

Community Unlimited Annual Report

October 2022 - September 2023



221 Ellen Street ◇ Union City, MI 49094 ◇ 517-741-4656 ◇ www.communityunlimited.org
Chelsea Lofton, Executive Director ◇ director@communityunlimited.org

Mission: To build a community of character for all generations to interact and grow as we live, work and play.

History: Community Unlimited is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. CU was established on September 25, 1999 by a group of citizens wishing to improve the community, defined as the geographical area served by Union City Community Schools. We have since expanded to now include programs within the Union City, Athens, and Tekonsha School Districts and 12 GSRP classrooms in the Calhoun Intermediate School District.

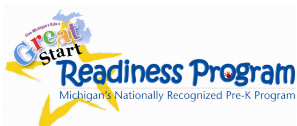
Our Board:

◇Doreen Counterman, President	◇Diane Haley, Vice President	
◇Faith Robertson, Treasurer	◇Alona Hayden, Secretary	
◇Sheryl Burlingame	◇Julie Dunks	◇Deb Geiger
◇Stacy Guertler	◇Constance Kennedy	◇Judy Knowles
◇Susan Morton		

Board Meetings are held bi-monthly at the CU Building.

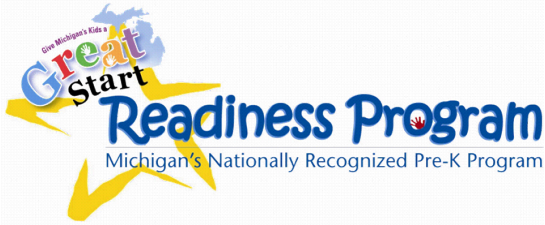
Board Goal: Redo By-Laws

Community Unlimited is honored to partner with the following programs, organizations, and school districts:



SOUTH MICHIGAN
FOOD BANK





CU operated 13 **Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) classrooms** with **198** students in Union City, Harper Creek, Homer, Lakeview, Marshall, and Tekonsha School Districts for the 2022-23 school year. We also offered six weeks of half-day summer GSRP in the Lakeview School district for 28 students.

Through the use of our HighScope curriculum and Pyramid Model (social-emotional tool), we give children with qualifying factors an equitable opportunity for success in Kindergarten to that of their counterparts. GSRP allows all families an opportunity to receive high-quality education for their children.

The 2023-24 school year started with 11 classrooms in the same school districts, though there are still a good number of seats to fill. When bubbles (birthdays after September 1) started, we opened a second classroom in Lakeview School District which gives us 12 classrooms total.

Statewide we have low numbers for GSRP. We, along with all others, have attempted to market. We still have room for 28 students. We remain hopeful that we will fill them.

Staci Beckmeyer, our Family Coach, moved to a GSRP teaching position as of October 2023. Her caseload has since been passed to other family coaches from the Calhoun ISD.



During her time as a coach this year, she served **11** families. **20**



families received Welcome Baby Baskets; **38** children were registered for Dolly Parton's

Imagination Library; and **206** books were distributed at local events. The diaper pantry distributed **714** diaper packs and **195** wipes packs. We also house a Little Free Library at our office.



We are always accepting donations for the Diaper Pantry, book give-aways, and Imagination Library.

BLAST Out-of-School Time (OST) Program

Community Unlimited received a Michigan Department of Education (MDE) grant to provide OST programming in **Union City Elementary and Middle Schools** from January through July 2023. We offered after school BLAST for **33** elementary students and summer BLAST for **79** elementary and middle school children. We also received a \$15,000 grant from the BINDA Foundation to create culturally diverse experiences in our summer program. We have found that relying on the MDE-OST grant for programming is extremely difficult, due to the grant cycle being a 9 month cycle and not a full year.





Community Unlimited has submitted a grant request through MDE-OST for a 2024 summer program for Union City Elementary and Middle School students. We chose not to compete for an After School grant due to the addition of transportation costs. We simply cannot afford the school year program with the large added cost of transportation. CU continues its partnership with Kalamazoo Youth Development Network to enhance OST program quality.

Our **After School Pack (ASP)** program provided 1,777 packs for 66 children at Union City Elementary, Middle, & High Schools during the 2022-23 school year. Each pack provided a weekend supply of nutritious, kid-friendly food. Thank you to all the donors to this program this year: South Michigan Food Bank, WaltersDimmick Petroleum, UC PS Food Mart (Pop Tarts!), and local families. We want to especially thank the Union City Community Schools



**SOUTH MICHIGAN
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school counselors, who distribute the packs to students every week. More thanks to Bob and Kathy Collins who have helped with packing for many, many years!



We housed the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program again this year. Volunteers had the ability to serve **297** individuals/couples. **Thank you** to our volunteers: Dennis, Anne, Deb, Sheryl, and Mary, as well as our office staff for helping coordinate and schedule. Our VITA site will provide free tax preparation for the coming tax season as well. Please call the office if you would like to volunteer.

Our **Glow Run Mini-Grants** provided a total of \$2,500 in grants to three Union City High School after school clubs: Performing Arts, Spanish Club, and Ski and Snowboarding Club. School staff can apply for this year's grants using the form available from the Union City High School Principal or our office.

Sustainability & Fundraising

The continuity of GSRP, our main source of revenue, continues to be stable - though dependent on student enrollment. BLAST OST programming is also highly dependent on State Legislative funding.

Fundraising efforts in 2023-24 will benefit Early Childhood programs (Diaper Pantry, Imagination Library, and book giveaways), the After School Pack program, and the Glow Run Mini-Grants. Donors can now conveniently financially support Community Unlimited's programs:

- Venmo: @CommunityUnlimited - See QR Code →
- Use the **Donor Button** at www.communityunlimited.org. Consider an automatic monthly donation.
- Send a check to **Community Unlimited, 221 Ellen Street, Union City MI 49094.**
- Donate to CU's **Endowment Fund** at **Branch County Community Foundation, 2 W. Chicago St., Coldwater, MI 49036.** Please write "Community Unlimited Endowment Fund" on your check.

@CommunityUnlimited



venmo

Community Unlimited Annual Budget (Apr 11.16.22, Modified 03.31.23)

October 2022 - September 2023

Revenue	Oct-Sept, Actual	Budget	Notes
GSRP ¹	1,675,822.00	1,675,822	Variable, annual
GSRP ¹ Enhancement Grant	25,000.00	25,000	One time grant
GSRP ¹ Transportation Grant (100% in and out)	119,316.00	119,316	In/Out, Variable, annual
MDE ² Child & Adult Care Food Program (estimated)	105,044.72	80,000	In/out, Variable, annual
ECC: Branch County United Way	8,125.00	8,125	Renewable, variable
ECC: CISD ³ Contract	17,500.00	17,500	Annually renewed \$17500
BLAST: MDE ² OST ⁴ Grant	102,952.31	131,940	Requested, One time grant
BLAST: Binda Foundation (Potential \$20,000)	15,000.00	15,000	Requested
Restricted Donations: ECC Program	3,047.92	313	
Pack Program	1,000.00		¹ Great Start Readiness Program
Unrestricted Donations	2,661.32		² Michigan Department of Education
Miscellaneous Income (ISD, IEP, Refunds, etc.)	27,332.17		³ Calhoun Intermediate Sch District
Total Revenue	2,102,801.44	2,073,016	⁴ Out-of-School Time
GSRP Carryover (Reg + Misc GSRP)		192,636	
ECC Carryover (BCUW, IL/DP, TK)		8,938	
Other carry-over funds (Glow Run, Pack Prog, Misc)		32,935	
Total Carryover		234,509	
Total Available		2,307,525	

EXPENSES			
Payroll by programs: Central Office	181,157.54	191,725	
Great Start Readiness Program	979,129.28	1,095,427	
Early Childhood Connections*	43,294.49	42,756	*GSRP pays a portion of the Family Coach payroll
BLAST - Out-of-School Time Program	85,221.11	110,364	
Custodian/Maintenance	8,370.81	8,950	
Benefits-fica, retirement, health, WC, unemployment	288,330.29	323,650	
Programs:			
GSRP-supplies, food, playgrounds, school district \$	225,652.97	228,599	GSRP- includes \$80,000 estimated reimbursed food costs
Transportation (to school districts; in and out)	119,316.00	119,316	
CU Early Childhood Connections-IL, WBB, supplies, diaper*	4,311.63	4,500	
BLAST - supplies, field trip fees, food	29,686.19	16,971	
Pack Program - food	2,034.47	4,000	
Glow Run Grants	2,500.00	3,000	
Transportation-program; staff mileage reimbursement	17,668.71	15,887	
Insurance - program, organization	8,208.00	9,350	
Dues, misc, licenses, bank/benefit fees	6,974.72	6,556	
Office-communication, supplies, equip, tech contract	17,572.97	20,658	
CU Building - Utilities/repairs/supplies/garbage	23,937.12	21,482	
CU Building Renovation (kitchen, ECC, classroom)	24,700.00	24,700	
Marketing/Advertising	217.95	300	
Professional Services: audit, translation	6,200.00	6,700	
Professional Development	20,925.22	28,417	
Total Expenses	2,095,409.47	2,283,307	
Gross Profit / (Loss) for 22-23	7,391.97	(210,291)	
Expected Surplus (Deficit) incl. Carry-over balances		24,218	

Notes:
Community Unlimited
Endowment Fund with the
Branch County
Community Foundation:
\$31,554
(balance as of 9/30/23)

Annual Audit Reports,
Prepared by Taylor, Plant &
Watkins, P.C. are
available on our website.