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Letter to the Community

Dear Donors and Community Members,

This has been an exciting year for us. We've embarked on some new initiatives and explored some new paths.

Our primary focus has been on community and economic development through an initiative known as HomeTown Competitiveness. We served on the board for workforce development in our region, and we're part of a new local and regional community and economic development initiative.

We also helped to craft a strategic plan to reduce and prevent homelessness and assisted in forming a coalition working to improve the health of citizens in Branch County. We were part of public-private-philanthropic partnerships that work to assure that our most vulnerable citizens – our children – can reach their full potential. We worked with state and county government and other community leaders to select, network, and support local providers of quality early childhood education, safe and affordable child care and foster care, and programs which help families give their children safe and supportive home environments. During this fiscal year we also

- awarded \$257,389.68 in grants to our community – a 25% increase from last year;
- provided \$37,959 in scholarships to our county residents to assist them in pursuing their dreams of a higher education;
- saw an investment return of 14%;
- added 4 new funds to the Foundation's family of funds;
- created a new, improved website to better serve you; and
- completed a new three-year strategic plan (now on our website at www.brcofoundation.org).

We thank our donors and supporters for helping make our success possible. Together we made a great impact on our community! Take a look at our 2006-2007 annual report and find out why –

Your foundation is
For Good. For Ever.



Bruce Bloom
Board President



Colleen Knight
Executive Director

Board of Directors & Staff

2007

Officers

Bruce Bloom, President
Hillary Eley, Vice President
Ed Callahan, Treasurer
Mary Jo Kranz, Secretary

Directors

Paul Creal	Sandra Jackson
Sandra Davis	Millie Johnson
Scott Glascock	Remus Rigg
Ted Gordon	Ron Rose
Nancy Hutchins	Dave Wright

Directors Emeritus

Joe Ganger	Robert Mayer
Patricia Shoemaker	Bruce Young

2008

Officers

Bruce Bloom, President
Hillary Eley, Vice President
Mary Jo Kranz, Treasurer
Dave Wright, Secretary

Directors

Paul Creal	Nancy Hutchins
Sandra Davis	Sandra Jackson
Scott Glascock	Remus Rigg
Ted Gordon	Ron Rose

Directors Emeritus

Joe Ganger	Robert Mayer
Patricia Shoemaker	Bruce Young

Staff

Colleen Knight, Executive Director
Susan Sparrow, Associate Director/Controller
Amy Gifford, YAC Advisor

2007/2008 Committee Members

Jay Carlson	Renita Halbleib	Sue Morton
Kathy Culy	Dylan Foster	Wayne Reese
Christine Delaney	Charles Lillis	Connie Swain
Steve Dobson	Kim Morgan	

2007 Youth Advisory Council Members

Jessica Albright	Amber Kuhlmann
Sarah Belote	Buster Ludwick
Tiera Bernheisel	Corinna Martinez
Taylor Cook	Alex McCartney
Luke Easterday	Cheyenne McDougall
Amy Eberhard	Rebecca Myers
Patrick Frazier	Kelsey Norton
Lace Gilger	Brendon Shallack
Brittanie Gray	Bryan Shirk
Anthony Hammond	Chris Swift
Kaitlyn Hard	Emily Swift
Karice Hard	Paige Thornton
Curtis Hiler	Ajay Tilden
John Jackowiak II	Danelle Walkup
Maddison Jackson	Gabbe Wilson
Tasha Kotz	

About Branch County Community Foundation

The Branch County Community Foundation was established in 1991 by a group of visionary leaders from local Rotary clubs who saw the need for a community foundation supported by donors from all walks of life. They realized that a strong community based organization could help those in need and create a legacy of caring for the future of our communities. The five local Rotaries gave initial gifts totaling \$50,000.

The Community Foundation has grown to its present size because of gifts and bequests from hundreds of individuals, families, organizations, and corporations. Today the Community Foundation has total assets of over \$5 million!

For Good. Our mission is to build a permanent endowment by attracting funds from and providing services to a wide range of donors and to grant the income from those funds back to our community.

For Ever. Our endowment funds are preserved, invested, and managed to assure a steady stream of income for grants to organizations that serve our community.

We offer people of all means - no matter how great or small their personal resources - an opportunity to give back. Donors can contribute to one of over 90 funds or establish a new charitable fund at the foundation.

The Community Foundation's three roles are **grant making**, serving as a **catalyst and convener** in the community, and building a permanent community **endowment**. Through grant making, the Foundation confers grants in support of the community. By remaining a neutral entity with only the community's best interest in mind, the Community Foundation serves as a catalyst and convener to bring people together to discuss, plan, and implement strategies that meet the needs of the community and that take advantage of opportunities available to the community. Through endowment development, the Foundation becomes a vehicle for channeling community resources.

Top ten reasons people give through the Community Foundation

1. We are a **local organization** with deep roots in the community.
2. Our professional program staff has **broad expertise** regarding community issues and needs.
3. We provide highly **personalized service** tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests.
4. Our funds help people **invest in the causes** they care about most.
5. We accept a wide **variety of assets**, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.
6. We partner with **professional advisors** to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.
7. We offer maximum **tax advantage** for most gifts under federal law.
8. We **multiply the impact** of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.
9. We build **endowment funds** that benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies.
10. We are a **community leader**, convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change.

Community Partnerships

The Community Foundation partners with other community organizations to bring people together to discuss, plan, and implement strategies that meet the needs of the **entire** community and that take advantage of opportunities available to the community. These collaborative partnerships help optimize all the financial and other resources in our community.

Community and Economic Development

We seek to use our resources to strengthen our area through community and economic development initiatives.

Memberships

- **HomeTown Competitiveness Partner** – the *HomeTown Competitiveness (HTC)* initiative is a framework that joins a variety of approaches and multiple community organizations into a cohesive force for developing and sustaining a vital, prosperous community. HTC recognizes that although small towns and rural communities sometimes may struggle, they have significant local resources and resolve that, when focused, can create a sustainable plan for community and economic development. Learn more about HTC at www.branchareachamber.com/HTC.html

New Fund! Through the **HomeTown Competitiveness Fund** and HTC initiative we can support entrepreneurship and help maintain thriving farms and small businesses; create flexible charitable assets and retain local wealth; engage youth in positive ways and give young people a reason to return to their hometown to work and raise their families; and strengthen local leadership capacity.

- **Branch County Area Chamber of Commerce**
- **Barry-Branch-Calhoun Workforce Development Board** connecting people to jobs through the Michigan Works! system. The WDB is responsible for re-allocating state and federal block grants for workforce development and for monitoring contractors' performance.
- **Family Services Network (FSN)/Community Development Committee.** FSN is a coalition of educators, employers, service providers, and others that help coordinate health and human services for Branch County families and re-allocate state and federal block grants aimed at strengthening Branch County families. We also serve on the community funding re-allocation and monitoring committees through FSN.

Health Initiatives

Currently we are working with the Family Services Network and other local organizations to improve the health of local citizens.

Community Partnerships

Housing and Education Initiatives

We seek to help individuals and families through education and community support that leads to self-sufficiency.

Memberships

- **FSN/Housing and Homelessness Coalition, 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness steering committee, and the Continuum of Care Allocation Committee.**
- **Early Childhood Investment Corp /Great Start Collaborative-Branch**
Research has shown that early childhood education increases lifelong earning potential, achieves better academic outcomes, lowers rates of teen pregnancy and incarceration, and improves the community's ability to recruit and retain parents who work – all of which provide long-term positive results and cost savings to the community.

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) is a statewide initiative that recognizes education begins at birth (not when a child enters school) and works to effectively focus early childhood efforts and leverage public and private support to expand the availability of high-quality early education and child care, including parenting education.

A small investment for a lifetime of returns!

The Branch County Community Foundation (BCCF) believes that early childhood education can improve children's chances for success in later life, thereby providing benefits to children, their families, and society as a whole. BCCF recently created the **Early Childhood Investment Fund**, to provide a further giving opportunity for those with similar values.

2006 – 2007 Donors

This is a listing of donors who gave between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

We strive to maintain accurate, up-to-date donor and grant information; we apologize for any errors or omissions.

John & Julie Abe	Branch County Sheriff Reserve	Janet Dillivan
Margaret & Rutty Adams	Branch County Tourism Bureau	Dan & Judy Dobson
Lawrence & Ann Alba	Branch Intermediate School	Steve & Mary Ann Dobson
Pat & Colleen Albright	District	Kristen Dogan
Robert & Cheryl Alger	Todd & Teresa Brayton	Leo & Romaine Dollar
Allegis Credit Union	Ray & Fran Bregger	Stephen R. & Diane L. Downs
Gregory & Laura Allen	Carl & Rachel Brenner	Delton & Julie Draper
Altrusa International of Branch	Vicki Brockway	Carl & Florence Drumhiller
County	Bronson Business Service, Inc.	Kathy Dunn
William & Yvonne Asetline	David & Kathleen Brown	John & Mary Dygert
Cheryl Back	The Robert Brown Family	Bill Earl
Paul & Kathy Bair	Brownbriar Farm	Patricia Earl
Baker College – Jackson	C.E.M. Supply, Inc.	James & Barbara Edgett
Campus	Kurt & Jamie (Nicholas) Calder	Irma Egger
Dr. & Mrs. P.C. Baldwin	Edward & Nancy Callahan	Steven & Darlene Ehsam
Deborah Balowski	Larry & Carol Campbell	Kevin & Sue Eichler
Phyllis Barnes	William & Patricia Carlson	Eric & Chandre Eishen
Pete Barone	M. Alan Carpenter	Brian & Hillary Eley
Barry Community Foundation	Nancy Carr	M. Marie Bettinger Emerson
Stephen & Martha Bartlett	Scott & Christine Cary	Peter & Nora Fair
Bayer Foundation	Barry & Jo Ann Case	Beth Ferguson
Kevin Beale	Case Welding & Fabrication	Loran & Suzan Fickle
Scott & Kristina Beamish	Karen Casey	Klaudia Fisher
Michael & Margaret Beckwith	Helyn Castle	Flickers, Inc.
Linda Beemer	Bruce & Beth Caswell	Flying Hoofs 4-H Club
Bill, Mary, Deb, Mike, & Jessica	Century Bank & Trust	Darlene Foley
Bender	Dr. Bosco & Mrs. Lynda Chan	Arvard & Judith Fountain
Nancy Bennett	Michael & Dorothy Cherry	Christine Fountain
Tim & Teresa Bensch	City of Coldwater	Larry & Joyce Fraser
Robert & Jackie Besser	Coldwater Community Schools	Nancy Fraser
The Big Tomato	Coldwater Rotary Club	Jeryn Frederick
Keith & Tamra Bildner	James & Patricia Cole	Rick Furney
Biringer, Hutchinson, Lillis,	Stanley F. & Phyllis L.	G & W Display Fixtures
Bappert & Angell, P.C.	Copenhafer	Mark & Amy Galliers
Jean Biringer	Corporation for Supportive	William & Linda Galliers
Avis Blasi	Housing	Joe & Karen Ganger
Bloom Farms	Gerard Costello, M.D.	Aaron Garn
Bruce & Melinda Bloom	David & Carol Coyle	Martha Gay
Douglas A. & Sharon Duchi	Douglas Crabtree	Geiger E.D.M., Inc.
Bloom	Paul Creal	Hans & Connie Geiger
Mike & Jane Bodkins	Aaron Cummings	Generation E Institute
James & Janice Borer	John & Patricia Czarnecki	Raymond & Cindy Gentz
Brett & Lori Bowers	Sheryl A. Dart	Randall & Marianne George
Branch Area Careers Center	Ernie Jo Davenport	Charles & Sally Gerber
Branch County 4-H Horse	Arden & Donna Davidson	Dr. Ronald & Mrs. Marjorie
Leaders	Mike & Sandy Davis	Gibson
Branch County Area Chamber	Dennis & Marsha Decker &	Julie Gibson
of Commerce	Families	Amy Gifford
Branch County Economic	Sharon Demeester	Scott Glascock
Growth Alliance	Desperados 4-H Club	Donald & Barbara Gordon
Branch County Historical	Richard & Sharon Dibert	Ted & Cathy Gordon
Society	Loranetta Diebel	Max & Joan Gourlay

2006 – 2007 Donors

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Roy & Denise Grigsby	Colleen Knight	Monarch Community Bank
Denise Groll	Bruce & Peggy Knisely	Marc & Kerri Jo Morr
Mary L. Guthrie	Leonard & Betty Kolcz	Dr. Charles & Susan Morton
John & Glenda Hammer	James & Misty Kosmerick	Robert & Judy Moskalik
Rachel Hard	Raymond & Mary Jo Kranz	Munn-Reese, Inc.
Blaine & Jean Harding	William & Marion Labadie	Patrick & Janice Murphy
Mark & Rebecca Harwell	Kay Lancaster	National City Bank
Milli Haug	Todd & Melissa Lane	Winifred Newberry
Carrie Heator	Walton & Janet Lane	Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Nicholas
Heinemann Detective & Security Agency	John & Connie Lange	Bradley & Kimberley Nichols
Joyce Heller	Nanette Lawler	Dale N. & Roberta J. Norton
Randall & Arbutus Heller	Monroe & Vicki Learn	Kenneth Norton
Paul & Barbara Helm	Marilyn Lepper	Stephen O'Donnell
Daniel & Marie Hemker	Gib & Vicki LeRoque	Dave O'Rourke
Conrad Hempel	Charles & Jayne Lillis	James L. & Janice N. Outman
Christine Hill-Melton Ed.D	Annette Lobdell	Panel Processing, Inc.
Marjorie Hinson	Patrick Loss	Herbert & Diana Pankoff
Robert & Donna Hinspeter	Kathryn Love	Stephen & Helen Paulus
Suzy Hoard	Marcie & Mike Love	Catherine A. Parshall
Max & Carolyn Hobbs	Larry Lynn Loviska	John M. & Grace A. Parshall
Shirley Hobbs	David & Nicole Luce	Ron & Ruth Patch
David & Donna Hobday	Mrs. Helen Luce	Patrick Rocchio Law Offices
Carol Hodson	Lloyd & Vera Luce Trust Estate	Donna Penick
Michael Hoffner	Lysle & Mary Luke	Reyna Perez
Holicki Eye Centers, P.C.	William & Angela Mabin	Janis Pfof
Joseph & Heidi Holicki	Maple Lawn Medical Care Facility	Larry A. Phillippi
Home Builders Methodist Church	James Marolt	Ardis J. & Walter G. Philo
Hough Enterprises, Inc.	Daniel & Debra Marsh	Poch Staffing, Inc.
Doris Houghton	Patricia Marsh	John & Billie Pollack
Marti & Susan Hufnagle	Elizabeth Marshall	Merlene Pomranka
James Hurley	Robert & Anne Marso	William & Gerianne Post
Terry & Nancy Hutchins	Kenneth & Mary Marvin	Garry & Pamela Porter
John & Maureen Hutchinson	Max Larsen Trust	Sabeena & Kamal Pradhan
Kira Hutchinson	Job & Charlotte Maxson	Phyllis Prather
Infinisource	Robert & Bridget Mayer	Preferred Women's Care, P.C.
Ellen Jackson	Don & Joyce McCurley	Carrie Preston
Sandi Jackson	Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors	Carlton & Ann Pursley
James & Judy Jeffrey	Connie Monroe	Penny Quimby
Frances I. Johnson	Georgia McCurley	Quincy Rotary Club
James & Janet Johnson	Patrick & Melody McCurley	Janis Raymond
Nate Johnson	Betty McLatcher	Sheriff John S. Reder (Ret.)
Kellogg Community College	Bill & Marilyn McManus	Wayne & Christine Reese
Mike & Connie Kennedy	William & Ginger McMillan	James & Sandra Rice
Joy Kent	Michigan Gas Utilities Corp.	Robert Rice
Kiess Jewelry	Midway Lanes	Remus & Ruth Rigg
James & Lagretta King	Deo & Marda Miller	Beth Rinehard
Kiwanis Club of Colon	Kevin Miller	Thomas & Betty Rissman
Leonard & Barbara Klawinski	Verlan & Sandra Miller	Jack E. & Iona H. Robbins
Jeanine Klein	Millibar Ventures, LLC	Eric & Lisa Rockwell
Mark & Shawn Knaack	Richard & Mary Mills	Donald & Debra Rogers
		John Rohloff
		Ron Rose

2006 – 2007 Donors

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Dale & Barbara Rosene
Pamela Rumpf
Rumsey & Watkins, P.C.
David Rumsey
Sam & Rosemary Russo
Michael K. & Joyce A. Ryan
St. Joseph County Association
of Realtors
Derald & Johanne Saltzgaber
Marion Sanderson
David & Janice Sattler
Sauk Trail Trading Post
Dennis Savage
Helen Savage
Mike & Colleen Saxman &
Family
Mr. Ted Schipper
Lynn & Margaret Scott
Gordon & Lolita Scully
Craig & Rita Sebald
Raymond Sebastian
Carl & Kaycee Sevidal
Richard Sharland
Derek & Chandre Shaw
Charles & Ruth Ann Sheets
Patricia K. Shoemaker
Ambrose & Nadine Sikorski
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Sistanich
Clyde & Claire Smeltzer
Cynthia S. Smith
David & Kelley Smith
Nancy Smith
Robert & Keli Smith
Craig & Jessica Smoker
James & Karen Sobeske
Karen Sobeske

Susan Sobeske
Charles & Beth Somerlott
Curtis & Patricia Somerlott
Southern Michigan Bank & Trust
Randall L. Sowles
Brendon & Susan Sparrow
Shelby Stanley
Stardusters 4-H Club
Sheryl Stefan
Roberta Stemaly
Brian Stevens
William R. & Sally K. Stewart
J.C. Stolberg
Marjorie Sturtz
SunGro Horticulture
John & Lois Swanson
Robin Swartz
Elinor Sweet
Thomas R. Swoish
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor
P. Louise Taylor
Ronald O. & Faith L. Taylor
Tom & Christine Tenney
David & Maureen Teunissen
Sandra Thatcher
Donald H. Thrasher
Carol Tinervia
Donald & Linda Todd
Valerie Tompkins
Jeffrey & Becky Traskos
Gary & Diane Truax
John & Marilyn Truckey
Michael & Cynthia Tuttle
United Educational Credit Union
Barbara Vainner

Van Buren Intermediate School
District
Andrew Van Doren & Lucinda
Sebald
Tammie Vick
Village of Quincy
Jeff & Paula Voigt
Tonia Vorce
Chuck & Jan Wagar
Phyllis L. Wagar
Duane Wagner
Wal-Mart Foundation
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Carl & Gail Walker
Walnut Hill Farms
Bill & Joy Ward
Brian Ward
Timothy & Carolyn Weage
Ellen Whitworth
Terry & Beatrice Wilber
Paul Willison
Gerald & Charlotte Wilson
Mary Wingard
Gerald & Jill Winter
Brent Withington
Wayne & Kim Withington
Pamela Wooten
Dave & Carol Wright
Charlene Yesh
Bruce & Ruth Young
Kelly & Linda Young
Kenneth Youngquist
Carolyn Youssef
R.D. & R.C. Zellmer
Madeline Zinn

Honorary & Memorial Gifts

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IN MEMORY of

**Daniel James Ivaska, Maryann Alma Rosenberry, &
Gladys A. Davis**
Edward & Nancy Callahan

Paul L. Smeltzer, Allen E. Vosburg, & James Spierling
Dr. Charles & Susan Morton

Robert D. Smith & R. Roberta Walker
David & Maureen Teunissen

Dewane AcMoody
Dr. Charles & Susan Morton

L. Louise Beamish
Bronson Business Service, Inc.
Loranetta Diebel
John & Glenda Hammer
Charles & Beth Somerlott
Jeff & Paula Voigt

George Brown
Deo & Marda Miller

Frank W. Cameron
Edward & Nancy Callahan

Florence Campbell
Phyllis Barnes
Donald & Barbara Gordon

Kenneth Carter
Irma Egger
Steven & Darlene Ehrsam
Randall & Marianne George
Conrad Hempel
William & Marion Labadie
Monroe & Vicki Learn
Daniel & Debra Marsh
St. Joseph County Association of Realtors
Sheryl Stefan
Michael & Cynthia Tuttle
Mary Wingard

Barbara Knapp
Dr. Charles & Susan Morton

Jeri L. Holt

John & Julie Abe
Lawrence & Ann Alba
Pat & Colleen Albright
Robert & Cheryl Alger
Gregory & Laura Allen
William & Yvonne Asetline
Cheryl Back
Kevin Beale
Scott & Kristina Beamish
Nancy Bennett
Keith & Tamra Bildner
Biringer, Hutchinson, Lillis & Bappert,
& Angell P.C.
Jean Biringer
Louis & Avis Blasi
Mike & Jane Bodkins
James & Janice Borer
Brett & Lori Bowers
Branch County 4-H Horse Leaders
Branch County Sheriff Reserve
Todd & Teresa Brayton
Bronson Business Service, Inc.
David & Kathleen Brown
Brownbriar Farm
C.E.M. Supply, Inc.
Nancy Carr
Scott & Christine Cary
Michael & Dorothy Cherry
David & Carol Coyle
Douglas Crabtree

Ernie Jo Davenport
Desperados 4-H Club
Richard & Sharon Dibert
Loranetta Diebel
Leo & Romaine Dollar
Delton & Julie Draper
John & Mary Dygert
Kevin & Sue Eichler
Eric & Chandre Eishen
Peter & Nora Fair
Loran & Suzan Fickle
Flying Hoofs 4-H Club
Darlene Foley
Arvard & Judith Fountain
Christene Fountain
Larry & Joyce Fraser
Nancy Fraser
Jeryn & Carol Frederick
Martha Gay
Hans & Connie Geiger
Charles & Sally Gerber
Ronald & Marjorie Gibson
Mel & Joan Gourlay
Roy & Denise Grigsby
John & Glenda Hammer
Blaine & Jean Harding
Carrie Heator
Heinemann Detective & Security
Agency
Joyce Heller

Christine Hill-Melton, Ed.D
Marjorie Hinson
Robert & Donna Hinspeter
Shirley Hobbs
David & Donna Hobday
Joseph & Heidi Holicki
Home Builders Methodist Church
Hough Enterprises, Inc.
Marti & Susan Hufnagle
James Hurley
John & Maureen Hutchinson
Kira Hutchinson
James & Judy Jeffrey
James & Lagretta King
Bruce & Peggy Knisely
Leonard & Betty Kolcz
James & Misty Kosmerick
Todd & Melissa Lane Walton &
Janet Lane
John & Connie Lange
Charles & Jayne Lillis
Patrick Loss
David & Nicole Luce
Lysle & Mary Luke
Patricia Marsh
Elizabeth Marshall
Kenneth & Mary Marvin
Joe & Charlotte Maxson
Georgia McCurley
Patrick & Melody McCurley

Honorary & Memorial Gifts

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IN MEMORY of

Jeri L. Holt

William & Ginger McMillan
Midway Lanes
Kevin Miller
Richard & Mary Mills
Connie Monroe
Marc & Kerri Jo Morr
Patrick & Janice Murphy
Bradley & Kimberley Nichols
Stephen O'Donnell
Donna Penick
Janis Pfof
John & Billie Pollack
Merlene Pomranka
Garry & Pamela Porter
William & Gerianne Post
Sabeena & Kamal Pradhan
Penny Quimby
Sheriff John S. Reder (Ret.)
Thomas & Betty Rissman
Eric & Lisa Rockwell
Donald & Debra Rogers
John Rohloff

Pamela Rumpf
Derald & Johanne Saltzgaber
Dennis Savage
Helen Savage
Gordon & Lolita Scully
Carl & Kaycee Sevidal
Charles & Ruth Ann Sheets
David & Kelley Smith
Craig & Jessica Smoker
James & Karen Sobeske
Curtis & Patricia Somerlott
Stardusters 4-H Club
Brian Stevens
J.C. Stolberg
Elinor Sweet
Robin Swartz
Ginna Teachout
Sandra Thatcher
Donald & Linda Todd
Valerie Tompkins
Jeffrey & Becky Traskos

Gary & Diane Truax
Andrew Van Doren & Lucinda
Sebald
Tammie Vick
Carl & Gail Walker
Walnut Hill Farms
Bill & Joy Ward
Brian Ward
Timothy & Carolyn Weage
Ellen Whitworth
Terry & Beatrice Wilber
Paul Willison
Gerald & Charlotte Wilson
Gerald & Jill Winter
Wayne & Kim Withington
Pamela Wooten
Bruce & Ruth Young
Kelly & Linda Young
Carolyn Youssef
R.D. & R.C. Zellmer
Madeline Zinn

George Matousek

Don & Joyce McCurley

Danielle McCurley

Don & Joyce McCurley

Dr. Robert Smith

Bill & Marilyn McManus

Dave Storrs

John & Grace Parshall

Robert E. Underwood

Tim & Teresa Bensch

Robert VanDeventer

Margaret & Ruddy Adams
Bill & Mary Bender
Robert & Jackie Besser
Carl & Rachel Brenner
Stanley & Phyllis F. Copenhafer
Janet Dillivan
Kay Lancaster
Phyllis Prather
Carlton & Ann Pursley
Ambrose & Nadine Sikorski

Tracy Weinberg

Robert & Arline Brown
Kurt & Jamie (Nicholas) Calder
Arden & Donna Davidson
Dennis & Marsha Decker
Carl & Florence Drumhiller
Bill Grim
Ellen Jackson
Leonard & Barbara Klawinski
Nanette Lawler
Gib & Vicki LeRoque
Sandra & Verlan Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Nicholas
Stephen & Helen Paulus
Ardis & Walter Philo
Jack & Iona Robbins
Mike & Colleen Saxman
Mr. Ted Schipper
P. Louise Taylor
Ronald & Faith Taylor
Mary J. Thomas
John and Marilynn Truckey
Chuck & Jan Wagar

IN HONOR of

Anne Marso
Kathryn Love

Donors' Circle

Current Fiscal Year

This is a listing of donors who gave between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

We strive to maintain accurate, up-to-date donor and grant information; we apologize for any errors or omissions.

Founders (\$100,000 +)

Leaders (\$10,000 +)

Corporation for Supportive Housing
Raymond & Cindy Gentz

Lloyd & Vera Luce Trust Estate
Max Larsen Trust

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

Benefactor (\$5,000 +)

Dan & Judy Dobson

Marcie & Mike Love

Patron (\$2,500 +)

Bayer Foundation
Coldwater Rotary Club

James & Barbara Edgett
Quincy Rotary Club

James & Sandra Rice

Partner (\$1,000 +)

Dr. & Mrs. P.C. Baldwin
Bloom Farms
Edward & Nancy Callahan
Century Bank & Trust
Sheryl A. Dart
Holicki Eye Centers, P.C.

Doris Houghton
Infinisource
Kiwanis Club of Colon
Jeanine Klein
Robert & Anne Marso
Monarch Community Bank

Dr. Charles & Susan Morton
Robert Rice
Patricia K. Shoemaker
Tom & Christine Tenney
Wal-Mart Foundation
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Associate (\$500 +)

Biringer, Hutchinson, Lillis, Bappert &
Angell, P.C.
Bruce & Melinda Bloom
Branch Area Careers Center
Brownbriar Farm
Helyn Castle

M. Marie Bettinger Emerson
Paul & Barbara Helm
John & Maureen Hutchinson
Raymond & Mary Jo Kranz
Charles & Jayne Lillis
Michigan Gas Utilities, Corp.

Patrick Rocchio Law Offices
Charles & Ruth Ann Sheets
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Sistanich
Donald H. Thrasher
Brent Withington
Dave & Carol Wright

Friend (\$200 +)

Altrusa International of Branch
County
Paul & Kathy Bair
Pete Barone
Michael & Margaret Beckwith
Douglas A. & Sharon Duchi Bloom
Branch County Sheriff Reserve
Ray & Fran Bregger
M. Alan Carpenter
Barry & Jo Ann Case
Dr. Bosco & Mrs. Lynda Chan
Mike & Sandy Davis
Steve & Mary Ann Dobson
Bill Earl
Jeryn Frederick
G & W Display Fixtures
Joe & Karen Ganger

John & Glenda Hammer
Milli Haug
Randall & Arbutus Heller
Daniel & Marie Hemker
Joseph & Heidi Holicki
Frances I. Johnson
James & Janet Johnson
Mike and Connie Kennedy
Mark & Shawn Knaack
Kathryn Love
Mrs. Helen Luce
Robert & Bridget Mayer
Bill & Marilyn McManus
Robert & Judy Moskalik
Munn-Reese, Inc.
Winifred Newberry
Dale N. & Roberta J. Norton

Kenneth Norton
Panel Processing, Inc.
Herbert and Diana Pankoff
Preferred Women's Care, P.C.
Wayne & Christine Reese
Remus & Ruth Rigg
Jack E. & Iona H. Robbins
David Rumsey
Craig & Rita Sebald
Nancy Smith
John & Lois Swanson
Thomas R. Swoish
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor
David & Maureen Teunissen
Phyllis L. Wagar
Bruce & Ruth Young

Donors' Circle

Catalysts

This is a list of continuous giving. This list is accurate as of September 30, 2007.

We strive to maintain accurate, up-to-date donor and grant information; we apologize for any errors or omissions.

Evergreen (10 years +)

Paul & Kathy Bair
Michael & Margaret Beckwith
Vicki Brockway
M. Alan Carpenter
Barry & Jo Ann Case
Dr. Bosco & Lynda Chan
Steve & Mary Ann Dobson
Beth Ferguson
Rachel Hard
Michael Hoffner

Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Kranz
Remus & Ruth Rigg
Jack E. & Iona H. Robbins
David Rumsey
David & Janice Sattler
Craig & Rita Sebald
Cynthia S. Smith
Southern Michigan Bank & Trust
John & Lois Swanson
Bruce & Ruth Young

Seedling (5 years +)

Deborah Balowski
Pete Barone
M. Marie Bettinger Emerson
Bruce & Melinda Bloom
Douglas A. & Sharon Duchi Bloom
Ray & Fran Bregger
Edward & Nancy Callahan
Karen Casey
Helyn Castle
Aaron Cummings
Sheryl Dart
Mike & Sandy Davis
Dan & Judy Dobson
Kristen Dogan
Kathy Dunn
Bill Earl
Patricia Earl
Brian & Hillary Eley

Jeryn Frederick
Rick Furney
Joe & Karen Ganger
Julie Gibson
Mary L. Guthrie
Randall & Arbutus Heller
Paul & Barbara Helm
Daniel & Marie Hemker
Terry & Nancy Hutchins
Mike & Connie Kennedy
Joy Kent
Kiwanis Club of Colon
Mark & Shawn Knaack
Annette Lobdell
Mrs. Helen Luce
James Marolt
Max Larsen Trust
Robert & Bridget Mayer

Winifred Newberry
Herbert & Diana Pankoff
Catherine A. Parshall
John M. & Grace Parshall
Ron & Ruth Patch
Joseph & Susan Sobeske
Karen Sobeske
Randy Sowles
Brendon & Susan Sparrow
Shelby Stanley
Roberta Stemaly
Marjorie Sturtz
Mr. Thomas R. Swoish
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor
Barbara Vainner
Tonia Vorce
Phyllis L. Wagar
Duane Wagner

Seed (3 years +)

Dr. & Mrs. P.C. Baldwin
Bayer Foundation
Coldwater Rotary Club
Paul Creal
Sharon Demeester
Holicki Eye Centers, P.C.
Sandi Jackson
Colleen Knight

Kathryn Love
Marcie & Mike Love
Larry Lynn Loviska
Robert & Anne Marso
Betty McLatcher
Dr. Charles & Susan Morton
Dale N. & Roberta J. Norton
Kenneth Norton

Preferred Women's Care, P.C.
Janis Raymond
James & Sandra Rice
Patricia K. Shoemaker
Tom & Christine Tenney
Carol Tinervia
Wal-Mart Foundation
Kenneth Youngquist

Donors' Circle

Convenors

This is a list of accumulated giving. This list is accurate as of September 30, 2007.
We strive to maintain accurate, up-to-date donor and grant information; we apologize for any errors or omissions.

Philanthropist (\$1,000,000 +)

Max Larsen Trust

Humanitarian (\$500,000 +)

F. Harold & Lillian Creal

Visionary (\$250,000 +)

Colon Community Schools

Southern Michigan Bank & Trust

Designer (\$100,000 +)

Estate of Lucile Burnside
James & Barbara Edgett

Glema Jones Trust
Estate of Dorothy Mannerow

Ambassador (\$50,000 +)

Asama Coldwater Manufacturing
Estate of John Broker
Rolph Carlisle Charitable Trust
Crotty Corporation

Elmer & Doris Houghton
John & Marguerite Kenyon
Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel
Patricia K. Shoemaker

Champion (\$25,000 +)

Century Bank & Trust
Coldwater Rotary Club
Colon Banking Center, a Division of Sturgis Bank & Trust
Dan & Judy Dobson

Kiwanis Club of Colon
Klein Investments
Dr. Mary R. Moore
Emory Sechrist Scholarship Trust

Sponsor (\$10,000 +)

Alchem Aluminum
Alliance Foods, Inc.
Altrusa International of Branch County
Dr. & Mrs. P.C. Baldwin
David & Sharon Bates
Gordon Bowerman Family
Edward & Nancy Callahan
Coldwater Downtown Development Authority
Robert Corson Trust
Dennis & Jennifer Dafnis
Steve & Mary Ann Dobson
Early Bird Exchange Club
G & W Display Fixtures
Raymond & Cindy Gentz
Gokoh Coldwater, Inc.
Wilbur & Allie Hostetler
Mildred G. Hutchins Trust
James & Janice Koss

Marcelyn LaBelle Knight
Livonia Tool, Inc.
Marcie & Mike Love
Lloyd & Vera Luce Trust
Monarch Community Bank
Dr. Charles & Susan Morton
Raymond & Margaret Pontoni
Quincy Community Schools
Quincy Rotary Club
Jan Rhoades
James & Sandra Rice
Jack E. & Iona H. Robbins
Phillip & Jeanette Sattler
Schipper Funeral Home Ltd.
Mr. Ted Schipper
Sintered Metal Products, Inc.
Elizabeth Teeter
Vanguard, LLC.

How to Establish a Fund

The Branch County Community Foundation has developed several types of funds to meet donor and community needs. Our staff works with you and your advisor to help you determine which type is right for you.

Any fund can be **permanent** (endowed), **long-term** (allowing spending from principal when appropriate), or **temporary** (allowing funds to be completely spent for grants within a specified time).

Unrestricted

The most flexible funds within the Foundation, unrestricted funds are those for which the donor allows the Foundation discretion in the use of the annual income for a broad range of community projects. This provides the Community Foundation the opportunity to respond to changing community needs.

Field-of-Interest

With field-of-interest funds, the donor directs the Community Foundation to utilize the annual income in a certain program area. The Community Foundation determines the specific grant recipients. Educational scholarships may be awarded from field-of-interest funds. An **educational field-of-interest fund** can be used for **scholarships**, but *can also be used* for other types of educational support. When deciding what type of fund to create, consider what \$500 can do for one college student. And then consider what \$500 could do for a 5th grade science class of 25 students.

Donor Advised

Donor advised funds allow the donor to actively participate in the grantmaking process by recommending to the Community Foundation the purpose and organizations that receive grants. Some donors specify a particular field of interest for the fund they create. Grants can be made to a wide variety of organizations including religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational, or governmental organizations. Recommendations are referred to the Community Foundation's Board of Directors for approval. Many advised funds become unrestricted on the death of the donor or at the end of a specified period.

Designated

Designated funds are funds in which a donor has specified the charitable recipient, or recipients, of the income at the time the fund is established.

Agency Endowments

Other nonprofit organizations often place their endowment funds within the Community Foundation for management and investment purposes. The Community Foundation regularly distributes the annual income back to these agencies to help them accomplish their charitable purposes.

Special Project and Memorial Funds

Our primary mission is to establish permanent funds, but we recognize that at times we can better serve the donor and the community through creating a temporary fund. Any type of fund can be a temporary fund; special project, memorial, and donor advised funds are the most common.

Variance Power

Many donors place no restrictions on how their gifts are to be used. However, you may design your fund around very specific goals. Even if the current intent of your fund becomes obsolete, the Community Foundation will ensure that the fund continues to address emerging community needs. For more information on the unique structural feature that makes this flexibility possible, contact us to learn about the Variance Power that is a part of each of our fund agreements.

Funds

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Branch County General Fund

Of all the funds the community foundation holds, the General Fund has the broadest impact on the community because it awards grants for any project or program that improves the quality of life in Branch County. Because your gift is never spent, you can make a difference with a gift of any size. A committee of community members reviews applications for this fund.

Community Foundation Operating Fund

The annual operating budget for the Community Foundation.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Bike Branch County Fund

This fund promotes family activities and recreation through biking in Branch County.

Branch County and Colon W.K. Kellogg Foundation Youth Project Fund

These funds support the Youth Advisory Councils and their grantmaking for youth-oriented projects.

BCCF sponsors two Youth Advisory Councils---one in Colon and one in Branch County. The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of young people, organized through the Branch County Community Foundation, dedicated to effective grantmaking, endowment building, and community service. YAC identifies and addresses youth issues in their communities. Up to two YAC members over 16 years of age serve as voting members of the Board. All YAC members are invited to attend meetings and serve in an advisory capacity.

The YAC was developed under the Council of Michigan Foundation's (CMF) Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project (MCFYP). The goal included the creation of permanent youth endowment funds to help address youth issues in the community and to involve 14 - 20 as grantmakers overseeing the distribution of income from the youth funds. Another goal was to have YAC members partly responsible for raising funds which would receive a 50% match from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For more on YAC see www.youthgrantmakers.org.

Community Grantmaking. Members of YAC review proposals submitted to the Youth Fund and make funding recommendations to the BCCF Board.

Community Service. Youth Advisory Council members typically choose an annual county-wide community service project. YAC members learn leadership and teamwork skills in completing community service projects and in the grantmaking process.

Community Involvement. Participating in the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to make a difference, learn leadership and teamwork skills, and have fun doing it.

Branch County HomeTown Competitiveness Fund

This fund supports community and economic development in Coldwater.

Bronson High School Alumni Association Endowment

This fund supports scholarships to Bronson High School graduates and other charitable, scientific, literary, educational, or public projects of the Alumni Association.

Funds

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Coldwater Holiday Decoration Endowment Fund

This fund supports civic improvement through the replacement and maintenance of Coldwater's holiday decorations.

Colon Foundation Fund

The Colon Foundation Fund awards grants to improve the quality of life in the Colon area. **Any size gift makes a lasting impact.** A committee of community members reviews these grants.

Community Health Watch Fund

This fund was created through a grant from the Council of Michigan Foundations from funding they received from a portion of the interest from the State of Michigan's share of the national tobacco settlement. The fund supports programs that promote healthy youth and healthy seniors. Currently grants from the fund are focused on reducing tobacco use and promoting cessation.

The Community Foundation's advisory committee makes recommendations on the projects to be supported by the funds. Included on the advisory committee are representatives of local health organizations, public health, the tobacco reduction action coalition, and the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council. Other interested community members are welcome to serve on the advisory committee.

Early Childhood Investment Fund (new fund)

The Branch County Community Foundation created this fund to support early childhood development and child care initiatives. We believe that high quality child care and early childhood education can improve children's chances for success in later life, thereby providing benefits to children, their families, and society as a whole.

Brain research has shown that early childhood education increases lifelong earning potential, achieves better academic outcomes, lowers rates of incarceration and teen pregnancy, and improves the community's ability to recruit and retain parents who work – all of which provide long-term positive results and cost savings to the community.

A local advisory committee will make recommendations for distributions from the fund to programs run by eligible nonprofit organizations, schools, or local units of government. The advisory committee will include community members with experience and knowledge in the fields of early childhood development and child care.

Irv and Kathryn Harris Memorial Fund

This fund supports the needs of children.

Homelessness Prevention Fund

This fund supports homelessness prevention services and activities in Branch County.

International Craniosacral Therapist Exchange Program (formerly CST – Russian American Exchange Program)

This fund supports educational programs and exchange of information between health care workers in the U.S. and the international community.

Funds

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Max Larsen Better Opportunity Fund for 4-H Clubs

This fund supports local 4-H Club group activities in Branch County.

Max Larsen Better Opportunity Scouting Fund for Boys

This fund supports local activities for Boy Scout groups in Colon, Sturgis, and Branch County.

Max Larsen Better Opportunity Scouting Fund for Girls

This fund supports local activities for Girl Scout and Campfire groups in Branch County.

Max Larsen Better Opportunity Fund for Children's Activities at Tibbits Opera House

Max Larsen Community Education Fund

This fund supports projects which directly provide educational activities for youth in Branch County.

Quincy Rotary Projects Fund

This fund supports community improvement projects of the Quincy Rotary.

Silent Observer Program Fund

This fund supports the Silent Observer program in Branch County.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Gordon Bowerman Agricultural Endowment Scholarship

Branch Area Careers Center Scholarship

Branch Interfaith Hospitality Network Endowment

Bronson Community Schools Endowment

Bronson Library Fund

Bronson United Methodist Church Fund

Coldwater Community Schools Foundation Fund

Coldwater Community Schools Scholarship Fund

Colon Community Historical Society Endowment

Colon Township Library Endowment Fund

Community Unlimited Endowment

Velma and Chancy French Memorial Scholarship

Funds

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Elmer S. Houghton Administrative Endowment

Elmer S. Houghton was a well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist. Elmer and his wife, Doris, are both well-known for their generosity and benevolence over the years, generously supporting a great many projects in the Bronson area, where they resided, as well as Branch County. One example of Elmer's and the Houghton family's generosity can be seen in the *Community Health Center of Branch County's Houghton Family Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy Center*. His interest in promoting health was also shown in his years of financial support for Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio around the world.

Elmer was not just a philanthropist. He was a Visionary. His vision helped establish the Community Foundation, and helped assure its future. Elmer was one of the Community Foundation's founders and original board members. He and his wife, Doris, donated \$25,000 per year for three years to the fledgling organization's operating budget so that there was money to cover start up expenses. And Elmer, along with other Community Foundation founders, started the Administrative Endowment to assure continuing income for the Community Foundation.

Upon Elmer's death in January 2005, we lost a strong and generous community supporter. *In honor of Elmer Houghton's contribution to his community and to the Community Foundation, the Board of Directors renamed this fund the Elmer S. Houghton Administrative Endowment.*

Leo and Mabel Jane Kimble Fund

This fund supports the Branch County Literacy Council for 5 years; then becomes part of the Elmer S. Houghton Administrative Endowment.

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel Scholarship Fund

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

A & G Fund

Dr. and Mrs. P.C. Baldwin Fund

Richard L. and M. Marie Bettinger Family Endowment Fund (new fund)

Lyndsay Sharp Bingaman Scholarship

Scott Brayton Memorial Fund

Colon Kiwanis Club Educational Fund

F. Harold & Lillian Creal Endowment

Dan and Judy Dobson Fund

Elmer Dobson Memorial Fund

Funds

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Faith-Based Initiatives Fund

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

This fund supports faith-based projects that will benefit communities in Branch County and projects that benefit communities outside Branch County but are supported by a local protestant church.

Stanley G. Godfrey Endowment Fund for the Arts

This fund awards grants to the finest artistic endeavors of high integrity in Branch County.

Milvayeti Rice Fund for Understanding

This fund awards grants in support of multi-cultural and scientific understanding and education.

Patricia Klein Shoemaker Endowment

Howard M. & Marian W. Teeter Endowment

Greg Thomas Memorial Endowment

This fund awards grants in support of Coldwater Community Schools' athletics program and/or related purposes.

Bruce G. and Ruth A. Young Endowment

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

Colon Area Community Center Building Fund (formerly Edgett-Godfrey Community Center Building Fund)

Colon Township Library Building Fund

Community Unlimited Youth Program Fund

NBAA Youth Anglers Fund

Rachel's Challenge Fund (new fund)

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Rae Ann Archer Aker and Thomas Archer Memorial Fund

Steven Carter Scholarship

William Hacker and Robert Mumby Agriculture Education Fund

Funds

AGENCY FUNDS

Bronson Community Endowment Fund
Charles A. Ryan Quincy Student Loan Foundation Fund

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Altrusa International of Branch County G. Louise Wallace Memorial Scholarship
Asama/Gokoh Scholarship
Branch County Student Ambassador Scholarship
Evelyn Jean Broker Memorial Scholarship
Orla and Cholie Burke Memorial Scholarship
Lucile Burnside Memorial Scholarship
Annette Marie Clarke – Diaz Scholarship
Shawn R. Cockrell Wrestling Scholarship
Coldwater Jaycees Endowment
Robert Corson Memorial Scholarship
Dart Family Memorial Scholarship
Early Bird Exchange Club Scholarship
Fiorell/Johnson Scholarship
Jason Gentz Memorial Scholarship (new fund)
Jeri L. Holt Memorial Scholarship (new fund)
Mildred G. Hutchins Loan Fund
Blanche Marie Jones Garn/Glema E. Jones Scholarship
W.H. Judd Scholarship
John and Marguerite Kenyon Scholarship
E. John Klein Memorial Scholarship
Blaque and Arlouine Knirk Education Fund
Gerald and Marcelyn LaBelle Athletic Scholarship
Joseph and Ethel Linteau Scholarship
Marie Green McMahan Scholarship

Funds

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

May E. and John Losey Moore Family Scholarship

President's Student Service Scholarship

Rhoads Memorial Teachers Grant

Kenny Ryan Memorial Scholarship

Philip and Jeanette Sattler Scholarship

Alice C. Schafer Memorial Fund

Emory L. Sechrist Scholarship

Southern Michigan Bank and Trust Lester Wise Memorial Scholarship

Janette Molby Stephens Scholarship

Weston, McCurley, Gerth Scholarship

James F. York Memorial Scholarship

How to Apply for a Grant

General Grant Criteria

In general grants are made to projects that will benefit Branch County and/or Colon, Michigan.

In making grants, the Community Foundation attempts to understand both the specific objectives of each grant request and the long-term benefits that the community will receive from the initiative. All eligible grant applications are carefully considered by review committees whose membership includes a broad representation of the community.

Successful applications will be for projects which

- promote development or strengthening of community assets,
- will have a positive long-term impact on program participants and/or the community,
- lead to prevention of recurring need,
- promote cooperation among area organizations with related or supportive missions, and
- will be financially sustainable without continuing grant funding.

2007-2008 APPLICATION DUE DATES

Community Funds for Branch County & Colon	March 1	September 1
Youth Project (YAC) Fund	February 15	October 15
Faith Based Initiatives Fund	March 1	September 1

For more information on applying for a grant, including a copy of our grant application packet, please visit our website at http://www.brcofoundation.org/grants_scholarships/grants.html

2006 – 2007 Grants

This is a listing of grants that were paid between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

UNRESTRICTED & FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Total Grants

\$98,654.58

Beginnings Care for Life Center was awarded \$2,000 to support their Abstinence Education in Schools program.

The **Branch Area Food Pantry** was awarded two grants totaling \$6,600 towards the holiday food distribution.

Branch County Commission on Aging was awarded \$1,500 to purchase additional File of Life folders.

Branch County Farm Bureau was awarded \$1,500 towards the purchase of the Mobile Exhibit Trailer.

Branch County Habitat for Humanity was awarded \$1,428 to purchase power equipment.

Branch Interfaith Hospitality Network was awarded \$1,883 as a proactive grant for general support.

The **Branch County Literacy Council** was awarded \$1,000 to purchase books and materials.

The **Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency** was awarded \$2,846.24 to fund the Great American Smoke-Out Media Campaign.

The **Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency** was awarded \$19,500 to fund the Tobacco Reduction Action Coalition (TRAC) Media Campaign.

The **Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency** was awarded \$70.78 for their 2007 activities.

Bronson Community Schools were awarded \$4,500 toward the Bronson Jr./Sr. High Library Renovation.

Bronson Community Schools were awarded \$2,000 toward the Laurie Stewart – Bronson School Community Climate presentation.

The **Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Council of Branch County** was awarded \$1,000 for workbooks for the I AM SPECIAL and Good Touch/Bad Touch School programs.

Coldwater Community Schools were awarded \$15,000 for the 2007 school year EBLI programming.

The **Coldwater Downtown Development Authority** was awarded \$10,000 toward loan payments for the purchase of the Kerr Building.

The **Colon Athletic Booster Club** was awarded \$1,000 for the Athletic Field Press Box.

Colon Community Schools were awarded \$1,200 for their annual Toys for Tots donation drive.

Colon High School Wrestling was awarded \$1,650 toward a new wrestling mat.

The **County Friends 4-H Club** was awarded \$500 for their annual scholarship/raffle fund.

2006 – 2007 Grants

This is a listing of grants that were paid between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

UNRESTRICTED & FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

The **HomeTown Competitiveness Initiative** was awarded a total of \$2,020.56 for steering committee and task force support, presentations, the business transition workshop, and the Jack Schultz presentation.

Lakeland Elementary School was awarded \$2,000 for their Lakeland gym project.

The **Memorial Day Committee** was awarded \$3,500 toward the Memorial Weekend and Civil War Battle Re-enactment.

The **Montgomery Fire and Rescue Department** was awarded \$1,400 to purchase air tanks.

Rachel's Challenge was awarded \$2,000 toward the September presentation of Rachel's Challenge Program at Legg Middle School and Coldwater High School.

Tibbits Opera Foundation was awarded \$10,000 toward their 2007 youth programming activities.

Tibbits Opera Foundation was awarded \$1,200 toward technical upgrades and on-line ticketing.

Women In Transition, Inc. was awarded \$1,356 to purchase a coin operated washer and dryer.

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Total Allocations

\$23,942

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Total Grants

\$130,855

General Support Grants were given to the following organizations:

American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
BCCF – Branch County General Endowment
Boy Scout Troop 488
Branch County United Way
Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition
Kalamazoo Diocese Services Appeal “KDSA”

Lake George Conservancy, Inc.
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Rotary International
The Smile Train
Special Olympics Michigan
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Tibbits Opera Foundation

Beginnings Care for Life Center was awarded funds to support their Abstinence Education in Schools program.

2006 – 2007 Grants

This is a listing of grants that were paid between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Branch Interfaith Hospitality Network was awarded funds to purchase new mattresses.

Coldwater Community Schools were awarded funds to support a Guitar and Mandolin Workshop at Franklin Alternative High School.

Coldwater Presbyterian Church was awarded funds for their church steeple fund.

Coldwater Rotary Club was awarded funds for their Gathering of the Flags project.

The **Community Health Center Foundation** was awarded funds for the Girls on the Run program.

DVK Foundation, Inc. was awarded funds to purchase a VACT DVD Duplicator.

Legg Middle School was awarded funds towards their spring book drive.

Max Larsen Elementary was awarded funds for the Adopt-a-Grandparent Program.

Rotary International was awarded funds for the Paul Harris fellowship.

Tibbits Opera Foundation was awarded funds for their restoration and endowment campaign.

Tibbits Opera Foundation was awarded funds for the Grand Rapids ballet performance.

Western Michigan University Foundation was awarded funds towards their Presidents fund.

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS

Total Grants

\$2,200

Colon Township Library was awarded \$1,200 towards construction costs.

NBAA Youth Anglers were awarded \$1,000 towards the purchase of trophies and prizes for their classic tournament.

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Total Grants

\$1,738.10

Branch County and Centreville FFAs were awarded grants towards scholarship funds.

Great Grants! 2007

The 7th annual *Great Grants!* dinner, held October 1 at the Dearth Center in Coldwater, showcased outstanding programs that received support from the Community Foundation.

Representatives from the selected organizations made presentations about their programs, and then donors voted on which project best met the selection criteria.

The 2007 *Great Grants!* award went to two organizations this year: the Branch County Literacy Council for books & materials and to the Memorial Day Committee for the Memorial Day Weekend events and Civil War Battle Re-enactment staged in May. Both winners received a \$150 "gift certificate". The purpose of the additional funding is to help these organizations continue their projects.



Above, Jerry Ford of the Memorial Day Committee (left) and Ruth Vanderpool-Omlor of the Branch County Literacy Council (center) accept the 2007 *Great Grants!* Awards from Branch County Community Foundation Executive Director, Colleen Knight.

Great Grants! Award recipients successfully carry out projects that are proactive or preventative, have a long-term or broad impact on the community, provide solutions that are sustainable, and demonstrate collaboration with other organizations. There were four semi-finalists this year.



Director Ruth Vanderpool-Omlor, reported on the **Branch County Literacy Council's** program. She said that as volunteers work with their students it is exciting to see the progress they make. It not only builds the student's self-esteem but also helps students achieve obtainable goals they have set for themselves – including employment and advanced education. Raising the literacy of parents helps break the cycle of illiteracy and increases economic opportunities for the entire family. As a student accomplishes their goals, the volunteer and student set new ones and work diligently as they strive to reach them. The books and hands-on materials purchased with the Community Foundation grant help to enhance the learning process.

Wearing a Civil War officer's uniform, Jerry Ford spoke of the **Memorial Day Committee's** recent Memorial Day Weekend and Civil War Battle Re-enactment. The desire was to honor veterans in a very special way and to bring a large number of public and private groups together, involve the community's youth in participation and leadership, and provide an unprecedented activity of education and entertainment. The Memorial Day weekend consisted of a large number of events including: the arrival of "President and Mrs. Lincoln" by steam train; two days of civil war battle re-enactment and encampments; seminars, displays, and demonstrations of 1800 life; a Native American encampment; an appearance by "George Custer" and other civil war heroes; a concert by an authentic civil war band (re-enactors); the Gettysburg Address by "President Lincoln"; and a grand military banquet and ball that taught 1860s cotillion and promenade style dancing.



Great Grants! 2007



Branch County Commission on Aging Executive Director, Nancy Davis, reported on the organization's purchase of File of Life folders. These magnetic red vinyl pouches contain emergency medical information and are placed on residents' refrigerator doors. The File of Life is readily accessible to emergency responders, family, or caregivers, and contains information such as medical conditions, allergies, current medications, and family contacts. Information contained in the File of Life is easily updated, extremely valuable, and could save precious time during a medical crisis.

Teacher David Sherfield, presented his Token Economy at **Legg Middle School**. In the Token Economy students are provided opportunities to earn "wages" for good test scores, homework completion, and positive behavior. While they can earn money for positive achievements, they can also be fined for inappropriate actions and poor work performance. The financial reward received by the students is then spent by them on classroom privileges, including buying pencils, renting a textbook if they have forgotten theirs, buying a pass to the bathroom, and participating in the Auction Wheel/Deal Day. The Auction Wheel/Deal Day provides students the opportunity to spend their dollars on various items that range from candy to pop to small toys, and they are encouraged to bring items to sell in their own store they can open on their desks.



While the audience cast their votes, Branch County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members, Luke Easterday, Amy Eberhard, Patrick Frazier, and Lace Gilger, gave a presentation on being in YAC and what they have gained from the experience.

YAC is a group of young people, organized through the Community Foundation, dedicated to effective grantmaking, endowment building, and youth empowerment through leadership opportunities. YAC identifies and addresses youth issues in their communities.

The Branch County Community Foundation's YAC was developed under the Council of Michigan's (CMF) Michigan Community Foundations' Youth Project (MCFYP). Through CMF and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Youth Project, donations to the Community Foundation received a 50% match for every endowed dollar received. The matching grant dollars created a youth fund and the goal was to develop future philanthropists by having YAC members partly responsible for raising funds and making grants.



2006 – 2007 Scholarships

This is a listing of scholarships that were paid between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007.

Total Scholarships

\$37,959

Scholarships were awarded to the following students:

William Bailey
Nola Baker
Sara Batterson
Jameson Bilsborrow
Courtney Bohacz
Angelique Bower
Derrick Bracy
Michael Bruce
Maricruz Cardenas
Zach Carman
Brooke Cooper
Kaitlyn Cooper
Corey Donner
Casee Earl
Sarah Healy
Nolan Herrington
Melissa Holloway
Brianna Hyder
Megan Klein
Nathan Knisely

Amanda McCartney
Laurel McCarty
Jessica Miller
Margaret Mitchell
Huda Mohamed
Kayla Nearpass
Jennifer Noblit
Elizabeth Patch
Nicholas Pfof
Sarah Russo
Kailey Rider
Ryan Saddler
Elizabeth Seagraves
Kristin Taylor
Jared Thornton
Nicholas Troyer
Ryan Vallier
Lee Wells
Richelle Wilson
Sarah Wilson

Standards & Accountability



Leaders in the community foundation field created the National Standards to aid community foundations in establishing legal, ethical, and effective operational practices that would show the foundations' transparency and financial responsibility in light of the increased public scrutiny of foundation practices.

The Branch County Community Foundation has been recognized for having organizational and financial practices that are in accordance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. In order to achieve Confirmation of Compliance with the National Standards, the Branch County Community Foundation had to undergo an extensive review of our organizational and financial policies and procedures.

The Council on Foundations, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit membership association, is responsible for reviewing community foundations' practices and confirming compliance with National Standards. The 43 National Standards address six key areas of community foundation operations:

- **Mission, Structure, and Governance** – including standards defining board accountability, compensation, independence, fiduciary responsibility and representation of the community.
- **Resource Development** – including parameters for administration of funds, disclosures to donors and commitment to building long-term resources for varied community issues and causes.
- **Stewardship and Accountability** – covering prudent investment and management of funds, transparent record-keeping, use of funds for their intended purpose, annual audits, and public availability of financial information, including standards related to due diligence and community responsiveness.
- **Grantmaking and Community Leadership** – including standards related to broad and open grantmaking programs, due diligence, and responsiveness to changing community needs.
- **Donor Relations** – encompassing guidelines for informing, educating and involving donors in responding to community needs.
- **Communications** – including openness to public scrutiny and frequent communications about activities and finances.

Donor "Bill of Rights"

All donors are entitled to

- information on asset investment;
- newsletters, annual reports, and other informational mailings;
- listing in annual reports and other publications (unless the donor requests anonymity);
- information about changes in policies or operating procedures;
- confidentiality regarding the size/nature of gifts;
- assurances that gifts are used as donors' intend;
- our most recent tax Form 990 for review (requests can be made by mail or by visiting the Foundation office).

In addition, donors who establish funds can:

- select the name of the fund;
- receive an annual financial statement showing the fund's balance and other activities;
- recommend grants from the fund or be part of an advisory committee that is created to recommend distributions from the fund;
- have staff work with them to assure that there is no conflict of interest in the composition of the committee or grants made from the fund.

Financial Statements

Statement of Assets and Liabilities Modified Cash Basis

	<u>September 30</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 361,622	\$ 397,225
Investments	4,814,785	4,319,693
Loan Receivable	34,924	39,974
Equipment	718	1,397
Total assets	\$ 5,212,049	\$ 4,758,289
 Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Taxes other than income	\$ 1,926	\$ 3,979
Due to other agencies	54,918	48,245
Total Liabilities	56,844	52,224
 Net Assets		
Unrestricted	4,164,756	3,784,554
Temporarily Restricted	120,792	37,790
Permanently Restricted	869,657	883,721
Total net assets	\$ 5,155,205	\$ 4,706,065
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 5,212,049	\$ 4,758,289

Osbourne, March, & Condon, P.C., has issued a qualified opinion on the Financial Statements for the Branch County Community Foundation (BCCF) based on BCCF's use of a modified cash basis of accounting. The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities presented in this annual report are derived from the audited financial statements for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006 and ending September 30, 2007. A copy of the audited financial statements is available for public inspection at the Community Foundation office in Coldwater, Michigan or you may request an electronic copy by email. The Community Foundation's IRS Form 990 is also available at the Community Foundation office in Coldwater, Michigan or electronically via email.

Statement of Activities
Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets
Modified Cash Basis

	2007			2006	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
Revenue and Other Support					
Contributions	\$ 207,432	\$ -	\$ 158	\$ 207,590	\$ 714,128
Investment Earnings	559,362	137,518	-	696,880	352,028
Special events	37,001	-	-	37,001	4,328
Net assets released from restrictions	68,738	(68,738)	-	-	-
Total revenue and other support	872,533	68,780	158	941,471	1,070,484
Expenses					
Program:					
Grants & Scholarships	296,841	-	-	296,841	258,692
Special events	51,765	-	-	51,765	36,418
Investment management fees	29,814	-	-	29,814	20,859
Other	37,206	-	-	37,206	31,249
Administrative expenses	40,089	-	-	40,089	53,002
Fundraising	36,616	-	-	36,616	21,445
Total Expenses	492,331	-	-	492,331	421,665
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	380,202	68,780	158	449,140	648,819
Extraordinary Items		14,222	(14,222)	-	-
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	3,784,554	37,790	883,721	4,706,065	4,057,246
Prior Period Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets – Beginning of Year, Restated	3,784,554	37,790	883,721	4,706,065	4,057,246
Net Assets – End of Year	\$ 4,164,756	\$ 120,792	\$ 869,657	\$ 5,155,205	\$ 4,706,065

Preserving & Investing Endowments

Investment Program

There are currently more than 75 separate endowed funds managed by the Community Foundation. As stewards of these funds, the Community Foundation converts contributions into community betterment. The Community Foundation uses a sound investment strategy designed to maintain the principal balance – those gifts and contributions received from the public – while maximizing the return on these investments for current grant-making and future growth purposes.

All of the endowment funds of the Community Foundation are pooled for investment purposes. They are carefully, expertly, and responsibly managed in a balanced portfolio. To assist us, BCCF contracts with GEM Asset Management, an independent financial planning and investment advisory firm (www.gemasset.net).

Independent auditors evaluate the financial position of the entire endowment on an annual basis. In addition, an audit committee provides guidance and technical review of the independent audit process. This audit committee reports directly to the Community Foundation Board of Trustees.

A consistent and complete review of the management and allocation of the Community Foundation resources is one of the highest priorities of operating the Community Foundation as a public trust on behalf of the donors and citizens of this community – a responsibility that is taken with the greatest sense of seriousness and professionalism.

The names of investment managers, fees charged (including investment and administrative fees), governing body or appointees responsible for investment oversight and investment are available upon request.

Endowment Investment Strategy

The Community Foundation's investment portfolio is designed with these goals in mind:

- preserving the inflation-adjusted value of the principal,
- assuring the investments will generate income for maximum distributions back to the community, and
- assuring enough growth to keep pace with inflation.¹

To achieve these goals the Community Foundation assumes a level of risk aimed at maximizing investment return but that is consistent with prudent investment practices. The Community Foundation's investment managers are charged with investing dollars based on investment policies approved by the Board. We use two local banks, Century Bank & Trust and Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, for investing, and we have three separate Schwab accounts, two of which are managed by the Community Foundation's Investment Committee – with advice from our professional consultant.

Spending from Endowment Funds

In addition to wise investment strategies, we preserve and grow our permanent endowments by limiting the distribution each year. Currently, the maximum amount available each fiscal year for spending (grants and administrative fees) is 5% of the market value over an average of 20 quarters.

¹ The rate of inflation is taken from US Government Consumers Price Index figures.