



August 1, 2023

News Release

Cherokee County Community Foundation Grants More than \$30,000 to Local Nonprofits

GAFFNEY, S.C. – The Cherokee County Community Foundation recently awarded \$32,235 in grants to 11 nonprofits. The grants will support projects and programs that address the following key investment areas: crime and safety; education; food, agriculture and nutrition; public health; housing; human services; and social capital. Through these grants, the Foundation invests in organizations and programs that strive to increase stability and opportunity for individuals and families in Cherokee County.

Grants from this cycle include: \$5,000 to Academic Technology and Wellness Academy for their Backpack Buddies program to give free, healthy easy-to-prepare food during the school year; \$5,000 to The Jerusalem Project to do home repair to help local homeowners make necessary repairs; and \$3,000 to Pure Heart Food Pantry to repair and update equipment for the 400 families they serve each month.

Cherokee County Community Foundation is a regional affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas, and the grants are awarded by the Cherokee County Community Foundation board of advisors, made up of local residents and community leaders.

“The Cherokee County Community Foundation is excited to provide grant funding to these 11 deserving organizations in our county,” said Charles Wyatt, chair of the board of advisors. “These nonprofit organizations are providing so many important services to our community, and we are thankful for the opportunity to support their efforts. We look forward to seeing the impact that these grants will provide to the Cherokee County Kids Club, the Jerusalem Project, Cherokee County Meals on Wheels, the Academic Technology and Wellness Academy, Pure Heart Food Pantry, South Carolina Hunters and Land Owners For The Hungry, SILAS Steps, Upstate Workforce Futures Corporation, Cherokee County Clemson Extension, Junior Achievement of Central South Carolina, and the Boy Scouts of America Palmetto Council. We also encourage all qualifying organizations in our area to apply for future grant funding from the Cherokee County Community Foundation.”

One recipient of grants funds this year was Academic Technology and Wellness Academy, which provides a safe place for Cherokee County youth physically, emotionally and mentally.

“ATWA works diligently in the fight against food insecurity through its Backpack Buddies program,” said Yolanda Kennedy, executive director. “Being awarded this grant will ensure that children who rely on school meal programs during the week do not go hungry over the weekends. This grant will be beneficial in supplying 75 students with a backpack buddy. The grant will help to improve academic performance, health outcomes, and overall well-being for children and families in need; as it is ATWA’s mission to see that no child goes without the food they need to thrive. We are grateful to the Cherokee County Community Foundation for joining ATWA in this fight.”

The 2023 Grants from Cherokee County Community Foundation include:

- \$5,000 to Academic Technology and Wellness Academy for their Backpack Buddy initiative.
- \$1,000 to Boy Scouts of America: Palmetto Council for outdoor education at Camp Conley Clarke.
- \$5,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Upstate to serve five Cherokee County elementary school-based Kids Clubs.
- \$1,715 to Cherokee County Clemson Extension for the Down on the Farm Day for local second graders.
- \$2,500 to Cherokee County Meals On Wheels to assist and advocate for Cherokee County elderly with housing instability.
- \$1,500 to Junior Achievement of Central South Carolina to support eight JA programs in Cherokee County schools.
- \$5,000 to The Jerusalem Project to provide home repairs to homeowners in Cherokee County at no cost to the homeowner.
- \$3,000 to Pure Heart Food Pantry to repair cooler and freezer for cold food storage.
- \$2,520 to SILAS Steps for equipment to provide adaptive sports programs in Cherokee County.
- \$3,000 to South Carolina Hunters and Land Owners for the Hungry to provide venison snack sticks to local food pantries and backpack programs.
- \$5,000 to The Jerusalem Project to provide home repairs to homeowners in Cherokee County at no cost to the homeowner.
- \$2,000 to Upstate Workforce Futures Corporation to support their Cherokee County STEM Summer program.

About the Cherokee County Community Foundation:

Established in 1994 as a permanent endowment, the Cherokee County Community Foundation benefits a wide range of charitable purposes. As an affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas, the Cherokee County Community Foundation inspires philanthropy, increases charitable giving, and strengthens the community. Visit www.cherokeecounty-cf.org for more information.

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Media Contact: Alex Wiltberger, Board & Grants Specialist, Foundation For The Carolinas, awiltberger@fftc.org or 704.973.4914.