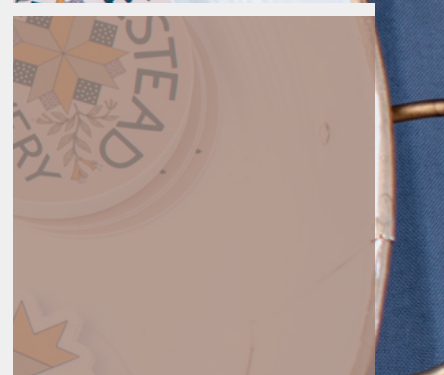
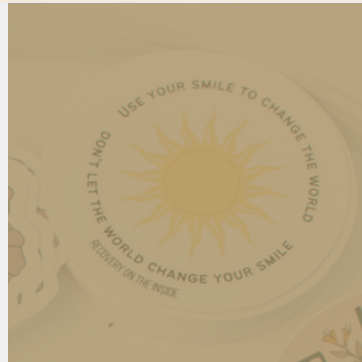


Homestead Recovery Center

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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**MEDIATION &  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
CENTER**





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# MEDIATION & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER



*“At the heart of our peer-led recovery programs is a simple but powerful belief: healing happens in community. At Homestead Recovery Center, individuals with lived experience support others on their recovery journey—offering understanding, accountability, and hope in ways only peers can.*”

*Over the past year, Homestead’s peer support initiatives have continued to create spaces where people rebuild trust, strengthen relationships, and move forward with dignity. Grounded in restorative principles—listening deeply, promoting respect, and fostering belonging—we help participants sustain their recovery while building healthier, more connected lives.*

*I am grateful to the staff, volunteers, and community partners who make this work possible. Thank you for standing with us as we continue building a future rooted in connection, responsibility, and compassion.”*

*~MRJC Executive Director, Marisa Cornell*

**Our Mission:**  
**To reduce and repair harm by using restorative processes that increase the respect, peace, productivity, and safety in our communities.**

**133 N. WATER ST. BOONE, NC 28607**

**828-264-3040**

# MRJC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BOARD CHAIR

LT. JOHNATHAN HOUCK

MELANIE ELLIS

## VICE CHAIR

DALE KIRKLEY

ERIC JONES

## TREASURER

LT. CASEY MILLER

SGT. JERRY TURBYFILL

JOCELYNE BOND

## SECRETARY

SUSAN BLEVINS

# HOMESTEAD RECOVERY PEER ADVISORY COUNCIL

ASHLEY WURTH

JOHN SIMMONS

DALE CORNETT

MIKE TANNER

GENTRY JONES

TOMMY STAUFER

# LETTER FROM OUR CENTER DIRECTOR



As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the growth, resilience, and impact our recovery community continues to demonstrate. This year, Homestead Recovery Center expanded access to peer-led recovery support across Watauga and neighboring counties, serving hundreds of individuals through diversion programs, housing, mobile outreach, workforce development, and our Peer Services day center.

In 2025 alone, we provided 1,305 peer support sessions, 612 case management sessions, distributed 562 naloxone kits, and drove more than 31,000 miles to ensure individuals could access treatment, court, employment, and other essential services. Our recidivism rate among active case management participants remained at just 13.7%, reflecting the power of meeting people with compassion, dignity, and practical support.

This year also marked meaningful growth. Peer Services opened its own designated building, strengthening our ability to meet basic needs with over 2,000 check-ins and more than 1,000 supply fulfillments. The Homeplace Recovery Housing served 30 residents, offering safe, structured recovery living. We launched Wheels of Change, bringing low-barrier support directly into communities, and continued building strong partnerships through our Community Care Program and LEAD diversion initiatives.

Behind every number is a person choosing hope. A person reconnecting with family. A person entering treatment. A person finding stability after incarceration. Recovery does not happen in isolation—it happens in community. It happens when chances are given, when transportation is available, when housing is safe, and when someone with lived experience says, “You’re not alone.”

None of this work is possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, board members, partners, and funders. Together, we are building a rural recovery ecosystem rooted in lived experience, compassion, and accountability.

Thank you for walking alongside us.

With gratitude,  
Mollie Bolick  
Homestead Recovery Center Director



# WHO WE ARE

Homestead Recovery Center is the peer-led programs of the Mediation and Restorative Justice Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We are a group of people in recovery from substance use disorder and other mental health challenges, many of us with history of involvement with the justice system stemming from such challenges.

Leading with lived experience, we follow the Recovery Community Center model to operate programs designed to fill gaps across our rural recovery ecosystem to connect our peers to the care and support we all deserve.



# *Our Vision*

Our vision is a recovery community where all people can improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

# *Our Mission*

Our mission is to be a unified voice and access point for peer-led recovery through welcoming, inclusive and supportive spaces where all community members can participate in recovery

# *Our Values*

Hope. Compassion. Support.

# MEET THE 2025 TEAM

Marisa Cornell: MRJC Executive Director  
Mollie Bolick: Homestead Recovery Center Director  
Mackenzie Laney: Community & Programs Specialist  
Dale Hudler: Clinical and Operations Director  
Ken Connelly: Transportation Ally and Volunteer  
Pam Greer: Recovery on the Inside Case Manager  
Crystal Trivette: High Country LEAD Coordinator  
Katlynd Taylor: Watuga LEAD Case Manager  
Heather Smith: Housing Coordinator  
David Sanders: Peer Services Coordinator  
Cierra Dinnall: Embedded Social Worker  
Brittany Matheson: Avery Outreach Coordinator  
Amanda Hoke: Volunteer Coordinator  
Christian Gregson: Peer Support Specialist  
Mike Oxentine: Watauga LEAD Peer Support Specialist



# RECOVERY

*on the*

# INSIDE



*est. 2018*



**CHANGE IS POSSIBLE  
WHEN CHANCES ARE  
GIVEN. REHABILITATION  
HAPPENS WHEN  
RECOVERY IS AN  
OPTION.**

Recovery on the Inside is a post-arrest and pre-trial diversion program located within the Watauga County Detention Center through partnership with the Watauga County Sheriff's Office.

Services are client-led and client-driven. We help clients identify their own goals and work towards achieving them together. Services include peer support, case management, treatment placement, and linkage to care at release.

**158 UNIQUE PEOPLE SERVED IN 2025**

# WATAUGA COUNTY L.E.A.D.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION

ESTABLISHED 2020

Watauga LEAD's mission is to reduce harm, empower individuals, and improve public safety by connecting community members at risk of justice system involvement with services, support, and compassion, and to provide local law enforcement, stakeholders, and individuals with tools, training, and resources as alternatives to arrest and/or incarceration.

Watauga LEAD is a pre-arrest diversion program offering peer support, case management, clinical services, outreach, advocacy, and transportation.



311  
UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED  
IN 2025

# Peer SERVICES

Peer Services is a day center open to anyone in the community, regardless of participation in other Homestead programming. In 2025, Peer Services opened it's own designated building to provide supportive space to meet basic needs and work toward achieving wellness and recovery goals.



## Services include:

- Full day center offerings; peer living room, shower and laundry facilities, full kitchen.
- Basic supplies such as clothing, food, hygiene, and overdose prevention supplies and education.
- Recovery groups, meetings, trainings and events.

**2,346 CHECK INS IN 2025**  
**1,073 BASIC SUPPLY FULFILLMENTS**  
**703 SHOWERS**  
**165 LAUNDRY SERVICES**



The Reentry Service Station is a workforce development program that assists people reentering the community after a period of incarceration or other gap in employment and works across all HRC programming.

---

**65 CONNECTIONS TO IDENTIFICATION**  
**60 CONNECTIONS TO EMPLOYMENT**





The Homeplace Recovery Housing provides substance-free, supportive, and structured healthy living environments for people in recovery that promote wellness and reintegration into the community and can house up to 15 people.

In September 2025, 10 residents had the opportunity to travel with staff to attend Healing Appalachia, in Ashland, Kentucky.



**30 RESIDENTS SERVED IN 2025**



The Avery RV is a mobile outreach and case management program offering mobile peer support, recovery support, overdose prevention, and more in Avery County.



In 2025, Avery RV began facilitating weekly SMART Recovery meetings and has continued to provide intensive peer support and case management to dozens of participants, while distributing hundreds of naloxone kits through community outreach and education efforts.



**31 UNIQUE PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH PEER SUPPORT & CASE MANAGEMENT**

# COMMUNITY Care PROGRAM

ESTABLISHED 2024



The Community Care program is a partnership between Homestead Recovery Center and the Boone Police Department that embeds a social worker within the department to help respond to behavioral health and social service needs, connecting individuals to community resources and support.

Co-response team launching  
January, 2026.

**56 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED IN 2025**





Launched in December 2025, the Wheels of Change is Homestead Recovery Center’s mobile outreach initiative, designed to bring low-barrier recovery support directly into communities who may not be able to travel to the center.

By meeting people where they are—geographically and personally—the Wheels of Change expands access to peer support, prevention services, basic needs assistance, and connections to treatment and recovery resources across Watauga, Ashe, and Avery counties.



**34 UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED  
IN 2025**



# 2025 SUPPORT GROUPS

SMART RECOVERY WATAUGA

SMART RECOVERY AVERY

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

HOMESTEAD RECOVERY GROUP OF CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS

HOMEPLACE CONNECTIONS

**TOTAL GROUP ATTENDANCE: 1,801**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF GROUPS HELD: 199**





# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

1,305

PEER SUPPORT  
SESSIONS

612

CASE  
MANAGEMENT  
SESSIONS

562

NALOXONE  
KITS  
DISTRIBUTED

PUBLIC HEALTH

115 REFERRALS

MEDICATION FOR OPIOID  
USE DISORDER

62 REFERRALS

RECOVERY SUPPORT

461 REFERRALS

SUBSTANCE USE  
TREATMENT

504 REFFERALS

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

115 REFERRALS

OTHER SERVICES

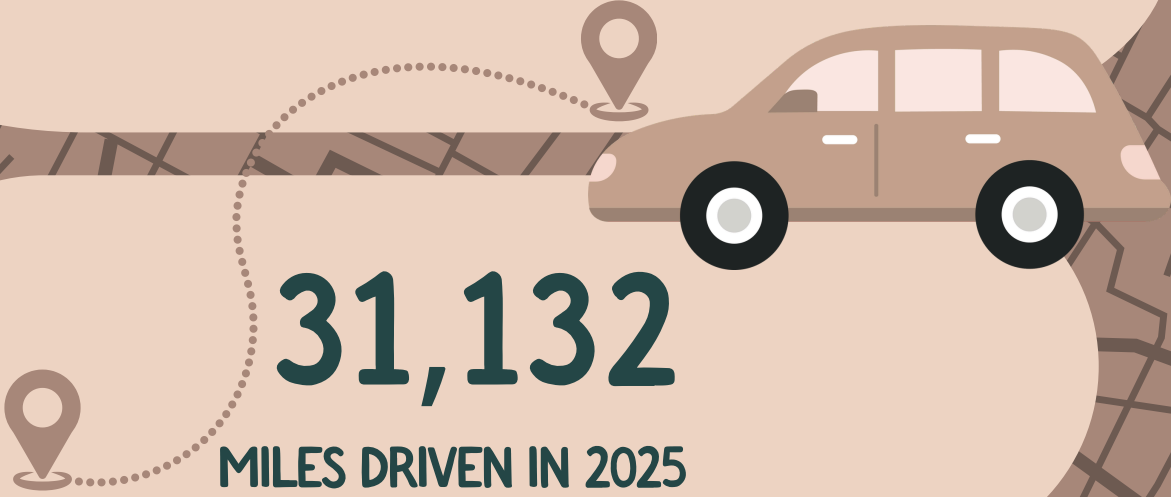
533 REFERRALS

RECIDIVISM RATE AMONG ACTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS: 13.7%

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT: 55

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS INTO RECOVERY HOUSING: 34

# TRANSPORTATION



31,132

MILES DRIVEN IN 2025

Our work has shown that in rural areas, transportation is a lifeline to any forward mobility—and nowhere is this more evident than in Watauga County. With no detoxification facilities or inpatient treatment options available locally, peers seeking these critical recovery supports are often required to travel outside the county. This reality creates a significant barrier for individuals already facing the many challenges of substance use disorder.

In response, we actively work to fill the transportation gaps that prevent people from accessing the care they need. Whether it's a ride to treatment, a court appointment, or a job interview, we're committed to getting people where they need to go—because when transportation is available, opportunity and healing become possible.




# PEER WELLNESS DAYS

in 2025, we were able to purchase a 15-passenger van, filling a long-standing need and allowing us to take more peers into the community for events and enrichment activities.

This year, some of our wellness day events included tubing, hiking, and a trip to cornett Carolina Trees.



# MEMORIAL AND AWARENESS DAYS



Black Balloon Day, observed annually on March 6th, is a day to honor those who have lost their lives to opioid overdoses, raising awareness about the ongoing opioid crisis and offering support to families and communities impacted by addiction.



Overdose Awareness Day, observed annually on August 31, is a global event dedicated to raising awareness, reducing stigma, honoring those lost to overdose, and promoting prevention and support for those affected by substance use.

# HOLIDAY EVENTS



In 2025, we hosted our 5th annual Thanksgiving meal in November and Christmas event in December.

Holidays can often be a difficult time for people in recovery, but we're proud to use this time as an opportunity for outreach and connection in the community.



# WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2026

## LEAD EXPANDING TO ASHE AND AVERY COUNTIES:

Beginning in 2024, we explored how the LEAD program could expand into neighboring counties. In 2025, we secured funding to support a planning and capacity-building process for Ashe and Avery counties. This effort prioritizes relationship-building, stakeholder education, and sustainable referral pathways to ensure individuals impacted by substance use, mental health challenges, and justice involvement have opportunities for diversion and long-term support. We anticipate hiring designated staff for Ashe and Avery counties in mid-2026.



## PEER RESPONSE TEAM:

In 2026, we will launch a new partnership with Watauga County Sheriff's Office, Boone Police Department, and UNC Health Appalachian to strengthen crisis response by pairing law enforcement with trained peer support specialists. Through the Peer Response Team, we aim to better respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises, substance use emergencies, or other urgent social needs.



## CO-RESPONSE TEAM

In 2026, the Community Care team will launch a new Co-Response Team in partnership with the Boone Police Department, pairing a designated officer with a Homestead Recovery Center peer support specialist to respond to behavioral health and substance use-related calls. The team will focus on de-escalation, relationship-building, and connecting individuals to recovery and community resources.



# 2025 VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS



# GRANT FUNDING

Watauga County. "Watauga County Opioid Settlement"

Avery County. "Avery County Opioid Settlement"

Appalachian Regional Commission. "Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems Initiative"

Sunrise Community Center for Recovery & Wellness, "Recovery Community Center Establishment Funding"

NC Department of Health and Human Services, "Expanding Supports for Justice Involved Adults-Community Based Initiatives"

Health Resource Service Administration, "Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Overdose Response"

Bureau of Justice Assistance, "Connect and Protect"

# PARTNERS



# GET IN TOUCH

## ADDRESS

2554 NC-105  
Boone, NC 28607

## PHONE

(828) 355-9943

## WEB

[www.homesteadrecoverync.org](http://www.homesteadrecoverync.org)  
[www.mrjc.us](http://www.mrjc.us)

## CENTER HOURS

Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 5:00pm

Support groups and events may take place outside of regular operationg hours

