



NEWSLETTER



HopeMill stayed busy this summer! From hands-on recovery projects to impactful community programs. We are proud to be paving the way toward resilience and recovery across Western North Carolina. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the Back-to-School Backpack Program in Avery County a success. Nearly a year after disaster struck, it's clear that our neighbors in WNC still need us and we sincerely thank you for your continued support. With lots of determination,
The HopeMill Team



<https://hopemill.org>



@hopemillorg



info@hopemill.org



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

RECENT NEEDS MET

No More Rainy Day Blues with A New Roof

HopeMill partnered with Grace Church of Marion to provide a new roof for a family whose home had seven active leaks after Hurricane Helene. Thanks to your support, the family is finally dry and safe.

A Driveway of Hope: Helping a Deserving Family

We were able to provide several loads of gravel to help multiple families in McDowell County repair their washed-out driveway after Hurricane Helene. This project was especially meaningful, as it gave a homeowner, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, safe access to her home during treatments.

Full Hearts & Bellies for Every Child

HopeMill was proud to support the Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet back-to-school program by donating lunchboxes. Their nonprofit serves families across six different counties throughout Western North Carolina. Lunchboxes were filled with lunch, giving kids a little extra love and support as they started their school year.



HIGHLIGHT STORIES

A FRESH START FOR THE HAWKINS FAMILY

Steve, a volunteer pastor at **Blue Ridge Church** and co-owner of **Specialty Tropicals** with his wife, received a helping hand thanks to your generous support.

Because of your donations, HopeMill was able to assist this **incredible family** in getting **back into their vehicle** and **restoring power to their greenhouses**, allowing them to restart their small business selling tropical plants.

Steve shared something with us that keeps our mission alive:

"Because of HopeMill, my wife and I were able to wake up for the first time since Helene and feel like we can breathe again."

Eleven months after Hurricane Helene, this family is still overcoming obstacles with their small business.

Checkout **specialitytropicals.com** to continue to support this incredible family.



HOPE OF RETURNING HOME ONE DAY

Ramona and her husband were **displaced** when raging waters climbed over 30 feet, submerging the lower portion of their mobile home. After being rescued and securing temporary living arrangements, she **believed she'd never see her home again**.

Thanks to the **resilience of her community**, that wasn't the end of their story. Ramona's **neighbors stepped up immediately** pulling out the sheetrock, floors, underpinning, and cabinets to prepare for a **rebuild**. Their quick actions kept mold from taking over & **ultimately saved their home**. HopeMill is now collaborating with multiple groups to slowly piece this home **back together** so the family can return.

We've been incredibly blessed to partner with **GracePoint Church** in order to help this family. They have **housed volunteers** from Wilson, NC, and **worked alongside** us to **purchase building materials**. With their helping hands the **sheetrock** and **underpinning** has been **completed**. Next up is flooring, cabinets, and HVAC.



CAMPERS, COMMUNITY & HOPEMILL

We recently had the privilege of helping **facilitate** a powerful moment of service and community. While attending **Family Week** at Camp Linn Haven, the Nutter Family, along with other generous campers, stepped up to help a wonderful family in **Spruce Pine** with the final cleanup needed before they could move back into their home.

Thanks to your continued support, HopeMill helped organize the effort and provided a new weed eater and fuel, helping push this family across the finish line. After 10 long months of hardship following Hurricane Helene, this family is finally home again.



WHITSON CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE



We were able to make **incredible progress** this summer on the Whitson Cemetery project—thanks to **generous hearts**, determined minds, and a shared **commitment to preserving** our local history.

We are **especially thankful** to the following individuals and businesses who **made it possible** to fill in the **acute area of the cemetery** and complete vital grading work:

- **Clifton D. Hamlin Grading**, for hauling over 25 loads of donated fill dirt to the cemetery.
- **Jamie Lineberger & Josh Wayne**, for generously giving their time and expertise to grade the land back to its original landscape—making it possible for family members to reinter their loved ones.

Thanks to your support, we're now able to move forward into Phase 3 of this meaningful restoration.

Our **ongoing needs** include; **Monument restoration and replacement**, cemetery **fencing**, and **spreading awareness to help locate** any **missing decedents** along the **Cane and Nolichucky Rivers**. We are deeply grateful for your continued support as we work to honor those laid to rest here and preserve this sacred site for generations to come.





Camp Linn Haven's Back-to-School Backpack Program

Over 800 Backpacks Packed for Avery County Students

With a generous \$13,000 donation from a super donor, HopeMill proudly presented a check to Camp Linn Haven to support their back-to-school backpack program.

During **Teen Servant Week** at CLH in Newland, NC, we were able to help inventory supplies and create shopping lists. After shopping and packing for three days along side high school youth, we were able to fully stock **over 800 backpacks** with everything kids need for the school year.

The event was hosted by **Camp Linn Haven, Resilient Avery, Western Youth Network, Avery Long Term Recovery Group**, and a special thank you to our supporters like **Concordia Christian Day School, LKN Cheesecakery, and The Town of Catawba** for holding supply drives for us.



GET INVOLVED: EVENTS & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

- **September 27th**–Hurricane Helene One Year Anniversary
- **October 11th**– HopeMill WNC BBQ Competition & Benefit Concert in Downtown Catawba
- **November 8th**–HopeMill's 2nd Annual Mountain Gala at Hillside Farms located in Lincolnton, NC

HOPEMILL'S WNC BBQ COMPETITION AND BENEFIT CONCERT

PRESENTED BY THE TOWN OF CATAWBA AND SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

HEAR THE FIDDLE FLY WHILE YOU FEAST!

BBQ, LIVE MUSIC, KID ZONE, VENDORS
BRING THE FAMILY AND A LAWN CHAIR

PERFORMANCES BY:

- LILY TALLENT
- HONEYCUTT & COMPANY
- SOUTHERN STYLE BAND
- MORE TBA



PRESALE ADMISSION \$12

PAY AT GATE \$15

12 and under free

Kid Zone admission \$10

(face painting, bounce houses, petting zoo)

10.11.2025

2:00 PM- 8:00PM | 2ND ST SW, CATAWBA, NC 28609

PROCEEDS GO
TO HELPING
WNC REBUILD

MORE INFORMATION WWW.HOPEMILL.ORG WWW.TOWNOFCATAWBANC.ORG

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Monetary **donations**

<https://hopemill.org>

- Volunteers skilled in **restoration** home building, and construction
- Building **materials**
- Sign up to be a vendor at our Oct. 11th WNC Benefit Concert

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

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.