to be the brave one between the two of us, and take charge. I felt like a big brother!"

- Eagle Village Youth, Age 12



SKILLS & THRILLS

"I thought that mushroom hunting was going to be boring, but it ended up being fun! It's crazy that all of these wild mushrooms are out here in the forest. I didn't realize that you could hunt for mushrooms and eat them.

- Eagle Village Youth, Age 8

"I learned how to ride a bike! I can actually do it! It's something I never thought I could do. I can't wait to do it again."

- Eagle Village Youth, Age 11

"I always wanted to fish, but never had the stuff to do it. They showed me how to make a lure and then use it at the lake. I didn't catch anything, but it was nice to do something different, and relax."

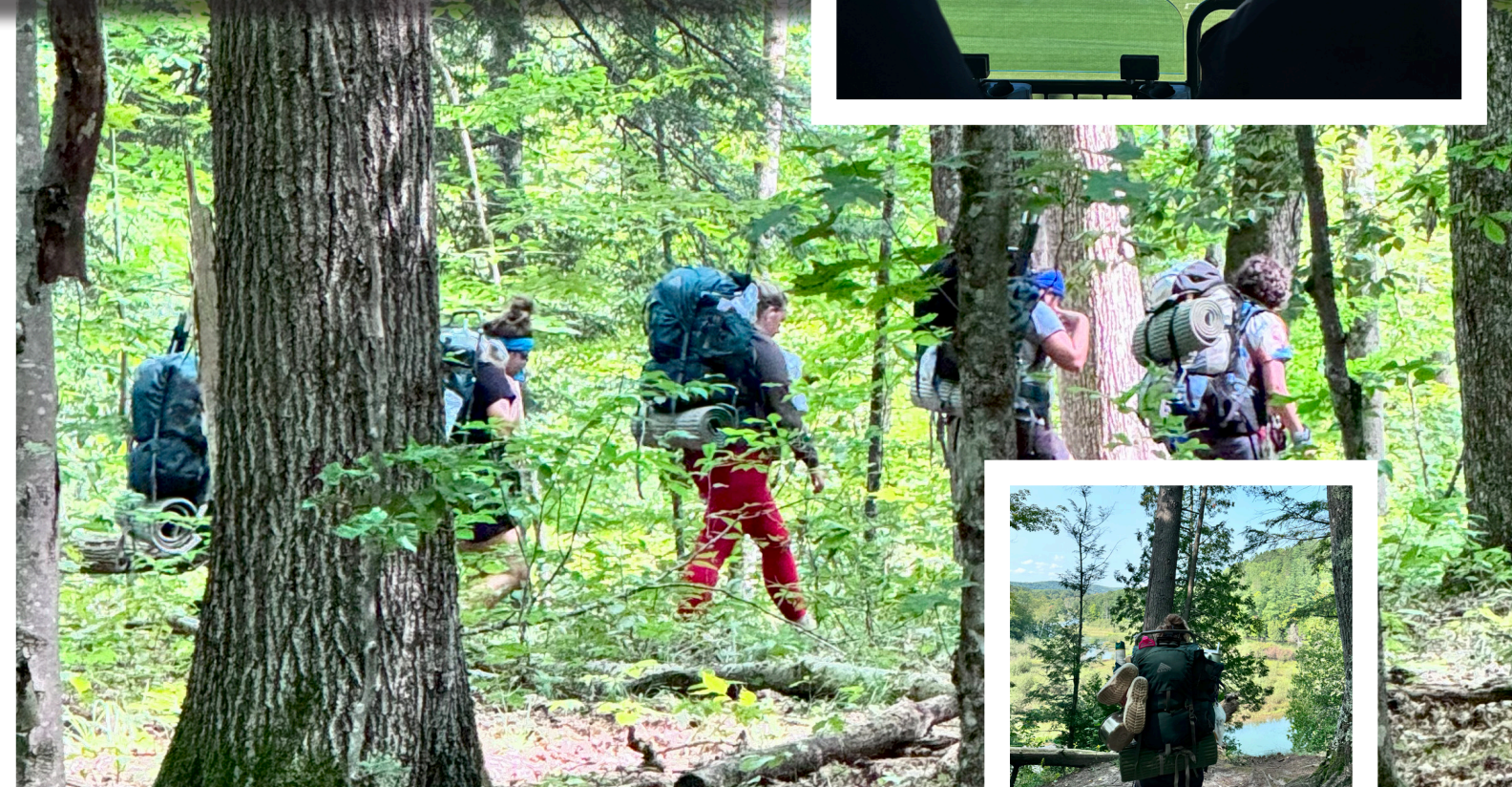
- Eagle Village Youth, Age 12



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

"I went to my first baseball game to see the Loons in Midland this Summer. We were able to watch the game from a suite, and I got to ride an elevator for the first time ever! It felt like we were really high up, and the view was something else... I have never seen anything like it."

- Eagle Village Youth, Age 13



NATURAL WONDERS

Our youth wrapped up their summer with a QUEST adventure aimed to teach them about life-skills out in the wilderness and in the community. The trip took them on a hiking and camping experience through a West Michigan forest and sand dunes. Then, they finished the week off with horseback riding and a trip to an adventure farm and zoo. "QUEST provides our youth with a variety of new opportunities and lessons that they can't learn in a classroom," says therapist, Keren Barber. "They need to be able to navigate through their emotions and behaviors, as they navigate through the wilderness and other environments."

One youth was reluctant to attend QUEST at first. "I didn't want to go, I hated waking up early and having to pack my stuff!" she said. "I ended up going, and it was extremely challenging - but, I felt so empowered afterwards! Like, I accomplished something BIG!"

