

The Community Grant Fund invests in programs that align with our mission to reduce poverty in Kent County and our vision to create a thriving community for all. United Way awards Community Impact grants every three years to nonprofit organizations that provide access to nutritious food, secure housing, quality education, mental health services, job training and employment, and more.

YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY GRANT FUND HELPS LOCAL NONPROFITS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.



“I’ve been eating popcorn for dinner for the last two weeks. When I ran out of food, I didn’t know what to do. I’m so glad my neighbor told me about the Food Club.” When Kathy lost her job nine weeks ago, she never envisioned needing food assistance. But as her job search took longer than expected, she found herself in need of a food resource. When she confided in her neighbor, they offered to take her to the Food Club. For a monthly membership fee of \$11, Kathy was able to fill her cart with fresh fruits, veggies, milk, eggs, meat, and so much more.

COMMUNITY FOOD CLUB



Last winter, one participant, who attended our weekend STEM Squad program and summer STEM Academy, said they hated chemistry and struggled to understand why reactions happened and how to pronounce certain terms. We later did an activity that involved creating rockets. The student loved the activity and said they were going to go home and start studying how to do similar activities. Fast forward to our summer program when we invited the Van Andel Institute to run some stations. Not only did the kid beat Van Andel to explain how to do the activities, but they also helped the other kids. In addition, the student knew the terms and was very excited to do the activities they once hated. Afterwards, they asked about how to get involved with more STEM-related groups and activities thanks to what they learned from our programs.

CAMP BLODGETT



Xuang immigrated to the United States from Vietnam three years ago. He’s in his 60s and works in a plant doing heavy lifting. He would like to learn English to move into a position that requires less exertion; such positions usually involve operating machinery and require a certain level of English proficiency. Xuang has enrolled in the program for nearly a year, choosing to attend classes via Zoom each day before he starts his second shift at the factory.

ASIAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH