



hope help healing

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Sara Taylor, MA, LPC, *Outpatient Therapist*
Florde Maria Sanchez, MA, LCMHC-A, *Outpatient Therapist*



September 2, 2026

To the wncHelp Team and Community Partners,

On behalf of the Mountain Child Advocacy Center (MCAC), I am honored to offer our enthusiastic and unequivocal endorsement for wncHelp, whose vital work is transforming Western North Carolina into a more resilient, connected, and compassionate region.

Through our daily work supporting children and families facing trauma and adversity, we witness firsthand the urgent need for individuals and caregivers to access essential resources—quickly, safely, and without added stress. When a family is in crisis, the difference between hope and hardship often hinges on how swiftly they can connect with food, mental health support, or lifesaving community services. Unfortunately, fragmented delivery systems too often create barriers at the very moment help is needed most.

wncHelp answers this pressing challenge by providing a much-needed, centralized digital infrastructure for our region. By streamlining access to food security, mental health services, and other critical support through a single, intuitive platform, wncHelp not only reduces confusion for neighbors in need, but also fosters unprecedented collaboration among regional nonprofits and service providers.

This coordinated approach eliminates service gaps and unnecessary duplication, empowering local organizations to respond to our community's needs with greater effectiveness, equity, and compassion.

We deeply value the vision, innovation, and dedication that wncHelp brings to Western North Carolina. MCAC is proud to join with our regional partners in championing this initiative, ensuring that every child and family can access the care and resources they deserve—with dignity, clarity, and hope.

Warmly,

Carla Jones
Executive Director
Mountain Child Advocacy Center



Madison County Center



June 3, 2026

The Madison County Food Council would be happy to recommend the wncHelp app and its ongoing efforts to strengthen access to community resources across Madison County and Western North Carolina. The wncHelp app represents an innovative and much-needed tool for connecting residents and visitors with essential services, including food assistance and mental health support.

In rural communities like ours, where barriers such as transportation and fragmented information systems can prevent individuals and families from receiving timely help, wncHelp provides a centralized and user-friendly solution. We have been especially encouraged by the app's commitment to local collaboration and a community-centered design, using AI strategically for updating resource information.

By bringing together providers, nonprofits, mutual aid groups, and public resources into one platform, wncHelp helps reduce confusion and improves coordination among organizations working to serve vulnerable populations as well as the public as a whole.

The Madison County Food Council recognizes the value of tools that not only address immediate needs but also strengthen long-term community resilience. The wncHelp app has demonstrated the potential to increase awareness of available services and support individuals in navigating complex systems more effectively.

We believe this project aligns strongly with the goals of equitable resource access, food security, and collaboration throughout Madison County. We believe that investment and support for wncHelp will have a meaningful positive impact on the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

Madison County Food Council

Device
desktop

Language
en-US

Submitted_from
Submit endorsement letter

339 New Leicester Hwy., Suite 140
Asheville, NC 28806
p: 828.251.6622 | 800.727.0557
t: 828.251.6353 | w: landofsky.org



To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the wncHelp App, an innovative effort to strengthen the support network across Western North Carolina.

The wncHelp App represents a thoughtful and timely response to some of our region's most pressing challenges, including food insecurity and access to mental health resources. By creating a centralized, user-friendly platform, this initiative has the potential to significantly improve how individuals, families, older adults, caregivers, nonprofits, volunteers, and funders connect with one another. In doing so, it fosters not only access to services, but also a stronger sense of community and shared responsibility.

What makes this effort particularly compelling is its focus on coordination and clarity. Too often, services exist but are difficult to navigate or access. The wncHelp App addresses this gap by making local resources easier to find, easier to share, and more responsive to real-time community needs.

We believe that Western North Carolina benefits greatly from collaborative, forward-thinking solutions like this. The wncHelp App has the potential to enhance communication, reduce duplication of efforts, and ensure that support reaches those who need it most—when they need it most.

We are proud to support this initiative and encourage others across the region to join in building a more connected, compassionate, and resilient community.

Land of Sky Regional Council does not endorse private products and services, and this letter should not be considered as an endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Ramsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nathan" and last name "Ramsey" clearly distinguishable.

Nathan Ramsey
Executive Director



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the WNC Help Collaborative Initiative and its value to nonprofits and neighbors across Western North Carolina. As an organization that has supported community needs in this region for more than a century, and has been distributing food across Western North Carolina for over a decade, the YMCA understands both the urgency of access and the importance of strong coordination among service providers.

Following back-to-back crises, after Hurricane Helene and again in November during the SNAP benefits stoppage, food access and human service organizations across the region met regularly to assess needs and coordinate response. In those conversations, one request came up repeatedly: the need for a shared, centralized platform where organizations and community members could easily find accurate, up-to-date information about available services. WNC Help directly responds to that expressed need from organizations working on the ground.

A central hub like WNC Help saves time, reduces duplication of services, and streamlines referrals by making it clear who is doing what, where, and when. It allows nonprofits to confidently connect people to current resources and helps neighbors get support quickly without navigating outdated information, endless phone calls, or closed service hubs.

Importantly, WNC Help supports equity and rural access. By giving small, rural, and under-resourced organizations the same visibility as larger nonprofits, the platform helps level the playing field. For rural community members, who often face limited transportation, connectivity challenges, and fewer service locations, a single, reliable source of accurate information can mean the difference between finding help or going without.

WNC Help offers something different and better: a purpose-built, reliable, and equitable platform designed for real-world community needs. It reflects what nonprofits across Western North Carolina have been asking for, especially during times of crisis, and it has the potential to fundamentally improve how we connect people to help.

Sincerely,

Ashley Tee

Executive Director of Community Health

YMCA OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA -FOOD ACCESS DEPARTMENT

2002 Riverside Dr., Suite 42-N, Asheville, NC 28804

P 828-775-7081 E nutrition@ymcawnc.org ymcawnc.org/food



Jackson County Department of Public Health

538 Scotts Creek Road • Sylva, NC 28779

Tel: 828-586-8994 • FAX: 828-586-3493

Anna Lippard
DIRECTOR

April 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH), I am pleased to offer our strong support of the wncHelp app, a centralized resource hub for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders.

The wncHelp platform aligns closely with the priorities outlined in our Community Health Improvement Plan, particularly our shared goal of improving access to coordinated, user-friendly resource hubs. This initiative represents an innovative and practical approach to addressing gaps in awareness and accessibility of critical services across our region.

We recognize the significant value of a centralized resource that extends beyond a single county and serves the broader Western North Carolina region. By creating a more inclusive, multi-county system, wncHelp will reduce duplication of effort while increasing reach and impact. This approach also lessens the need for individual health departments, including ours, to independently develop and maintain similar platforms, allowing us to focus more of our resources on direct service and community engagement.

Our department is committed to supporting this effort in meaningful ways. We can assist in building connections with additional community organizations in Jackson County to be included in the platform, helping ensure it is comprehensive and representative.

Once the platform is launched, we will actively promote wncHelp throughout our community using our communication channels and partnerships to help drive awareness and utilization among residents and service providers.

We believe wncHelp has strong potential to enhance coordination and contribute to better health outcomes across our region. We fully support the app as an innovative use of technology to expand access to essential resources and strengthen community connections.

Please feel free to contact us if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Lippard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Anna Lippard
Health Director
Jackson County Department of Public Health



February 14, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Director of All Souls Counseling Center (ASCC), I am writing to express my dedicated support for the wncHelp Collaborative Initiative. ASCC is a leading mental health provider in Western North Carolina, serving uninsured and underinsured adults who face significant barriers to accessing care. Our services include individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as mental health education and outreach across the region.

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, we have witnessed a substantial increase in the need for mental health services, particularly in rural communities where access was already limited prior to the storm. We have also experienced firsthand the challenges of communicating effectively across counties, agencies, and partnerships during a time when coordination is essential.

Because ASCC's mission centers on expanding access to high quality, affordable mental health counseling, we recognize the tremendous value of a centralized platform like wncHelp. A single, reliable hub offering accurate, up to date information on local resources will streamline pathways to care, reduce confusion, and help individuals connect more quickly with the support they need.

ASCC is deeply committed to improving mental health outcomes in Western North Carolina. We believe that a partnership with wncHelp will meaningfully advance this mission and contribute to a healthier, more connected community for all. We look forward to serving as a referral partner to ensure that uninsured and underinsured individuals can more readily access the mental health counseling they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Meredith Switzer".

Meredith Switzer, M.Ed.
Executive Director, All Souls Counseling Center
meredith@allsouls counseling.org
(828) 259-3369 x108



Reducing Food Waste. Easing Hunger.

PO Box 8324, Asheville, NC 28814 Food-Connection.org

February 16, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Executive Director of Food Connection, I am proud to offer my strongest endorsement of the wncHelp app and the transformative impact it will have on our communities across Western North Carolina.

At Food Connection, we work every day to ensure our neighbors have consistent, dignified access to nutritious food. With more than 100 distribution points across the region — including agency partners and community distributions of Mobile Meals — we reach rural and urban communities. Serving thousands of neighbors through trusted partnerships and direct outreach gives us a clear understanding of our region's strengths and the systemic barriers that limit equitable access to essential resources.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, we witnessed on a much larger scale what had already been an ongoing challenge in our region: duplication of services, critical gaps that left individuals and entire communities without essential resources. Organizations worked tirelessly, yet without a unified, real-time system, efforts were often fragmented and inefficient.

There have been previous attempts to solve this problem through various platforms. While well-intentioned, many proved difficult to sustain and update, especially for small organizations already stretched thin. Keeping information current became an additional burden rather than a solution.

The wncHelp app changes that. This platform empowers nonprofits to update their services in real time, ensuring that information remains accurate and accessible. At the same time, it enables neighbors to quickly find the resources they need. By centralizing and streamlining this information, wncHelp reduces duplication, identifies gaps and helps direct support where it is needed most.

The creator of wncHelp, Flori Pate, is the Founder of Food Connection and continues to work closely with our organization. She, along with her husband Ted, has consistently demonstrated the vision, competence and operational capability necessary to deliver meaningful solutions. I have full confidence in their ability to bring this platform to life in a way that will serve our region with excellence and integrity.

wncHelp represents not just a technological tool, but a critical step forward in how we care for our neighbors. I strongly encourage organizations, partners, funders and community members to support and engage with this platform.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marisha MacMorran".

Marisha MacMorran

Executive Director
marisha@food-connection.org



Submitted to through wncHelp.com on January 28, 2026

Name: Jesse Boeckermann Email: jdboeckermann@ccdoc.org

Message:

Endorsement Letter – wncHelp Collaborative Initiative Jesse Boeckermann Western Region Director Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte To Whom it May Concern in regards to wncHelp, The Western Region Office of Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte is submitting this letter of endorsement in support of the wncHelp app, a centralized resource hub for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders.

Catholic Charities is a Christian ministry of charity, service, and justice dedicated to providing help to those in need, hope to those in despair, and inspiration for others to follow. You don't have to be Catholic to work, intern, or volunteer at Catholic Charities. You don't have to be Catholic to be served by us. We just help people in need.

Our Western Region Offices in Asheville and Murphy serve people in need in the 13 westernmost counties of North Carolina and the Qualla Boundary. Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte serves people in need in the entire western half of the state (46 counties) through eight office locations and around 90 staff members.

The wncHelp app provides one smart-phone friendly location for everyone in the 18 counties that make up western North Carolina to go to get information about nonprofit services and programs available and opportunities for volunteering and generosity.

WNC has always wanted one place to go to access all this information about the nonprofit community in this region. The wncHelp app is that place. It's a centralized, one-stop-shop for resources that can be accessed by people in need, the entire WNC nonprofit community, funders that are looking to make a difference, and individuals and families searching for ways to support their community through volunteering and philanthropy.

The wncHelp app will help Catholic Charities in a variety of ways, connecting people in need to our services, connecting other nonprofit organizations to us for partnerships, collaboration, and referrals, and connecting us to volunteers, donors, and other people of goodwill. If this app gets launched, circulated, used, and established as Western North Carolina's place to go for nonprofit information and resources, the region will be a better place having one place to go for information like this. We hope that the wncHelp app gets the support needed to become a part of our community. It will make an impact.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Sincerely, Jesse Boeckermann Western Region Director Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte 50 Orange Street Asheville, NC 28801 828-820-5153 www.ccdoc.org

Device

Desktop

Language

en-US

Submitted_from

Submit Endorsement Letter - wncHelp.org



Submitted to through wncHelp.com on January 8, 2026

Name: Paula Sellars Email: paula@bountyandsoul.org

Message:

Subject: Endorsement Letter – wncHelp Collaborative Initiative Paula Sellars Deputy Director Bounty & Soul In regards to the wncHelp Our organization, [Organization Name], is submitting this letter of endorsement in support of the wncHelp app, a centralized resource hub for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders.

Contact Information: Organization Name: Bounty & Soul Primary Contact: Paula Sellars Email: paula@bountyandsoul.org Phone: 828-419-0533 Website (optional): _____

Our Work / Mission (optional): Bounty & Soul works at the intersection of food, farms and health so support food security and healthy equity in WNC. Together, we connect, share and celebrate nutritious food, education and community.

Why We're Interested (optional): As especially discovered in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, but also experienced chronically, there has been no real-time, efficient way to understand the service overlaps and gaps of food security organizations operating in the region. Nor is there an easy way for individuals to readily see where and when food access services are occurring.

The app as presented would provide this real time, ready understanding of food resources in the region.

Our feedback on what is needed in this project (optional): Funding for this project must include support for marketing the app to the public. Non profits can easily and readily adopt the app in terms of its ease of use, but the public will need to become aware of it at scale for it to make its potential difference.

Device

Desktop

Language

en-US

Submitted_from

Submit Endorsement Letter - wncHelp.org



Submitted to through wncHelp.com on January 28, 2026

Name: Michael Barnett Email: michael@jfswno.org

Message

A centralized tool for accessing support services in Western North Carolina would make it easier for individuals and families to quickly find the help they need, especially during times of crisis or transition. By bringing information about food assistance, mental health services, housing support, elder care, and emergency resources into one trusted place, it reduces confusion, duplication, and delays in care. For service providers, a centralized tool improves coordination and referrals, helping organizations work more efficiently and ensuring that limited resources reach people faster and more effectively across the region.

Device

desktop

Language

en-US





April 14, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the development and implementation of the proposed application designed to identify resources and bridge gaps between nonprofit organizations, community partners, and residents in rural communities. As a faculty member in the health sciences at Western Carolina University and an active collaborator with regional public health and community-based organizations across Western North Carolina, I have witnessed firsthand the persistent challenges rural populations face in accessing timely, coordinated, and culturally relevant resources.

Despite the presence of dedicated nonprofits and service providers, rural communities often experience fragmentation in communication and service delivery. Barriers such as geographic isolation, limited transportation, and lack of centralized information systems can prevent residents from effectively connecting with available services. At the same time, organizations frequently operate in silos, limiting opportunities for collaboration and maximizing community impact.

This proposed application represents an innovative and practical solution to these challenges. By creating a centralized, user-friendly platform, the app has the potential to streamline communication, improve resource visibility, and enhance coordination among organizations. Importantly, it also prioritizes accessibility for residents, ensuring that individuals and families can more easily identify and connect with services that meet their needs.

I fully support this initiative and believe it has strong potential to create meaningful, sustainable impact in rural communities. I welcome opportunities to collaborate, provide guidance, or support evaluation efforts as the project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Weddle, PhD
Assistant Professor of Health Sciences
School of Health Sciences
Western Carolina University
cweddle@wcu.edu
Office: 828.227.3233



Submitted to through wncHelp.com on February 9, 2026

Name: Cathy Cleary Email: cathy@bountifulcities.org

Message

To whom it may concern: Our organization, Bountiful Cities, is pleased to submit this letter of endorsement in support of wncHelp, a centralized and accessible resource hub for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors seeking food and basic needs, volunteers, and community members. By bringing food access points, community resources, events, and opportunities to give or receive support into one easy-to-use platform, wncHelp addresses a real and ongoing barrier to access: knowing where to go and how to get connected.

Bountiful Cities works to grow equitable access to fresh food through urban agriculture education and resource sharing across Buncombe and surrounding counties. Through community gardens, school-based food education, neighborhood food sharing, and collaborative partnerships, we strengthen local food systems and support neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

We regularly see how fragmented information about food resources creates unnecessary barriers for individuals and families, especially those navigating transportation, language, or time constraints. A centralized tool like wncHelp will make it easier for people to find nearby food resources, learn about events, and connect with opportunities to give or receive support, strengthening the overall network of care across our region.

The wncHelp app has a simple, mobile-friendly design; is easy to use - enabling frequent updates from partner organizations; and has clear filters for location, type of resource, and hours of availability. Multilingual access and offline-friendly features further expand reach to communities who face the greatest access barriers.

We are glad that this resource is being developed and know that it will be useful in a multitude of ways, Cathy Cleary Director of Community Programs Bountiful Cities

February 18, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the wncHelp Collaborative Initiative and its potential to significantly benefit communities across Western North Carolina. By creating a centralized, real-time platform to connect individuals and families to essential resources, this initiative addresses a critical gap in our region's service network.

CareReach works to ensure communities have access to the care and support they need to be healthy. As a safety-net provider embedded in trusted community spaces, our staff help neighbors navigate complex health and social service systems, often serving individuals facing housing instability, substance use disorders, chronic illness, and other barriers to care.

Through our work, we have seen how difficult it can be to identify available resources and link people to them in a timely way. Services frequently change due to funding, staffing, and community needs, and there is currently no unified system that provides real-time visibility into available supports, service overlaps, or gaps. This challenge was especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, when timely information was essential.

The wncHelp app has the potential to strengthen coordination among providers, reduce duplication, and most importantly, make it easier for individuals and families to find the help they need when they need it. I strongly support this initiative and believe it will be a valuable asset to Western North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Jones".

Joseph D. Jones, MSW
Executive Director
jjones@carereachnc.org



Submitted to through wncHelp.com on February 2, 2026

Name: Matt Corzine Email: matt@fastroots.org

Message

In regards to the wncHelp Our organization, FastRoots, is submitting this letter of endorsement in support of the wncHelp app, a centralized resource hub for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders. Contact Information: Organization Name: FastRoots Primary Contact: Matt Corzine, Co-Founder and CEO Email: matt@fastroots.org Phone: 615-519-3508 Website: www.fastroots.org

Our Work / Mission: FastRoots provides ecosystem mapping for food security, helping foundations and funders visualize their complete food relief landscape through provider data and geographic analysis. We identify and verify every documented food assistance provider in a region, enriching the data through direct outreach to each organization—giving funders a clear, comprehensive picture of who is doing what, where, and for whom. FastRoots was born out of the Hurricane Helene response in Western North Carolina, where our co-founder helped coordinate grassroots relief efforts using smartphones and social media. That experience revealed how much stronger communities could be if technology fostered the same level of human connection every day—not just during disasters.

Our core tenets are speed, transparency, and trust. Why We're Interested: We are endorsing the wncHelp app because its mission is deeply aligned with our own. Where FastRoots maps the food relief ecosystem from the funder side—helping foundations see the full landscape of providers—wncHelp puts that same connective power directly in the hands of neighbors, volunteers, and nonprofits on the ground. Together, these tools create a more complete picture: funders can invest with clarity, and community members can find help without barriers. Western North Carolina is where FastRoots started, and we have seen firsthand how fragmented the resource landscape can be—especially for food insecurity and mental health support.

The wncHelp app addresses this directly by creating a single, accessible hub where nonprofits can share what they offer, neighbors can find what they need, and funders can identify gaps. This kind of coordinated digital infrastructure is exactly what our region needs to move from reactive crisis response to lasting resilience. We believe wncHelp has the potential to become essential infrastructure for WNC—reducing duplication, strengthening partnerships, and making it easier for everyone in the ecosystem to show up for one another. FastRoots is proud to add our voice to this coalition.



Attn: wncHelp Collaborative Initiative

Dana Choquette, MSW
Co-Executive Director
WNC Food Coalition

March 4, 2026

WNC Food Coalition is submitting this letter of endorsement in strong support of the wncHelp app, a centralized resource hub for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders.

Our mission is to build a stronger local food system in WNC. This includes immediate hunger relief as well as long term policy change and farmer support to ensure a vibrant agricultural community for generations to come.

We're Interested in the continued development of the wncHelp app because we feel it will serve as a strong connection point between nonprofits, community members, funders and more. In today's tech driven world, a centralized app with up to date information for community members about where to access food is crucial.

We look forward to a continued focus on how to make this app useful and accurate for neighbors living in rural WNC counties outside of Buncombe. If done well, it will be a valuable resource for rural communities to increase access to needed food and support.

In partnership,

Dana Choquette, MSW
Co-Executive Director
WNC Food Coalition



PO Box 176, Sylva, NC 28779

T: (828) 507-2270

www.greatsmokieshealthfoundation.com

April 23, 2026

Shelley Carraway
Executive Director
Great Smokies Health Foundation

As Executive Director of Great Smokies Health Foundation, (GSHF), I am pleased to submit a very strong endorsement letter in support of the continued development and implementation of the wncHelp app.

The mission of GSHF is to improve healthcare in Jackson, Swain, Graham and Macon counties in North Carolina and in surrounding communities. During Strategic Planning, the Foundation identified a crucial need for a Resource Hub for non-profits and their recipients and committed to assist in facilitating the development of this Hub. The capabilities of the wncHelp app would go a long way in ensuring the reality of jump-starting that much essential initiative.

After reviewing a demonstration of what the wncHelp app can deliver I felt compelled to do everything I can to support the sustainability of this vital application for our communities. The wncHelp app serves as a centralized resource hub aimed at enhancing community support for Western North Carolina nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders alike.

I strongly urge funders, organizations, partners municipalities, counties and community members to support and engage with this platform.

Sincerely,

Shelley Carraway
Executive Director



To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer this letter of endorsement in support of wncHelp.org and its efforts to strengthen access to care, coordination of services, and community wellbeing across Western North Carolina.

As Executive Director of The Bread of Life in Transylvania County, I see every day how food insecurity, social isolation, mental health challenges, and barriers to healthcare are deeply connected. Many individuals and families who come through our doors are not only seeking food, but also stability, guidance, and connection to additional support systems. Too often, people do not know where to turn, services are fragmented, or they feel overwhelmed trying to navigate multiple agencies on their own.

The Bread of Life is the only daily hot meal provider in Transylvania County, and because of that role we are often a trusted first point of contact for neighbors experiencing hardship. We regularly encounter individuals who would benefit from better access to wellness resources, behavioral health support, and coordinated referrals that are easy to understand and use.

That is why I believe the vision of wncHelp.org is so valuable. A regional platform that helps connect people to services, improves visibility of available resources, and supports stronger collaboration among organizations can make a meaningful difference for both providers and those seeking help.

For organizations like The Bread of Life, a tool such as wncHelp.org also provides tremendous practical value. Developing and maintaining a similar resource platform independently would require significant time, expertise, and financial investment that nonprofits like ours are better able to direct toward direct community services. By creating a shared regional tool, wncHelp.org helps organizations extend their impact without duplicating costs or infrastructure.

This type of work also aligns closely with our own future plans. As The Bread of Life works toward the development of a new facility, we see tremendous opportunity to create a welcoming space where food assistance can serve as an entry point to broader wellness support, including physical health, mental health, and community-based resources.

I am grateful for the leadership behind this effort and strongly support the continued growth of wncHelp.org. We welcome opportunities to collaborate in ways that strengthen care, reduce barriers, and improve quality of life for our neighbors throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Sergio Fernandez
Executive Director
The Bread of Life
Office: (828) 877-3577
Cell: (828) 556-1734

Asheville Poverty Initiative

Building Community and Educating About the Realities of Poverty

 contact@ashevillepovertyinitiative.org

 610 Haywood Rd. Suite B Asheville, NC 28806
 1(828) 222-0393



[May 4, 2026]

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Asheville Poverty Initiative, I am pleased to offer our strong endorsement of WNCHelp and its vision to strengthen coordination and connection across Western North Carolina's nonprofit ecosystem.

At Asheville Poverty Initiative, our mission is to build community and educate about the realities of poverty, working alongside those most impacted to foster dignity, equity, and belonging. Through programs like 12 Baskets Café and our Realities of Poverty education initiatives, we see daily how complex and interconnected the challenges of poverty, food insecurity, and access to resources can be.

WNCHelp represents an important step toward addressing these challenges at a systems level. By creating a platform that connects neighbors to essential services, streamlines communication among nonprofits, and reduces duplication of efforts, WNCHelp has the potential to significantly improve how our region responds to both everyday needs and times of crisis.

We are particularly encouraged by WNCHelp's commitment to collaboration, real-time coordination, and transparency—values that align closely with our own belief in mutuality and shared responsibility. When organizations are better connected, we can more effectively meet people where they are, maximize limited resources, and ensure that individuals and families can access support with dignity and ease.

As an organization deeply engaged in addressing poverty in Asheville and the broader region, we recognize the importance of infrastructure that strengthens—not fragments—our collective efforts. WNCHelp offers a promising approach to building that infrastructure and fostering a more cohesive, responsive network of care.

We are proud to support WNCHelp and look forward to the opportunities it will create for deeper collaboration and greater impact across Western North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Ben Williamson

Ben Williamson
Executive Director
Asheville Poverty Initiative

www.ashevillepovertyinitiative.org



Connie Friend
Program Director
Swannanoa Resilience Hub

The Swannanoa Resilience Hub is proud to offer our wholehearted endorsement of the wncHelp App. This innovative platform creates a simple, accessible way for individuals, nonprofits, volunteers, funders, and neighbors in need to connect with vital resources and support throughout Western North Carolina.

At the Swannanoa Resilience Hub, we believe deeply in the power of connection, recovery, and long-term resilience. The wncHelp App aligns closely with these values by serving as a centralized hub where people can quickly find help, offer assistance, and strengthen community relationships during both times of crisis and everyday need.

Our community space is located in the historic former Swannanoa Methodist Church, a place with longstanding roots in care and service. Throughout difficult moments in our region's history — from the Beacon Manufacturing Plant fire to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene — this building has served as a gathering place where people could find food, support, answers, and hope.

The wncHelp App represents an important next step in expanding that spirit of community care. By making resources easier to access and organizations easier to connect with, this platform has the potential to strengthen recovery efforts, encourage collaboration, and build greater resilience across Western North Carolina.

We are grateful for the vision behind this initiative and excited about the positive impact it will have on our communities.

— The Swannanoa Resilience Hub

Contact Information:
Organization Name: Swannanoa Resilience Hub
Primary Contact: Connie Friend
Email: connie@srchnc.org
Phone: (828)772-9106
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LOVING HEARTS

B.E.A.R. CLOSET

BABY ESSENTIALS ♥ EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ♥ NUTRITIOUS MEALS ♥ FAMILY SUPPORT

Serving Western North Carolina

Because strong communities begin with healthy families.

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- LovingHeartsBearCloset.org
- Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet

July 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet, I am honored to write this letter in support of **WNCHELP** and the valuable resource it will provide to families throughout Western North Carolina.

As the Executive Director of Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet, I have the privilege of working directly with hundreds of families each month. Our organization serves children and families by providing nutritious meals, baby essentials, hygiene products, clothing, emergency assistance, and other critical resources. Through our daily interactions, we understand the challenges many families face when trying to locate services quickly and efficiently.

We believe WNCHELP will become an invaluable tool by connecting individuals and families with organizations, programs, and resources available throughout our region. Having a centralized, easy-to-use platform will help reduce barriers and ensure families receive assistance when they need it most.

One of the reasons we are especially excited to support this initiative is because approximately **95%** of the families we serve at Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet have access to a smartphone. Many rely on their phones as their primary source of communication and information. Because of this, we believe WNCHELP's mobile-friendly platform will make it easier than ever for families to find food assistance, housing resources, healthcare, childcare, financial assistance, and many other essential services.

We are confident this program will strengthen collaboration among nonprofit organizations while empowering families to access help with dignity and convenience. It has the potential to improve lives across Western North Carolina by making critical information available at the touch of a button.

Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet is proud to support WNCHELP and looks forward to partnering with this innovative resource to better serve our community.

Thank you for your commitment to improving access to services and strengthening the network of care throughout Western North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Philista Gossett

Philista Gossett
Executive Director

Loving Hearts B.E.A.R. Closet

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The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina Disaster Response and Recovery Team

April 16, 2026

Re: Endorsement Letter – wncHelp Collaborative Initiative

To the wncHelp Team and Prospective Funders:

On behalf of the Disaster Response and Recovery Team of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, I am pleased to offer this letter of endorsement in strong support of the wncHelp app as a centralized digital resource hub designed to connect nonprofits, neighbors in need, volunteers, and funders across our region.

Since Hurricane Helene struck Western North Carolina in September 2024, our team has worked tirelessly alongside community partners to support households in recovery. Through this work, one challenge has emerged consistently and urgently: the lack of a unified, real-time platform where community members can find available services, and where nonprofits can coordinate effectively with one another.

wncHelp directly addresses this gap. By providing a single, accessible hub where our neighbors can locate food assistance, mental health support, and other critical services, and organizations like ours can share resources, post volunteer needs, and communicate in real time. wncHelp promises to dramatically improve coordination across WNC's nonprofit landscape.

We are also encouraged by the breadth of organizational endorsements wncHelp has already garnered across WNC, including from food security organizations, counseling centers, university partners, and faith communities. This coalition speaks to a shared recognition that the region's nonprofit infrastructure needs better coordination tools, and that wncHelp is uniquely positioned to provide them.

The Episcopal Diocese of WNC Disaster Response and Recovery Team is committed to the long-term recovery and resilience of Western North Carolina. We wholeheartedly endorse wncHelp and encourage funders, community leaders, and organizations to support this initiative. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the wncHelp team and stand ready to assist in its growth and adoption across our region.

With gratitude and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Davis'.

The Rev. Kelsey Davis

Bishop's Deputy for Disaster Response and Recovery

Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

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