

Three Cheers for Scholarships!

It was a record year for scholarships at the Berrien Community Foundation!

Because of the generosity of our donors, we awarded **73 scholarships** totaling **\$296,500** to area students. That's a **LOT!**

"This year was a tough one for students," said Berrien Community Foundation President Lisa Cripps-Downey. "Still, students stayed motivated, worked hard, and they applied. We are so happy to be part of the next step in their education and careers."

It was a competitive year for our scholars. More than 295 scholarship applications were received and then reviewed by volunteers.

"Our volunteer review committees took on such a monumental task this year," said BCF Program Manager Susan Matheny. "The financial need was more evident than ever and the candidates were all terrific, which made these decisions very difficult."

In addition, five new scholarships were added to the BCF family of scholarships this year:

Marion and Dan Crossman Scholarship, De Groot Family Foundation Scholarship, Fox Family Scholarship, June Rollinger Family Scholarship and **Coach U Scholarship**.

Donors make it all happen. They establish



Sophia Dilley is the recipient of the Arlene B. Porritt Memorial Scholarship for Curious Kids'.

scholarships with BCF to help students achieve their educational goals. Scholarships can be based on things such as financial need, career path, academic achievement, community service or involvement in a particular extracurricular activity.

To view a complete list of this year's scholars, visit: berriencommunity.org/2021Scholar.

Come Say 'Hi!'

We are excited to say the Berrien Community Foundation's office is finally back open!

Swing by and say hello sometime — it's been too long!

Our summer hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30a-5p

Friday: 8:30a-4p



Third Annual Backpacks For Good

Serving Brandywine, Coloma, Niles and Watervliet

Families are getting ready for kids to head back to school and the Berrien Community Foundation, along with our partners, is ready to help.

Backpacks For Good serves K-12 students in Niles, Brandywine, Watervliet and Hagar #6 Schools providing free backpacks and school supplies.

Three Backpacks for Good events will be held this summer:

- **Brandywine Community Schools:** 5–7 p.m. on August 10 at Brandywine Elementary School

- **Niles Community Schools:** 5–7 p.m. on August 12 at Niles High School

- **Coloma/Watervliet/Hagar #6:** 4-6 p.m. on August 19 at Coloma High School

“It’s been a long, hard year for many people,” said BCF President Lisa Cripps-Downey. “We want to make sure students have what they need and are ready for a brand new school year.”

Kids can choose their backpack from a variety of colors. Each backpack is **filled** with grade-appropriate school supplies. The event will also host a **mobile food pantry along with other community resources**.

Students aren’t the only ones to benefit. BCF is organizing a school supply event for teachers with donation boxes throughout these communities.

We can’t do this alone. BCF is partnering with the DeGroot Family Foundation in Coloma/Watervliet and the Frederick S. Upton Foundation in Niles. **We also need community volunteers!** If you are interested in volunteering, email BCF Program Manager Susan Matheny at susanmatheny@berriencommunity.org.



Did You Know?

Gifts of cash to charities of up to \$300 for individuals and up to \$600 for joint filers for 2021 could be written off when you file next year’s taxes – even if you don’t itemize. The **above-the-line** deduction lets non-itemizers take a charitable deduction.

Upcoming Due Dates for BCF Grant Programs

September 30 – Berrien Community Foundation For Good Grants

October 15 – Frederick S. Upton Foundation Grants

Bi-Weekly – Southwest Michigan Cares Emergency Response & Recovery Grants

Berrien Community Foundation’s Annual Meeting and Celebration

Save
The Date

September 22
Details to Follow

