February Newsletter
2.21.2020

Branch County Community Network
Branch ISD Early Education Services

PROGRAMS
Home Based Early Education Services

Early Head Start – Funded for 65 Pregnant Moms and Children (Federal Funding – 5 year grant cycle). Early Head Start is a home-based program that serves pregnant moms and children ages 0 - 3 years old and their families, with regular parent-child socialization meetings and weekly home visits.

Early On – Part C – For children and families 0-3 with an established condition or developmental delay (Federal funding offered by IDES as the lead state agency) – Connects families and children of 0-3 year olds with an established condition or delay to a system of early childhood intervention services.

Family Success Program (FSP) – Home-based program for multi-need families with children 0-3, with a goal of enhancing school readiness and reducing the need for special education services. (Funding through local and state dollars – Early Childhood portion of 3p which is the Great Start Collaborative in each county).
Pre-School Programs

Head Start
- Funded for 230 Children (Federal Funding – 5 year grant cycle)
- Classroom based program offering either full day or part-day preschool to children ages 3 – 5 years old.
- Enrollment based on income requirements and life experience factors.

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
- Funded for 192 Slots – 84 Head Start/GSRP Blend Children and 54 GSRP Children (State Funding MDE)
- Preschool Program for 4 year old children with factors that may put them at risk of educational failure.

Number of Children and Families Served within BISD Early Education
Currently serving approximately 415 children and families in the Branch ISD service area.

- Early On - 48
- Family Success Program - 5
- Early Head Start - 45
- Head Start - 147 Head Start and 83 Head Start/GSRP Blend
- Great Start Readiness (GSRP) - 52

Locations

Bronson - Head Start, GSRP (3 Classrooms)

Girard and Girard Early Learning Center - Head Start, GSRP, EHS/Early On/FSER - Offices and Playgroups (3 Classrooms)

Lincoln - Head Start and GSRP (6 Classrooms)

Quincy - Head Start and GSRP (3 Classrooms)

The Act and the HSPPS
Curriculums and Assessment

Creative Curriculum – Preschool
Parents as Teachers (PAT) – Birth - 3

TS GOLD (Teaching Strategies Gold)
- Early Childhood Assessment used to measure the developmental progress for children for Preschool
- Birth – 3 uses PAT School Readiness Milestones and IDA (Infant Child Developmental Assessment) as their assessments to measure child outcomes.

Our Program Goals

Goal 1: BOSI EED will strengthen collaborative relationships among community organizations to foster family and child success.

Goal 2: BOSI EED will demonstrate excellence in programming through accredited facilities and highly qualified staff to meet the needs of the community, families, and children.

Goal 3: BOSI EED will be a leader in health and wellness among children, families, staff, and community to foster a lifetime of healthy habits.

Goal 4: BOSI EED will ensure every child will enter Kindergarten ready to learn and families will understand their role in their children's education.
School Readiness Goals

- To ensure that we are preparing children for school, they are assessed three times per program year using Teaching Strategies Gold for Head Start and CSEP and with the IDA (Infant Toddler Developmental Assessment) and the PALS School Readiness Milestones Checklist for Early Head Start.
- Child Assessments are observational in nature and clearly link our curriculums and lesson planning.
- The assessments, which establish expected ranges for each area assessed, focus on social and emotional development, physical development, language development, cognitive development, and math.

Aligned Monitoring System

Measures performance of Programs in the following core areas:
- Environmental Health & Safety
- Leadership, Governance, & Management Systems
- Fiscal Integrity/Enrollment, Recruitment, Selection, Eligibility, and Attendance (ERSEA)
- Comprehensive Services & School Readiness
- Teacher-Child Interactions, as addressed through the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observation instrument

Thank you!!
Preschool Centers

**Bronson Center**
501 E. Chicago Street
Bronson, MI 49028
517-369-7256

**Lincoln School Center**
70 Tibbits Street
Coldwater, MI 49036
517-279-0066

**Quincy Center**
44 E. Liberty Street
Quincy, MI 49082
517-639-3130

**Girard Center**
1001 School Drive
Coldwater, MI 49036
517-279-4896

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**CONTACT us!**

**Address:**
200 Bishop Avenue
Coldwater, MI 49036

**Phone:**
517.279.5830

**Website:**
branch-isd.org/EarlyEd

**Email:**
preschool@branch-isd.org

**Facebook:**
Branch County Early Education

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Branch County Head Start & Great Start Readiness Program

All Branch County children will enter Kindergarten happy, healthy, and ready to learn!

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*These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.*
WHAT IS HEAD START PRESCHOOL?

Head Start is a federally funded, comprehensive preschool program for 3 and 4-year-old children whose families meet a low-income criteria. Head Start provides children with early education, medical, developmental, dental screening services, nutrition services, and parent education. Two program options are available in Branch County: half day (3.5 hours), and school day (7 hours), both 4 days per week.

WHAT IS GREAT START READINESS PRESCHOOL (GSRP)?

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan’s state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Funding is allocated to each intermediate school district to administer the program locally.

EDUCATION

- Preschool classroom curriculum is developmentally appropriate, meets each child’s individual needs.
- Learning experiences that foster each child’s intellectual, social, and emotional growth that supports school readiness.

FAMILY SERVICES

- Support & case management for families.
- Advocacy and referrals to community agencies to meet each family’s needs.

HEALTH SERVICES

- Screenings and support that focuses on medical, dental and nutrition services for each child.
- Health education and support for children and families in school and at home.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

- Opportunities for parents to participate in classroom activities and/or at-home with activities to support the curriculum.
- Family events are offered in each building throughout the year.
- Educational and support programs for parents based on families needs and interests.

SPECIAL NEEDS/MENTAL HEALTH

- Developmental screenings, evaluations, and the development and implementation of individualized education plans (IEP).
- Mental health consultation services and support.
- Provides services to children with special needs.
- Assists with self-help skills like toilet training.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

- Children will be able to recognize and express feelings appropriately and establish and sustain relationships.
- Children will demonstrate control of fine motor muscles.
- Children will be able to express themselves and engage with literature in developmentally appropriate ways.
- Children will learn and begin to use math and science concepts during daily routines and experiences.
- Children will show an interest in varied topics and activities an eagerness to learn, creativity, and independence in their interactions.

"Oh, the places you’ll go!"
-Dr. Suess
Lecture & Book Signing

SHORES BEYOND SHORES
from HOLOCAUST to HOPE
MY TRUE STORY
IRENE BUTTER
with JOHN D. BIDWELL and KRIS HOLLOWAY

March 28, 2020, 2pm

Admission is Free
at the Tibbits Opera House
part of Branch District Library’s
One Book One County

Tibbits.org • 517.278.6029
“Irene Butter’s book is a triumph of clarity and concision, written with a passionate intent to inform and with not a shred of self-pity. It is by turns profound and intimate, and bears witness to the resilience of a family who drew strength from one another even through the darkness of the Holocaust. It is a shockingly honest and hopeful book.”

- Andrew Solomon, National Book Award Winning Author

About the Author:
Irene Butter was born in Berlin and grew up as a Jewish child in Nazi-occupied Europe. A survivor of two concentration camps, she came to the US in 1945. Since the late 80s she has been teaching students about the Holocaust and the lessons she learned during those traumatic years. Her memoir, Shores Beyond Shores, details her journey.

Discussion Dates and Locations:
- **Saturday, March 14 at 10am**
  Quincy Branch
- **Tuesday, March 17 at 1pm**
  Algansse Branch
- **Tuesday, March 17 at 6pm**
  Union Township Branch
- **Friday, March 20 at 4pm**
  Sherwood Branch
- **Saturday, March 21 at 10:30am**
  Bronson Branch
- **Saturday, March 21 at 2:00pm**
  Coldwater Branch
- **Wednesday, March 25 at 5:00pm**
  Coldwater Branch

Branch District Library - This six-branch library system, formed in 1991, serves more than 40,000 Michigan residents of Branch County and Allen Twp. in Hillsdale County. In addition to a collection of over 100,000 books, periodicals, and audio-visual materials, the library also offers a variety of services including wireless internet access, mobile printing, programs and events, and the best free digital downloads around.

Tibbits Opera House - Built in 1882, with a beautifully restored exterior, Tibbits operates year round with quality performances including professional summer stock, concerts, children’s programming, art exhibits, community theatre, and local events. Among Michigan’s oldest theatres, Tibbits is rich in history and ambiance, offers excellent acoustics, and an intimate 500-seat setting.
You are invited.....

All - American Denim and Flannel Dinner

A Fund-Raising Event for

The Coach Eby Youth & Family Center
89 W. Chicago St. - Coldwater, MI

Thursday - March 19, 2020
Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. - Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Hat & Boots optional just join us for the Party!

A NIGHT OF FUN, MUSIC & GREAT FOOD!!!
Quarters for A Cause!

**QUARTERA MANIA!**

Everyone Welcome!
Great Family Friendly Event!
Bring your quarters for chances to win!

Saturday, February 22nd at 6:00 pm
Coach Eby Center Gym ~ 89 West Chicago Street

$10 Entry Donation
Includes Dinner & Bidding Paddle

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Fundraiser for Good Better Best Shop
Taking the discarded and giving it purpose!
Join us to see what it is all about!
Bring a friend or two for a fun night out!

GBB
GOOD BETTER BEST
Shop

You never know what you might get for just a Quarter!
Good Better Best Shop
A collection of donated items gathered in various ways!

Here are some potentials:
- Garage Sale Left Overs (Volunteers offer free Pick-Up)
- Drop-Off Sites (At local school parking lots at drop-off time, after Mom To Mom type sales, Church annual collections, etc.)
- Neighborhood Sweeps (Arrange for a Front Door Pick-Up)
- Lost & Found Boxes (Rec Centers, Hotels, Schools, etc.)
- Storage Container Clean-Outs
- Store Side Drop-Off (Pull-Up & Unload)

**Quote:**
"Growing up, my family was very poor on paper! My dad was a bi-vocational pastor in a small farm community. We never looked, acted or thought we were poor. My parents were very resourceful and taught us to be the same. I remember it being like Christmas when someone would drop off a garbage bag of hand-me downs at the parsonage door steps. Rifling through them was our form of "shopping". I learned early on that one man's "trash" is another's treasure. To this day, I cannot throw away something that I think some else could benefit from."

~ Kristen Niedźwiecki

**Contact Information:**

Kristen Niedźwiecki
517-490-6308
GBBofBranchCounty@gmail.com
Running on Volunteer Efforts
Those needing work experience or something to fill their time or even to bring filament to their day.

Potential Volunteers
Community Service Hour Seekers (National Honor Society, Interact, Etc.)
Stay-at-Home Moms
Home School Families
Tommy's House Residents
Shelter House Residents
Family Hope Network
Adapt Clients
Retirees
Damascus Rode Residents
Maybe Even You!

Other Potential Offerings:
Educational Room
Available for local groups to use for meetings; girl Scouts, Book Studies, Home School Groups, Etc.

Recycling Resource Center
A collection site for various items used for art projects or teaching tools like
Baby Food Jars
Egg Cartons
Butter Tubs
Magazines…Etc.

The Resale Shop Concept:
Good, Better, Best Shops
3 Shops/Stores in 1

The Good Shop
Less than $1

The Better Shop
$1-$10 range

The Best Shop
Higher end items with higher monetary value

Where do you see yourself fitting in to the GBB Shop?

Financial Supporter to get this up and running
Board Member
Store Cashier
Donor of Items
“Tinker” to fix broken items
“Stitcher” to repair textiles that just need a little love
“Stain Remover” to return clothes to “like-new”
“Painter” to breathe life into worn furniture pieces
“RePurpose” take items & make them something new
Rummage Sale Hunter to seek post-sale donations
Donation Collector to pick-up donations on request
Merchandizer to make the place look amazing
Cleaner to keep the place tidy and fresh
Maintenance Staff to help maintain the property
Treasurer to keep finances straight

Do you know a friend that would love being part of this? Would you pass this info along?

"I have an aspiration; to make a difference in our community!"
~ Kristen Niedzwiecki
2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

You're Invited

PROMEDICA CONFERENCE CENTER

FEBRUARY 25, 2020 ★ 5:30-7:30PM

Please join us for an evening of
Outstanding Awards, Hearty Appetizers and Community Showcase Event
Walk for Warmth Participant Information

Name ___________________________ Organization ___________________________
Address __________________________ City ___________________________ State _____ Zip Code ______
Email ___________________________

Please indicate toward which community you would like your donation to go:
☐ Barry County ☐ Branch County ☐ Calhoun County
☐ Calhoun County Greater Battle Creek Area ☐ Calhoun County Albion/Homer/Marshall Area
☐ St. Joseph County

ALL PLEDGES MUST BE COLLECTED PRIOR TO THE WALK EVENT.

Sponsor Agreement

I agree to sponsor this participant in Community Action’s Walk for Warmth. I understand that my pledge will be used for heat-related emergencies in this county and is a tax-deductible, charitable donation.

Participant Agreement

As a Walk for Warmth participant, I agree to hold Community Action harmless for any injury and/or damage arising from my participation and understand that collection of pledges prior to the Walk is my responsibility. Parent/Guardian must sign if participant is under the age of 18.

Participant/Guardian Signature ___________________________ Date ________ Phone Number ________

Please make checks payable to: Community Action Walk for Warmth
Mail checks to: Community Action
175 Main Street
Battle Creek, MI 49014
Registration begins at 9:00a.m. • Walk begins at 10:00a.m.

Printing provided in part by Allegra Print & Imaging FootPRINT Fund.
## Walk for Warmth Pledge Log

*Please print legibly. Each sponsor must include his/her full name and address to receive a thank you receipt for tax purposes.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Pledged Amount</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Check</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Sub Total: [Blank]

Grand Total: [Blank]

Community Action is a 501(c)3 non-profit. All gifts are tax-deductible.

For office use only

- Total Collected: [Blank]
- Received By: [Blank]

Printing provided in part by Allegra Print & Imaging FootPRINT Fund.
2020 Ken Delaney Community Walk for Warmth Fact Sheet – Branch County

Community Action’s Ken Delaney Community Walk for Warmth is a community event which raises funds to help low-income, elderly and disabled residents keep their utilities on when they fall on hard times. In 2019, Community Action’s Walk for Warmth Campaign helped 18 Branch County households that faced heat related emergencies. On February 26, 2020, the Walk aims to raise $10,000 in the Branch County Area.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the money I raise really help my neighbors?
Yes! Funds raised in Branch County are only used to help residents of Branch County.

Where/when is my Walk for Warmth?
Walk for Warmth is **Wednesday, February 26, 2020**. The Ken Delaney Community Walk for Warmth will take place at the Dr. Robert W. Brown Recreation Center 1776 Heritage Dr. Coldwater, MI 49036. The walk will take place inside on the track anytime from 10am-3pm.

How can I participate in the Walk for Warmth?
Participate in your local Walk by picking up a pledge sheet, collecting pledges, recruiting friends and family, and forming a team! If you are unable to participate in the Walk but would like to help, please mail us your donation or bring it to the Community Action office (175 Main St., Battle Creek, MI 49014). Pledge sheets can be picked up at participating local businesses, downloaded from our website ([www.caascm.org](http://www.caascm.org)), or by contacting the Community Action office at 269-965-7766.

How can I make sure Community Action receives my contribution?
To ensure Community Action receives your contribution, make checks payable to “Community Action Walk for Warmth” and designate the community to which you would like your donation credited. You can mail your contribution check directly to the Community Action office (175 Main St., Battle Creek, MI 49014) or use it to sponsor a participant.

Whom do the funds assist?
Branch County assisted 18 households, totaling 41 family members, with their utility bills through the generous Walk for Warmth donations Community Action received during the 2019 campaign. Community Action paid an average household bill of $388.09. Of the families Community Action assisted in the Branch County area:

- 27% of households had children
- 50% of households had seniors
- Average annual household income: $3,500.66

If you would like more information on the Ken Delaney Community Walk for Warmth, please contact Alisha Carr, at 517-279-8249, or by email at alishac@caascm.org.
All families, friends & community
are invited to participate in our

**Walk for Warmth**

event from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on

**Wednesday February 26th, 2020**

Everyone is invited to gather at
Buffalo Wild Wings Coldwater® (704 E. Chicago Rd.)
Starting at 4p.m. for dinner or a snack.
On this day, 10% of all food purchases
accompanied by the certificate below will be
donated to Community Actions Agency.

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**Walk for Warmth**

**Wednesday, February 26th, 2020**

Present this certificate to your server at the time of your
purchase and 10% of all food purchases* will go to support
Low income seniors and veterans in Branch County.

* (Dine-In or Carry Out/ 517-924-0770)
Only valid at Buffalo Wild Wings Coldwater 704 E. Chicago Rd, Coldwater, MI.

*Alcohol purchases not included.
Jacob's Well Ministries

We are a non-profit ministry supported by many of the local churches in Branch County to help assist in the short term emergency needs of Branch County.

Our focus is in the four main areas of:

Energy, Housing, Medical and Transportation

This ministry is designed to be a referral ministry from: local churches, agencies, caseworkers and other community partners.

We are able to help and assist those in need while pointing them to the Hope, Love and Grace of Jesus!

Our biggest need is always PRAYER: Nothing can be accomplished through this ministry without the constant discernment that comes from prayer.

Secondly, financial support, either corporately or individually. A few ways this can be done is with special collections for the ministry or monthly, quarterly or annual support donations.

Finally, becoming a member of our Board of Directors. We are actively seeking to expand our board and welcome those with a heart for benevolence.

For more information or how to become a partner in this ministry please call 517-278-6822 or email at:

jacobswell2012@gmail.com

Blessings, Sherri Burge ~ Executive Director
JOB OPPORTUNITY
AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)

Michigan Works Southwest
210 Vista Dr. • Coldwater, MI 49036

• Get better reading and writing scores!
• Learn how to write cover letters and resumes!
• Learn the language for work!
• HELP that is just right for YOU!

NEW STUDENTS WELCOME

Wednesdays
9:00 — 11:00 a.m.  Tutoring and Review

Call Branch County Literacy Council: (517) 279-9833

A COLLABORATION WITH

Branch County Literacy Council

Kalamazoo Literacy Council
#EveryoneNeedsToRead

Goodwill Industries
of Southwestern Michigan
10th Annual
Walk A Mile
IN THEIR SHOES

Saturday, April 25th, 2020
Coach EBY Youth & Family Center
89 W. Chicago St, Coldwater, MI 49036

SHATTER THE SILENCE
HELP US MAKE
SAY NO MORE
A DIFFERENCE

Registration Open @ 7:30am ★★ MANY Auction Items ★★ SIGN UP TODAY @ 278SAFE.com/register
ALL TO PROVIDE LOCAL SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

CHIP TIMED
8:30AM 5K RUN / WALK
10:30AM MARCH & DOG WALK

So many ways to support survivors:
You might walk (maybe even in heels)  You might run  You might just listen

CELEBRATING
10 YEARS!
of Walk A Mile

Take a look at what we’ve all accomplished together over this past decade!

TAKE A LOOK
WWW.278SAFE.COM/LOOK

MAKE A CHANGE

To Support Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence and our Community!

For more information:
facebook.com/278SAFE
g www.278SAFE.com
(517) 278-SAFE (7233)
TEXT (517) 227-0320
# 2020 Branch County Food Resources

## Pantries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pantry</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch Area Food Pantry</td>
<td>22 Pierson St., Coldwater</td>
<td>Tues, Wed, and Thurs 12:00pm to 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronson Community Food Pantry</td>
<td>204 E. Chicago St., Quincy</td>
<td>Monday 9:00am to 5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Baptist Church</td>
<td>770 E. Chicago St., Quincy</td>
<td>Monday 12:00pm to 2:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son-Shine Ministries</td>
<td>8 Fulton St., Quincy</td>
<td>Wednesday 9:00am to 5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City Food Pantry</td>
<td>405 St. Joseph St., Union City</td>
<td>Wednesday 9:00am to 12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesis Outreach Ministries and Warming Center</td>
<td>54 N. Hudson Street</td>
<td>Mon, Wed and Fri on call/delivery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Fresh Food Distributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pantry</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Distribution Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Branch Area Food Pantry</td>
<td>22 Pierson St., Coldwater</td>
<td>Every 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of the month 12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union City</td>
<td>1200 Ellen St., Union City</td>
<td>Every 4th Saturday of the month 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronson Community Schools</td>
<td>501 E. Chicago St., Bronson</td>
<td>2nd Thursday of the month 3:00pm to 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>FEB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asparagus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
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<td>(snap &amp; green, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beets</td>
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<td>Broccoli</td>
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<td>Brussels Sprouts</td>
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<td>Cabbage</td>
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<td>Carrots</td>
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<td>Cauliflower</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn (sweet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cucumbers (pickling)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cucumbers (salad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greens (turnips, mustard, collards, kale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggplant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lettuce (head &amp; leafy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mushrooms (limited supply all year)</td>
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<td>Onions</td>
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<td>Onions (green)</td>
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<td>Parsnips</td>
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<td>Peas (sugar)</td>
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<td>Peppers</td>
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<td>Potatoes (white)</td>
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<td>Pumpkins</td>
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<td>Radishes</td>
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<td>Rutabagas</td>
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<td>Spinach</td>
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<td>Squash (yellow, zucchini)</td>
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<td>Squash (butternut, acorn)</td>
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<td>Tomatoes (cherry, roma, slicers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnips</td>
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Michigan Availability Guide

This chart is a buying guide for fruits and vegetables commonly grown in Michigan. It shows a wide range of availability because the season for fruits and vegetables varies slightly from year to year and from one area of the state to another.

### Fruits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUN</th>
<th>JUL</th>
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<th>SEP</th>
<th>OCT</th>
<th>NOV</th>
<th>DEC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apples (fall)</td>
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