



## Your Community Foundation

*This is the second of a quarterly series about the Branch County Community Foundation. In between quarterly articles, we will answer frequently asked questions each Saturday. To submit a question, email us at [info@brcofoundation.org](mailto:info@brcofoundation.org) or call 517-278-4517.*

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### Changing Needs and New Opportunities

The Branch County Community Foundation knows the importance of preparing for financial support for community groups and programs 10, 20, 100 years from now. To do that we need to raise dollars that can support needs we can't even imagine today. We currently hold over 130 separate accounts, what we call funds, most of which donors set up to support particular causes or organizations. Donations to these funds are essential to our ability to meet the needs of our communities. The Community Foundation currently holds two funds created for donations that aren't allocated to any specific cause or program.

We call these types of donations "unrestricted". When donors are interested in making sure their gifts can be used for anything that improves the quality of life in our serve area, they make an "unrestricted gift". Unrestricted gifts have the broadest impact on the community because they can affect so many aspects of a vibrant community now and far into the future. Originally named the General Fund, the Forever Fund was created in 1994 by our visionary board of directors to hold unrestricted donations and make grants to meet emerging needs for all of Branch County. The Colon Foundation Fund is the other unrestricted fund designated for programs and projects that improve life in the Colon area.

Right now the Branch County Community Foundation is actively working to increase the size of the Forever Fund through our annual *Forever Fund Campaign*. This way the Forever Fund can award more grants for any project or program that improves the quality of life in Branch County and support the Community Foundation's work toward that goal. With support from the Forever Fund, the Community Foundation is able to participate in many local and regional groups focusing on workforce training, access to childcare and transportation, affordable housing and homelessness prevention, early childhood education, preserving our land, economic development, and much more.

Through the Forever Fund, any individual, family, or business can be involved in philanthropy! There is an opportunity for every budget size. Anyone interested in supporting their community now and forever should contact the Community Foundation about giving to the Forever Fund or creating a new unrestricted fund.

There's so much more we'd like you to know! To learn more, you can contact us at 517-278-4517 or [info@BrCoFoundation.org](mailto:info@BrCoFoundation.org).