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Crossroads for Youth offers residential and abuse program for at-risk Michigan children

OXFORD, Mich.—At-risk, troubled, abused or neglected children of Michigan have a big ally at Crossroads for Youth in rural Oxford.

Referred to the nonprofit organization by the juvenile court system and the Department of Health and Human Services, troubled, abused or neglected youth ages 7-17 participate in behavior modification therapy developed to provide them with the skills and tools necessary to help them become valuable contributors and positive choice makers in life.

The road is not easy for many of these youth, as they have experienced many difficulties in their young lives. With the positive support, mentorship and encouragement they receive from Crossroads for Youth, 100 percent of the children and teens served in 2015 reported they had made positive life improvements while at Crossroads for Youth.

“We believe in all of them,” said Chris Veihl, clinical director of Crossroads for Youth. “Each one of our youths, we believe they will change and heal. It’s amazing, the power of resilience. The more adversity they face, the more resilient they (children) are.”

Crossroads for Youth offers residential neglect and abuse programs personalized for each child and family. The on-site residential programs combine various treatments based on Choice Theory, Collaborative Problem Solving and Trauma Informed Care. The programs and treatments include individual, group and family therapy sessions.

Choice Theory helps children learn how to consciously self-evaluate, so they choose responsible behavior that will help them achieve what they want in ways that are responsible.

According to Thinkkids.org, Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) helps adults and children understand that youngsters exposed to chronic overwhelming stress and trauma do not lack the will to behave well; they lack the skills to behave well like flexibility, frustration tolerance and problem solving.

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Trauma Informed Care is a treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. It emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

“Trauma is stored in our brains, and what Crossroads for Youth does is allow children to heal safely,” said Veihl. “It’s important that the children believe in themselves again.”

Crossroads for Youth is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) treatment agency that serves at-risk children and youth ages 7-17. Crossroads for Youth believes that every child deserves a chance and as such, works to strengthen families and youth with skills and tools so they become valuable contributors in their communities. For more information on Crossroads for Youth, or to make a donation, go to www.crossroadsforyouth.org or call 248-628-2561.

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