

FOCUS Broadband Awards \$40,000 in Community Grants

FOCUS Broadband is committed to supporting the communities we serve. As part of that commitment, our Board of Directors recently awarded \$40,000 in Community Connections grants to 19 local nonprofit organizations working to make a positive impact. This year, FOCUS Broadband received 52 community grant applications requesting over \$112,000 for causes across Brunswick, Columbus, Robeson, Duplin and Pender counties.

"Being involved with this initiative is truly rewarding, and it's inspiring to see how the grants empower local organizations to make a meaningful difference in our communities," says Janice Gore, a Board Director of FOCUS Broadband and Board Liaison for the grants committee. "These organizations exemplify a true desire to enhance the lives of those in our local community, and we're proud to support them in their mission."

Since the program's inception in 2006, FOCUS Broadband has awarded \$1.125 million in grants to hundreds of community and educational initiatives. FOCUS Broadband will announce the Smart Connections grant recipients later this fall. For more information about FOCUS Broadband's community and education grant program visit focusbroadband.com/givingback.



86 Hunger Now, Inc
Brunswick Literacy Council
Brunswick Search and Rescue
Brunswick Town Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
The Carousel Center
Columbus Community Band
Columbus County Beekeepers Association
The Concerned Citizens of Lake Waccamaw
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association
Duplin County Partnership for Children
North Carolina Mock Trial Program
Reuben Brown House Preservation Society (RBHPS)
Samara's Village
Science is Elementary
Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Suds of Love
WAVES 4 K.I.D.S.
Welcome Home Angel

FOCUS BROADBAND WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 26TH 2025
FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Remember & Honor

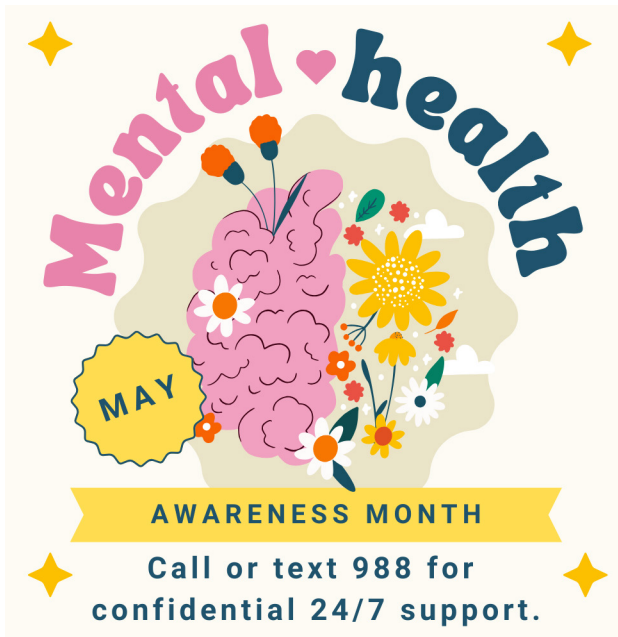
Celebrating 70 Years of Connectivity: FOCUS Broadband's Longest-Standing Telephone Customer

In the 1950s, Shallotte had just one phone, a payphone that served as a crucial lifeline for residents who needed to make a call. "I remember those days. If you needed to make a call, you had to hope the payphone wasn't in use," said Al Parker Sr., a longtime Brunswick County resident and one of FOCUS Broadband's first customers. By 1957, the cooperative introduced party lines to its members and the Parkers had a new way to connect with family and friends. Parker laughed, "It was always a bit of a gamble to pick up the phone and not hear someone else's conversation." In 1969, private lines replaced party lines and over the next 50 years the company continued to evolve and grow into what it is today.

Through it all, FOCUS Broadband has supported the community's changing needs and remains at the forefront of new telecommunication trends. "It's been incredible to see the progress, and I'm glad you all have been there for it."



SCAN ME
Watch the interview here!



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FOCUS Broadband Upgrades More Areas to Fiber Optics

We're working to bring fiber optic internet to communities throughout Brunswick County. In the past year, FOCUS Broadband has upgraded more than 4,200 subscribers to fiber optics providing members with multi-gig speeds and enhanced reliability.

Recently, construction was completed in the Shallotte neighborhoods of Owendon Plantation, Hewett Farms, and Village Point. With parts of Capeside, Sandpiper Bay, Sea Trail, and Ocean Side Place coming soon.

Our mission is to connect members with the best technology available. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue expanding fiber optics to more areas.

