



Every Child Deserves A Chance

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### **Crossroads for Youth special partner programs**

**OXFORD, Mich.**—In a world where it takes a village, Crossroads for Youth—a nonprofit organization working with at-risk, neglected and abused children—has partnered with multiple organizations to help with the personal growth, healing and academic performance of the children of Crossroads for Youth.

**Oxford Community Schools**—From the beginning, the community of Oxford has been a generous neighbor to Crossroads for Youth. In 2000, the community solidified its collaboration with the nonprofit with the opening of Oxford Crossroads Day School. The nearly 8,000 square-foot school was constructed so students would have one central facility for traditional classes, as well as vocational studies. The school is staffed by Oxford Community School teachers and assistants. For more information on Oxford Crossroads Day School, visit [www.crossroads.oxfordschools.org](http://www.crossroads.oxfordschools.org).

**Teacher's Pet**—For the past five years, Crossroads for Youth has been working with this organization that pairs troubled youth with difficult-to-place rescue dogs. During the five-to-ten-week program, dogs are brought to the Crossroads for Youth campus. Working with a trainer, the children teach the dogs positive reinforcement behavior. The youth learn about empathy, anger management skills and develop patience, while the dogs learn more acceptable behavior. The program is highly successful for both the children and the animals; after completing the program more than 90 percent of the dogs find forever homes and the children receive a Level 1 dog training certificate.

“There is evidence that pet therapy works and works well,” said Chris Veihl, clinical director for Crossroads for Youth. “It helps a lot with healing. Dogs give unconditional love; they don’t judge and that is something our kids need.” For more information on Teacher’s Pet, visit [www.teacherspetmi.org](http://www.teacherspetmi.org).

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### **Crossroads for Youth special partner programs, continued**

**SAY Detroit Play Center**—Twice a month, the children of Crossroads for Youth take a trip to the SAY Detroit Play Center in Detroit for a day of recreation, academics and sensory therapy involving music and dance. The students can even go into a recording studio and create songs about their lives. The Notes for Notes® program includes professional instruments, recording equipment, DJ gear and more. The SAY Detroit Play Center recreational aspect includes soccer, football and basketball opportunities. Crossroads for Youth has also been invited to go to Detroit Piston games, as guests of the Detroit Pistons, a big supporter of SAY Detroit Play Center

“Sensory-based activities are very helpful with healing trauma, besides sitting and talking,” said Veihl. For more information on SAY Detroit Play Center, go to [www.sayplay.org](http://www.sayplay.org).

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](http://www.crossroadsforyouth.org) or call 248-628-2561.

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