

Community Grantees Celebration 2026

Celebrating the heart of a connected and compassionate community.

June 3, 2026



Community
Foundation
CENTRAL BLUE RIDGE

Since 1992, we have invested over \$30.3 million in our community through grants, scholarships, and education awards. We are forever grateful for the support of our donors and the dedication and hard work of the many nonprofit organizations that serve our community.

We are honored to award
\$631,625 to 146
nonprofit organizations
this year through our
Community Grants Program!

 **Community Foundation**
CENTRAL BLUE RIDGE



INVESTING IN

Our Nonprofit Community

The pages that follow celebrate the nonprofit organizations that are shaping a more connected, compassionate, and resilient region. Some are first-time grant recipients. Others have received our support for many years. Each one takes care of our neighbors. Each one leads with heart and vision.

The organizations featured here are part of a broader story of community investment that will continue to unfold throughout 2026.



INVESTING IN

Basic Necessities

Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Providing nourishing food to our neighbors.

Central United Methodist Church

Working to alleviate hunger and poor health.

Central Virginia Farm Workers Initiative

Providing seasonal farm workers with resources.

Disciples Kitchen

Feeding the hungry in Waynesboro.

Embrace Waynesboro

A community center where resources are shared.

First Presbyterian Church of Staunton

Stocking a Home Goods Pantry for families experiencing hardship.

Housing Emergency Relief Organization

Supporting our neighbors experiencing housing insecurity in Waynesboro.

Jones Gardens

Nourishing our community through vibrant urban garden oases.

The LIFEworks Project

Providing practical support for those needing assistance.

Martha's Meals on Wheels

Providing hot meals for our homebound neighbors.

The Neighbor Bridge

Providing food, clothing, and supplies to families in need.

Nelson County Community Development Foundation

Building Nelson County through housing, health, and community development.

Piedmont Habitat for Humanity

Bringing people together to build homes for low income residents.

Project GROWS

Improving the health of youth through garden based education and access to healthy food.

Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta

Repairing homes for low income and disabled homeowners.

Rugged Hands Outreach

Providing home repairs and improvements.

The Salvation Army - Staunton

Meeting human needs in His name.

The Salvation Army - Waynesboro

Meeting human needs in His name.

SAW Habitat for Humanity

Building and restoring homes for low income residents.

South River Development Corporation

Providing affordable housing in Waynesboro.

Staunton Augusta Church Relief Association

Providing emergency financial assistance in Staunton and Augusta County.

Staunton Housing Corporation

Providing safe and affordable housing in Staunton and Augusta County.

United Way of Central Shenandoah Valley

Providing free tax preparation services to help build stability.

Valley Supportive Housing

Housing those with intellectual disabilities, mental illness, or substance abuse disorders.

Verona Community Food Pantry

Providing food to those in need.

Virginia Hunters Who Care

Providing high protein food for those in need.



INVESTING IN

Life Skills & Opportunity

The Bridge Ministry

Transforming men's lives through recovery support, mentorship, and skills for community reintegration.

DCCU Cares Foundation

Empowering community financial health through education, resources, and philanthropy.

Fight Like a Grrrl Club

Building strength, resilience, and independence in girls through self-defense training.

Here to Stay Wintergreen

Empowering seniors with services and support to safely age at home in Nelson County.

Just Neighbors

Providing high-quality immigration legal services to low income immigrants, asylees, and refugees.

Learn English and Reading Now

Teaching English and literacy to adults in our community.

Love Forward Foundation

Empowering youth who have faced adverse childhood experiences, especially from parental incarceration.

Pathways Virginia

Providing pathways to stability and recovery for those facing substance abuse disorders and behavioral health challenges.

Salute of Virginia

Building a future where veterans thrive in their civilian lives.

Shenandoah LGBTQ Center

Strengthening the LGBTQIA+ community through advocacy, education, programs and safe spaces.

Valley Program for Aging Services

Empowering people 60 and over with opportunities to lead engaged lives.



INVESTING IN

Crisis Response & Resilience

Blue Ridge CASA for Children

Advocating for abused and neglected children.

Blue Ridge Community Bail Fund

Reducing unnecessary detention for those who have been approved for pretrial release but lack the resources to post bail.

Blue Ridge Legal Services

Providing free legal assistance in civil matters to low income residents.

Central Shenandoah Emergency

Medical Services Council

Supporting our region's EMS agencies and providers.

FairField Center

Fostering peaceful conflict resolution and restorative justice within our community.

Foster Love Ministries

Improving outcomes for at-risk and foster-placed youth.

KESEM at JMU

College students supporting children through their parent's cancer diagnosis and treatment.

New Directions Center

Reducing domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking.

Samuel's Supper

Supporting families with a child facing a life-threatening medical crisis.

Valley Children's Advocacy Center

Lowering the impact of trauma for survivors of child abuse and their families.

Valley Mission

Offering shelter, support, hope, and God's love to the homeless.

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry

Showing Christ's love by sheltering the homeless.

Waynesboro First Aid Crew

Providing the best quality pre-hospital emergency care and rescue services.



INVESTING IN *Health & Wellness*

Augusta Health Foundation

Inspiring community ownership to advance health and wellness.

Augusta Regional Dental Clinic

Providing quality affordable dental care to underserved members of our community.

Bath Community Hospital

Building healthy peer relationships by providing bullying prevention education to Highland County youth.

Gateway Homes

Providing a transitional residential treatment program for individuals with mental illness.

Highland Medical Center

Providing sustainable, affordable access to excellent health care.

James Madison University Foundation

Training community health workers to connect individuals with healthcare resources and support.

Martha Jefferson Hospital Foundation

Providing Nelson County families with fresh food health screenings, and preventative care resources.

Valley Hope Counseling Center

Providing access to mental health services.



INVESTING IN

Personal Enrichment

The 3rd Space

Creating a space for artists to create, collaborate, and engage the community in Highland County.

American Frontier Culture Foundation

Supporting the Frontier Culture Museum so visitors may have an excellent and affordable experience.

Blue Ridge Children's Museum

Providing families with an interactive learning experience through an exploration of our community's resources.

Boys & Girls Club of Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County

Enabling young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

Cinderella Project of the Shenandoah Valley

Helping local youth in financial need find suitable attire for school events at no cost.

Creative Mornings

Connecting the community through creativity, equitable arts access, and inspiring events.

Explore More Discovery Museum

Engaging young minds through interactive multi-sensory learning experiences.

The Free Book Bus

Enabling all children and young people to have a home library.

Friends of the Augusta County Library Foundation

Providing programming, technology, and collections for the Augusta County Library.

Highland County Public Library

Giving the Highland community access to information and entertainment.

MIMA Music

Enriching communities through songwriting and music improvisation.

Quick Start Tennis

Creating happy, healthy, active, and literate kids.

Reach Out and Read

Strengthening families through shared reading, guided by pediatric clinicians.

Staunton-Augusta Family YMCA

Building a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Staunton High School Marching Band

Building pride and excellence for school instrumentalists by providing quality uniforms for student performers.

Waynesboro Family YMCA

Promoting the health, spirit, mind, and body for all.

Wildrock

Promoting nature play for health and happiness.





COMMITTED TO

Capacity Building

We are committed to strengthening the nonprofit sector beyond grantmaking. Throughout the year, we offer a robust calendar of professional development and capacity-building opportunities designed to meet nonprofit leaders where they are — from monthly virtual discussion groups for executive directors, fundraising professionals, and nonprofit finance practitioners, to hands-on workshops covering topics like nonprofit finance fundamentals, generational dynamics in the workplace, and staff wellbeing. These convenings create space for peer learning, shared problem-solving, and the kind of honest conversation that makes our region's nonprofits more resilient. We know that strong organizations deliver stronger outcomes for the communities we all serve.



2026 Community Grantees Program

GIVING SOLUTIONS

Designed Around You


We greatly appreciate the generous contributions of our donors, many of whom have created highly-personalized charitable endowments at our Foundation. We welcome the opportunity to learn about your charitable intentions and to explore how we can help you fulfill them.

LIFETIME GIFTS

A charitable gift during your lifetime offers valuable tax advantages—and lets you witness the impact your generosity has on the community.



Shannon Boyle & Jason Miller use annual gifts to create lasting impact in Blake Durrett's memory

A close-up portrait of a woman with short brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera.

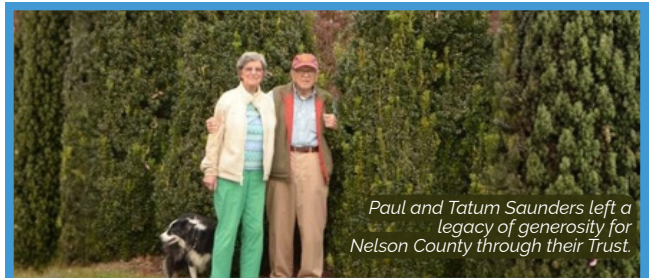
Sue Pauly has thoughtfully planned her charitable legacy for future community impact.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS

A gift through your will offers you the ability to create a thoughtfully designed charitable legacy that will serve the community for generations to come.

RETIREMENT PLANS, TRUSTS, AND LIFE INSURANCE

Designating the Foundation as a contingent or ultimate beneficiary helps ensure your financial plans first support you and your family, while still allowing for future charitable impact.



Paul and Tatum Saunders left a legacy of generosity for Nelson County through their Trust.



Jim and Pam Huggins turn IRA assets into annual community impact

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you're 70½ or older, you can donate up to \$111,000 in 2026 from your IRA, tax-free, to support or start a charitable fund and satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S IDENTIFYING INFORMATION:

Legal Name: Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

Address: P.O. Box 815 Staunton, Virginia 24402-0815

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 54-1647385



The Community Foundation stewards more than 250 charitable funds created by individuals, families, and organizations, each tailored to the donor's goals.

Through a range of giving options during a donor's lifetime or through their estate, donors can remain actively involved or entrust us to respond to evolving community needs, supporting nonprofit organizations, scholarships, and charitable initiatives that strengthen the region and create lasting impact.

Let's Talk!

How we invest in our community

Our Board of Directors sets a spending policy for annual distributions from ENDOWED COMPONENT FUNDS, which is presently 4% of each fund's trailing 12-quarter average balance. The full balance of each PASS-THROUGH COMPONENT FUND is available for immediate charitable use. We put these funds to good use in our community through:

GRANTS

We award over \$2 million annually in grants to our nonprofit community through our Community Grants Program, Youth Philanthropy Council Programs, and Donor-Directed Grants.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We welcome applications from high school seniors, as well as adults seeking to continue their education. We award over \$300,000 annually in scholarship support.

AWARDS

Through our Dawbarn Education Awards and our Smyth Education Awards, we distribute \$110,000 in cash each year to impactful educators.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Unrestricted Funds allow us to make strategic investments to address critical community needs such as affordable housing and the community's need for emergency relief assistance.



Dawbarn
Education
Awards



COMMITTED TO

Our Community

We're proud to be the place where our community's generosity gets to work. Each year, we support hundreds of local students through scholarships and programming at every stage of their educational journey. We serve as the local affiliate for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and we invest in the next generation of philanthropists through our Youth Philanthropy Council while honoring the teachers who shape them through the Dawbarn and Smyth Education Awards. As a founding partner of SAW Housing, and through all of our research and investments in affordable housing, we help lead regional efforts with the shared goal of ensuring everyone has a stable place to call home.



INVESTING IN *Education*

Allegheny Mountain Institute

Fostering local community and ecological health through foodways, nature connection, and education.

Casa de Amistad

Enriching lives through education and assistance in this multicultural "House of Friendship."

Community Child Care

Providing a safe, affordable, and quality child-care center.

Elk Hill

Enabling children and families to transform challenges into successful futures.

Great Aspirations Scholarship Program

Helping students and their families pursue their post-secondary goals.

Highland Children's House

Providing quality childcare in a homelike setting.

Jacob's Ladder, Inc.

Aiding and encouraging intellectually gifted and underserved students.

On the Road Collaborative

Providing students access to educational opportunities and career experiences.

Staunton Montessori School

Nurturing whole children in a compassionate community.

Valley Alliance for Education

Investing in Augusta County, Staunton and Waynesboro public school classrooms.



INVESTING IN *Arts & Culture*

Arcadia Project

Connecting people through culture and creativity.

American Shakespeare Center

Illuminating the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

Caravanserai Music

Promoting compassion through musical performance.

Early Music Access Project

Connecting diverse communities through accessible, relevant early music performances.

Garth Newel Music Center

Offering Highland County children music and arts experiences.

Heifetz International Music Institute

Developing the potential of every performer.

Highland County Arts Council

Providing cultural enrichment to the Highland community.

Shenandoah Valley Art Center

Increasing the visibility of the visual arts in the community.

Silver Line Theatre Exchange

Building an arts community that is conscious and compassionate.

Staunton Augusta Art Center

Supporting artists and offering arts education.

Staunton Music Festival

Sharing music at historic venues throughout Staunton.

Stonewall Brigade Band

Continuing the legacy of the longest continuously operating community band in the United States.

Three Notch'd Road

Promoting interest and appreciation of Baroque era music.

Valley Music Academy

Demonstrating that music is a powerful means of encouraging cooperation, celebrating diversity, and building self-esteem.

Wayne Theatre Alliance

Enhancing cultural and economic life through the historic Wayne Theatre & Ross Performing Arts Center.

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra

Providing opportunities for instrumentalists to share in the joy of music-making.

Wintergreen Music

Inspiring audiences, students, and professional musicians through the power of music.

Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Foundation

Promoting an understanding of the complexity of the life and times of President Woodrow Wilson.

WNRN

Inspiring listeners through music and community messages.



INVESTING IN *Animal Care*

Animal Care Assistance Program

Providing financial assistance to low income residents for care of their companion animals.

Bat Conservation and Rescue of Virginia

Providing education to ensure the future of Virginia's bats and preserving their habitats.

Cat's Cradle of the Shenandoah Valley

Ensuring a safe and compassionate community for cats in our area.

Elegius Mini Equine Sanctuary

Providing permanent housing and care for miniature horses, ponies, donkeys and mules who have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

Friends of Staunton Augusta Waynesboro Animal Shelter

Supporting our local animal shelter and those that support companion animals in our community.

Highland County Humane Society

Providing a range of humane assistance to meet the needs of Highland County's animals and their families.

Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue

Rescuing, rehabilitating and adopting out all breeds of horses, donkeys, and mules to new, well-matched homes.

Humanitarians of Pet Education

Educating the public about pet overpopulation and finding homes for orphans and strays.

The Mosby Foundation

Caring for critically sick, injured, abused and neglected dogs.

Return to Horse Medicine

Restoring horses, land, and humans through regenerative care and connection.

Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary

Rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing Virginia's native wildlife back home.

Take Me Home Thrift Shop

Funding veterinary care through community thrift shopping in Nelson County.

Wildlife Center of Virginia

Providing education about our environment, and a hospital for native wildlife.



INVESTING IN

Abilities & Access

The Arc of Augusta

Providing education, advocacy and services for all children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Blue Ridge Packs and Tracks

Enabling individuals with mobility challenges to access the outdoors freely.

Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley

Supporting individuals affected by brain injury.

Creative Works Farm: Camp LIGHT

Offering a summer camp for children with special needs and at-risk youth.

Dare to Dream Therapeutic Horsemanship Center

Helping people achieve their potential and develop self-love through the companionship of horses.

DePaul Community Resources

Opening doors to hope and belonging for children, families, and individuals with unique challenges.

Infant and Toddler Connection of Augusta-Highland

Helping families with therapies for infants and toddlers with developmental delays & disabilities.

Reclaimed Hope Initiative

Empowering and strengthening adoptive, foster, and special needs families.

Ride With Pride

Serving those with special needs through therapeutic equine activities.

Talking Book Center

Delivering accessible library services to the blind and print-disabled.

Wintergreen Adaptive Sports

Providing opportunities in outdoor sports for people with all types of disabilities and of all ages.



INVESTING IN

Community Vitality

Augusta Agricultural-Industrial Exposition

Providing experiences for the development and agricultural revitalization of our community.

Augusta County Historical Society

Studying, collecting, preserving, and educating about the history of Augusta County.

Augusta County Military Memorial, Inc.

Preserving the military legacy of Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro veterans.

Augusta Harvest Market

Connecting Shenandoah Valley farmers, makers, and community through local markets.

Blue Grass Resource Center

Enhancing Highland County's quality of life through historic preservation and educational programs.

Friends of the Middle River

Stewarding the enjoyment of the Middle River Watershed.

The Highland Center

Preserving Monterey's historic school building as a center for business, youth, and community development.

Highland County Fair Association

Teaching and showcasing livestock, arts, and horticulture.

Historic Staunton Foundation

Educating and advocating to preserve & revitalize Staunton.

Rockfish Valley Community Center

Providing a facility for activities for the residents of Rockfish Valley and Nelson County.

Ruritan Charities of Mt. Sidney, Incorporated

Maintaining the Ruritan park grounds, buildings, and playground in Mount Sidney.

Shenandoah Community Capital Fund

Building equitable access to capital and resources for Valley entrepreneurs.

Shenandoah Green

Creating an environmentally sustainable community.

Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition

Leading a movement that places trails, biking, and walking at the core of healthy communities.

Staunton Augusta County African American Research Society

Preserving and celebrating local African American history.

Staunton Baseball

Promoting good sportsmanship through baseball.

The Recorder

Informing citizens, supporting local economy, and preserving Appalachian heritage for Highland, Bath, and Alleghany counties.

Verona Community Center

A place where the Verona community comes together.

Waynesboro Amateur Athletics - Waynesboro Generals

Connecting youth through quality athletics.



ALL THE FUNDS THAT FUND

This Fun!

Today we have the honor to present \$631,625 to 146 amazing nonprofit organizations and agencies through our 2026 Community Grants Program. Funding for this program originates from the following funds within the 250(+) funds administered by your Community Foundation. Each fund reflects the charitable interests of the generous community members who created them over the past thirty-four years.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Donors who establish unrestricted funds understand that community needs and nonprofits change over time. They have given the Foundation discretion to decide how to distribute their funds.

Charles & Anne Andersen Charitable Fund
Cauley/Richardson Staunton/Augusta County
Endowment Fund
H.E. Coiner Trust Fund
Lewis M. Coiner Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Community Foundation's Board Directed
Endowment Fund
Robert E. and Barbara B. Cox Charitable Fund
Kelling Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Carl & Arnesa Lind Charitable Fund
McKee Foods Corporation Unrestricted Fund
Bill and Lisa Moore Unrestricted Fund
Warren and Jean Mundy Unrestricted Fund
Leonard and Jane Penland Unrestricted Fund
Penland Endowment Fund
L. Dal and Jane F. Simmons Unrestricted Fund
J.B. "Gus" Stombock Family Fund
J.B. "Gus" Stombock Memorial Unrestricted Fund
White Family Fund
Nancy H. Whitmore Fund

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Some donors actively advise us on their fund's grants each year and partner with us on our response to Community Grants Program applications.

Leonard and Elsie Chittum Memorial Fund
The Jamin Fund
McKee Foods Corporation & their
Stuarts Draft Employees
Michael Clay & Mary James Moore Quillen Family
Advised Fund
WISE Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Many donors design their funds around their interests in our community which guides our use of these resources.

A.P. Boxley, Jr. & Rachel Barksdale Boxley
Memorial Fund
*For children in the Staunton-Augusta-
Waynesboro Community*
The Cheerful Giver Fund
For food insecurity, homelessness, & animal welfare
Coyner Endowment for the Elderly
Lucy Coyner Endowment Fund
For dental services
Walter and Marelia Dixon Memorial Fund
For historic preservation
Charles & Jacqueline Frankfort Fund
*For beautification & waste reduction, childhood
development, elderly, family stability, housing stability,
and library resources*
Peggy and Lloyd Gochenour Endowment Fund
For basic necessities
Greater Augusta Arts Fund
James and Joyce A. McDonald Fund
For emergency services and health care
Meadows Fund for the Intellectually Disabled
Maryanne Moffett Memorial Fund
For spay & neuter services
Montebello/Nelson County Fund
For charitable causes in Nelson County
Nym Pedersen Fund for Arts Education
Sweet Family Farm Endowment Fund
For quality of life in Highland County
United Nursery Fund for Early Child Care
and Education

We deeply appreciate the contributions of each one of our donors. We have made every effort to make this list complete and accurate. If you notice a mistake or an omission, please accept our apologies and call us at 540-213-2150.

Community Foundation Leadership 2026

Board of Directors

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Director of Nonprofit
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and Inclusion



Miriam Burrows,
Director of Educational
Programs

Our Mission

To enrich the quality of life by responding to needs and inspiring philanthropy in our community.

Special thanks to Mid Valley Press, Kate Simon (photography), and our incredible community that makes our work possible.



P.O. Box 815, Staunton, VA 24402 | 540-213-2150 | info@cfcbr.org

2026 Community Grantees Program

PROUD TO **SUPPORT** *Our Community*

Your home for stays,
meetings, and
memorable moments.



STAY. MEET. GATHER.

Whether you're visiting, hosting an event, or bringing people together, we offer everything you need in one convenient location.



118 COMFORTABLE
GUEST ROOMS



FLEXIBLE MEETING &
EVENT SPACES



ON-SITE
RESTAURANT & BAR

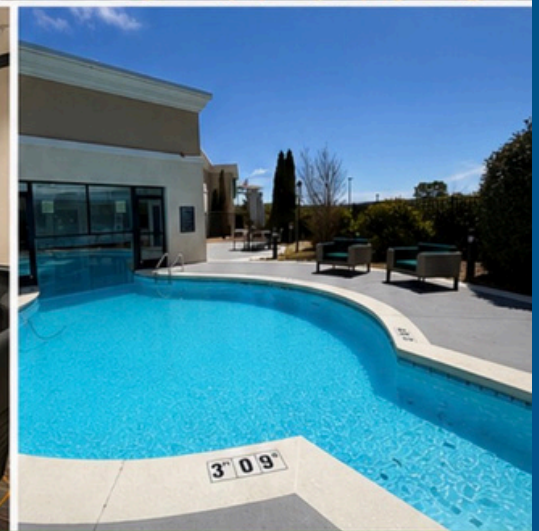


CATERING FOR
GROUPS & EVENTS



INDOOR & OUTDOOR
POOL

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