



# 2024 HOMESTEAD RECOVERY CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

POWERED BY



[WWW.HOMESTEADRECOVERYNC.ORG](http://WWW.HOMESTEADRECOVERYNC.ORG)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 1. LETTER FROM CENTER DIRECTOR*
- 2. GOVERNING BODIES*
- 3. WHO WE ARE*
- 4. MISSION & VISION*
- 5. MEET THE TEAM*
- 6. RECOVERY ON THE INSIDE*
- 7. WATAUGA LEAD*
- 8. PEER SERVICES*
- 9. REENTRY SERVICE STATION*
- 10. THE HOMEPLACE*
- 11. THE AVERY RV*
- 12. COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM*
- 13. SUPPORT GROUPS*
- 14. COMMUNITY IMPACT*
- 15. TRANSPORTATION*
- 16. OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY & BLACK BALLOON DAY*
- 17. RECOVERY MONTH REENTRY SIMULATION*
- 18. HURRICANE HELENE*
- 19. HOLIDAY OUTREACH*
- 20. WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2025*
- 21. VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS*
- 22. FUNDING*
- 23. GET IN TOUCH*







# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are honored to present the 2024 Annual Report for Homestead Recovery Center, reflecting our growth and progress over the past year in pursuit of community healing and recovery.

In 2024, the word recovery took on new meaning as we grappled with the far-reaching impacts of Hurricane Helene. In the aftermath, our resolve deepened, and the importance of leaning on one another became clearer than ever. Together, we navigated loss, uncertainty, and rebuilding—not just of structures, but of hope, connection, and community.

Through it all, Homestead Recovery Center remained a steady place of refuge and support. We continued to meet basic needs, expand access to recovery services, and foster belonging for those facing some of life's most difficult moments. This work was only possible because of the resilience of the people we serve, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the generosity of supporters like you.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in the mission of Homestead Recovery Center. We invite you to explore this report and witness the stories, milestones, and impacts that you helped make possible.

**Sincerely,**

**Mollie and the Homestead Team**





## MRJC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lt. Johnathan Houck  
Board Chair

Susan Blevins  
Secretary

Melanie Ellis

Dale Kirkley  
Vice Chair

Bob Baker

Eric Jones

LT. Casey Miller  
Treasurer

Jocelyne Bond

Sgt. Jerry Turbyfill

## HOMESTEAD RECOVERY PEER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ashley Wurth

John Simmons

Bob Baker

Dale Cornett

Mike Tanner

Gentry Jones

Tommy Staufer



# WHO WE ARE

Homestead Recovery Center houses the peer-led programs of the Mediation and Restorative Justice Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We follow the Recovery Community Center model and all of our programs are operated by people in recovery for people in or seeking recovery and are designed to fill gaps across our rural recovery ecosystem to connect people to care and support.



**MEDIATION &  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
CENTER**



## 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 in Watauga County through welcoming, inclusive and supportive spaces where all community members can participate in recovery

## OUR VALUES

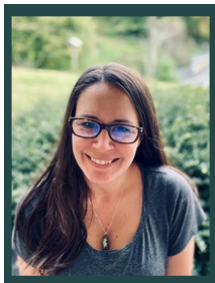
**HOPE. COMPASSION. SUPPORT.**





# MEET THE TEAM

Marisa Cornell,  
EdD  
MRJC Executive Director



Dale Hudler, LCSW,  
NCCPSS  
Clinical &  
Operations Director



Mollie Bolick,  
MSW, NCCPSS  
Homestead Recovery  
Center Director



Crystal Trivette,  
NCCPSS  
Watauga LEAD  
Case Manager



Mackenzie Laney,  
MSW  
MRJC Community &  
Programs Specialist



Katlynd Taylor,  
NCCPSS  
Watauga LEAD Peer  
Support Specialist



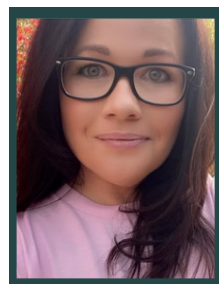
Pam Greer,  
NCCPSS  
Recovery on the Inside  
Case Manager



David Sanders,  
NCCPSS  
Peer Services  
Coordinator



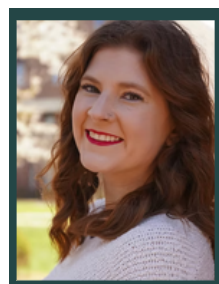
Heather Smith,  
CCMA, NCCPSS  
Recovery Housing  
Coordinator



Brittany Matheson,  
NCCPSS  
Peer Services  
Coordinator



Cierra Burgess,  
BSW  
Embedded Social Worker  
Community Care  
Program



# Programs



## RECOVERY ON THE INSIDE

Est. 2018



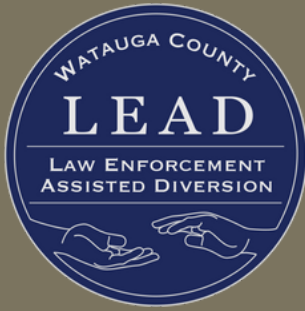
Recovery on the Inside is a post-arrest and pre-trial diversion program located within the Watauga County Detention Center.

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.

**120 UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED IN 2024**







## WATAUGA LEAD

Est. 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.

255 UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED IN 2024





## PEER SERVICES

Est. 2023

Peer Services are open to anyone in the community, regardless of participation in other more intensive programming and provides a supportive space to meet basic needs and work toward achieving wellness and recovery goals.

Services include:

- Full day center offerings such as a peer living room, shower and laundry facilities, and full kitchen.
- Basic supplies includes clothing, food, hygiene, and harm reduction supplies.
- All HRC groups, meetings, trainings and events.



### SERVICES PROVIDED

IN 2024:

# 4,049



# Programs



## REENTRY SERVICE STATION

Est. 2023

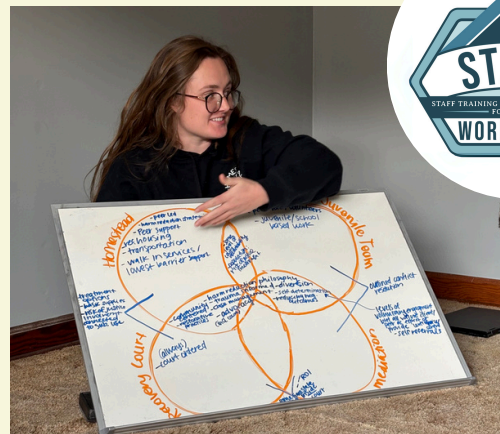
The Reentry Service Station is a workforce development program that assists people reentering the community after a period of incarceration or other gap in employment and works across all HRC programming.

STABLE Workplaces is a new initiative in Watauga County, led by AppHealthCare, designed to create thriving workplaces sustained by a stable workforce, recognizing the interconnected nature of workplace stability, recovery support, and business success. STABLE stands for "Staff Training and Business Leadership for Evolving Workplaces" and was developed through a strategic collaboration among local nonprofit organizations, workforce development agencies, and business groups.

Founding partners included MRJC's Recovery Friendly Workplaces project, AppHealthCare's trauma-informed businesses project, the Watauga Compassionate Community Initiative's family-friendly workplace policy project, OASIS's Active Bystander Intervention trainings for bars and restaurants, the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, and more! By combining expertise from these organizations, STABLE Workplaces functions as a collaborative, one-stop resource hub that provides training, employer support, and workforce development strategies.



**63 UNIQUE  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED IN 2024**





## THE HOMEPLACE

Est. 2024



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.

Our men's home opened in October 2024 and our women's home opened in January 2025. When full, our houses will accommodate 9 men and 6 women.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS WHO SPONSORED A ROOM- FROM PROVIDING FURNITURE, KITCHEN ESSENTIALS, DISHES & DECOR, TO STOCKING THE LAUNDRY ROOM- WE COULD NOT HAVE MADE "ROOM FOR RECOVERY" WITHOUT YOU!

2024 ROOM FOR RECOVERY  
SPONSORS:

ELEANOR COOK

MELANIE ELLIS

SHANNON NACY

RUMPLE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

BILLY WORSHAM





# Programs



## THE AVERY RV

Est. 2024

A partnership with the Avery County Paramedics and the Toe River Health District's Avery Campus- the Avery Recovery Vehicle is a community based initiative that involves outreach efforts to support individuals dealing with substance use.

We aim to bring services directly to people who might be facing barriers to accessing treatment, recovery resources, basic healthcare, peer support or case management.



The Avery RV helps us connect with people in neighborhoods or areas where people experiencing substance use challenges might not otherwise seek help.





## COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

Est. 2024

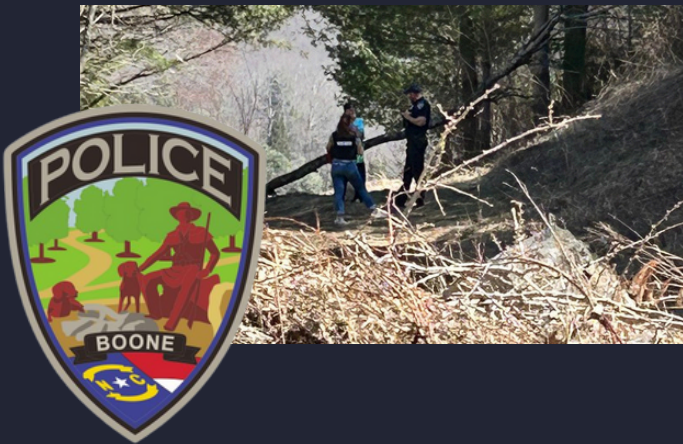
The Community Care Program launched in 2024 and is a co-responder program in partnership with The Town of Boone Police Department.

In rural communities, the majority of calls to law enforcement are not criminal in nature, but stem from challenges such as poverty, mental health, substance use, intimate partner violence, and homelessness.

The Community Care program offers a solution to these challenges by partnering social work and law enforcement.



SERVING ALL  
OF THE  
TOWN OF BOONE





# 2024 SUPPORT GROUPS



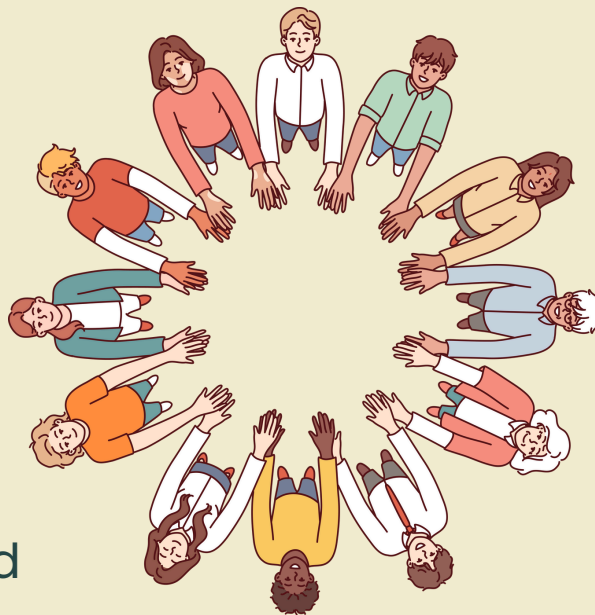
Naloxone &  
Overdose Prevention  
Training

Seeking  
Strength

SMART  
Recovery

Wish You  
Were Here

I Love You  
But Not Your  
Addiction



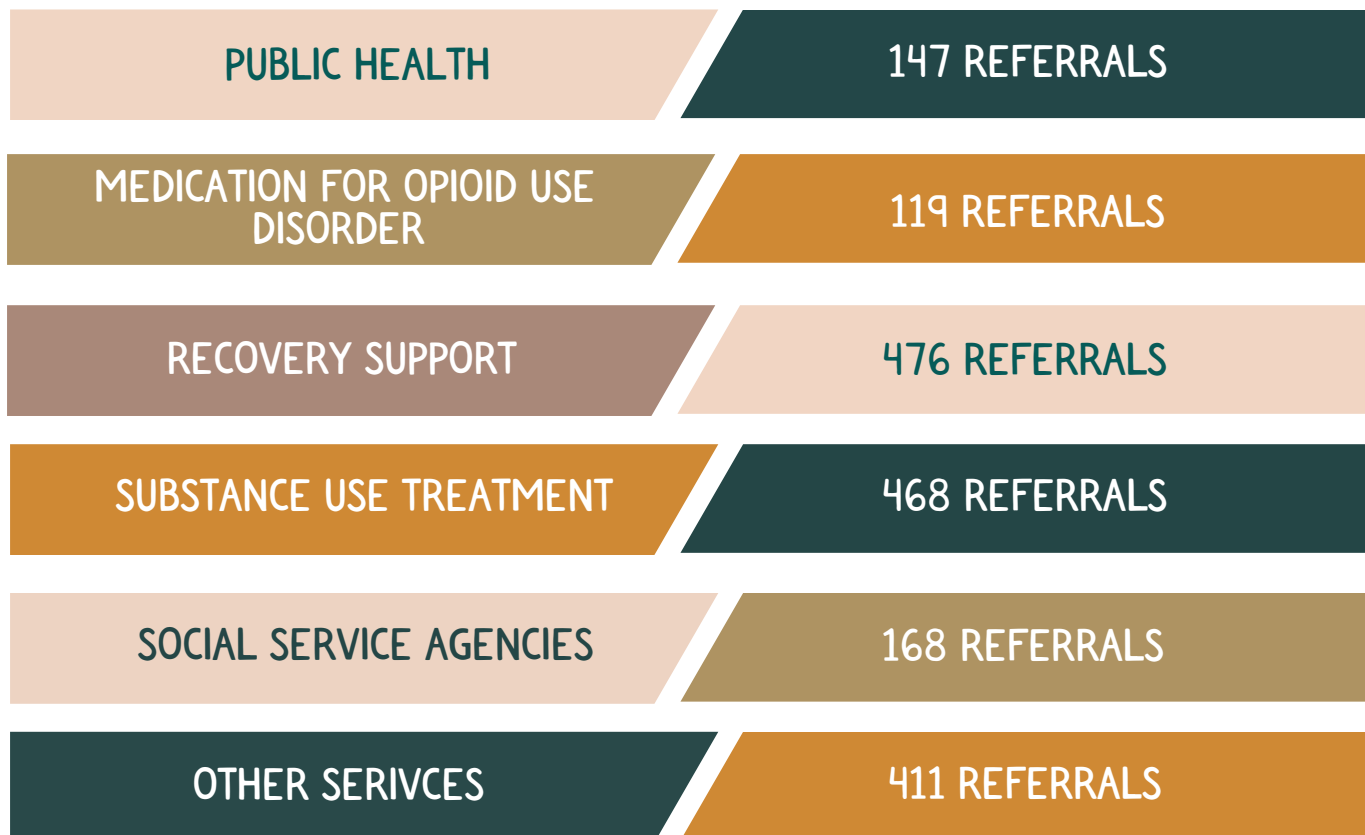
Homestead  
Recovery  
Group Of CA

FARM Cafe  
Outreach

12 Step  
Yoga

**IN 2024 WE HELD 119 GROUPS AND  
HAD 405 GROUP ATTENDEES**

# 2024 COMMUNITY IMPACT





# TRANSPORTATION

16,801

MILES DRIVEN  
IN 2024



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 detox facilities or inpatient treatment options available locally, residents 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.

# OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY & BLACK BALLOON DAY

Black Balloon Day, observed 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 affected 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.

TIME TO  
REMEMBER.  
TIME TO ACT.



# RECOVERY MONTH REENTRY SIMULATION

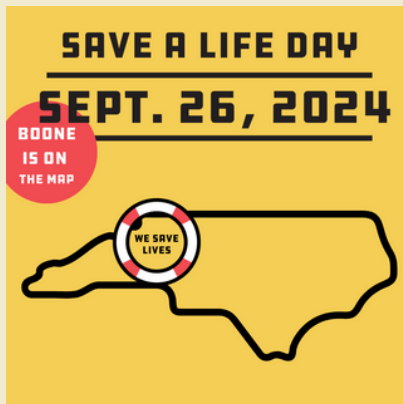
On September 26, 2024 we hosted our second recovery month reentry simulation. These simulations provide powerful insight into the perspectives and barriers faced by people reentering the community after a period of incarceration and how we can better serve our community.



***Highlights included the simulation, a speaker panel of formerly-incarcerated people, overdose reversal training, community resource fair, and lunch from Stickboy Kitchen!***



***Thank you to VAYA Health, the Community Care Program, and all of our volunteers for making this event possible!***





# HURRICANE HELENE

## A look back on updates in the immediate aftermath



For all of us, the last few weeks have been a whirlwind. The past two weeks haven't felt like the right time to post with so much going on and our collective energy going toward immediate security and relief. But through it all, we've been reminded how important it is to spread a little light and positivity, especially when things feel chaotic.



On September 27th, our community woke up not knowing the devastation the next 24 hours would bring. However, amidst the chaos and uncertainty, we witnessed incredible acts of kindness and solidarity.



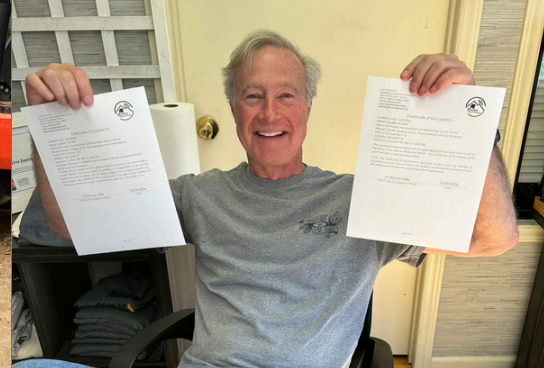
Neighbors and strangers came together to support one another, providing shelter and assistance to those in need.



As we began to assess the damage and start the recovery process, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who donated supplies. These items will not only help us in the immediate aftermath of the storm but will also be essential in supporting people in crisis throughout the year, ensuring their most basic needs are met.



For the last two weeks, we have been hard at work beginning the rebuilding process in the wake of Hurricane Helene. One of our new recovery homes experienced significant flooding on the bottom floor and damage to the driveway, which caused delays in completing our required steps with the Town of Boone.



However, we are thrilled to announce that yesterday, October 9th, we received our certificate of occupancy for our men's recovery home! While we began accepting resident applications back in August, we are now excited to welcome individuals into the space very soon.



With this milestone achieved, we can now shift our focus to the women's house, continuing our mission to support those in need and provide a safe haven for recovery.



As we reflect on these past few weeks, we are filled with gratitude for the strength of our community and the support we've received. Each challenge has only reinforced our commitment to our mission and to one another. The journey ahead may still be uncertain, but the resilience we've witnessed reminds us that together, we can overcome any obstacle.



We are excited about the future, knowing that with every step we take, we are creating spaces for healing and growth. Thank you for being part of our journey and for your continued support as we walk alongside our recovery community. Let's keep spreading hope and positivity, one message at a time!

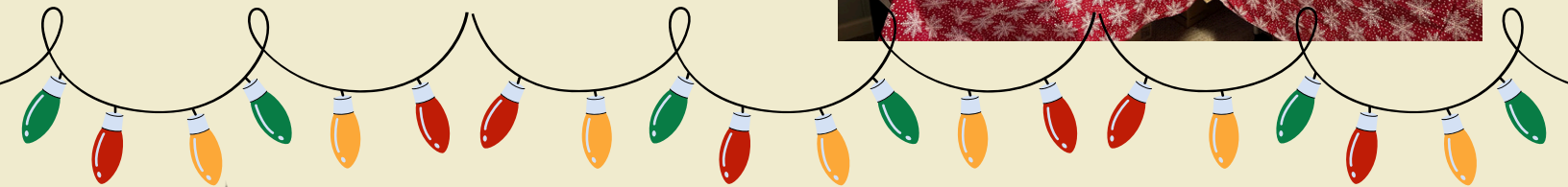
-The Homestead Team



# HOLIDAY OUTREACH

IN 2024, WE HOSTED OUR 4TH 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 2025



New peer services building opening early 2025!

This additional space offers a peer living room, showers, laundry, and a stocked kitchen- all next door to our current location!



## "WHEELS OF CHANGE"

Thanks to generous sponsorship from VAYA Health, be on the lookout for a new mobile outreach vehicle in 2025!





# 2024 VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS





# GRANT FUNDING

Watauga County. “Watauga County Opioid Settlement”

Appalachian Regional Commission. “Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems Initiative”

Sunrise Community Center for Recovery & Wellness, “Recovery Community Center Establishment Funding”

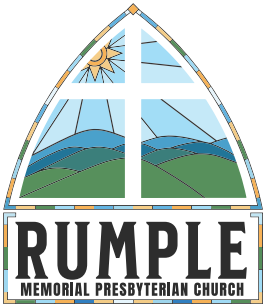
NC Department of Health and Human Services, “McKinsey Opioid Settlement”

Avery County. “Avery County Opioid Settlement”

Bureau of Justice Assistance. “Connect and Protect”

## 2024 SPECIAL MENTION DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Jim & Meagan Furman, Ann Rhyne, Mike Tanner,  
Bob Baker & Laramie Williams, Justin McCalligan, James Sundberg.  
St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church- Blowing Rock Tour of Homes



**NCDHHS**



VAYAHEALTH



**FLAME  
TATTOO**

**NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



**Sunrise Community**  
For Recovery & Wellness



**New River**  
Building Supply &  
Lumber Company





# GET IN TOUCH



(828) 355-9943



2554 NC-105  
Boone, NC 28607



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

## Center Hours

Monday -Friday  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Groups and events may take place outside of regular hours.



**HOMESTEAD RECOVERY CENTER**