

United Way of St. Clair County has four Impact Areas. Each month, beginning in May, UWSCC will unveil the funded programs within one of these impact areas. These programs are driving forces in our quest to raise the quality of life of our community.

### Impact Areas:

- \* Teaching Youth Life Skills » [May](#)
- \* Improving Quality of Life through Health & Advocacy » [June](#)
  - \* Helping Adults through Education or Training » [July](#)
  - \* Reducing the Need for Emergency Services » [August](#)



## HELPING ADULTS THROUGH EDUCATION OR TRAINING

### Program

### Affiliated Organization

Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World	Blue Water Community Action
Psychosocial Programming for Uninsured Adults Recovering from Mental Illness	Touchstone Services, Inc.

Life is seldom managed completely on one's own. From birth through adulthood, help is needed from time to time. Although the scale varies, the need is there. Life skills are not always passed down from generation to generation. Outside variables can take their toll on a person's life through no fault of their own. Once people get into hard times, it can feel impossible to get out no matter how hard they try. According to the 2017 ALICE Report, about 40% of St. Clair County households were below the ALICE Threshold. About 7,163 households were considered living in poverty. Programs like Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World help households to learn life skills and gain access to resources that can help them to build themselves up out of poverty and eventually above the ALICE Threshold. Some individuals below ALICE and in poverty have other life challenges. The Blue Water Clubhouse helps those with psychiatric disabilities to attain skills that enable them to live as independently as possible. Sometimes it just takes a bit of learning to give adults the boost they need to excel.

### St. Clair County Statistics

**40% of households are living below the ALICE Threshold. 7,163 of those households are living in Poverty.**

*Source: 2017 ALICE Report*

**4.5% of US adults are living with a Severe Mental Illness. That equates to about 5,679 in St. Clair County.**

*Source: National Institute of Mental Health*

**In FY 2015, St. Clair County Community Mental Health served: 732 adults with intellectual / developmental disabilities; 1,737 adults with mental illness; 937 adults with co-occurring substance use disorders**

*Source: Blue Water Community Action 2016 Community Assessment*

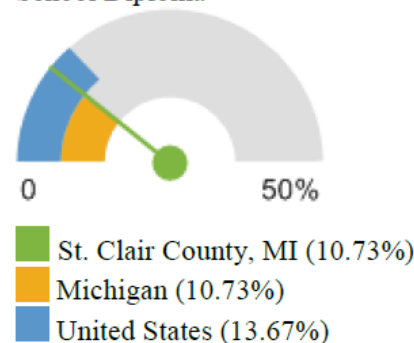
The following charts were obtained from Blue Water Community Action's 2016 Community Assessment.

*Education Attainment for Persons Over Age 25 Averaged Over 2010 to 2014*

Report Area	% No High School Diploma	% High School Only	% Some College	% Assoc. Degree	% Bachelor's Degree	% Graduate or Professional Degree
St. Clair	10.73%	35.7%	26.1%	10.1%	10.8%	6.6%
Michigan	10.73%	30.2%	23.9%	8.8%	16.2%	10.3%
US	13.67%	28%	21.2%	7.9%	18.3%	11%

*Community Commons: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2010-14. Source geography: County*

Percent Population with No High School Diploma



*Poverty Rate for the Population 25 Years + by Educational Attainment in St. Clair County*

Education Level	Total	Margin of Error	Male	Margin of Error	Female	Margin of Error
Less than high school graduate	27.3%	+/-7.5	32.9%	+/-11.0	21.4%	+/-9.3
High school graduate/GED	7.7%	+/-2.6	6.0%	+/-2.7	9.5%	+/-4.1
Some college or associate's	12.1%	+/-3.3	6.9%	+/-4.5	16.6%	+/-4.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	4.3%	+/-4.7	9.3%	+/-9.8	0.0%	+/-8.6

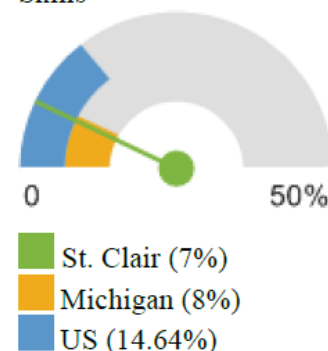
*American FactFinder: 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

*Literacy Skills*

Report Area	Estimated Population over 16	Percent Lacking Literacy Skills
St. Clair	130,608	7%
Michigan	7,629,134	8%
US	219,016,209	14.64%

*Community Commons: National Center for Education Statistics, NCES - Estimates of Low Literacy. Source geography: County*

Percent Lacking Literacy Skills



A lack of literacy skills can have a significant affect on people's lives; especially with respect to employment. Removing this barrier can open many doors that were unimaginable to over 9,000 of our residents. Our CRC and Board of Directors have recognized this need and have recently approved Literacy & Beyond as our newest Affiliated Organization. They will be eligible for program funding from our 2019 Campaign.

## HOW OUR SUPPORTED PROGRAMS ARE BRIDGING THE GAP TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

### Blue Water Community Action

Getting Ahead in a Just Getting' by World helped 14 St. Clair County residents move from poverty towards self-sufficiency through an array of training modules that help them build life skills and resources, in 2018.

### Touchstone Services, Inc.

The Blue Water Clubhouse, in 2018, gave 82 individuals recovering from psychiatric disabilities a safe and respectful place to rediscover talents and reclaim confidence to help them to live as independently as possible in our community.