

– Georgie Smigel Essay

“It takes a village to raise a child” is an old saying that means a child needs many people to help them develop and thrive.

Not only do I think Cranberry Township is one of the best communities around, but I also love my neighborhood, Highland Village. I find it very appropriate that the word “village” is part of our development’s name. The builders must have known that this was going to be a special place. A village.

My parents moved to Highland Village in 2004, and it is the only home I know. One of my first baby pictures was taken in front of my house with our Highland Village stork. Not many neighborhoods have a hand-made sign like our stork. My neighborhood has a way of making people feel special.

There is a strong sense of community in Highland Village. Even if you don’t know someone by their name, everyone treats you with kindness. I remember times when our neighbors helped us during a snowstorm, when our hot water tank broke, or when I needed a ride somewhere. People are always willing to lend a hand.

I have so many great memories growing up in Highland Village. Neighborhood Easter egg hunts in my backyard, outdoor movie nights, Santa Claus at Miss Erin’s, Halloween parties at Miss Kelly’s, the last day of school gatherings at Miss Teresa’s, Ice Cream Socials at Miss Dawn’s, and various parties at Miss Kara’s. I also remember watching my mom play softball on our Cranberry Cup softball team. Our neighborhood was always involved in supporting others.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, I remember getting through that time because my neighbors would play basketball and other outside games with my family. I think we would have gone crazy if we didn’t have our next-door neighbors, the Kaufman family, get us through that tough time.

My siblings also agree that our neighborhood is the best. My little brother is on the autism spectrum, and I have always been amazed at how nice the other kids treat him. The adults treat him with such kindness, too. They make a point to talk to him and tell him how much they like his bike or scooter.

I hope I can find a neighborhood as nice as Highland Village when I get older and start a family. A strong neighborhood is so important for both children and adults. I have been so lucky that I have always had kind neighbors to go to when I needed help.

It takes a village – HIGHLAND VILLAGE.