

Help4Her.org New Resource Website

BCF's Women's Giving Circle Creates Help Site for Women and Families

Help4Her.org is a new web resource to help Berrien County women and families find the programs and services they need. Help4Her.org is a product of the **Berrien Community Foundation's Women's Giving Circle** to address the needs of women and girls in Berrien County.



“As the Women’s Giving Circle worked to identify how we could impact women in our community, we recognized that one of the things we relied on most in our own lives was the ability to network throughout a system,” said Women’s Giving Circle member Sarah Jollay. “Help4Her creates that opportunity for another set of women while also supporting the resource providers.”

The resource website helps people quickly and easily search for programs and services that are available in Berrien County. Searches can be done by both location and topic. In addition, there are quick links for services a family may need if they are in crisis – food, housing and mental health.

As part of the Women’s Giving Circle research, the group found that women tend to feel more comfortable with resources that are identified specifically for them. Help4Her.org recognizes that women are often the people seeking outside resources for their families, whether it is emergency assistance or long-term childcare.

The site is meant for anyone seeking services or to help people who mentor others and need to refer someone for additional help. Before becoming public, the site was reviewed by agencies that often refer women and families to other services – Department of Health and Human Services, libraries and other community service agencies.

“It is impressively comprehensive,” said Niles District Library Director Nancy Studebaker. “The categories make sense, enough to be able to narrow in on the topic you’re looking for but not so many that it is confusing.”

Find **local resources** to meet your needs

www.Help4Her.org

a resource website for
Berrien County
women & families



Want to help spread the word?
The magnets shown above are available at BCF to remind people of the resource.

BCF Upcoming Dates

August 1 - Mobile Food Pantry, Benton Harbor

August 10 - Backpacks for Good, Midway Baptist Church, Watervliet

September 16 - BCF “For Good” Grant applications due

September 18 - BCF Annual Meeting at the Heritage Museum

October 15 - Frederick S. Upton Foundation applications due

For more information go to: www.berriencommunity.org

FOR **GOOD**
L *g r a n t s* 

FREDERICK S. UPTON
Foundation

Our Scholars Certainly Are Remarkable!

A Scholarship Evening at the OSCAR's

The Berrien Community Foundation celebrated Berrien County's outstanding students, leaders and volunteers at the 2019 BCF Scholarship Celebration. **A total of 92 student scholarships, amounting to just over \$168,000 was awarded to help Berrien County students.** Held on the Mendel Center Mainstage, the donors and scholars enjoyed a red-carpet Oscar celebration.

"These scholarships support students who excelled in academics, or community service, or the arts, or are pursuing a particular career path," said Lisa Cripps-Downey, President of BCF. "A community of remarkable donors established scholarships that create a legacy of giving to support education."



Two new scholarships were added this year to the BCF scholarships list: **the F.A. Mason Penwell Nursing Scholarship** and the **Stoub Family Scholarship for Working Students.** BCF volunteer committees reviewed more than 230 applications then made the very difficult decision of selecting the winners.

Backpacks FOR GOOD

The Berrien Community Foundation is partnering with Coloma and Watervliet area businesses and organizations on **August 10** to provide a back-to-school event featuring **750+ packed backpacks for children attending Coloma, Watervliet and Hagar #6 Schools.**



Brenna Prescott, a Coloma High School student, helps prepare for the event.

In addition to the backpacks, there will be:

- Vaccinations, from the Berrien County Health Department.
- A Mobile food pantry.
- Berrien RESA positive behaviors presentations.
- Lakeland Health Spectrum mental health information.
- Library card sign up.

For more information or to volunteer to help distribute backpacks, visit our website at www.berriencommunity.org/backpacksforgood.

The event is made possible with funding from BCF, DeGroot Family Foundation, Regal Finishing, John Withrow Excavating, Dr. Darlene Getz, and the Coloma Lioness Club.

BE COUNTED MICHIGAN 2020

Berrien County is at risk of losing \$44 million annually over 10 years in census-based federal funding. Census-based funding includes infrastructures like roads, highways and bridges, education, public health, housing, transportation and more. Census data is used for redistricting at the county, state and national levels including the number of electoral college votes.

Earlier this year, the Berrien Community Foundation became the county's Census Hub as part of a statewide initiative led by the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

"Our local nonprofit organizations are key to the grassroots efforts to count every resident in the 2020 Census," said BCF Census Hub Coordinator Kathy Stady. "Nonprofits, including churches and schools, are key contact points to residents who may not fill out the census form."

BCF is offering grants to support nonprofit efforts to educate residents about the importance of the census and events to get out the count. To learn more, go to berriencommunity.org/census.

April 1, 2020 is the official census count day.