

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bronson Community Schools receives \$7,000 grant to fund Making It Cool to Be Kind Programs

Bronson, MI – Bronson Community Schools has received a \$7,000 grant from Branch County Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Council to fund a school/community climate improvement program entitled, “Making It Cool to Be Kind.”

“We are seeing and hearing concerns related to how students treat each other. While there have been some instances of bullying, often times students report cases of inconsiderate behavior resulting in hurt feelings and general climate issues,” says Principal Wes McCrea. “We also believe some truancy issues are a result of students feeling disconnected or alienated from school and peers.”

“Our vision is to get students involved in increasing awareness of unkind behavior and pro-actively work to create a positive environment for all,” states Superintendent Teresa Belote. Several years ago Laurie Stewart of LA Stewart Presentations visited Bronson Schools, and as a result students formed the Make A Difference group. This group works with the school to organize ways to give back to the community. “Her presentation was very powerful,” says one Bronson High student, “but most of the students here [at the Junior/Senior High School] at the time have graduated.”

Based on feedback from students, Bronson Community Schools plan to bring Ms. Stewart back to the school system for a more sustainable, long-lasting impact. This time, however, Ms. Stewart will be on site for 3 days of training for students and staff. The training creates sustainable long-term change by empowering students to work with each other while respecting classmates, parents, and teachers; increase learning ability; reduce conflict; eliminate racial tensions; decrease discipline problems and choose the right behavior. Students and staff will set goals to achieve over the next school year, and create a plan to transition the lessons learned into the future.

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is the Community Foundation’s youth philanthropy program. YAC consists of youth (ages 12-21) from Branch County and Colon. The group is dedicated to effective grantmaking, endowment building, leadership, and improving the viability of our communities by involving youth in the visioning and decision-making process.

Bronson Community Schools, in partnership with students, parents, staff, and the community, provide a nurturing environment where students learn in safety; maintain a place of excellence where students can achieve full potential in their academic, creative, personal, physical, and moral development; and develop lifelong learners who function effectively in the 21st century.

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Photo: (l-r) YAC Advisors Jena Thorp and Daniela Angevine along with Bronson YAC Member Graham Eley present Superintendent Teresa Belote a check for the grant.