

Newspaper - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brevard First United Methodist Church Foundation Announces 2025 Grants

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The Brevard First United Methodist Church (BFUMC) Foundation is humbled to name its 2025 grant recipients, supporting both the ministries of BFUMC and vital community non-profits. These grants will help address pressing needs in Transylvania County, strengthening programs that serve children, families, and individuals facing economic hardships, as well as funding critical facility improvements. The Board is allocating \$68,525 toward church related ministries and facilities, and \$34,700 to community non-profits. This year, more than \$108,000 in grants is projected from funds managed by the Foundation.

Impacting Lives: 2025 Grant Recipients

- **Transylvania County Schools Education Foundation (TCSEF)** – Ensuring that students facing food insecurity have access to nutritious meals during school breaks through the Backpack Buddies Program. The funds will help offset the more than \$42,000 cost of providing food for children during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break.
- **Brevard FUMC Trustees** – Supporting essential and priority projects, including steeple replacement, maintenance of church buildings and the parsonage, HVAC upgrades, and safety improvements to maintain a welcoming space for worship and service.
- **Shelter Available for Family Emergencies (SAFE)** – Providing families in crisis with a safe and comfortable refuge by improving essential shelter facilities. Funding will help purchase two washer and dryer sets and repair shelter flooring.
- **WNC Firewood Ministry** – Expanding efforts to provide free firewood to families in need, ensuring no one faces winter without heat. Funding is provided through the Foundation’s “**Mission Moving Out to Serve**” endowment. This grant will help create a new centralized and accessible distribution site, ensuring more efficient services, and will support the cost of a trailer.
- **Trauma Ministry Educational Training** – Equipping church leaders, staff, and volunteers to provide compassionate, informed support for individuals struggling with the trauma of loss, including housing, loved ones, and employment.
- **Free Rein Center** – Supporting equine-assisted therapy scholarships for schoolchildren with cognitive, developmental, behavioral, and emotional challenges. Funding supports Free Rein’s life-enriching scholarship program.
- **Platt Boys & Girls Club** – Enhancing STEM education with a year-round curriculum, helping young minds build skills for the future. Funding will be directed toward needed curriculum for this new year-round program.
- **Housing Assistance Corporation** – Contributing to critical home repairs for families affected by natural disasters and economic hardship. Funding will support needs in Transylvania County.
- **Daniel Boone Council, Troop 703** – Enabling Scouts to participate in a high-adventure trip, including whitewater rafting and an experience at the legendary Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. This opportunity is made possible by the **Jim and Annette Furr Philmont Scout Ranch**

Scholarship endowment established at the Foundation in 2007 to ensure all Scouts have access to transformative outdoor experiences.

Investing in Christian Education

The Foundation is also blessed by the generosity of those who created the **Peggy L. Hina Christian Education Scholarship Fund**, a designated fund within the Foundation. Mary Arnaudin chairs the Peggy L. Hina Scholarship Committee, which faithfully works to honor the life and legacy of beloved Christian educator Peggy Hina. The committee awards scholarships to support individuals attending institutions, workshops, and courses that further the life and teachings of Christ. Grant applications are currently being considered, with decisions expected in April.

Legacy of Generosity

The Brevard First United Methodist Church Foundation was founded in 1986 by visionaries Charlie Brown, Fran Waser, and Mike Pratt. What began with a \$250 seed gift has grown into a thriving ministry managing more than \$2 million. Since awarding its first grants in 2004, the Foundation has given back more than \$945,000 to mission and ministry, strengthening both the church and the broader community.

Through the faithful generosity of donors, the Foundation continues to build unrestricted and designated funds, ensuring that future generations will benefit from these gifts. Contributions to the Foundation create lasting legacies, empowering the church to meet emerging needs and expand its impact.

Be a Part of the Legacy

Your support makes a difference. Whether through an annual gift or by including the Foundation in your estate planning, you can help ensure that ministries and community programs continue to thrive for years to come. Together we can make a difference for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, contact **Mark Bailey, Board Chair**, at 828-231-7107 or Foundation.Brevard.FUMC@gmail.com.

Together, We Make an Impact.

Grant funding is made possible through the following endowments managed by the Foundation: **Barbara Shephard Boeshaar Fund, Jim and Annette Furr Philmont Scholarship Fund, Peggy L. Hina Christian Education Fund, Henry C. McDonald, Jr. Fund, Mission Moving Out to Serve Fund, Unrestricted Fund, and the Foundation Trustees Fund**, which honors the lives and service of the Foundation's first trustees—**Gil Coan, Chuck Lynch, Buddy Melton, and Ray Simmons**.

2025 Brevard FUMC Foundation Board of Directors

Veranita Alvord, Mary Arnaudin, Mark Bailey, Lucy Bradley, Julie Barnette, Harold Barnette, Adam Ennis, Peter Johnson, Eli McCall, Don Myracle, Sara Shields, Andy VonCanon, and Andy Weaver.