

What is The SOURCE?

The SOURCE is a not-for-profit employee support organization designed to help employees keep their jobs, receive training to enhance their employment, and help employees move into better positions within or across companies. The SOURCE works with employees from:

- American Autocoat
- American Seating Co.
- Butterball Farms, Inc.
- Cascade Engineering
- Cascade Fresh Cleaning Co.
- Decc Co.
- Grand Rapids Foam Technologies
- Head Start for Kent County
- Imperial CRS, Inc.
- Pidgeon & Clay
- Proos Manufacturing and Proos Fabrication
- Richwood Industries
- Spectrum Industries
- Vi-Chem Corp.
- WMCAT
- Wolverine Coil Spring

Please call us at 616.452.5295 for more information or feel free to stop by the office at any time. Our office is open 8am to 5pm Monday through Thursday and 8am to 4:30pm on Friday, but special arrangements may be made for after hour appointments to best meet your needs.

Back to School Support

There are several area organizations that can help cut down on some of the costs associated with going back to school. Many organizations are able to provide free backpacks filled with school supplies or other essentials!

Back to School Health Fair

Where: Cherry Health, Westside parking lot at 669 Stocking Avenue

When: Friday, August 7 from 1pm-4pm

What: Cherry Health is hosting a FREE Back to School Health Fair to celebrate National Health Center Week. State Senator Dave Hildenbrand and the National Director of Community HealthCorps, Gerrard Jolly will be joining as well. There will be games, school supply giveaways, music, healthy snacks, a bounce house and much more!

El Informador Backpack Giveaway

Where: 34th St Mall, 3375 Division Ave., GR, MI 49548

When: Saturday, August 8 from 10am-5pm

What: This is El Informador's 4th annual backpack giveaway. Come for a fun filled day of games, live music, free prizes, and backpacks for the kids.

Back to School Bash—Linc Up

Where: Linc Up, 1167 Madison Ave SE, GR, Michigan 49507

When: Saturday, August 15 from noon-5pm

What: Beauty Rush and LINC UP presents a Back to School Bash! At the annual bash there will be backpack giveaways, food, haircuts, music, games and face painting!

Back-to-School Bash

Where: Heartside Health Center, 359 Division Ave. S., GR, MI 49503

When: Saturday, August 22 from 11am-2pm

What: It's Heartside's first annual back-to-school bash and doors will be open to their clients and the neighborhood. It's a family event, so come out and enjoy live music, snacks, activities and backpacks filled with goodies for the kids.

Shoes Help Our Elementary Students (S.H.O.E.S)

Where: In The Image, 1823 Division Ave S., GR, MI 49507

What: In The Image has partnered with select schools in Grand Rapids Public Schools, Godwin Heights, Godfrey-Lee, Kentwood, and Wyoming Public Schools. Thousands of students can take advantage of a FREE pair of back-to-school shoes from August 24-September 4! The Elementary Student must be currently enrolled in one of the partnered schools listed above. Dates/times are designated by school, please visit www.intheimage.org or call 616.456.6150 for additional information.

Education Planning

As summer begins to wind down, now is the time to start thinking about and planning for the coming school year. The SOURCE is here to make back to school planning easier and the transition go smoothly for all the members of your family. Whether you have questions about what schools your children could attend, signing up for free or reduced price lunches, or finding before and after school programs, The SOURCE can assist you with all your family's back to school needs. Our staff can also talk to you about transportation options to get you and your family members where you need to go.

We can also help you get your children enrolled in extracurricular activities, like mentoring and sports programs, which expose your children to a wide variety of fun and academic activities. Additionally, some schools offer tutoring and mentoring programs for students needing additional support. If you think your child may need extra help this year let The SOURCE help you get the right supports in place early so your child can start the school year off strong.

Free Preschool

Are your kids too young for kindergarten or are you looking for free options? If yes, consider a couple free options that some families qualify for, such as Great Start Readiness or Head Start preschools. Both Great Start Readiness and Head Start offer a quality preschool program, nutritious food, family support, health and educational assessments, and accommodations for children with special needs. They offer quality programs, and some have transportation available as well. Children may start preschool from September through February if openings are available. Once your child starts preschool, it is important to focus on attendance. Starting good attendance habits in preschool and kindergarten will be key in long-term success in and outside of school.

For further information or to see if you meet eligibility guidelines for Head Start, please call 616.453.4145 or for Great Start Readiness, please call 616.447.2409.

GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Peters, Chairman
Butterball Farms

Gina Triick, Treasurer
Spectrum Industries

Maureen Conway
Aspen Institute

Fred Mellema
The DECC Co.

Mark Smith
Rhoades McKee

Sheryl Thompson
Department of Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mindy Ysasi
Executive Director
mindy@grsource.org

Erika Gonzalez
Director of Operations
erika@grsource.org

Joyce Lewis Rohrer
Director of Development
joyce@grsource.org

Angela King
Case Manager
angela@grsource.org

Jacqueline Villegas
Administrative Assistant
info@grsource.org

1409 Buchanan Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616.452.5295
www.grsource.org