

Grants Invest in Local Community Initiatives

FOCUS Broadband is investing \$40,000 back into the communities it serves through its 2026 Community Connections grant program, by supporting local nonprofits making a meaningful difference across eastern North Carolina.

This year, the program received 87 applications from organizations in Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Chowan, Pender, Perquimans, and Robeson counties—each one representing a unique effort to enrich their local communities.

“We look forward to this program every year and are always impressed by the organizations that apply,” said Justin Milliken, FOCUS Broadband Board Director and Board Liaison for the grants committee. “We’re glad to support the work they’re doing and the difference they’re making in communities across our service area.”

Since launching the program in 2006, FOCUS Broadband has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants, helping fund projects that strengthen communities and expand opportunities within the communities we serve.

Recipients of the company’s Smart Connections grants will be announced this fall. To learn more about FOCUS Broadband’s community giving initiatives, visit focusbroadband.com/givingback.

2026 Community Connection Grant Recipients:

- Albemarle United Way
- Baldhead Island Conservancy
- Bethesda United Methodist Church
- Blue Star Families - Greater Fayetteville Region
- Boys & Girls Home of NC
- Brunswick County Homeless Coalition
- Brunswick Family Assistance
- Calabash VFW
- Cale Community Foundation
- Christian Recovery Centers
- Duplin County Partnership for Kids
- Friday Night Meals @ Camp UNC
- NC Volunteers in Public Schools
- Nexus Empowerment Network
- Pender County Christian Services
- Pender Sheriff’s Charitable Foundation
- Perquimans County Sheriff Department
- Samara’s Village
- St. Peter Lutheran Church
- Southeastern Life Center
- South Brunswick Interchurch Council
- Suds of Love
- Waves for KIDS
- Whiteville Jr Women’s Club
- Women’s Life Center



MAY
Mental Health Awareness Month

Call or Text 988 for 24/7 Confidential Support

Catch the Latest on Social Media

There’s always something happening on FOCUS Broadband’s social media, including giveaways, fun community content and important updates.

Follow us to stay in the loop and see what we’re sharing this spring and summer!

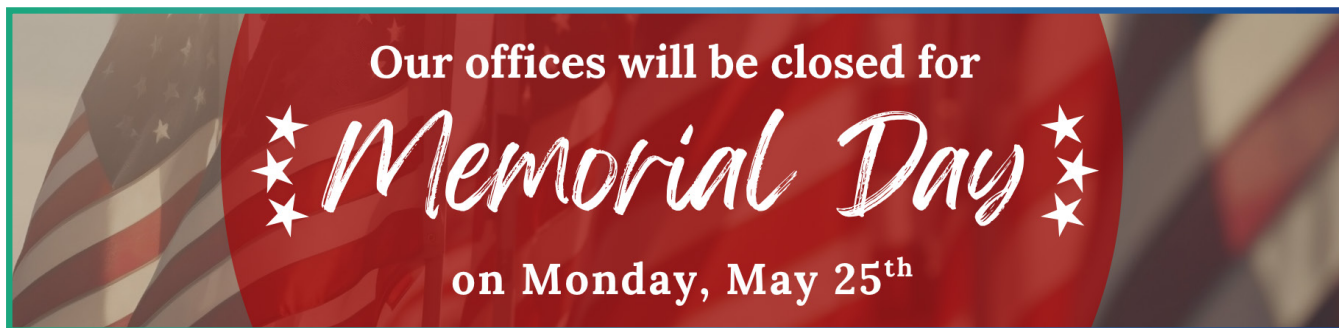


A Tribute to Local Patriots in *Brunswick County*

As part of America 250 celebrations, communities across our service area are honoring the people, places and stories that shaped our nation. One such effort is led by The Brunswick Town Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, whose mission includes preserving and promoting local history in Brunswick County.

With support from a FOCUS Broadband 2025 Community Connections Grant, along with contributions from other local organizations, the Brunswick Town Chapter recently installed a commemorative plaque near the Charters of Freedom at the Brunswick County Courthouse. This plaque recognizes the local Patriots who played a vital role in securing American independence and ensures their legacy is remembered for generations to come.

FOCUS Broadband is proud to support projects like this that honor history, foster educational opportunities, and strengthen community pride.



Smart Habits for Safe Browsing

Staying safe online doesn't have to be complicated; by staying alert and taking a moment to look more closely, you can avoid many common scams and keep your personal information secure.



Think Before You Click.

Think before you click—hover over links to see where they lead. When in doubt, go directly to the source by visiting the company's official website or by contacting them to verify the message.

Watch for Unusual & Unsecure Web Addresses.

Scammers often use URLs that look similar to legitimate ones, which can include small misspellings or extra characters. Carefully review a web address before clicking. Be sure to also check for the lock icon in your browser's web address bar when visiting a site to ensure it is secure before entering any personal information.

Be Cautious of Urgency.

Emails or messages that pressure you to act quickly—like “your account will be locked” or “immediate action required”—are often red flags for scams.