



VOL. 3, July 2025

NEWSLETTER

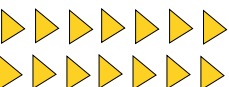
Fast-paced and full of purpose, with real progress made.

We had the opportunity to meet several immediate needs and take on a major restoration project at Whitson Cemetery.

That effort reminded us of something powerful: with collaboration, determination, and the insight of the affected community, there's nothing we can't figure out together.

This volume is full of success stories, hard work, and valuable lessons, and we're excited to share it with you.

With lots of determination,
The HopeMill Team



STAY CONNECTED



<https://hopemill.org>



@hopemillorg



info@hopemill.org



<https://hopemill.org/hurricane-helene-donations/>

RECENT NEEDS MET

This past month, with your support, we were able to meet several real time needs across our region:

Cooling Relief for WNC:

Purchased and delivered fans and window units to Loving Hearts Bear Closet. Many mountain homes lack air conditioning, and the ongoing financial strain has made this an especially hot and difficult summer.

A Fresh Start for a Family:

Provided furniture, including two dressers, for a single father and his daughters who recently moved into a new home after losing theirs in Hurricane Helene.

Joy for the Poga Community:

Supplied toys, outdoor games, and activities for the children of the Poga community in Tennessee, bringing joy and play to a community still recovering.



HIGHLIGHT STORIES

A LIFE-SAVING GIFT FROM NEW YORK TO NORTH CAROLINA

HopeMill recently helped **facilitate** the donation of a fully equipped ambulance and stretcher from **Roxbury Volunteer Fire Department (VFD)** in **New York to Green Creek VFD to Polk County, NC.**

We learned about the donation through a local nonprofit. Roxbury's Chief Colleran wanted to "**pay it forward**," remembering the support his town received after **Hurricane Sandy** in 2012. He asked that the **ambulance** go to a department truly in need.

Green Creek VFD has been deeply impacted by **Hurricane Helene** and recent forest fires, and was the perfect fit. **Chief Colleran** personally **drove over 12 hours** to deliver the **ambulance** and meet the WNC crew. We're so grateful for this act of service and proud to help connect generous hearts across state lines.



ONE TRUCK, TWO STORIES

We're proud to have **donated** a **1997 F-150** to the **Civilian Disaster Response Organization!**

Yvonne, who we met through our weekly ARCC calls, has been helping **farmers** and **homesteaders** recover from **Hurricane Helene**, hauling supplies in her Corolla. We knew she needed something reliable.

This same truck originally came from Mike at **PineView Buildings** in **Swannanoa, NC**, whose business was destroyed in the flood. He's been with us since the early days of Helene, helping provide safe spaces and storage. One vehicle, two resilient people, proof of what community can do.



DELIVERING MORE THAN JUST MATERIALS

The **Peterson Country Store** is a cornerstone of the **Green Mountain** community, and we're honored to play a small part in helping them move one step closer to reopening their doors for the first time since September 27, 2024. This time, that meant purchasing and **delivering** the **ceiling materials** needed to finish the job. Our great friend **Richard Stamey** stepped up once again, overcoming brake troubles, weather challenges, and a long haul from Newton, NC to Green Mountain. It's partners like Rich who make this work possible, and we're endlessly grateful.



BEHIND THE SCENES: PROJECT UPDATE



June was kickstarted by a generous donation towards our **cemetery restoration project** from **Seramur & Associates of Boone, NC**. Keith kindly volunteered his time and **ground penetrating radar services**, which were invaluable in mapping over **113** years of burial history. This GPR scan, along with interviews with family members, allowed us to create an updated map of the **Whitson Cemetery**. These initial steps were crucial in identifying which decedents remain in the cemetery today and which were displaced during Hurricane Helene's flooding.

Thanks to our donor's generosity, HopeMill was able to hire a local company to address the severely damaged area of the cemetery caused by the flooding. During this discovery phase we worked with **local officials** to search for any remains buried under river silt and debris, ensuring the cleanup was handled with the utmost **discretion**.

We are grateful for your continued support as we focus on completing this restoration work. Our **ongoing needs** include **grading, monument restoration and replacement, fencing, and spreading awareness** to help **locate** any missing **decedents** along the **Cane** and **Nolichucky** rivers.



Downtown Newton's Biscuit Day

HopeMill was happy to be a part of **Biscuit Day**, a fantastic **community outreach** event hosted by **The Mennel Milling Company** and **Goodwill Industries**.

Mennel served up warm biscuits and hospitality, while we had the chance to connect with the **community**, share our **mission**, and build new **relationships**.

We met some incredible people and are looking forward to more opportunities like this to serve and connect.

The 2025 Bikers and Friends Gala

HopeMill had the honor of attending the **2025 Bikers and Friends Gala** alongside **Project Your Home**, hosted by the **Lumbee Indian Spirit Riders** in **Lumberton, NC**. The event was dedicated to **raising money** and **awareness** for communities in **Western North Carolina**, and we were humbled to be recognized as one of the guests of honor.

It was an unforgettable experience that left a lasting impression on all of us. We've made lifelong friends within the **Lumbee Tribe**, and we are deeply grateful for the warmth, generosity, and **shared spirit of service** that brought us all together.



GET INVOLVED: EVENTS & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- **July 31st**- Camp Linn Haven's Back to School Bash, Newland, NC
- **September 27th**-Hurricane Helene One Year Anniversary
- **October 4th**- HopeMill WNC BBQ Competition & Benefit Concert in Downtown Catawba
- **November 8th**-HopeMill's 2nd Annual Mountain Gala at Hillside Farms located in Lincolnton, NC

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Monetary **donations**

<https://hopemill.org>

- Volunteers skilled in **restoration** home building, and construction
- Building **materials**

If you would like to volunteer please reach out to info@hopemill.org



CAMP LINN HAVEN'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH & BACKPACK PROGRAM

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Inquiring children K-12 receive a new backpack and school supplies in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey County Schools

SUPPLIES COLLECTED THRU JULY 1ST

SUPPLY DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

LKN CHEESECAKERY LOCATIONS
~107 COURT SQUARE LINCOLNTON
~278 N. BUSINESS 16 DENVER

UNIFOUR FLORAL WHOLESALE
935 3RD AVENUE SE #104, HICKORY

UNIFOUR HYDRAULICS-LENIOR
1002 CONNELLY SPRINGS RD, LENIOR

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2126 ST JOHNS CHURCH RD NE, CONOVER

TOWN HALL OF CATAWBA
102 1ST ST NW, CATAWBA, NC 28609

EVERY YEAR CAMP LINN HAVEN LOCATED IN NEWLAND, NC RELIES ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND DONATIONS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE STUDENTS ACROSS AVERY COUNTY WITH NECESSARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES DURING THEIR TEEN SERVANT WEEK PROJECT.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HELENE THE STUDENTS OF WNC NEED OUR HELP MORE THAN EVER. OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO PARTNER WITH CAMP LINN HAVEN TO SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH WITHIN AVERY, MITCHELL AND YANCEY COUNTIES.

WOULD RATHER ONLINE SHOP? WE HAVE AN AMAZON WISHLIST!

LIST OF SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- PENCIL POUCHES
- PENCIL BOXES
- PENCILS
- PENCIL SHARPENERS
- MECHANICAL PENCILS
- BIG PINK ERASERS
- PENCIL TOP ERASERS
- CRAYOLA CRAYONS
- COLORED PENCILS
- WASHABLE BROAD LINE MARKERS
- FINE TIP MARKERS
- GLUE STICKS
- BLUNT TIP 5" SCISSORS
- 7" SCISSORS
- PENS
- HIGHLIGHTERS
- LOOSE LEAF PAPER
- COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS (WIDE RULED)
- ONE SUBJECT SPIRAL BOUND NOTEBOOK (WIDE RULED)
- LOOSE LEAF PAPER (COLLEGE RULED)
- COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS (COLLEGE RULED)
- SUBJECT NOTEBOOKS (COLLEGE RULED)
- SUBJECT SPIRAL BOUND NOTEBOOK (COLLEGE RULED)
- INDEX CARDS
- 1 INCH BINDERS
- 1.5 INCH BINDERS
- 2 INCH BINDERS
- DIVIDERS
- 2 POCKET FOLDERS
- DATELESS AGENDAS

HopeMill Resilience Scholarship

Supporting students whose education has been disrupted by Hurricane Helene.

Eligibility: Applicants must reside in an affected state, be enrolled in an accredited college or trade school, and demonstrate financial need due to storm-related hardships.

Thank you for standing with us. Your kindness is rebuilding lives, one step at a time.