

4th round of Q&A's
May through July 2019

From July 2018 and April 2019, the Branch County Community Foundation presented a quarterly series about who we are and what we do. In between quarterly articles, we answered frequently asked questions each Saturday. Our final article in the series was published in April 2019. Past articles are available on our website at www.BrCoFoundation.org.

Why does the Branch County Community Foundation serve Colon?

Many donors wonder why they send their gifts to the Branch County Community Foundation when they live in the Colon area. Many other donors wonder why the Branch County Community Foundation serves an area that is in St. Joseph County. It's a long a beautiful relationship which continues to benefit both Branch County and the Colon area. In 1991, BCCF started out under the Colon Foundation until we got our tax-exempt status (1992), and in 1995 the Colon Foundation became a component fund of BCCF. Read the full story on our website at www.BrCoFoundation.org. We have over 130 different funds, and donors can direct their gifts to any or all of the communities in our service area.

1. Is there a minimum age you have to be to start donating to the Foundation?

Anyone can give! Our youngest known donor was 5 years old. Isabella would open her piggy bank twice each year and split the contents three ways: one-third to her bank savings account; one third to charity; and one third to spend. Between 2013 and 2015 Isabella gave to the Eternal Bread Project Fund, three times to the Branch/Colon Youth (YAC) Fund, to BCCADSV's Education Endowment, and to the Forever Fund!

2. How are board members chosen?

Donors who wish to serve on the Board of Directors are welcome! The board may have up to 15 members. When vacancies occur, the Nominating Committee looks for donors who have relevant experience and can represent one or more of the areas we serve – Bronson, Coldwater, Colon, Quincy, and Union City. Experience managing business or entrepreneurship, nonprofit governance, nonprofit law, and nonprofit finance are typically needed to round out BCCF board membership. Nomination forms are reviewed against the composition needs of the board and recommendations are made to the full board to fill vacancies.

Board members volunteer their time and may serve up to four three-year terms. Terms follow a calendar year. Our board currently schedules meetings six times a year in January, April, May, July, September, and October at 7:30 AM. Donors can learn more about becoming a board member on our website or by contacting us at 517-278-4517.

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3. Is there any way to set up automatic payments to continuously donate to the Foundation?

Many donors choose to set up month automatic payments from their checking account or to make a payroll deduction through their workplace. . To learn more contact us at 517-278-4514.

4. How has the Foundation grown from where it first started to where it is now?

Through loyal annual donors and careful stewardship of invested assets, the Community Foundation grew from a \$50,000 donation in 1992 to over \$7 million in 2018. Along the way we gave away over \$14 million in community grants and scholarships. To learn more visit our website at www.BrCoFoundation.org or contact us at 517-278-4514.

5. Do you have to be from or reside in Branch County or Colon to donate or to set up a fund?

Anyone interested in benefit our area is welcome to make a donation to one or more of our funds or by creating a fund. We hold funds that benefit a particular cause, organization, or geographic area. To learn more visit our website at www.BrCoFoundation.org or contact us at 517-278-4514.

6. Is there a way to pass on my fund to a different advisor after I'm gone?

In some cases, additional and/or successor advisors may continue making recommendations for grants after the founding donor advisor is no longer able to continue. Any provision for successor advisors is detailed in the fund agreement at the time the fund is created. To learn more contact us at info@BrCoFoundation.org or 517-278-4514.

7. If we would like the Community Foundation to present to our organization, what would be the steps to follow?

Just contact us at info@BrCoFoundation.org or call 517-278-4517 to schedule a presentation. Community Foundation staff are happy to talk about BCCF's services and impact in our area, as well as other topics such as best practices in nonprofit governance and management.