



United Way of  
Cumberland County



**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Youth Growth Stock Trust Grants Record-Breaking \$447,223 to Benefit  
Cumberland County Youth**

**Fayetteville, N.C. (April 25, 2025)** – United Way of Cumberland County’s Board of Directors has approved a record-breaking allocation of **\$447,223** in grants from the Youth Growth Stock Trust (YGST) for 2025—the **largest amount ever awarded in the Trust’s history**.

Each spring, the YGST, established by the late Robert Short, distributes funds to support programs, scholarships, and school-based initiatives that enhance opportunities for youth in Cumberland County. This year’s funding will support **28 youth-serving programs** and **28 school-based initiatives and scholarships**, creating long-lasting impact for students and families across the county.

The 2025 Youth Growth Stock Trust funding includes:

- **\$194,332** to support **school-based programs** with **\$90,000** specifically awarded for **student scholarships**
- **\$252,891** to support **youth-serving programs**

Funding recipients were selected through a competitive application process overseen by the YGST Grants Committee, with final approvals made by the United Way Board of Directors.

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## **Youth-Serving Programs Funded in 2025:**

- **Armed Services YMCA of the USA – Fort Bragg** – Military Children Summer Food Pantry Project
- **Cape Fear Botanical Garden** – Saving Our Savannas
- **Cape Fear Regional Theatre** – Youth Impact Series: Student Matinees
- **Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation, Inc.** – Support for Adolescent Patients at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center
- **Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation, Inc.** – Support for Pack & Play Car Seats & Gas Vouchers for Pediatric Patients
- **Child Advocacy Center, Inc.** – Child Abuse Prevention and Education
- **Children’s Cancer Partners of the Carolinas** – Childhood Cancer Safety Net
- **Cumberland County Health Department** – Cumberland County Health Department Baby Store
- **Fayetteville Police Academy League** – Building Resilient Futures: Sports & Life Skills Initiative
- **Fayetteville Academy** – RoboLab: Innovate-Engineer, Competition
- **Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra** – Third Grade School Visits & Concerts
- **Fayetteville Urban Ministry, Inc.** – Find-A-Friend Youth Essentials
- **Friends of the Cumberland County Library** – BattleSHIP Cumberland
- **FTCC Foundation, Inc.** – FTCC Youth Community Dental Health Fair
- **Greater Life of Fayetteville (GLOF), Inc.** – Intervention & Prevention Future Financial Foundation: Youth Development Program
- **Habitat for Humanity** – Youth Construction Camp
- **Methodist University, Inc.** – Shelton Leadership Challenge 2025
- **Millers Crew** – Miller’s Brew Training Program
- **One Church Covenant Fellowship** – EVOLVE Literacy & Leadership Summer Enrichment Camp
- **Science Olympiad Alumni Organization at NC State** – 2026 NC State Science Olympiad Division B Invitational Tournament
- **The Connect Foundation** – Social Skills Training Program
- **The Group Theory** – Build Your Self Leadership Camp
- **The Rick Herrema Foundation** – Messy Monday Art Program
- **The Salvation Army of the Sandhills** – Red Shield Youth Center
- **The Two-Six Project** – Emerging Leaders Program
- **YMCA of Fayetteville** – Teen Mental Health Program
- **United Way of Cumberland County** – Imagination Library Story-Time
- **United Way of Cumberland County** – Meals of Hope - Meal Packing Event

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## **School-Based Programs and Scholarships Funded in 2025:**

- **Bill Hefner Elementary School** – *Sparking Curiosity: Innovative Science Education for Elementary Students*
- **Cape Fear High School** – *Academy of Agriculture (FFA) Scholarship*
- **Cumberland County Schools Career Pathways** – *Career Pathways Scholarship*
- **Cumberland County Schools Communication Department** – *Empowering Schools to Innovate: Enhancing Family Engagement*
- **Cumberland Polytechnic High School** – *CPHS Science Olympiad*
- **Douglas Byrd High School** – *A Systems Approach to Exploring the Critical Interdependence of Heat, Energy Generation and Water*
- **Douglas Byrd High School** – *Academy of Finance Scholarships – AOF*
- **Douglas Byrd High School** – *Academy of Green Technology Scholarships*
- **Douglas Byrd High School** – *Bold Designs, Flawless Prints*
- **Douglas Byrd High School** – *Originality Unleashed, Creativity Embraced*
- **E. Melvin Honeycutt Elementary** – *Story Time Chess – An Interactive Game*
- **E.E. Smith High School** – *Student Leadership & Transitional Summer Academy*
- **E.E. Smith High School** – *CCS Fire Academy Scholarship Program*
- **Gray's Creek High School** – *Code Forward: Summer Tech Camp*
- **Gray's Creek High School** – *Academy of Information Technology Scholarship Program*
- **Gray's Creek Middle School** – *GCMS Cubs to Bruins – 6th Grade Transition Program*
- **Jack Britt High School** – *Integrated Systems Technology Academy of Engineering Scholarships*
- **Loucile Souders Elementary School** – *The Story Corners Project*
- **Loucile Souders Elementary School** – *Tinker Time: Hands-On Learning in Our Library*
- **New Century International Elementary School** – *Global Sounds All Around: Exploring World Music*
- **Pine Forest High School** – *Academy of Information Technology College Bound Scholarships*
- **Pine Forest High School** – *Academy of Emergency Medical Science College Bound Scholarships*
- **Pine Forest High School** – *HOSA – Future Health Professionals*
- **South View High School** – *READ & RIDE: Promoting Healthy Brains & Bodies*
- **Terry Sanford High School** – *ManUp @ FTS*

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- **Westover High School** – *Academy of Health Sciences*
- **Westover High School** – *Academy of Engineering Technologies*
- **Westover High School** – *Wolverines Unite*

For more information, visit our website or contact Crystal Moore Williams at (910) 483-1179 ext. 229 or [crystalmmcnair@unitedway-cc.org](mailto:crystalmmcnair@unitedway-cc.org).

### **About the Youth Growth Stock Trust (YGST)**

The Youth Growth Stock Trust was established in 1992 by the late Robert Short, a self-taught investor and passionate community leader, in response to his concern for the well-being of local youth. Having left school at 16 to support his family, Mr. Short wanted to provide the opportunities he never had growing up. His love for the community and his support of United Way led him to create the YGST, ensuring that his legacy would continue to benefit young people in Cumberland County for generations to come.

United Way of Cumberland County serves as the Trust Beneficiary, and income from the YGST is distributed annually to local programs that meet the needs of youth. The YGST Grants Committee reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors.

The YGST is entirely separate from United Way's regular fundraising campaigns, further expanding the organization's impact in the community.

### **United Way of Cumberland County**

Our mission is to improve lives across Cumberland County by strategically raising and investing resources that successfully impact prioritized human service and health needs while working in effective and innovative partnerships with direct provider agencies. To learn more visit <https://www.unitedway-cc.org/>

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