



## 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 1,615 children are served by this program in Branch County. Parent surveys show 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. Provides parenting guidance through the Parents as Teachers Curriculum as well as providing linkages to necessary resources such as Early ON and Head Start.

**Bronson Area Youth Program** – Provides after school and summer programming for Bronson students. Homework help and tutoring available in the after school program, summer programming also provides a nutritious lunch.

**Community Unlimited** – Similar to Family Success, CU serves families of children birth to 5 in the Union City, Athens and Union City School Districts to ensure the success of the children. Targeting at-risk families, with a Diaper Pantry and After School Pack program to help replace meals children miss over the weekend when not at school.

**Beginnings Care for Life** – Teach Parenting and Life Skills information to become the best parent you can possibly be in the Earning & Learning Program. Women and men are encouraged to participate, individually or together. Their Fatherhood Involvement Program offers mentoring to Dads and Dads-to-be, by trained male volunteers.

**Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan** – Teaching financial literacy in our local schools. Elementary students will gain preliminary understanding of the role money plays in our economy and learn basic principle of spending and saving. Middle and High School students will learn entrepreneurship and workplace readiness.

**Coach Eby Youth & Family Center Friday Night Alive Program** – Provides a FREE program for students to enjoy recreational activities and a meal in a safe place along with a weekly devotional to aid their spiritual development.

**Girls on the Run** – Girls on the Run is a North American non-profit program that works to encourage pre-teen girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games, culminating in a celebratory 5K race. Programs now active in most Branch County school districts.

**BCCADSV Teenshare** – Provides housing to youth between the ages of 16 and 20 who meet the definition of homeless. Teenshare participants must be enrolled in school AND working in order to stay at the facility.

**Schools of Hope** – Many elementary school children are struggling to read at grade level. This reading program provides reading literacy help by partnering local volunteers with students needing a little extra help during the school year.

#### Income

**BCCADSV Getting Ahead** – Financial Stability training for families living in poverty. Teaches goal setting and budgeting in an effort to allow the family and opportunity to rise out of poverty and live independently.

**Working Family Revolving Loan Fund** – Provides low interest loans to working families who encounter one time difficulties. Once paid off, these loans set up a savings account for the family, help improve credit, and avoid the payday loan spiral.

**Food Bank of South Central Michigan** – Support healthy communities through empowering low-income households with more fresh fruits and vegetables in their diets by sourcing effective fresh foods for Branch County distributions.

**Legal Services of South Central Michigan** – Providing civil representation for landlord disputes, disability claims, and other cases for low income individuals.

## **Health**

**AYSO Soccer** – Scholarships ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate in this team sport where everyone plays. Parents pledge volunteer hours to receive scholarships for their child to play.

**Bronson Youth Recreation Association** – Summer Park Program, is a six-week program providing arts, crafts and organized activities for children during the summer months. There is no cost to attend. BYRA is also an umbrella agency for several sports programs too.

**Telehealth School Clinics** – School clinics are able to have students examined by a ProMedica Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic physician or nurse practitioner via assessment equipment linked through Bluetooth technology where they can visually see, hear, and examine the student in real time.

**Presbyterian Free Health Clinic** – Provides healthcare free of charge to citizens of Branch County who have no medical insurance, are under-insured, or cannot afford to pay for health care.

**Children Trust Michigan of Branch County** – Safe Infants/Healthy Infants Initiative-provides evidence-based education and resources to parent of newborns to prevent sleep related deaths and abusive head trauma. Additional trainings and resources available for adults who work with and for children of all ages to ensure they have access to a bright, safe future.

## **Emergency Services**

**Happy Feet** – Simply put – Happy Feet makes sure that kids in Branch County have shoes. Referrals are made by agencies or teachers and Happy Feet delivers the shoes to the school, along with a new pair of socks.

**Bronson, Coldwater and Quincy Food Pantries** – Providing emergency food for families in their communities. They are open once a week to provide food boxes to families.

**Jacob's Well** – Provides gap funding where other sources are not available for things like rent, utilities, prescription costs, etc.

**Family Promise** – Provides shelter, food, and resources for parents to seek employment and permanent housing. It also provides life skills and parenting classes to help build stability within their family unit.

**BCCADSV Shelterhouse** – Emergency and Transitional housing for women in Domestic Violence Crisis. BC UW funds help with operational costs of keep the Shelter open.

**With over 98% of all United Way donor funds directly benefiting people in Branch County, people can see and recognize the importance of these programs and services to a community.**