



November 26, 2023

Dear GOTR of Branch County Supporter,

I would first like to say thank you for your continued financial support of Girls on the Run of Branch County. Your generosity and belief in our program has positively impacted hundreds of girls over the years. In fact, despite setbacks introduced to everyone throughout the pandemic, we as an organization are financially stable. This is thanks to the many amazing businesses and organizations (like you!) in our county that show up each year to make sure the girls who need our program can participate.

The last few years have brought about many changes to programs, schools and employers around our county, state and country. Just like many programs and workplaces, Girls on the Run of Branch County has been working through those changes and challenges while looking for ways to keep offering the same quality programming we always have. Over the past year we have lost several board members and coaches due to "retirement", so to speak. Many of our board members and coaches have been with us since the very beginning and have served the girls of Branch County for a long time.

As many of you will understand, we are having trouble filling these volunteer positions as they are vacated. The number of applicants is just not equal to the number of open positions. Since we are a working board, and an organization of volunteers, many of whom work full time jobs, Girls on the Run of Branch County has been faced with some difficult decisions.

At this time it has been decided that we will only be offering an abbreviated program for the Spring 2024 season. Sites have been chosen based on high numbers of returning coaches. We will not be seeking sponsors and donations this year, but will instead use the money we currently have to provide the program for free to all of the participants this Spring. We wanted all of our financial supporters to know how we plan on using this surplus of funds.

Our hope as an organization is to take the next year to effectively recruit and train coaches for all of our sites, and begin to reinstate full programs at some, or all schools in Branch County for the 2025 season. We want to take our time and do things right.

If you have any employees, friends, or acquaintances that may be interested in coaching Girls on the Run for the 2025 season, please refer them to me. We are also looking for board members and committee members to help with decision making and a lot of behind the scenes work.

Once again, thank you for your support of Girls on the Run of Branch County. We hope to start working together again in the very near future!

Sincerely,

Jen Longardner
Council Director
jennifer.longardner@girlsontherun.org

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF BRANCH COUNTY