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**Crossroads for Youth supports at-risk children and families with multiple programs designed for success**

**OXFORD**, Mich.—If the last 65 years have taught the professionals at Crossroad for Youth anything, it is that there is not one magic program or treatment for every child. To that end, Crossroads for Youth has created multiple programs designed to help at-risk, abused and neglected children thrive and succeed.

When a child from the juvenile justice system comes to the Crossroads for Youth Achievement Center, they enter a very structured, militaristic-style program. The program is for young men, ages 14-17 years old who have been assigned to Crossroads for Youth by a judge or probation officer. Young men placed in the Achievement Center program remain at Crossroads for Youth for five-and-a-half months and the program involves wearing a uniform and marching.

“The primary objective of the Achievement Center is to help young men improve in three areas: inner discipline, respect for others and healthy living,” said Marc Porter, executive director of Crossroads for Youth.

The Achievement Center opened in the late 1990s and the barrack-styled building once housed 30 youth at a time and averaged 90 participants yearly, said Porter. As a result of additional societal resources in place to help rehabilitate delinquent young men, the Achievement Center currently works with an average of 10-15 youth. In 2015, 62 young men went through the Achievement Center program.

Sometimes at-risk children don't have to live at Crossroads for Youth to receive the benefits of the programs, support and encouragement. Crossroads for Youth offers a day program—the Learning Center—where school-age children all across Oakland County, including Milford and Hazel Park, come to Crossroads for Youth for a day of learning, therapy and community service and then returned home. The children are picked up and dropped off daily, six days a week.

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**Crossroads for Youth supports at-risk children and families with multiple programs designed for success, continued**

“These are children who need a little extra support a traditional school can’t provide,” said Karen Gully, Crossroad for Youth’s training and program director. In 2015, 44 students were involved in The Learning Center, which is staffed by professionals from Oxford Community Schools.

The last thing the Crossroads for Youth staff want to see is a child come back to the campus as a result of more infractions. To that end, Crossroads for Youth developed a re-entry program designed to help all members of the family. The re-entry program begins working with the youth and their family when the youth first enters the program continues until a youth is terminated from probation. Each program will vary in length, typically five to nine months, and then there is after care that will typically last up to 90 days, explained Samantha Speece, Crossroads for Youth re-entry coordinator.

The re-entry program began in 2013 to make sure former Crossroads for Youth children stay busy, focused and out of trouble. “We want to make sure the youth have the support they need after they’ve completed their Crossroads for Youth program,” said Speece. “We want to make sure they have a safe and stable environment to return home to.”

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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