



# ***Strong Foundations***

Issue 8  
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## *Foundation* **FORUM** *edition*

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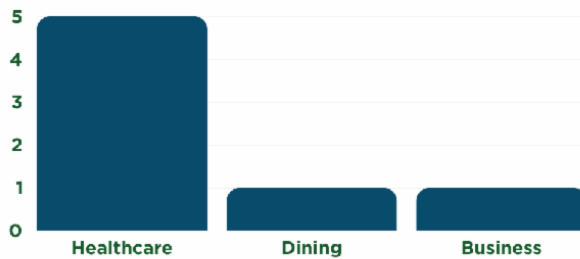
**Letter from the Executive Director**

*It's here!*  
*Click below to watch the Foundation Forum!*



# A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

## DANNY BOONE EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND



7 scholarship recipients in healthcare, dining, and business studies totaling \$14,300.

## RESIDENTS ASSISTANCE



This fund provides, on average,

**\$350,000**

to residents for qualifying need from donations received and Sophies sales totaling \$230,350.

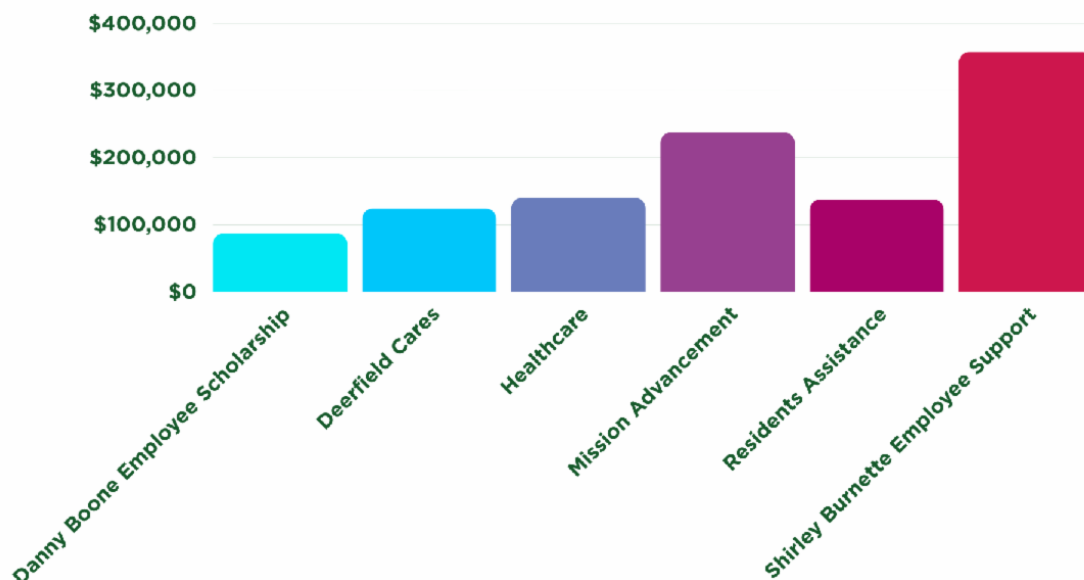
## SHIRLEY BURNETTE EMPLOYEE SUPPORT FUND

**34  
EMPLOYEES  
ASSISTED IN  
TIMES OF  
CRISIS**



**with  
\$164,200  
granted in  
direct  
support.**

## DONATIONS BY MAJOR FUND



**Partnerships with Purpose:**  
A look at Strategic Partnerships

Every partnership we enter begins with a question:  
Will this address a barrier to healthy aging in Buncombe County?

Our 2024 Community Engagement Needs Assessment (CENA) revealed clear priorities: aging in place, affordable housing and income, access to care, and chronic disease management and prevention. Guided by these findings, we invest in partnerships that break down barriers, offer innovative solutions, and create measurable change for older adults.

#### **Habitat for Humanity – Aging in Place Housing**

Safe, accessible housing is essential for seniors to remain independent. Our \$840,000 investment since 2019 has helped design and build the award-winning “The Deerfield” house plan, tailored to meet mobility and safety needs while fostering community connection.

#### **Calvary Episcopal Food Pantry – Food Security**

Food insecurity affects health outcomes and quality of life, particularly for seniors on fixed incomes. Our \$50,000 gift funded a new hoop house, increasing the pantry’s capacity to grow and provide fresh produce year-round.

#### **NEW PARTNERSHIP**

##### **Carolina Mountain Club – Trail Restoration**

Social connection and access to green space are vital for emotional and physical health. Our \$50,000 contribution - plus a \$50,000 challenge match - honors the work done by CMC volunteers to restore public trails, including the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, providing older adults and the broader community with safe, revitalized places to gather, walk, and connect with nature.

#### **NEW PROGRAM**

##### **Integrated Clinical Care Navigation with Jewish Family Services**

Accessing coordinated, person-centered care remains a challenge for many aging adults. This \$100,000 initiative bridges clinical social work with culturally responsive practices, ensuring older adults receive holistic assessments that address physical, mental, cognitive, social, and spiritual needs.

#### **NEW ORGANIZATION**

##### **Mountain Aging Partners (MAP)**

Service navigation and efficiency are critical to sustaining support for vulnerable seniors. Our \$253,500 investment helped merge two respected organizations, MountainCare Adult Day and Henderson County Council on Aging. This improves clarity, reduces duplication, and strengthens the delivery of nutrition and support services to those most in need.

These partnerships aren’t random acts of generosity, they are deliberate investments, rooted in community data, and designed to remove barriers to healthy aging so that older adults in our region can live with dignity, independence, and joy.

# A YEAR OF IMPACT

Celebrating our community's resilience and generosity through vital programs and services provided this year.

## MEALS FUNDED



3,093 meals provided through Meals on Wheels to those in need.

## RIDES PROVIDED

Funded 350 rides with MountainCare, ensuring access to care for our residents and respite for our caregivers.



## HOUSING SECURITY

Funded 2 AIP Homes and vital home repairs for seniors with Habitat for Humanity, enhancing security and safety.



## MEMORY SUPPORT

Provided memory support resources by funding staff



# training on dementia care and the publishing of Mary Donnelly's, The Memory Caregiver's Guide.



## Letter from the Executive Director

Friends,

What a wonderful time we had together at this year's Foundation Forum! It was pure joy to see your faces light up as we shared updates on the work your generosity makes possible.

I left the Forum feeling so GRATEFUL. Not only for you who showed up, but for your *enthusiasm*, *curiosity*, and *care* for your community.

Your involvement is what turns ideas into action, and action into lasting impact.



Talking about our milestone moments and the impact of our work together reminded me that my favorite thing about my role is *where* I work and *with whom*. Deerfield makes the Foundation special because you ARE Deerfield. There is no single "right" way to support our work because each of you offers something unique. Finding the best way to join in our work at the Foundation is just like everyday life at Deerfield: discover what you are passionate about - what feels meaningful for you - and do that thing!

So if you are still looking for that something - that way to feel empowered by your gift(s), here are just a few ways you can join us in making a difference:

- **Time:** Lend a hand with Meals on Wheels, Project Dignity, Babies Need Bottoms, or other volunteer opportunities.
- **Talent:** You! The talent you bring with you from a life well-lived is impressive. We need you to make our work better. Come talk to me about your experiences, passions, and concern for the world - and how you imagine making a difference.



- **Treasure:** Give online, set up a recurring gift, transfer appreciated stock, or make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA (talk to me before initiating a QCD - there are special regulations related to these gifts).
- **Legacy:** Include the Foundation in your estate plans and join the Legacy Society.

However you choose to get involved, please know you are part of something bigger. You are a vital component in the shared effort to strengthen Deerfield and the communities we serve. I'm so glad you're on this journey with us.

Gratefully,

**Michelle**

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Questions? Contact Michelle (210-4506) or FaithAnne (210-4244), or email: [foundation@deerfieldwnc.org](mailto:foundation@deerfieldwnc.org).

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