



## Branch County United Way

### Programs Funded by Branch County United Way

#### Education

**Dolly Parton Imagination Library** - Promotes early childhood literacy by providing monthly books to children at home to encourage reading. Currently, 1,543 children are served by this program in Branch County. Parent surveys show that 100% of parents read more to their children because these books are in the home.

**Branch ISD Family Success Program** – Provides home visitors to at-risk families in Branch County to ensure children are ready for kindergarten. Offers parenting guidance through the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum and connects families to resources such as Early On and Head Start.

**Bronson After School Programming** – A new initiative offering after-school and summer programs for Bronson students in grades K–5. The program focuses on delivering intentional and engaging learning experiences beyond the school day and academic year.

**Community Unlimited** – Serves families with children from birth to age five in the Union City and Athens school districts. Targets at-risk families through programs such as a Diaper Pantry and the After School Pack program, which helps replace meals children miss over weekends.

**Beginnings Care for Life** – Provides parenting and life skills education through the *Earning & Learning* Program. Both women and men are encouraged to participate, either individually or as couples. The *Fatherhood Involvement Program* offers mentoring for dads and dads-to-be by trained male volunteers.

**Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan** – Teaches financial literacy in local schools. Elementary students learn basic concepts of spending and saving, while middle and high school students explore entrepreneurship and workplace readiness.

**Coach Eby Youth & Family Center Friday Night Alive Program** – Offers a free program for students to enjoy recreational activities and meals in a safe environment, along with a weekly devotional to support their spiritual development.

**Girls on the Run** – A non-profit program that encourages pre-teen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through interactive lessons and running games. The program culminates in a celebratory 5K race and is active in most Branch County school districts.

**BCCADSV Teenshare** – Provides housing for youth ages 16–20 who meet the definition of homelessness. Teenshare participants must be enrolled in school and employed in order to remain in the program.

**Schools of Hope** – Addresses reading challenges among elementary students by matching them with local volunteer reading mentors for additional literacy support during the school year.

**Royal Family Kids** – Hosts a one-week summer camp for children in foster care, offering a safe, loving Christian environment with recreation, crafts, meals, and friendships. Campers experience choice, celebration through a special birthday party, and the powerful message that they are loved, they matter, and there is hope.

## Income

**BCCADSV Getting Ahead** – Provides financial stability training for families living in poverty. Focuses on goal setting and budgeting to help families rise out of poverty and achieve independence.

**Working Family Revolving Loan Fund** – Offers low-interest loans to working families facing one-time financial difficulties. Upon repayment, the program helps families establish savings accounts, improve credit, and avoid predatory lending cycles.

**Food Bank of South Central Michigan** – Supports healthy communities by providing low-income households with increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables through effective distribution in Branch County.

**Legal Services of South Central Michigan** – Offers civil legal representation for low-income individuals, including landlord disputes, disability claims, and other non-criminal cases.

## Health

**AYSO Soccer** – Scholarships ensure every child has the opportunity to play in this inclusive team sport. Parents contribute volunteer hours in exchange for scholarships for their children.

**Bronson Youth Recreation Association** – Runs a six-week Summer Park Program offering free arts, crafts, and organized activities for children. BYRA also oversees several local youth sports programs.

**Telehealth School Clinics** – Enables students to be examined by Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic professionals using Bluetooth-enabled assessment equipment. Clinicians can see, hear, and assess the student in real time.

**Presbyterian Free Health Clinic** – Provides free healthcare to uninsured or underinsured Branch County residents who cannot afford medical care.

**Children Trust Michigan of Branch County** – The *Safe Infants/Healthy Infants Initiative* provides evidence-based education to prevent sleep-related infant deaths and abusive head trauma. Additional training and resources are available for adults working with children of all ages to help ensure a safe, bright future.

## Emergency Services

**Happy Feet** – Ensures that children in Branch County have shoes, boots, and socks. Referrals are made by agencies, teachers, or social workers, and orders are filled and delivered to schools.

**Bronson, Coldwater and Quincy Food Pantries** – Provide weekly emergency food boxes to families in need within their respective communities.

**Jacob's Well** – Offers gap funding for essential expenses such as rent, utilities, and prescriptions when no other assistance is available.

**Family Promise** – Provides shelter, meals, and resources to help families find employment and permanent housing. Life skills and parenting classes are also offered to promote family stability.

**BCCADSV Shelterhouse** – Offers emergency and transitional housing for women in domestic violence crises. United Way funds help support Shelterhouse operations and keep the facility open.

**With over 98% of all United Way donor funds directly benefiting people in Branch County, the impact of these programs and services is both visible and vital to the well-being of our community.**