

# YOUR IMPACT REPORT

March 2021



Dear Heartland Supporter,

In this report, we are highlighting the ways in which your generosity has helped our Heartland High School students, and families, impacted by substance use disorder. Because of you, we have been able to launch new programs, and help make what may seem impossible - a high school diploma and sobriety - possible!

Rates of alcohol and substance misuse to cope with anxiety and stress during the COVID-19 pandemic, including overdose deaths, continue to rise. According to a February 11, 2021 report from the Franklin County Coroner's office, there were 614 overdose deaths between January - September 2020. That's a 45.2% increase over 2019.

Finding solutions and a pathway to sobriety can be even harder for adolescents and young adults trying to complete high school. Students who have a substance use disorder often feel isolated and unsure of how to overcome barriers - and 2020's COVID-19 pandemic did not help. I'm proud to tell you that our students, teachers, and staff, all rallied to pivot our students to an on-line learning platform and a space where they felt empowered to continue their education, in recovery!

This is why our work at Heartland is so important. We continue to find innovative ways for our students to stay on the road of recovery, while attaining a high school diploma. We are also working hard to dispel the stigma and myths of adolescent addiction that are so pernicious.

In 2021, we are even more committed to continue this momentum to ensure we can provide a recovery-centered education to every student who needs one!

We hope you will take a moment to read and reflect on this impact report to see how your investment in Heartland High School has been used to impact students in Central Ohio. We are extremely grateful for your support and look forward with confidence to the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully,

Candice Greenwade, M.Ed.  
Head of School & Executive Director

***Heartland High School is the only recovery high school,  
not just in Central Ohio, but throughout all of Ohio.***

## 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

**NEW**

Developed and launched a new program to help students who are less than 30 days sober, called [Pathway to Heartland](#).



Expanded [our faculty and curriculum](#) to meet students needs.



Developed a **Master Plan** to ensure the School's success.



Launched a series of [virtual open-houses](#) to showcase the school and help break the stigma of substance use disorder.



Facilitated conversations with **other community leaders** around Ohio who are also in need of a recovery-centered high school.

# A PATHWAY TO HEARTLAND

In 2020, we realized that families and students were reaching out to us because they were in crisis. The teen may have only been one day, or maybe 10 days, sober and did not have the recovery foundation necessary to fully enroll into Heartland High School. We knew we had to find a solution - **Pathway to Heartland**.

This innovative pre-enrollment program, meets students where they are on their recovery journey. Students work with Heartland's licensed social workers, recovery coaches and teachers to develop new habits and systems to help them stay sober and get back into the classroom.

Our 6-phase program begins with a meeting with our Pathway Program Manager to create a customized recovery plan that works towards full enrollment into Heartland High School and on the path to achieving a high school diploma. Pathway students attend school daily, but their curriculum and schedule looks slightly different.

Pathway students are immersed in a recovery-centered program and are required to attend enrichment classes each day, which allow them to earn academic credit. This schedule allows students to make individualized progress on their schoolwork and form the new habits and routines necessary for success at Heartland and a life in recovery.

The Pathway to Heartland program has been receiving great recognition from community leaders. We are looking to possibly scale this program in the future to meet the needs of students around the state.



It has been difficult within myself, but Heartland is a great support system. The teachers and Jen are a great help for me.

-- Current Pathway Student

## ● Your Donations Help With . . .

- day to day operations of the school. The cost to
- drug screen one student for an entire year is
- \$1,560. Now multiple that by 10 or 20 students!
- All donations go directly to supporting our
- students and provide them a highly enriching,
- recovery-centered education.



# 80%

of students relapse upon returning to their original school post treatment. The relapse rate for students who attend a recovery high school like Heartland, drops to 30%.



School Starts at 8:30 a.m.  
Dismissal at 3:00 p.m.



Academic Year  
August 8, 2020 -  
June 3, 2021

**\$20K**

Annual Tuition Cost  
Per Heartland Student



Our Students Spend  
Approximately 50 Hours A Month  
In Recovery-Centered  
Programming

**29.7%**

Of Ohio Teens Said They Have  
Tried Marijuana, For Black Teens  
This Number Rose To  
**41.3%**

# HHS CHAMPIONS SPOTLIGHT

Since the beginning, the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) has been a strong champion of Heartland High School. Their support has allowed the school to currently offer our recovery-based education and Pathway program **free of charge**.



We are fortunate to receive this funding from the State of Ohio, but we know we must never be reliant solely on public dollars. The Board and leadership team at Heartland are committed to a diversified funding portfolio for the school, so we can continue to offer Heartland and Pathway students with reduced tuition.

We are so grateful for champions like OhioMHAS, and their work throughout the State continues to inspire us every day.

## Meet Heartland High School's Board of Directors

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**Laurie Elsass**  
Board Member / Founder



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recovery-centered  
education is available to  
all students in need!

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