



LIVE UNITED

87 Marshall Street
Coldwater, MI 49036
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www.BranchCountyUW.org

Branch County United Way

Dear Community Member,

Branch County United Way has been an essential supporter of our community for over 50 years. This year is no different and the unexpected events of the Covid-19 pandemic makes our organization even more important. We are a leader in collective impact-driven work; addressing Health, Education, Income, and Emergency Services throughout Branch County.

As part of this great community, we as individuals and businesses share a responsibility for the future of our community. This year especially, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our lives in one way or another and the Branch County United Way helps to bring people and community resources together in times of need. Your gift to United Way works to make Branch County a better community for us all. Whether it is literacy programs for children or programs that provide basic necessities to families, your donation makes a lasting impact to help the most vulnerable in our community. Over ninety-eight percent (**98.5%**) of all dollars raised in Branch County stay here to provide these necessary services and programs to the community.

Included is a list of the agencies that you can help the Branch County United Way fund. Below are real numbers and statistics that show how Branch County United Way donations were used to better serve our community in the last year:

- **1,419 Early Learners** received books mailed directly to their homes each month. To date, over 102,000 books have been delivered through the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library** in Branch County.
- **441 children** were identified by our schools and given the gift of new shoes/boots through **Happy Feet**.
- **224 Survivors** of Domestic Violence received emergency shelter, legal advocacy, and a new start on life through the **Shelterhouse** and **Branch County Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence**.
- **134 Children and Teens** who were otherwise unable to afford to participate in healthy activities, such as running, soccer, baseball, softball and summer camp were given scholarships.
- **123 high risk families** received in-home visits from parenting coaches to help them improve parenting skills.
- **16 families** learned to be financially independent through the **BCCADSV Getting Ahead Program**
- **196 uninsured/under-insured people** received lifesaving medical care and ongoing support for long term health care through the **Free Health Clinic of Branch County**.
- **9 homeless teens** were given the gift of a safe place to live and a chance to graduate from high school through the **Teenshare** program.

Our local fundraising events have been impacted this year as well as people being laid off or losing their jobs, we need your donations more than ever. As our communities begin to reopen from the pandemic, there will be an increased need for these agencies to help with services. Without funds, those services will not be possible.

Please consider donating today to your community through Branch County United Way, and help improve the lives of people and children in our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Sheppard", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Sheppard

Executive Director - Branch County United Way