



67th ANNUAL WNC HONORS AWARDS to RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT
2016 COMMUNITY APPLICATION

Community Name: **Bethel Rural Community Organization (BRCO)**
 County: **Haywood**
 Physical Address of Center/Club: **664 Sonoma Road, Waynesville, NC**
 Individual submitting application: **Evelyn Coltman**
 Daytime Phone: **828-648-3226**
 Email: **evelyn3226@charter.net**
Community Profile: *(Worth up to 5 points)*

- What type of boundaries describes your community?
 One community District (fire or school) Incorporated Unincorporated Other
- Approximately, how many households are in your community? **2,500**
- When was your community organized? **1990** Has your community been in continuous operation? **Yes**
- Is your community a tax-exempt 501(c)(3)? **Yes** If yes, what is your Tax ID Number? **34-2063022**
- Does your community have a website? **Yes** If yes, please list: **www.bethelrural.org**
- Does your community center have access to high speed Internet? **No**
- Would your center be interested in providing a physical location for others to obtain Internet access using Wi-Fi technology, known as a hot spot? **We are considering.**
- Community mission statement: **To locate, coordinate, and lead local and regional resources to perform programs and projects that enhance the quality of rural life in the Bethel Community.**

Community vision statement: **Preserving Yesterday-Helping Today-Planning for Tomorrow**

FILL OUT COMPLETELY your community officer's contact information to assist in updating our records.

Name	Address	Email	Phone
President or Chair: Frances Adamson	121 Sisk Lane, Waynesville	mulemom9@gmail.com	828-648-7292
Vice President or Vice Chair: Bill Terrell	11 Buena Vista Drive, Canton	bt1186@gmail.com	828-775-9639
Secretary: Susan Baxley	32 Indian Hills Loop, Waynesville	susunc@bellsouth.net	828-648-5054
Treasurer: John Baxley	32 Indian Hills Loop, Waynesville	baxbooks@bellsouth.net	828-648-5054

***All volunteers serve in a number of capacities. In most instances in this application, the number of volunteers listed is for that committee and that project only; the same volunteer serving on another committee or in another capacity may be counted as a separate volunteer under another category. One volunteer doing the same job repeatedly over a period of time may be counted as a separate volunteer for each project. If 2 volunteers work 1 hour on a project, that information is listed as 2 hours. Expenses, volunteer hours, and projects may be listed under more than one category but are counted only once in the final totals.**

Calico Cat Award: *(Worth up to 5 points)* This section is for updates and renovations to existing community centers. Describe in detail the improvements made to your facility from August 2015 to August 2016 only. Include approximate volunteer hours for the work on the center or for the facility where your community meets.

BRCO planned and completed 44 projects to enhance the appearance and functionality of the community center which is used by BRCO, individuals/groups in the community, and Encouraging Word Baptist Church which leases the 1885 sanctuary/1964 dining hall from BRCO. In 2016, the Beautification Committee oversaw the widening of the dining hall/kitchen pass-through, addition of storage cabinets in the dining hall and kitchen. In regard to closet space, BRCO cleaned, painted, added shelving and file cabinets, and reorganized 3 closets in order to consolidate food pantry function, designate dedicated space for historic preservation, rural preservation, and 5K/Half Marathon Race materials, and provide separate storage for cleaning supplies. The kitchen was completely reorganized, allowing plentiful space for BRCO items while permitting Encouraging Word Baptist Church, which leases from BRCO, more storage space for its supplies. In addition, the Beautification Committee organized tables, made decorations, and arranged table set-up for six regular meetings and one meeting of the Haywood County Council of Community Clubs. Some routine painting and maintenance projects were also conducted.

Projects:

- Replaced the drain pipes and sink faucet in kitchen **(2 volunteers ; 9 hours) (Expense: \$75)**
- Conducted air conditioning maintenance **(1 volunteer; 5 hours)**
- Electrical modification **(2 volunteers; 6.5 hours)**
- Negotiated propane cost savings with Encouraging Word and 2 gas companies **(1 volunteer; 22 hours)**
- Consulted with Mustang Consultants who developed 3-D kitchen/dining room design **(1 volunteer; 3 hours)**

- Board discussion and approval of kitchen/dining room project **(5 volunteers; 1 hour)**
- Consulted with architect, Douglas Janes, for his recommendations **(2 volunteers; 2 hours)**
- Consulted with engineer, Alvin Edwards, for his recommendations **(2 volunteers; 2 hours)**
- Wrote appeal to Western Regional Presbytery which owns the building for permission to enlarge pass-through and install cabinets **(1 volunteer ;.5 hours)**
- Enumerated changes BRCO has made to the facility which was presented to the Presbytery **(1 volunteer; 2 hours)**
- Consulted with 2 designers from Lowe's to give recommendations to BRCO Committee **(5 volunteers; 7.5 hours)**
- Consultation with Lowe's Kitchen Designers for layout of cabinets **(1 volunteer; 3 hours)**
- Beautification Committee determined, among several options, the materials to be used in the new dining room/kitchen remodel **(6 volunteers; 6 hours)**
- Selected and ordered materials and hardware for cabinets and countertop **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Got prices on installing the kitchen/dining room cabinets **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Traveled to several Lowe's to find appropriate countertop and drawer pulls **(1 volunteer; 4.5 hours)**
- Ordered countertops **(1 volunteer ; 1 hour)**
- Obtained insurance for the carpenter from Canton Insurance Agency. **(1 volunteer ; 1 hour) (General Operations Expense: \$1,228.35)**
- Mark Wilson, carpenter, expanded pass-through between kitchen and dining room **(job hired)**
- Mark Wilson, carpenter, installed cabinets and hardware on both dining room side and kitchen side **(job hired). (Labor and parts expense for expansion and installation: \$758.93)**
- Lowe's installed countertop and volunteer oversaw installation. **(1 volunteer; 3 hours). (Total Kitchen equipment expense: \$3,453.55)**
- Coordinated installation of cabinets and remodeling of the wall **(1 volunteer; 8 hours)**
- Secured donor to cover part of cost of painting dining hall **(1 volunteer; .25 hours) (Donated Income:\$40)**
- Mark Wilson painted dining hall **(job hired) (Expense: \$250)**
- Rented Rolloff dumpster from Green Brothers **(Expense: \$248.10)**
- Consulted with antiques dealer, George Hardin, about selling kitchen items **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Sold kitchen items **(Sales Income: \$18)**
- Cleaned and painted storage closet, painted storage shelving, and turned room into 2nd food pantry closet.
- Cleaned and painted Historic Preservation (HP) Rural Preservation (RP) closet, painted and installed shelves, and turned room into storage for paint, tools, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Cleaned Race closet and turned into Race-HP-RP closet. **(Cleaning all closets - 2 volunteers; 15 hours)**
- Changed door locks on several doors to require fewer keys. **(job hired) - cost of locks and keys donated (Donation covered expense of labor and materials: \$21.88)**
- Found donor for cost of closet painting, shelving installation **(job hired) (Donation covered expense of labor and paint: \$255.70)**
- Washed windows in dining hall **(2 volunteers; 7 hours)**
- Repaired outdoor lighting **(1 volunteer; .5 hours)**
- Placed bark around 2 historic oak trees (job hired) **(Donation covered expense of bark and labor: \$29)**
- Roof shingle repair **(job hired – expense included in other jobs)**
- Decorated for September, 2015, meeting with fall colors and leaves **(3 people; 3 hours)**
- Decorated for November, 2015, meeting with Thanksgiving theme **(3 people; 3 hours)**
- Decorated for meeting in January with snowmen which people were allowed to take home **(6 people; 6 hours)**
- Decorated for meeting in March with handmade beehives with seed packets to encourage bees. Members were allowed to donate and take home beehives. **(5 volunteers; 8 hours) (Expense: \$39.55) (Sales Income:\$110)**
- Decorated for meeting in May with donkey theme to match speaker's topic. **(4 volunteers; 5 hours)**
- Decorated for July meeting with handmade floral arrangements. **(3 volunteers; 4 hours)**
- Decorated for County Council meeting with handmade floral /candle displays. **(3 volunteer; 8 hours) (Sales Income: \$80)**
- Hosted County Council of Community Clubs barbecue dinner. Members prepared food **(11 volunteers; 11 hours) (Donation covered expense of barbecue: \$236.47).**

(Expenses: \$4,825.13) (Sales Income: \$208) (Donated Funds: \$583.05)(Total Income: \$791.05) (Projects: 44) (Volunteers: 18) Volunteer Hours: 160.75); Partners: 11

Volunteerism: *(Worth up to 10 points): Tell us about the volunteers in your community.*

BRCO's seven committees constitute the bulk of our volunteers. In addition, 4 officers, 5 board members, Facebook, Email, Web site supervisors as well as correspondents and rental overseers are also volunteers. Members attend additional meetings to enhance organizational skills.

- **Beautification Committee** plans and executes every project regarding facility upkeep and upgrades, meeting decorations for 6 meetings, and decorated and planned meal for the County Council meeting. **(8 members; 18 volunteers)**
- **Benevolence Committee** allocates funds for projects at educational institutions: Bethel Elementary, Bethel Middle, and Haywood Community College. Financial support goes to citizens needing humanitarian assistance. Financial support is included for two local fire departments and the sheriff's department. Non-profit groups benefit financially: Buy Haywood, Cops for Kids, Haywood Waterways Association, Lion's Club, Preservation NC. Others benefit from other support: Lake Logan Multi-Sports Tri-Athlon, coat donation to individuals, and WNC Communities. BRCO receives support from Senior Resource Center **(5 members)**
- **Education Committee** provides speakers for six yearly meetings. The committee also screens and selects a local Pisgah High School recipient of the \$500 BRCO scholarship. The committee also supports local applicants for the WNC Journey Scholarship. **(5 members)**
- **Food Pantry Committee** coordinates weekly procurement, storage, monthly distribution of the MANNA food program, and implements special food collection projects. Churches/citizens/schools contribute to funding/food. **(13 members)**
- **Historic Preservation Committee** conducts projects that collect, document, restore, preserve, and educate about the importance of the history of the area. This year, the group designed and erected a local historic marker at an 1800s site, set up a filing system for collecting local historical data, filmed DVD segments, researched a prominent inventor, and photographed/framed several historic art prints. The committee also awards the annual Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation. BRCO is now listed on Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's Heritage Trail as one of 3 sites in Haywood County and 1 of 70 sites in the region. **(15 members)**
- **5K/Half Marathon Race Committee** plans and coordinates with potential runners, sponsors, businesses, other non-profits, and volunteers to produce NC's oldest half marathon race and a 5K race. Income from the race and sponsors provides the primary funding source for the organization. **(6 members)**
- **Rural Preservation Committee** works with local farmers, food vendors, governmental agencies, other non-profit groups, and foundations to promote conservation easement, water protection, and local sustainable agriculture. The committee educates about the organization's role in preservation efforts through speeches and the sustainable agricultural movement through the Buy Haywood Agri-tourism map which BRCO sponsors. Filming on the RP Committee's second DVD began this year on numerous farm sites in Bethel. **(5 members).**
- **Facebook, Email, Web Site Volunteers, and Correspondents** oversee information, pictures, events, and announcements on our media sites as well as completing grants, applications, and thank you letters. Our email overseer also directs email inquiries to appropriate individuals. **(1 volunteer; 20 hours)** BRCO maintains two web sites – one general **(6 volunteers; 15 hours)** and one for our race applications **(1 volunteer; 8 hours)**. The organization is updating its web site information this year so that committee chairs can place their own information on web pages. BRCO maintains two Facebook pages: BRCO Facebook **(1 volunteer; 35 hours)** and BRCO 5k/Half Marathon Race Facebook **(1 volunteer; 25 hours)** Correspondents write grants, applications, and thank you letters **(5 volunteer; 130 hours)**.
- **Rentals** for the facility involve making rental arrangements and opening and closing **(1 volunteer; 9 hours)**
- **Officers** perform the routine business duties of the organization. **President** plans agenda, presides over meetings, and appoints committees. **(2 volunteers – 2015 and 2016; 40 hours)** **Vice-President** fills in when the president is unavailable. **(1 volunteer; 11 hours)** **Secretary** takes minutes at board and general meetings, keeps up with attendance and membership, and sends group emails. **(1 volunteer; 48 hours)** **Treasurer** tracks expenditures/ income at each board/general meeting and oversees fund management. **(1 volunteer; 25 hours)**
- **Board of Directors** constitutes a chair, president, and 3 staggered-term members. **Chairman** plans agenda and oversees 6 yearly meetings. **(2 volunteers – 2015 and 2016; 10 hours)**. In addition to the Chair, 4 board members set the tone and direction for the organization. **(4 volunteers; 28 hours)**. Guests may attend board meetings **(8 volunteers; 8 hours)**
- **Speakers at Meetings** volunteer their time presenting topics of interest at the 6 yearly meetings. **(14 volunteers; 14 hours).**
- **Meetings of interest to the organization attended by volunteers** **(20 volunteers; 60 hours).**
- **BRCO meetings are attended by the membership 6 times per year** **(190 volunteers (average 31.66 per meeting); 380 hours).**

- **BRCO attended 3 County Council of Community Clubs meetings: (34 volunteers (averaging 11.33; 68 hours)**
 - **BRCO attended WNC Communities Awards meeting: (6 volunteers: 18 hours).**
- **Approximately, how many volunteers served your community center or club over the past year?**
- **Beautification Committee** volunteered **160.75** hours on **44** projects, using **18** volunteers, **11** partners, spending **\$4,825.13** and taking in **\$583.05** in donated funds and **\$208** in sales - totaling **\$791.05** income.
 - **Benevolence Committee** volunteered **102.5** hours on **23** projects, using **37** volunteers, **20** partners, spending **\$4,893.70**, and taking in **\$500** in donated funds.
 - **Education Committee** volunteered **28** hours on **12** projects, using **23** volunteers, **8** partners, spending **\$500**.
 - **Food Pantry Committee** volunteered **952.25** hours on **76** projects, using **27** volunteers, **7** partners, spending **\$1,467.18**, and taking in **\$2,220** in donated funds.
 - **Historic Preservation Committee** volunteered **221** hours on **53** projects, using **81** volunteers, **35** partners, spending **\$3,615.67** (**\$250 counted under Benevolence**), and taking in **\$2,230** in donated funds and **\$910** in sales – totaling **\$3,140** income.
 - **5K/Half Marathon Race Committee** volunteered **335** hours on **22** projects, using **75** volunteers, **34** partners/sponsors, spending **\$7,105.53**, and taking in **\$6,600** in donated/sponsorship funds, **\$10,359.45** in entry fees, and **\$144.50** in sales – totaling **\$17,103.95** income.
 - **Rural Preservation Committee** volunteered **82** hours on **25** projects, using **21** volunteers, **21** partners, spending **\$2,020** (**\$550 counted under Benevolence**) and taking in **\$3,000** in donated funds.
 - **General Operational** activities included **\$6,531.09** expenses included heating/air/fuel/electric/supplies/insurance, **6** partners.
 - **Directors** volunteered **46.5** hours on **6** board meetings, using **6** volunteers
 - **Officers** volunteered **124** hours on general operational duties, using **5** volunteers.
 - **General Membership** volunteered **380** hours at **6** general meetings
 - **Members Volunteers** volunteered **60** hours at **11** meetings/projects outside the organization that benefit the organization.
 - **County Council of Community Clubs** attendees spent **68** hours at **3** meetings, using **34** volunteers.
 - **WNC Communities Awards Luncheon** spent **18** hours, using **6** volunteers.
 - **Facebook, Email, Web site, and Grant Writing, Correspondence, and Rental** totaled **242** hours on **11** projects.

□ **Roughly, how many volunteer hours were recorded for your community programs over the past year?**

Total number of volunteer hours includes volunteer services performed by all volunteers who serve in a number of different capacities.

TOTAL: NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS HOURS: 2,820.

□ **How does your community attract new volunteers or younger generations to volunteer?**

Meeting/Speakers/Programs provide an attraction for old members and newcomers

- Hold 6 meetings a year which are advertised in the media, Facebook, and via email invitation
- Meetings feature pot-luck dinners prior to the meeting.
- Each meeting features a speaker talking about a relevant topic.
- Committees report on topics of interest to the organization and the community.

Sponsors promote BRCO, and BRCO promotes sponsors

- Committees, particularly the Race Committee, solicit sponsors in order to attract interest to the organization's programs/projects.
- Sponsors promote BRCO, and BRCO promotes sponsors on the web site and at events.
- A different sponsor is acknowledged and discussed at each meeting.

Web Sites, Facebook, and Email all have outreach through social media

- Upgrading a general web site which details various programs, activities, sale items
- Maintain a special Race web site which is used specifically to advertise and promote the 5K/Half Marathon Race
- Maintain and update a Facebook page which draws attention to club accomplishments and activities.
- Maintain a separate Race Facebook page which promotes the race
- Maintain and check frequently the email address through which visitors are able to contact BRCO
- Regularly email members notification of meetings and events in the community
- Accomplishments of members are acknowledged via email notification
- Names of potential new members are added to the email list.
- Maintain contact with former members in anticipation of their returning to meetings

Projects/Committee Programs are promoted that are of interest to local Citizens

- **Beautification Committee** draws individuals interested in the beautification of our historic facility and who are interested in decorating. We have 5 new members of the committee this year.

- **Benevolence and Food Pantry Committees** attract individuals into involvement who are interested in contributing to the health and well-being of disadvantaged citizens and the community at large.
- **Education Committee** appeals to those who wish to promote opportunities for learning and providing financial assistance for students wishing to further their education.
- **Historic Preservation Committee** attracts individuals who are interested in local history. The committee has added 5 new members within the past year.
- **5K/Half Marathon Race** attracts race enthusiasts and individuals interested in promoting the community as a recreational area. Many young people participate, especially on race day.
- **Rural Preservation Committee** projects appeal to environmental/sustainability minded individuals.

Meetings/Seminars/Workshops Attended

- Committee members participate in meetings/seminars/workshops to enhance intake of information that benefits the committee/organization/community. The more our members know, the better our outreach can be. This year members attended trainings through Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's Gather 'Round the Blue Ridge, Waynesville Historic Commission's seminar on Waynesville's hotels and boarding houses, Museums in Partnership's Preserving Historic Buildings workshop, Museum's in Partnership's Photograph Care and Handling and Collection Management, County Council of Community Clubs meetings on the local hospital, insurance for non-profits, and presentation to Haywood County Commissioners, 4 Haywood Community College seminars: Developing a Culture of Philanthropy, Becoming a Change Agent in Your Organization, Gearing Up for Strategic Planning, and Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Social Media Tools, the Community Foundation of WNC's Fund for Haywood County Gift Fund workshop, Monarch Way Station workshop, and Haywood Waterways' Leaders in the Creek workshop.

Programs Presented reach potential new members

- BRCO's Rural Preservation Committee presented 2 programs to Haywood Community College's Leadership classes about BRCO's role as a leader in rural preservation in Haywood County and the state using BRCO's *Land of Promise* DVD.
- BRCO's Historic Preservation Committee gave a program at our general meeting about a local school teacher who has restored a historic (1868) schoolhouse and turned it into a museum.
- BRCO/DAR collaborated to give a program about the history of the Osborne Boundary Oak.

Publicity in local media about various projects keeps BRCO's name in the news.

Sale Items attract attention which gets people interested in BRCO's mission and meetings

- BRCO has photographed, framed, and sells 13 art prints of historic sites in the community.
- BRCO has produced and sells 6 books, *Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain, Books 1 – 6*.
- BRCO has produced and sells 3 DVDs on local history: *Walking in the Footsteps of Those Who Came Before Us, Inman Family in the Civil War*, and *From New College to Springdale*.
- BRCO has produced and sells 1 CD designed for car tours: *Cold Mountain Heritage Driving Tour*.
- BRCO sells all race awards items not used on race day.
- BRCO's Beautification Committee makes and sells table decorations at meetings.

□ How do you recognize your volunteers for their efforts? (Bonus worth up to 5 points)

- Members who perform duties above the average call of duty are **recognized at meetings**.
- Outstanding achievement of an **individual is recognized through emails** to the entire organization
- Outstanding **endeavors within a committee are recognized via email** to other members of that committee.
- **Thank you letters are mailed to speakers** to recognize their efforts.
- **Committee chairs mail thank you letters** to individuals who have donated monetarily or have contributed significantly to the committee's mission.
- **The Historic Preservation Committee recognizes**, each year, an outstanding volunteer in the community who has achieved extraordinary accomplishments: **Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation**. This year's winner, Norman Long, was a school teacher who has volunteered hundreds of hours in restoring the Chinquapin Grove School, a one-room structure built in 1868 which was used as a school, a church, a post office, and a home. Long has not only restored the historic building, but he has also collected a great number of historic memorabilia connected with the school and with Bethel. The site has, in fact, become a museum. To honor Long, BRCO gave him an award and several framed pictures of historic sites in the area.
- The longest continuing member of BRCO (since 1991), **David Curphey, received an outstanding lifetime achievement award** for his service to BRCO, the Lion's Club, his church, and the local schools. Curphey and his late wife had established a scholarship for outstanding achievement in science/math. Curphey has served as President, Board Chair, and on almost every committee in the organization. Curphey's life was the program, he was awarded a sash naming him "Mr. BRCO," he was given a

plaque, and his name will be honored with the annual citizenship award given to a local eighth grade student: **The David Curphey Citizenship Award.**

- **Other non-profit organizations**, many of them volunteer groups, which support BRCO's efforts or whose mission complements BRCO's goals **receive monetary support from BRCO:**
 1. Bethel Middle School's Principal's fund of **\$750** pays for track lighting at the school.
 2. Bethel Elementary School's Christmas Fund of **\$500** pays for clothing for needy children.
 3. Bethel Middle School's Christmas Fund of **\$500** pays for clothing for needy children.
 4. Bethel Middle School student receives **\$50** for the David Curphey Citizenship Award.
 5. Bethel Lion's Club received **\$39** for local citizens needing vision support.
 6. Pisgah High School student received a **\$500** scholarship.
 7. Center Pigeon Fire Department received **\$600**.
 8. Lake Logan Fire Department received **\$600**.
 9. Cops for Kids received **\$200**, donated through the Haywood County Sheriff's Department.
 10. Haywood Community College's welding department received **\$200**.
 11. Preservation NC received **\$50** for historic preservation.
 12. Buy Haywood received **\$500** from BRCO in support of its local farm-to-table/sustainability mission.
 13. Haywood Waterways Association received **\$50** for water conservation.
- **Media publicity recognizes the work of individuals and committees** whose efforts make up BRCO's accomplishments. Recognition of significant efforts by outstanding local citizens receives BRCO and media publicity:
 1. The Pigeon Valley Award recipient
 2. The Historic Preservation Committee's historic marker of a local historic site
 3. The Historic Preservation Committee's designation as a Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Heritage Trail site
 4. The Historic Preservation Committee's Quilt Trail designation is recognized by TDA's online and in a brochure.
 5. The Historic Preservation Committee received publicity with DAR for its efforts to save a historic tree.
 6. The Rural Preservation Committee is recognized on the Haywood Advancement Foundation's Buy Haywood Agri-Tourism brochure which has a distribution of 10,000.
 7. Rural Preservation member, Bill Holbrook, received recognition in an international magazine, John Deer's *Furrow*, because of his story about BRCO's rural conservation efforts.
 8. David Curphey received award for lifetime achievement and has a citizenship award named for him.
 9. Education Committee's scholarship was awarded to a Pisgah High School graduate.

Community Fund Raising: (*Worth up to 25 points*) Share fund raising activities lead by the community center.

☐ Please provide an overall total amount of funds your community raised this past year.

BRCO receives funds from several sources:

DONATIONS AND OTHER INCOME	TOTALS
• Contributions from other non-profits	\$ 6,325.00
• Donations from businesses – primarily race sponsorships	\$ 6,600.00
• Donations from individuals	\$ 1,825.00
• Donations from religious organizations	\$ 2,493.38
• Governmental funding	\$ 1,500.00
• Race Entry Fees	\$ 10,359.45
• Rental	\$ 9,370.00
• Sale items	\$ 1,236.50
TOTAL	\$ 39,709.33

☐ Describe your community center/club's most successful fundraising event or activity. How much was raised and who benefited?

Income from rental of BRCO's 1885 sanctuary/1964 classroom-fellowship addition competes with the 5K/Half Marathon Race income as the top two fundraising efforts of the organization. Rental income, however, requires very little effort on the part of membership. Encouraging Word Baptist Church's monthly rental brings in **\$9,000** per year. This year's rental income to individuals and groups brought in **\$370**. Total rental income was **\$9,370**. The largest fundraising endeavor that requires ongoing, year-round effort on the part of numerous BRCO players is the 5K/Half Marathon Race each October. BRCO's Half Marathon is the oldest half marathon in the state and the third oldest in the Southeast. It is the flattest, most scenic race in the region. BRCO's Half Marathon is affiliated with the Asheville Track Club Grand Prix and is USATF Certified #NC 12099Ph, allowing a runner to set national time records on BRCO's race course. **262** local, regional, state, and out-of-state runners registered for the race. Race day requires the voluntary services of two local fire departments, the sheriff's department, school personnel, BRCO members, and other community volunteers, including junior varsity and varsity cheerleading squads from Pisgah High School. Volunteers provide a variety of hot soups and baked goods, man water stations, oversee 2 awards ceremonies, provide race tracking and safety/traffic control. The organization partners with local businesses which sponsor the event. Race sponsorships total **\$6,600**. This past year's race plus entry fees thus far toward this year's race totals **\$10,359.45**. In addition, sales of race awards after the race amounted to **\$144.50**. Total income from the race: **\$17,103.95**.

BRCO's income is used for the following expenditures that benefit the organization and community:

Beautification expenditures: \$4,825.13

Benevolence expenditures to individuals: **\$854.70**
 Benevolence expenditures to schools: **\$2,000**
 Benevolence grants to other non-profits: **\$2,039**
 Community organization operations: **\$6,531.09**
 Educational expenditures: **\$500**
 Food Pantry expenditures: **\$1,467.18**
 Historic Preservation expenditures: **\$3,615.67 (\$250 counted under Benevolence)**
 Race expenditures: **\$7,105.53**
 Rural Preservation expenditures: **\$2,020 (\$550 counted under Benevolence)**
Total Expenditures That Benefit the Organization and the Community: \$30,158.30

□ **Did your community apply for any grant funds? If so, describe the outcome.**

While BRCO did not formally apply for a grant this year, the organization did receive funds from businesses, governmental agencies, individuals, and non-profits for specific projects:

- **\$ 1,500** BRCO and the other 5 community organizations each received funding from the Haywood County Commissioners grant to support community activities.
- **\$ 2,000** BRCO was one of 2 organizations in the western region to receive the “Community of Distinction Award” from the WNC Council of Community Clubs at its 2015 awards banquet.
- **\$ 125** Haywood County Council of Community Clubs grants attendance rewards for clubs attending quarterly meetings and those with the highest attendance. BRCO received highest attendance at two out of 3 meetings.
- **\$ 500** Glory Hound events, sponsor of the Lake Logan Multi-Sports Tri-Athlon event, provided funds to BRCO for its volunteer efforts at the event. BRCO provided 5 volunteers for several hours.
- **\$ 700** Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) granted BRCO’s Historic Preservation Committee funds to support arborist treatment of a several hundred year old historic tree.
- **\$ 1,380** Carol Litchfield, one individual, was so impressed with our attempts to save the historic Osborne Boundary Oak that she granted funds necessary for arborist treatment.
- **\$ 1,000** Haywood EMC granted the Rural Preservation Committee funds to support the committee’s project of recording a DVD titled “Fertile Fields of Bethel.”
- **\$ 2,000** Haywood County Farm Bureau granted Rural Preservation funds for DVD filming.
- **\$ 2,200** Encouraging Word Baptist Church and Riverside Baptist Church contributed funds specified for the Food Pantry Committee program.
- **\$ 6,600** Many businesses in the county support the scope of work performed by BRCO by becoming a donor/sponsor. BRCO has **22** business sponsors whose banners are displayed at the 5K/Half Marathon Race.
- **\$18,005 Total special funds granted to BRCO by businesses, governmental agencies, individuals, and non-profit agencies.**

□ **Did your community try a new or different fundraising event or method this year? If so, describe the outcome.** (Bonus worth up to 5 points)

BRCO attempted several new ideas this year to enhance meeting attendance and bring in some funds.

- **Beautification:** The committee decided to make themed decorations of each of the meetings as well as the County Council of Community Clubs meeting. The theme would sometimes parallel the topic of the speaker. The decorations at some of the meetings were then sold to attendees. For the bee keeper speaker, the committee made beehive decorations with attached bee friendly seed packets. For the meeting featuring a miniature donkey farm, the decorations included toy donkeys. At the January meeting, a member donated her snowman collection. The snowman decorations could be taken home by BRCO members after the meeting. The bee hives brought in **\$110**. The County Council floral displays earned **\$80**. The decoration concept was popular with members and brought in a total of **\$190** for the group.
- **Beautification:** The committee conducted a major remodeling project to open a small pass-through into a large open space with new cabinets on either side. New cabinets allowed us to move all meal-related supplies from distant closets to the cabinets. The expansion is much appreciated by Encouraging Word Baptist Church which leases the building and has frequent dinners. The church has a better serving space and much more cabinet space. BRCO’s own dinners are much easier with the expanded space.
- **Beautification:** Closet space was limited, so 3 closets were cleaned, 2 were painted, and shelving was added. One was designated for tools/cleaning supplies, a second for food pantry space, and a third for 5K/Half Marathon Race and Historic and Rural Preservation. Newly restored closets helped us be organized.
- **Benevolence:** The committee painted two unsightly outbuildings at the adjacent Bethel Middle School. The suggestion was well received by the school and added to the appearance of the campus.
- **Benevolence:** At its November meeting, members brought in good used coats to be distributed to food pantry participants at the November pantry day. Pantry participants were ecstatic.
- **Education:** The committee is charged with providing speakers at each of the 6 meetings. This year, we decided to feature local businesses of Bethel or else speakers who spoke about topics that relate to our focus on benevolence as well as rural or historic preservation. One program featured monarch butterfly gardens, another focused on bee keeping, another speaker was from a local farm-oriented business that raises miniature donkeys, another speaker discussed a local clothes closet for school children, another recognized a local citizen who has restored a historic school house. All programs were well received and brought in new

visitors who were interested in specific topics. The donkey program featured a newborn miniature donkey which proved to be so popular that the rest of the meeting was spent attempting to get people to pay attention to the meeting rather than the donkey.

- **Food Pantry:** This year John Chicoine from the Senior Resources Center came to pantry days to discuss Medicare/Medicaid planning as well as to let individuals know about resources that are available to them. Pantry participants were very pleased with the information that proved helpful to them.
- **Food Pantry:** Expanded closet space for storage was moved adjacent to current food pantry room, allowing for efficiency of space and less work for volunteers.
- **Historic Preservation:** The committee purchased file cabinets to initiate a community history file for people wanting to donate items.
- **Historic Preservation:** Conducted a joint program with DAR about a historic tree that has been adopted by both groups. As a result, the DAR donated **\$700** and a DAR/BRCO member donated **\$1,380** for arborist treatment of the tree. BRCO did not have to use any of its own funds for the project, and the tree gained several years of longevity.
- **Historic Preservation:** Three members of the committee worked on a state historic marker nomination for NC's most prolific inventor who was a Bethel resident. Our preliminary attempt was unsuccessful, but we collected valuable historical documentation on Calvin Filmore Christopher. We will try again.
- **Historic Preservation:** Blue Ridge National Heritage Area placed BRCO's historic Bethel Presbyterian Church on its Heritage Trail. The tourism emphasis is intended to bring visitors to our area and draw attention to our agricultural, Cherokee, and natural heritage.
- **5K/Half Marathon Race:** Established a new web site and new Facebook page just for the race and experienced many more advance reservations for the 2016 race in October.
- **Rural Preservation:** Initiated video filming of farming activities in Bethel which will result in a new DVD that will be distributed throughout the state to assist other agencies/organization with their farmland conservation efforts. Haywood EMC was so impressed with the potential for "Fertile Fields of Bethel" that it agreed to grant **\$1,000** to the project, and Haywood County Farm Bureau donated **\$2,000** for the DVD.
- **Web Site:** BRCO has decided to release its web master and manage its own web site. The change is in progress. With the new site, each committee member will be able to change its own committee listings.
- **Meetings:** In addition to focusing on speakers who promote our mission, a local business was promoted at each meeting with coupons or business cards awarded.
- **Letter Design:** A new letterhead sign featuring one of our historic art prints as well as updated contact/meeting information listed on the letter will be used for all correspondence.
- **New Vision Statement for BRCO:** Preserving Yesterday-Helping Today-Planning for Tomorrow

Programming & Education: *(Worth up to 15 points)* Describe any programs or meetings held to share valuable information or to educate on topics relevant to the community.

BRCO considers our programs a form of education for members and the community. This year we selected speakers whose message relates to our mission of benevolence as well as historic and rural preservation. Also, individual members deliver informative speeches at countywide meetings and programs. In addition, several members of BRCO attended outside meetings to educate ourselves about topics of significance to the organization.

PROGRAMS GIVEN AT BRCO MEETINGS:

- **September** – The Historic Preservation Committee awarded Norman Long the Pigeon Valley Award for his restoration of the 1868 Chinquapin Grove School. The program outlined the history of the school and Long's life and his accomplishment with historic restoration. **(8volunteers; 12 hours)**
BRCO's 2015 scholarship award winner, Kaitlin Frazier, was presented a \$500 scholarship at our meeting, and David Curphey enumerated her accomplishments. **(1 volunteer; .25 hours)**
- **November** – Marcia Tate, a local expert on the monarch butterfly, delivered an informative lecture about the life of monarch butterflies, their current plight, and information about how to develop a butterfly garden, including a certified monarch way station. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- **January** – Lorinda Whaley, spoke about the Clothes to Kids community closet. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- **March** – Alvin Edwards, beekeeper, spent 35 years working with bees; relayed his knowledge about beekeeping and enabling bees to survive when they are losing ground. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- **May** – Gail Guy owns Rocky Branch Longears – a miniature donkey farm. Young Webster accompanied his owner and brayed throughout her speech – to everyone's delight. The speech brought to light the many benefits to owning a miniature donkey. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- **July** - Randy Thompson presented to a founding member of BRCO a "This is Your Life, David Curphey" program. Curphey was given an engraved plaque and will have a citizenship award at Bethel Middle named for him. Lucas Sorrells enumerated the accomplishments of Cassie Parris, scholarship winner whose award will occur in August, 2016. **(2 volunteers; 6 hours)**

PROGRAMS/DISPLAYS/BROCHURE/AWARDS EDUCATE ABOUT BRCO

- **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's Heritage Trail** – **The most significant and far-reaching method for educating about BRCO and its many programs and projects is the fact that BRCO's community club site, the historic Bethel Presbyterian Church, is now one of 70 listings on BRNHA's Heritage Trail. Five kiosks, beautiful site signage at the center, a brochure, and a listing on BRNHA's web site provide information about BRCO throughout the state and nation.**

- **Haywood County Quilt Trails** – A listing on the TDA web site and the quilt trails brochure educates visitors to the quilt trail about BRCO’s history.
- **Haywood County Agri-Tourism** – Buy Haywood, a program started by BRCO, has a 10,000 distribution agri-tourism map that lists BRCO as a major donor to the program. The map features farms, produce stands, restaurants, and agricultural locations.
- **Leadership Haywood** – A member of the Rural Preservation Committee gave 2 programs to countywide groups of leaders about BRCO’s rural preservation program. The program includes a presentation of the DVD “Land of Promise” that was developed by BRCO several years ago.
- **BRCO’s Historic Preservation Committee/DAR** gave a joint program about the history of the Osborne Boundary Oak; the two groups support oversight of the historic tree.
- **BRCO’s Historic Preservation Committee** gave a program about the restoration of the historic Chinquapin Grove School.
- **BRCO Rural Preservation Member, Bill Holbrook, was featured in a national/international John Deere magazine, *The Furrow***, to discuss BRCO’s history of rural preservation efforts.
- **Publicity** in two local newspapers – The *Mountaineer* and *Vicinitis* - educates about BRCO projects.
- **Email Account** – Individuals contact BRCO via email account; specific requests are directed to each committee for response.
- **Facebook** – BRCO’s Facebook page lets friends learn about our activities in the community. We also publicize events from other organizations.
- **Race Facebook** – BRCO’s page dedicated to announcing information about our 5K/Half Marathon Race.
- **Web Site** – BRCO’s website focuses on the mission and work of each of our committees. Items for sale are also available via the web site.
- **Race Web Site** – is concentrated on 5K/Half Marathon registration and advertising.

PROGRAMS/MEETINGS THAT EDUCATE BRCO MEMBERS:

- **Benevolence/Food Pantry**– John Chicoine with Haywood County Senior Resource Center speaks with food pantry participants about their Medicare/Medicaid needs and about other programs available to them.
- **County Council of Community Clubs** – Several members attended 3 meetings and learned from speakers at each meeting.
- **Haywood Community College Seminars Attended by BRCO Members:**
 1. Gearing Up for Strategic Planning (4 volunteers; 10 hours)
 2. Becoming a Change Agent in Your Organization (5 volunteers; 12.5 hours)
 3. Developing a Culture of Philanthropy (3 volunteers; 7.5 hours)
 4. Social Media Tools to Focus Your Message (1 volunteer; 6 hours)
- **Community Foundation Training (1 volunteer; 2 hours)**
- **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area: ‘Gather Round the Blue Ridge: Seminar (1 volunteer; 3 hours)**
- **Museums in Partnership Workshops with the WNC Department of Cultural Resources Workshops:**
 1. Restoring Historic Buildings (1 volunteer; 7 hours)
 2. Caring for old photographs and framed objects.(1 volunteer; 3 hours)
- **Haywood County Historical & Genealogical Society seminar: Old Hotels and Boarding Houses of Waynesville (1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- **Monarch Butterfly Workshop** allowed Rural Preservation Committee to learn how to set up a monarch butterfly way station. (1 volunteer; 4 hours)
- **Haywood Waterways Leaders in the Creek Seminar** educated about how to assess health of the river. (1 volunteer; 4 hours)

Community Outreach, Projects & Collaboration: (*Worth up to 30 points*) Describe your community center’s outreach efforts or projects created to improve the quality of life for residents in your area. Identify if these activities were joint efforts with other community centers, local government, nonprofit agencies, schools, farms or businesses. Projects may be related to conservation, beautification, health, education, technology, job support, serving those in need, or more.

BRCO’s 7 committees identify, develop, and carrying out the group’s varied projects. Each category indicates 1 project unless otherwise specified:

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE projects beautify/maintain the community center which is the 1885 Bethel Presbyterian Church. Since the building is used by Encouraging Word Baptist Church every week and by individuals and groups within the community on a rental basis, BRCO takes seriously its stewardship by providing a clean, attractively decorated facility.

- So as not to be repetitive, please reference the Calico Cat Award section for a complete listing of all beautification/maintenance projects. The primary improvement was the remodeling of the pass-through between the kitchen and dining hall that has greatly benefitted the attractiveness and usability of the community center for church/rentals. Prior to undertaking the restoration, committee members visited all of the other five community centers in Haywood County to get ideas for our own project.
- Beautification Committee members planned and coordinated all remodeling/restoration projects of the historic 1885 Bethel Presbyterian Church/community center. We purchased from/affiliated with local businesses.
- Beautification Committee members planned the theme and decorated accordingly at each of our six general meetings and one County Council of Community Clubs meeting. Decorations were sold to raise funds.
- Beautification Committee sold items no longer needed at the facility in order to raise funds for ongoing improvements.

(Expenses: \$4,825.13) (Sales Income: \$208) (Donated Funds: \$583.05)(Total Income: \$791.05) (Projects: 44) (Volunteers: 18) (Volunteer Hours: 160.75) (Partners: 11)

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE provides humanitarian assistance to local schools, individuals, and other non-profits.

- BRCO coordinated with Bethel Middle School to paint two unsightly outbuildings on the school campus. These buildings are also visible from BRCO, so the project made the school and our own community center more attractive. BRCO volunteers donated paint and labor. **(5 volunteers; 15 hours)**
- John Chicoine with the Senior Resource Center worked with our disadvantaged food pantry participants to update them as to programs available to them. **(1 volunteer; 36 hours) – counted elsewhere)**
- Coordinated with the Lion's Club to assist with vision needs of local residents **(\$39) (1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Coordinated with Bethel Elementary School to provide **\$500** for needy children Christmas fund **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Coordinated with Bethel Middle School to provide **\$500** for needy children Christmas fund. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Coordinated with Bethel Middle School to provide **\$750** as a principal's discretionary fund. In the past the fund has been used to provide lighting for the school track which is used by the school/community walkers/runners. BRCO originally received grant funds to provide for the track. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Coordinated with Bethel Middle School to provide a **\$50** citizenship award to an eighth grader. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Provided funding for **5** citizens in need of electrical/fuel assistance **(2 volunteers; 4 hours) (\$704.99)**
- Provided funding for a large family in need of diapers **(1 volunteer; 1 hour) (\$149.71)**
- Provided funding of **\$600** to the Lake Logan Fire Department **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Provided funding of **\$600** to the Center Pigeon Fire Department **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Provided funding of **\$200** through the Haywood County Sheriff's Department to Cops for Kids project **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Provided funding of **\$200** to Haywood Community College's welding department **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Provided funding of **\$50** to Preservation NC **(1 volunteer; .25 hours)**
- Provided funding of **\$500** to the Buy Haywood Project which supports sustainable agriculture **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Provided funding of **\$50** to Haywood Waterways Association for water conservation **(1 volunteer; .25 hours)**
- Provided support for Lake Logan Multi-Sports event by manning a table **(5 volunteers; 35 hours) (Income: \$500)**
- Provided slightly used coats to our food pantry participants at Christmas **(10 volunteers; .75 hours)**
- Provided information to WNC Communities about who to contact to obtain funds for paying for roofs. Linda Lamp asked for suggestions to benefit another community center in the region. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**

(Expenses: \$4,893.70)(Income: \$500) (Projects: 23) (Volunteers: 37) (Volunteer Hours: 102.5) (Partners: 20)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE lines up speakers at BRCO meetings and provides a \$500 scholarship to a Pisgah High School graduate.

- Consulted with Pisgah High School to encourage applications for the scholarship **(1 volunteer; 2 hours)**
- Compiled comparisons to select scholarship recipient for the 2016 scholarship; this scholarship is sent to the school in August of the year she receives it **(5 volunteers; 10 hours)**
- Awarded a **\$500** scholarship to Kaitlin Frazier to A-B Tech in 9-2015 **(1 volunteer; .5 hours)**
- Recognized Cassie Parris for scholarship which will be granted in August, 2016 **(1 volunteer; .25 hours)**
- Publicized both the 2015 and the 2016 scholarships in *Mountaineer* **(2 projects) (1 volunteer; 2 hours)**
- Provided **4** outside speakers and **9** speakers from within BRCO at **6** meetings **(6 projects) (14 volunteers; 13.25 hours)**

(see pages 8 and 9 for a listing of all educational programs/projects given/attended)

(Expenses: \$500) (Income: 0) (Projects: 12) (Volunteers: 23) (Volunteer Hours: 28) (Partners: 8)

FOOD PANTRY COMMITTEE provides food to approximately 20 indigent families in the community each month. The committee also coordinates with the Rural Preservation Committee to offer produce tickets to local farms. Three local churches assist with funding/food.

- BRCO volunteers coordinate with MANNA to transport all types of food items most weeks **(45 projects) (8 volunteers; 360 hours) (Expense: \$1,397.18)**
- A volunteer organizes and puts away all food pantry items once a month **(12 projects) (1 volunteer; 120 hours)**
- Each month, pantry participants pick up canned goods, meat, produce, dairy, etc. while a number of BRCO volunteers assist **(12 projects) (11 volunteers; 396 hours) (20 partners).**
- Encouraging Word Baptist Church donated a total of **\$1,200** to support the pantry.
- Riverside Baptist Church donated a total of **\$1,000** to support the pantry.
- Chambers family provided **\$20** to support the pantry.
- Spring Hill Baptist donated several boxes of food each quarter to the pantry. **(4 projects) (2 volunteers; 2 hours)**
- Bethel Middle School has a Christmas food drive from which BRCO received over 500 cans. **(2 volunteers; 8 hours)**
- John Chicoine with the Senior Resource Center attends each food pantry session to offer advice. **(1 volunteer; 36 hours – already counted in the Benevolence Committee section)**
- Informed clients about the Clothes to Kid closet to families with children **(1 volunteer; .25 hours)**
- The Rural Preservation Committee coordinates with the pantry to offer coupons for free produce at local farms. **(1 volunteer; 30 hours) (Expense: \$70)**

(Expenses: \$1,467.18) (Donated Income: \$2,220) (Projects: 76) (Volunteers: 27) (Volunteer Hours: 952.25) (Partners: 7)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE researches, collects, documents, and educates about historical sites and data in Bethel and Haywood County.

- Toured the restored 1868 Chinquapin Grove School **(3 volunteers; 6 hours)**
- Presented the annual Pigeon Valley Award to Norman Long who restored the Chinquapin Grove School; program was about the history of the school. **(8 volunteers; 11 hours) (Expense: \$120.87)**
- Selected Dick Alexander for the 2016 recipient of the Pigeon Valley Award which will be granted in September, 2016. **(12 volunteers; 1 hour) (Expense: \$ 74.90)**
- Collected 2 new art prints this year from 2 families and have the photographer reproduce them in sellable giclee' format. **(2 projects) (1 volunteer; 12 hours)**
- Partnered with local photographer, John Rolland, to produce 2 new giclee' art prints of historic sites and makes copies of other prints which we sell (13 prints have been collected over several years). **(1 volunteer; 2 hours) (Expense: \$86)**
- Partnered with Village Framer to frame newly collected art prints and awards for Pigeon Valley Award recipients. **(1 volunteer; 2 hours) (Expense: 203.30)**
- Working with artist Nick DePaolo to produce a painting of the historic Bethel Schools. **(2 volunteers; 3 hours)**
- BRCO and DAR joined to present a program about the historic Osborne Boundary Oak (OBO). **(7 volunteers; 10 hours)**
- Partnered with DAR **(\$700)** and Carol Litchfield **(\$1,380)** to hire an arborist to prune the OBO. **(Income: \$2,080)**
- Partnered with Snow Creek Natural Resource Management, agronomist, to treat the OBO. **(2 volunteers; 2 hours) (Expense: \$2,080)**
- Partnered with Cold Mountain Nursery to collect oak seedlings which will be distributed this fall to contributors to the preservation of the OBO. **(2 volunteers; 5 hours)**
- Partnered with Haywood Community College to measure and check health of the OBO. **(3 volunteers; 3 hours)**
- Produced publicity in *The Mountaineer* and *Vicinitis* about the OBO. **(2 projects) (1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Secured services of Lake Logan Fire Department to water the OBO. **(3 volunteers; 3 hours)**
- Partnered with Doug Chambers Productions to make copies of 2 DVDs and 1 CD which the group sells. **(3 projects) (1 volunteer; 1 hour) (Expense:\$224)**
- Partnered with HP chair to print *Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain, Books 1-6, which we sell.* **(6 projects) (1 volunteer; 12 hours) (Expense: Printing donated)**
- Partnered with Blue Ridge Books, Breaking Bread Café, and Springdale Country Club to sell books, CDs, and DVDs. **(3 projects) (1 volunteer; 4 hours)**
- **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area selected BRCO's community center as the site of one of 3 historic markers in Haywood County and one of 70 in the western region – placing BRCO on the BRNHA Heritage Trail.**
- Conducted research with Canton Historical Museum and Haywood County Public Library's North Carolina Room on NC's most prolific inventor, Calvin Filmore Christopher, in anticipation of securing an NCDOT/Cultural Resources state historic marker. **(2 projects) (3 volunteers; 65 hours)**
- Revived the old Cold Mountain Heritage Tour for members of the Unitarian Church of Asheville. **(4 volunteers; 21.5 hours) (Income: \$ 100)**
- Enabled contact with a family restoring a historic house with family who originally lived there. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Purchased 2 filing cabinets from Habitat for Humanity to begin a file for historic Bethel pictures and data. **(3 volunteers: 2 hours)(Expense: \$96.30)**
- Nominated *From New College to Springdale* DVD for the NC Society of Historians Paul Green Multi-Media Award. **(1 volunteer; 5 hours)**
- Partnered with Haywood Community College, A to Z Signs, and G & G Media Blasting to make a local historic marker for the 1800's Pigeon Gap Watering Hole. **(3 projects) (1 volunteer; 12 hours)(Expense: \$322.80)**
- Checked with NCDOT for historic marker right-of-way **(1 volunteer; .5 hours)**
- Historic Preservation Committee members erected one old and one new historic marker **(2 volunteers; 6 hours)**
- Partnered with *The Mountaineer* and *Vicinitis* for publicity about Pigeon Gap signage. **(2 projects) (8 volunteers; 10 hours)**
- Partnered with Doug Chambers Productions and Appalachian Hardwood to film 3 segments of a new Sunburst and Other Logging villages in Bethel DVD. **(2 projects) (4 volunteers; 10 hours) (Expense: \$157.50)**

- Made a **\$200** donation to Haywood Community College's welding department.
- Partnered with Dave McC arson to mow the area surrounding Pigeon Gap Watering Hole **(2 volunteers; 4 hours)**
- Made a **\$50** donation to Preservation NC.
- Donated 1 Book 5 of *Legends* to the history room of the Haywood County Public Library. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Sold **2** art prints of 13 BRCO has produced **(1 volunteer; 1 hour) (Income: \$98)**
- Sold **18** *Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain, Books 1-6* **(1 volunteer; 2 hours) (Income: \$205)**
- Sold *From New College to Springdale* and *Walking in the Footsteps of Those Who Came Before US DVD's* which were produced by BRCO **(1 volunteer; 2 hours) (Income: \$522)**
- *Cold Mountain Heritage Tour* CD is for sale but none were sold.
- Received non-specified historic preservation donated funds from individual: **\$50**

Expenses: \$3,615.67 - \$250 counted under Benevolence) (Sales Income: \$910) (Donated Income: \$2,230) (Total Income: \$3,140) (Projects: 53) (Volunteers: 81) (Volunteer Hours: 221) (Partners: 35)

5K/HALF MARATHON RACE is held each October and is the primary fundraiser for BRCO.

- Host a web site specifically for the race which requires frequent updating **(1 volunteer; 8 hours)**
- Market the race on BRCO's Facebook **(1 volunteer; 10 hours)**
- Market race at other races **(2 volunteers; 4 hours)**
- Conduct online registrations **(1 volunteer; 8 hours)**
- Host several meetings/online discussion to plan details of both races **(6 volunteers; 40 hours)**
- Design t-shirts **(2 volunteers; 6 hours)**
- Order awards, t-shirts, race give-away products, food **(4 volunteers: 12 hours)**
- Set up race course with appropriate signage **(4 volunteers; 12 hours)**
- Set up registration forms/site and maintain it **(2 volunteers; 3 hours)**
- Set up/maintain water stations for race day **(10 volunteers; 30 hours)**
- Set up/maintain awards tables for race day **(2 volunteers; 2 hours)**
- Set up sale/give-away table for race day **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Set up/maintain free t-shirt table **(3 volunteers; 3 hours)**
- Coordinate with Bethel Middle School which provides pre/post-race location and personnel **(2 volunteers; 6 hours)**
- Coordinate with two fire departments, sheriff's department, Pisgah High Cheerleading squads, local volunteers to man all stations **(1 volunteers; 2 hours)**
- Make/serve soups, desserts, fruit, drinks at race finish with volunteers manning the food line **(12 volunteers; 99 hours)**
- Conduct two awards ceremonies **(2 volunteers; 2 hours)**
- Solicit race sponsors which provide the bulk of the organization's outside support **(10 volunteers; 20 hours)**
- Recognize sponsors through signage, thank you letters, and personal visits **(2 volunteers; 40 hours)**
- Race day coordination of all volunteers **(5 volunteers; 25 hours)**
- NC's oldest half marathon race
- The third oldest half marathon in the Southeast
- Asheville Track Club Grand Prix Race **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- USATF certified so that runners can set national time records **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**

Expenses: \$7,105.53) (Income - Donations and sponsors: \$6,600) (Income - entry fees: \$10,359.45) (Income - sales: \$144.50) (Total Income: \$17,103.95) (Projects: 22) (Volunteers: 75) (Volunteer Hours: 335) (Partners: 34)

RURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE projects focus on conservation easements, land and water protection measures, and agricultural sustainability programs, and activities that preserve and showcase the rural landscape of Bethel.

- Work closely with landowners to inform them about the easement program, the grantor(s) to obtain grants, processing agencies to implement each grant, and the grant recipients to direct and complete conservation easements. Since these granting foundations require government entities to process and oversee the grants, these funds do not pass through BRCO. Two properties received grants prior to August 2015 but were not placed in conservation easement until November 17, 2015. These two easements were the 11th and 12th conservation easements in Bethel in the last nine years. Since 2007, 453 acres have been placed into conservation easement in the local watershed area. **(1 volunteer; 2 hours)**
- Consulted with Leslie Smathers at Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District about easements and Monarch Way Station Wildflower seed mix. **(1 volunteer, 1 hour)**

- A \$362,500 grant processed last year conserved 100 acres of a livestock and crop farm and 3,000 feet of Pigeon River frontage in an easement in November, 2015.
- An \$188,500 grant processed last year placed in perpetual conservation 80 acres of a livestock and forestry farm in an easement in November, 2015.
- Contributed **\$500** as a primary sponsor of the Buy Haywood project that both educates and supports Bethel and Haywood County farms, produce stands, tailgate and farmer's markets, stores, restaurants, and historic agricultural sites. Buy Haywood distributes 10,000 Agri-Tourism brochures. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Attended Haywood Waterways first annual Leaders in the Creek workshop which is designed to teach assessing the health of the river and identify water quality issues in the watershed. **(1 volunteer; 4 hours)**
- Consulted with Haywood County Farm Bureau in planning the DVD production. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Began production of the "Fertile Fields of Bethel" DVD, with videographer Doug Chambers, which shows how we support successful agricultural operations that help drive the local economy. **(2 volunteers; 46 hours) (Expense: \$1,470)**
- Interfaced with numerous individuals in filming the DVD: Danny Barrett-Ten Acre Garden, Ray and Ron Chambers-Chambers Farm, Johnny and Rachel Leatherwood-Leatherwood Farm, Ross Dairy Farm, Bill Holbrook-farmer, Bill Skelton- County Extension Director, Caleb Rathbone-Superintendent of Mountain Research Station Test Farm, Bill Yarborough-NC Department of Agriculture Regional Agronomist **(8 projects) (10 volunteers; 10 hours)**
- Haywood Electric Membership Corporation donated **\$1,000** to cover DVD cost. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Haywood Farm Bureau Insurance donated **\$2,000** to cover DVD cost. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Attended training at Haywood County Public Library on how to establish Monarch Butterfly Way stations and identify potential Way Station sites in Bethel. **(1 volunteer; 4 hours)**
- Haywood Soil and Water provided wildflower seed mix for Monarch Way Station habitat.
- Haywood County Master Gardener Volunteer Association provided native plants for planting Monarch Way Station habitat.
- Member Bill Holbrook was featured in an article on rural preservation for the John Deere *Furrow Magazine*. He credits the efforts of BRCO: "The people in our little area are quite active in farm preservation with many landowners working with the NC Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and BRCO. **(1 volunteer; 1 hour)**
- Conducted **2** Leadership Haywood Training seminars about the Rural Preservation Committee's efforts in Bethel by showing the *Land of Promise* DVD that was created by BRCO. **(1 volunteer; 10 hours; 2 projects)**
- Contributed **\$50** to Haywood Waterways Association

Expenses: \$2,020 - \$550 counted under Benevolence) (Donations and sponsors Income: \$3,000) (Projects: 25) (Volunteers: 21) (Volunteer Hours: 82) (Partners: 21)

Economic Development & Sustainability: (*Worth up to 10 points*) **Economic development is the process by which a community creates, retains and reinvests wealth. The goal of economic development should be to raise the standard of living. How has your community helped in this capacity?**

With any business activity involving BRCO, we purchase items from local businesses, promote local farms, produce stands, and restaurants. We also interact with other local non-profits that enable the organization to further its beautification, benevolence, educational, food pantry, historic and rural preservation mission. BRCO connects with many businesses through our sponsorship program in which we promote these businesses at the 5K/Half Marathon Race through signage, web site/Facebook, and publicity. We also feature a local business at each meeting. Through our connection to individuals, schools and non-profits we promote the welfare of local citizens with the aim of elevating their standard of living.

BRCO is particularly proud of its Rural Preservation efforts. Through our Buy Haywood sponsorship, we connect with 10,000 individuals to promote local farms, produce stands, restaurants, and agricultural related entities. Our history of educating land owners and obtaining grants to promote conservation easements has enabled our area to remain rural – with the special significance rural areas have for feeding people and animals as well as creating an enticing visual connection to the environment. The Rural Preservation Committee's advocacy for land/water conservation and flood mitigation provides protection for the economic viability of the entire Upper Pigeon River Watershed area. Our focus on protecting wild lands and natural features, as well as our historic preservation emphasis on documenting local history, helps to draw tourists to the area which promotes local economic sustainability.

Each committee's purchases from/support-promotion of business (primarily local) is listed briefly as are other non-profits whose connection with BRCO promotes a higher quality of life and living standard. Individuals within the community contribute to and benefit from BRCO's financial and social support:

Beautification: *Antique dealer – George Hardin, Architect – Douglas Janes, Carpenter/painter – Mark Wilson, Encouraging Word Baptist Church (kitchen rearrangement), Engineer – Alvin Edwards, Green Brothers/Haywood Roll-off, Canton Insurance Agency, Lowe's, Mustang Consultants (kitchen design), Dickie's Barbecue, Western Regional Presbytery (Partners:11)*

Benevolence: Bethel Elementary (Christmas Fund), Bethel Middle (Christmas Fund, Principal's Fund, citizenship award), Senior Resource Center (consultant), Lion's Club (donor), 6 families in need (donor), Center Pigeon Fire Department (donor), Lake Logan Fire Department (donor), Haywood County Sheriff's Department, Cops for Kids (donor), Haywood Community College (donor), Lake Logan Multi-Sports Tri-Athlon (race-day volunteers), Buy Haywood (donor), Haywood Waterways (donor), Preservation NC (donor), and WNC Communities (respond to queries) **(Partners: 20)**

Education: Pisgah High School (scholarship research), Kaitlin Frazier (2015 scholarship recipient), Cassie Parris (2016 scholarship recipients), Marcia Tate (Monarch Butterfly gardens), Lorinda Whaley (Clothes to Kids), Alvin Edwards (bee sustainability), Gail Guy (Rocky Branch Longears Miniature Donkey Farm), Mountaineer (publicity) **(Partners: 8)**

Food Pantry: MANNA (food supply), Encouraging Word Baptist Church (donor), Riverside Baptist Church (donor), Spring Hill Baptist Church (donor), Bethel Middle School (food drive donor), local farms and produce stands (support BRCO's coupon program for fresh produce) **(Partners: 7)**

Historic Preservation : A to Z Printing (Pigeon Gap Historic Marker), Appalachian Hardwood (DVD venue), Asheville Unitarian-Church (Cold Mountain Heritage Tour), Blue Ridge Books (sales location), Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (Heritage Trail and signage), Breaking Bread Café (sales location), Canton Historical Museum (Calvin Filmore Christopher), Carol Litchfield (Osborne Boundary Oak donor), Chiquapin Grove School, Cold Mountain Nursery (Osborne Boundary Oak collector of seedlings), DAR (Osborne Boundary Oak donor), Dave Mc Carson (mows Pigeon Gap Watering Hole), De Etta Eberhart (house restoration connection), Dick Alexander (DVD nomination for NC Society of Historians), Dominick De Paolo (artist), Doug Chambers (DVD filming), G & G Media Blasting (historic marker), Habitat for Humanity (purchased library file cabinets), Haywood Community College (built historic marker), Haywood County Public Library (donor to), Haywood County Public Library North Carolina Room (research), John Rolland (photographed historic prints), Lake Logan Fire Department (watered Osborne Boundary Oak), Mountaineer (publicity), NCDOT (permission for historic marker), NC Society of Historians (nomination for state history award), Norman Long (Pigeon Valley Award recipient), Peek family (Blaylock House picture), Preservation NC (donor to), Snow Creek Natural Resource Management (Osborne Boundary Oak pruning), Sorrells family (Bethel School picture), Springdale Country Club (sales location), Thompsen family (historic restoration), Vicinitis (publicity), Village Framer (framed art prints) **(Partners: 35)**

5K/Half Marathon Race: Ameripride Serve (donor), Asheville Track Club (advertising), Bethel Middle School (race location), Breaking Bread Café (donor), Canton Insurance (insurance), Carolina Runner (advertising), Center Pigeon Fire Department (course safety), Clark & Leatherwood (donor), Clyde's Restaurant (donor), Cold Mountain Nursery (donor), Cops for Kids (donor), First Citizen's Bank (donor), Flying Pigs Signs (signage), George and Laura Ivey (donor), Haywood Community College (printing), Haywood County Sheriff's Department (course safety), Haywood EMC (donor), Haywood Regional Medical Center (donor), Hometruster Bank (donor), Hometown Hardware (donor), J W Johnson Tomato Company (donor), Joey's Pancake House (donor), Jukebox Junction (breakfast), Ken Wilson Ford (donor), Kim's Pharmacy (donor), Lake Logan Fire Department (course safety), Multi-Plex Holding (t-shirts), Pasquales's Pizzeria (donor), Pisgah High School Varsity and JV Cheerleading Squads (helpers), Riverview Farms & Gardens (donor), Rogers Express Lube (donor), Sunburst Trout Farm (donor), USATF Certification (national certification), Waynesville Tire Company (donor) **(Partners: 34)**

Rural Preservation: Two anonymous land owners who worked with BRCO to commit their properties to conservation easement (180 acres worth \$551,000 in grant funding facilitated by BRCO), Buy Haywood (BRCO is agri-tourism guide sponsor), Danny Barrett (Ten Acre Garden), Doug Chambers Productions (videographer), Ray and Ron Chambers (Chambers Farm), Haywood Advancement Foundation (Buy Haywood overseer), Haywood County Public Library (Monarch Butterfly workshop), Haywood County Soil and Conservation Department (oversee 2 conservation easements), Haywood EMC (sponsor of DVD), Haywood Farm Bureau (donor), Haywood Waterways Association (Leaders in the Creek & donor), John Deere Furrow Magazine (interview with Bill Holbrook about BRCO's conservation easement program and DVD participant), Leadership Haywood (conducted two workshop sessions), Johnny & Rachel Leatherwood (Leatherwood Farm), Caleb Rathbone (Superintendent of Mountain Research Station Test Farm), Ross Dairy Farm, Bill Skelton (County Extension Director), Bill Yarborough (NC Department of Agriculture Regional Agronomist) **(Partners: 21)**

General Operational/Organizational: BRNHA (seminar), B Fire Safe, Canton Insurance Agency, Community Foundation (seminar), County Council of Community Clubs (meetings), Encouraging Word Baptist Church, Haywood Community College (4 seminars), Haywood County Public Library (seminar), Haywood Waterways (seminar), Progress Energy, Museums in Partnership (2 seminars), US Postal Service, Waynesville Gas, Waynesville Historic Commission (seminar) **(Partners: 14)**

Additional Information: (Bonus worth up to 10 points) **Share future plans or any relevant information that your community wishes to bring to our attention.**

Beautification Committee will continue to remodel the kitchen, paint 2 closets, and install historic floor molding.

Benevolence Committee will continue to seek opportunities to assist individuals in need as well as support local schools and non-profits.

Education Committee will continue to select a Pisgah High graduate for scholarship funding and attempt to bring in interesting speakers to maintain the interest in our bi-monthly meetings as well as to educate about community issues.

Food Pantry Committee will attempt to expand information about its program to alert additional worthy candidates.

Historic Preservation Committee will continue filming more segments for the Sunburst Logging DVD as well as begin production on another DVD about a local family and its connection to a recently restored 1868 school. We will select another historic art print topic and another site for a local historic marker. We will also revisit our application for a state historic marker for a local inventor.

5K/Half Marathon Race Committee will attempt to expand its reach to entice more runners.

Rural Preservation Committee will complete filming of the "Fertile Fields of Bethel" and distribute it statewide.

BRCO is committed to supporting the local community and economy as is evidenced by our fundraising efforts, expenditures, our willingness to take on hundreds of projects, devote thousands of hours, and connect with more than a hundred partners.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$30,158.30

TOTAL INCOME: \$39,709.33

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 2,820

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROJECTS: 292

TOTAL PARTNERS: 150

BRCO's MOST NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 8-2015 – 7-2016:

Nationally: The Bethel Half Marathon is nationally recognized as **USATF Certified #NC 12099Ph** so that runners can set national time records.

State: BRCO's half marathon is the oldest in the state.

Regionally: The half marathon is the third oldest in the Southeast.

Regionally: **Because of BRCO's extensive research into agricultural, Cherokee, and natural heritage as a result of a lengthy application process, the organization is one of 3 in Haywood County and one of 70 sites in the 25 county WNC region to be listed on Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's Heritage Trail. This honor brings us attention through BRNHA's web site, 5 regional kiosks, the Heritage Trail brochure, and a beautiful local sign. BRNHA's information is researched by travelers from the entire USA who come to WNC.**

Regionally: BRCO has received the "Community of Distinction" award from WNC Communities for 3 years in a row.

Locally: BRCO placed 180 acres in the Pigeon River Watershed into permanent conservation easement as well as 3,000 feet of Pigeon River frontage, totaling 453 acres over the years that BRCO has placed into permanent conservation easement.

Locally: BRCO established its 4th local historic marker.

Locally: BRCO, over the years, has collected, produced, and sells 13 art prints, 6 books, 3 DVDs, and 1 CD which document local history.

Locally: BRCO's Historic Preservation Committee is producing a several-years-in-the-making DVD of Sunburst and other historic logging villages/operations in Bethel.

Locally: BRCO's Rural Preservation Committee is producing a two-year-in-the-making DVD of numerous produce stands and farms in Bethel. This DVD will have statewide distribution to assist other communities with rural preservation.

Locally: BRCO partners with a wide variety of local businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, governmental agencies, and individuals to accomplish its vision of Preserving Yesterday – Helping Today – Planning for Tomorrow to locate, coordinate, and lead local and regional resources to perform programs and projects that enhance the quality of rural life in the Bethel Community.