

70th ANNUAL WNC HONORS AWARDS to RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT
2019 COMMUNITY APPLICATION

COMMUNITY PROFILE (*Worth up to 5 points*):

Community Center/Club Name: **Bethel Rural Community Organization (BRCO)**

County: **Haywood**

Physical Address of Center/Club: **664 Sonoma Road, Waynesville, NC 28786**

Website Address: www.bethelrural.org and www.bethelhalfmarathonand5k.weebly.com

Facebook: **Bethel Rural Community Association Facebook and Race Facebook**; Email: haywoodbrco@gmail.com

What type of boundaries describes your community?

One community District (fire or school) Incorporated Unincorporated Other

How many households are in your community approximately? **2, 500**

When was your community organized? **Community organization began in 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? **3402063023**

Community mission statement: **To coordinate local and regional resources to perform programs and projects that enhance the quality of rural life in Bethel Community**

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

VOLUNTEER (*Worth up to 5 points*):

Officer Information: Please list title, name, address, phone and email of community officers.

President: Carroll Jones, 2 Serenity Lane, Canton, NC 28716; 850-686-1472; ccrymes.jones@gmail.com

Vice-President: Mike McLean, 788 Springbrook Farms Road, Waynesville, NC 28786; 828-275-4057; memclean@aol.com

Secretary: Beth Cook, 78 Indian Hills Loop, Waynesville, NC 28786; 828-734-8776; ehc78@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Stephanie Quis-Garrett, 200 Feather Lane, Waynesville, NC 28786; 909-642-5016; smallshells56@gmail.com

Name and contact information of individual submitting application, if not an officer:

Evelyn Coltman, 90 Evergreen Circle, Waynesville, NC 28786; 828-648-3226; evelyn3226@charter.net

How many volunteers served your community center/club over the past year?

Approximately 40 BRCO members serve in various capacities, and several serve on more than one committee.

During our 5K/Half Marathon Race we have as many as 80 volunteers from fire departments, cheerleaders, schools, local citizens, and members. There are approximately 78 volunteer positions filled by members and other

volunteers. Committees by volunteer membership: Beautification: 7; Benevolence: 3; Education: 10; Food Pantry: 13; Historic Preservation: 16; 5K/Half Marathon Race: 6; Rural Preservation: 4; Organization: 9

How many approximate volunteer hours were recorded over the past year? Beautification: 303; Benevolence: 40; Education : 154; Food Pantry: 1,086; Historic Preservation: 580; 5K/Half Marathon Race: 448; Rural Preservation: 125; Organization: 1,593; TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 4,329; TOTAL PROJECTS: 564; TOTAL PARTNERS: 581

FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARITY, EACH CATEGORY WILL BE DISCUSSED USING BRCO'S FRAMEWORK OF 7 COMMITTEES PLUS ORGANIZATIONAL THAT PERFORM THE WORK AND ENABLE THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION. VOLUNTEER HOURS - CALCULATED FIGURING THE AMOUNT OF TIME PER PROJECT X THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

Color Coding: Expenses, Sales, Donations, Projects, Partners, Volunteer Hours, Intro/Information, Contractor, Questions

FACILITY/Calico Cat Award (*Worth up to 5 points*): This section is for updates and renovations to existing community centers from **August 2018 through August 2019** only. Describe the improvements made to the community center or the facility where your community meets. Include whether the work was done by volunteers or local contractors. How did the community pay for updates or renovations? Beautification: To alleviate repetition in a later section of this report, this section will also include all beautification projects – some of which, such as decorations, were temporary. Permanent upgrades to the facility, continuing maintenance, community beautification plans, and time connected with these projects will be listed with a *

- Made Decorations/decorating for 6 bi-monthly meetings **(129 hours) (12 projects) (\$197.23) (\$144)**
- Fire safety inspection/Fire safety modifications/B Fire Safe **(9 projects) (7 hours) (\$80.25) *Contractor**
- Conducted a walk-through assessment of tasks to be completed **(4 hours) ***

- Cold Mountain Nursery trimmed shrubbery beside the community center (2 hours) (In-Kind donation) *
- Contracted with tenant, Harmony Baptist Church, to do mowing and routine facility cleaning (1 hour) *
- Committee meetings (4) (yearly planning, shades, windows, carpet, circle drive) (4 projects) (28.25 hours) *
- Developed architectural drawing of entryway circle drive (5 hours) *
- Discussion with board about circle drive for Food Pantry (1 hour) *
- Consultation with contractor about circle drive (Dale Green) (2 hours) *Contractor
- Consult/ordered/oversaw window installation(Window world)(3 projects) 12 hours) (\$4,027) * Contractor
- Took down old blinds (6 hours) *
- Consult/ordered/oversaw shade installation (Lowe's) (3 projects) (14 hours) (\$1,483.20) *Contractor)
- Roof leak inspection/repair by members (4 hours) *
- Consult/roofing contractor (Larry Clark with Clark & Leatherwood) (2 hours) *Contractor
- Purchased/installed entry rug (Lowe's) (2 hours) (\$190.46) *
- Purchased/installed vestibule light bulbs (1 hour) (\$17.08) *
- Installed switch guard in vestibule (15 minutes) (\$Donated) *
- Surveyed light fixtures throughout facility, including stained-glass sanctuary hanging (1 hour) *
- Conducted facility inventory of belongings for insurance/projected improvements (10 hours) *
- Hung 2 art prints (2 projects) (30 minutes) *
- Consulted with a landowner/NCDOT for land transfer to install signage at Bethel's entrance (20 hours)
- Report for 5 meetings (5 projects) (1 hour)
- General maintenance/Ted Carr (40 hours) (In-Kind Donation) *
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures (10 hours)

Payment for Projects: **BRCO budgeted \$5,900 from general funds for several beautification projects. Beautification Committee also sold decorations after each general meeting. BRCO held a yard sale in September to offset the cost of window installation.**

Expenses: \$5,995.22; Sales Income: \$144; In-Kind Donations: Shrubby trimming/General maintenance – 42 hours; Projects: 55; Partners: 18; Volunteer Hours: 303; Contractors: \$5,590.45

FUNDRAISING (Worth up to 25 points): Provide overall total of funds the community raised this past year.

BRCO receives funds from several sources which are outlined in detail under each committee section:

DONATIONS, SPONSORS, AND OTHER INCOME	TOTALS
• Donations from other non-profits	\$ 2,125.00
• Donations from corporate sponsors	\$ 7,650.00
• Donations from individuals	\$ 1,034.27
• Donations from religious organizations	\$ 1,355.00
• Donations from governmental agencies	\$ 1,500.00
• 5K/Half Marathon Race entry fees	\$ 9,309.99
• Rental	\$ 9,365.00
• Sale items	\$ 7,386.03
TOTAL INCOME	\$39,725.29

Describe the community's **most** successful fundraising activity or grant. This effort will have been organized and managed by the community center/club only. How much was raised and who benefitted?

BRCO was fortunate this year to have several major fundraisers. BRCO held a yard-sale in September that brought in **\$1,656** The Historic Preservation (HP) Committee produced a DVD, *Sunburst and Other Logging Operations in the*

Bethel & Cold Mountain Region (\$4,886.47). Along with sales of other CDs/DVDs, floral arrangements, and race day items - BRCCO's Beautification, HP, Race, Rural Preservation, and yard sale have earned BRCCO **\$7,386.03**. BRCCO oversees a yearly tenant rental by Harmony Baptist Church of the 1885 sanctuary/1964 classrooms/dining/kitchen that brought in **\$9,000**. BRCCO also rents the dining/kitchen area to local groups. This year's income was **\$365**. Total rental income was **\$9,365**. Rental income requires very little effort by BRCCO. The largest fundraising endeavor that requires ongoing, year-round effort on the part of numerous BRCCO members and community helpers is the annual 5k/Half Marathon Race in October. BRCCO's Half Marathon is the oldest in the state and the third oldest in the Southeast, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018. It is the flattest, most scenic race in the region. BRCCO's Half Marathon is affiliated with the Asheville Track Club Grand Prix and is USATF Certified #NC 12099Ph, allowing runners to set national time records on BRCCO's racecourse. 260 local, regional, state, and out-of-state runners registered for the 2018 race. Race day requires the voluntary services of two local fire departments, the sheriff's department, school personnel, BRCCO members, and other community volunteers, including junior varsity and varsity cheerleading squads from Pisgah High school. Volunteers provide a hot soups/baked goods, man water stations, oversee 2 awards ceremonies, provide race tracking/safety/traffic control. The organization partners with local businesses that sponsor the event. Race corporate sponsorships: **\$6,650**; Individual: **\$100**; Race entry fees: **\$9,309.99**. Sales of race awards/supplies: **\$41**. Race day donations: **\$67.30**. Total income: **\$16,168.29**.

5K/HALF MARATHON RACE details about the 2018, 25th anniversary celebration, as well as its planning/organization/affiliation/projects/income/expenditures/volunteer hours are listed below:

- Oversaw race website **(11 hours)** and race email **(2 hours)** **(2 projects)**
- Marketed the race on BRCCO's Race Facebook page **(10 hours)**
- Marketed the race at other races **(4 hours)**
- Marketed the race with advertising and blogs: Pace Magazine **(\$399)** Asheville Track Club **(\$200)** Carolina Runner **(\$127.50)** **(3 projects)** **(3 hours)** = **(\$726.50)**
- Conducted online runner registrations **(10 hours)**/race day registrations **(4 hours)****(2 projects)****(\$9,309.99)**
- Hosted meetings/online discussions to plan details of both races **(40 hours)**
- Designed/purchased T-shirts from Patti Boo Designs **(6 hours)** **(\$1,690.60)**
- Held student contest for design for the race lavalier made by Mud Dabbers **(3 hours)** **(\$187.25)**
- Publicity about the medallion design competition winner in 2 media outlets **(3 hours)****(2 projects)**
- Awards from Smokey Mt. Coffee Roasters **(10 hours)** **(\$126.23)**, Mud Dabbers **(\$1,174.86)**, Robin Blu **(\$164.78)**, Cold Mountain Toffee **(\$125)**, and BRCCO cash **(\$500)** **(5 projects)** = **(\$2,090.87)**
- Purchased drinks for runners **(12 hours)** **(\$132.37)**
- NCDOT permit/set up water stations/paint racecourse/prepare sponsor signage **(32 hours)** **(4 projects)**
- Arranged/funded Event Mercenaries for race timing **(2 hours)** **(\$1,403.60)** **Contractor**
- Insurance from Canton Insurance Agency **(1 hour)** **(\$200)**
- Gym rental and pre-race set-up at Bethel Middle School **(10 hours)** **(\$80)**
- Pre-race breakfast for security personnel at Jukebox Junction **(2 hours)** **(\$129.41)**
- Maintained 6 water stations along the route for race day **(30 hours)**
- Set up/maintained awards table for race day **(3 hours)**
- Set up/maintained t-shirt distribution table **(6 hours)**
- Set up/maintained sale table **(\$41)** and donation table **(\$67.30)** **(3 hours)**
- Co-ordinated with 2 fire departments, sheriff's department, Pisgah High Cheerleading squads, and local volunteers to man all stations/provide safety **(5 projects)** **(6 hours)**

- Made/served soups, fruit, desserts, etc. at finish; volunteers manned food line (100 hours)
- Conducted 2 award ceremonies (2 hours)
- Solicited/recognized sponsors: letters/visits/signage/thank-you letters (94 hours) (4 projects) (\$6,750)
- Race day coordination of all volunteers (25 hours)
- Distributed T-shirts to all volunteers (2 hours)
- Asheville Track Club Grand Prix Race (1 hour)
- USATF certified race so that runners can set national time records (1 hour)
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures (10 hours)

Expenses: \$6,640.60; Income-Sponsors: Individual: \$100; Business:\$6,650; Entry Fees: \$9,309.99 Sales: \$41;

Donations: \$67.30; Total: \$16,168.29; Projects: 46; Partners: 311; Volunteer Hours: 448; Contractors: \$1,403.60

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

Beautification expenditures		\$ 5,995.22
Benevolence expenditures to individuals		\$ 1,633.00
Benevolence expenditures to schools		\$ 2,585.18
Benevolence grants to other non-profits		\$ 1,850.00
Educational expenditures		\$ 1,700.00
Food Pantry expenditures	(\$420 listed as Rural Preservation)	\$ 2,168.68
Historic Preservation expenditures	(\$50 listed as Benevolence)	\$ 8,818.58
Race expenditures		\$ 6,640.60
Rural Preservation expenditures	(\$1058.40 listed at Benevolence)	\$ 420.00
Organization operations expenditures		\$ 7,277.47
TOTAL BRCO EXPENDITURES		\$ 39,088.73
AMOUNT COMPLETED BY CONTRACTORS:		\$ 7,094.05

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & OUTREACH (Worth up to 20 points): What programs or outreach activities did the community organize to benefit area residents? These are activities *other than* fundraisers and may include programs designed to educate residents or share information relevant to the community.

BRCO connects with its members and the community via projects of its 7 committees: Beautification, Benevolence, Education, Food Pantry (FP), Historic Preservation (HP), 5K/Half Marathon Race, and Rural Preservation (RP). Each category indicates 1 project unless otherwise specified. All listings are evidence of BRCO's community outreach that includes connection regarding support for benevolence, food distribution, and education projects as well as linking with the community to support historic and rural preservation. The 5K/Half Marathon Race allows comradery with hundreds of visitors whom we welcome to our community as well as members of our own community and local organizations who participate with us in a day of service for the promotion of community spirit.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Reference previous Facility/Calico Cat Award for Beautification.

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE gives humanitarian aid to local schools, businesses, individuals, governmental agencies, and other non-profits – sometimes supplying assistance through local businesses.

- Partner with Duke Power/Haywood Electric to pay electric bills for 7 families (7 hours) (7 projects) (9 partners) (\$1,633)
- Partner with Haywood County Health Department for dental treatment for Bethel students (1 hour) (\$0)
- Bethel Elementary donation for Christmas fund for indigent children (1 hour) (\$500)
- Bethel Middle donation for Christmas fund for indigent children (1 hour) (\$500)
- Bethel Middle payment for lighting of community walking track (1 hour) (\$750)
- Bethel Elementary/Middle payment for food for indigent children during spring break (3 hours) (\$147.78)

- Bethel Elementary/Middle for tuna kits for indigent children during Christmas break **(3hours)(\$179)**
- Haywood County Sheriff's Department's Cops for Kids Christmas project for indigent Bethel students (5K/Half Marathon Race project) **(1 hour) (\$250)**
- Center Pigeon Fire Department (5K/Half Marathon Race project) **(1 hour) (\$500)**
- Lake Logan Fire Department (5K/Half Marathon Race project) **(1 hour) (\$500)**
- Buy Haywood agri-tourism support - Haywood Advancement Foundation (RP project) **(1 hour) (\$500)**
- Bethel Middle FFA/Klingspor's Wood Shop woodworking project (RP project) **(1 hour) (\$200)**
- Bethel Middle FFA/Barefoot Campus Outfitters for T-shirts **(1 hour) (RP project) (\$308.40)**
- Preservation NC (Historic Preservation project) **(1 hour) (\$50)**
- Haywood Waterways (Rural Preservation project) **(1 hour) (\$50)**
- Helped Pigeon Community Center with clean-up after Pigeon's fire and vandalism **(4 hours)**
- Benevolence donation from Carol Litchfield **(1 hour) (\$500)**
- Businesses in Bethel are listed by category on our website as a service to our local businesses and is intended to encourage business growth. **(Projects, hours, and Partners listed as Education)**
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures **(10 hours)**

Expenses: Individuals: \$1,633; Schools: \$2,585.18; Non-profits: \$1,850; Total: \$6,068.18; Income: Donation - \$500; Projects: 33 – 1 (Education) = 32; Partners: 24; Volunteer Hours: 40

EDUCATION COMMITTEE provides speakers at meetings, attends/gives workshops, sponsors a scholarship, supports Journey scholarship applicants, and grants school projects/awards at local schools.

- WNC Communities Journey Scholarship support for Emma Sorrells who received \$1,000 **(1 hour)**
- Three Bethel Elementary STEM Awards for achievement on end-of-grade tests **(1 hour) (\$150)**
- Dave Cuphey citizenship award to Bethel Middle student **(1 hour) (\$50)**
- Coordinated with Pisgah High guidance office for scholarship applications **(5 hours)**
- Coordinated with Education Committee members/read 6 applications/select scholarship winner **(20 hours)**
- BRCO scholarship winner for 2018 – Sydney Smith **(\$500)**
- BRCO scholarship winner for 2019 – Gracie Yeargin - Expanded from the previous \$500 **(\$1,000)**
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures **(10 hours)**

Programs given at meetings require solicitation/set-up/thank you letters:

- September program: Charles & Martha Trantham – Lenoir's Creek Farm **(1 hour)**
- November program: Sheriff Greg Christopher – Critical social issues in Bethel/Haywood County **(1 hour)**
- January program: Zeb Smathers, Canton Mayor – Canton's revival **(1 hour)**
- March program: Lori Sojourner, Lake Logan Conference Center-Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow **(1 hour)**
- May program: Lisa Morris with Haywood NC Works Career Center and Linda Lamp with Southwestern Workforce Development Board – Job search and career resources **(1 hour)**
- July program: Lee Barnes: Land stewardship and water dowsing **(1 hour)**
- Press release and agenda write-up for each meeting **(6 Projects) (6 hours)**

Programs presented by members to other groups required planning/presentation:

- Haywood Waterways Association public meeting on the "State of the Watershed" presenter **(2 hours)**
- Leadership Haywood presented by RP Committee showing BRCO's *Fertile Fields of Bethel* DVD **(10 hours)**
- Bethel Middle power-point program about Bethel history by Historic Preservation Committee **(10 hours)**
- WNC Communities (Terri Wells) – BRCO met to discuss projects **(14 hours)** – Gave her 5 DVDs/CDs

- Truss Bridge #79 history presented to a group of approximately 50 citizens/commissioners and county officials/and state preservationists at the commemoration of the bridge onto the National Register of Historic Places **(11 hours)**
- Member presented bridge history on WLOS TV **(1 hour)**
- Members presented history of Sunburst logging village on National Public Radio **(1 hour)**

Programs attended by BRCO members:

- 3 County Council of Community Clubs meetings reports **(3 Projects) (54 hours – Organizational)**
- WNC Communities awards program – 2018 **(27 hours – listed as Organizational)**
- Haywood Historic Commission – “Historic Sites in Waynesville **(5 hours)**
- Haywood Historic Commission – Lake Junaluska History **(2 hours)**
- Town of Waynesville - Land use planning in Waynesville/Bethel Corridor **(2 Projects) (10 hours)**
- Haywood County Historical & Genealogical meeting – Historic Cemeteries **(18 hours)**

Projects designed to educate the community

- Collection of names of local businesses in Bethel **(10 hours) (69 Partners)**
- Website design/webmaster/listing of names of local businesses with their contact information **(10 hours)**

Expenses: \$1,700; Income – \$0; Projects: 37; Partners: 112; Volunteer Hours: 235 - 81 Organizational = 154

FOOD PANTRY (FP) COMMITTEE provides over a ton of food to approximately 17 indigent families each month. The committee coordinates with the RP Committee and Haywood County Farm Bureau to offer produce tickets to local farms. Three local churches and one local family assist with funding/food.

- BRCO volunteer orders food items online every week for 17 families (40 people) **(52 projects) (13 hours)**
- BRCO volunteers use MANNA to transport food weekly. **(52 projects) (432 hours) (\$2,093.78)**
- BRCO volunteers sort and arrange all goods **(52 projects) (120 hours)**
- Pantry participants pick up food monthly while several BRCO volunteers assist **(12 projects) (324 hours)**
- Volunteer does client intact assessment **(36 hours)**
- Volunteer conducts temperature monitoring/inspection of freezers/refrigerators **(12 hours)**
- Century Appliance Refrigerator service **(1 hour) (\$74.90)**
- Haywood County Farm Bureau donated to Rural Preservation (RP) for the farm coupon project **(\$500 – listed as Rural Preservation)**
- RP/FP Committees coordinate to distribute coupons for local farm produce/collect coupons from farms/produce stands **(4 projects) (42 hours) (\$420 – listed as Rural Preservation)**
- Riverside Baptist Church donated funds to support the pantry **(12 projects) (12 hours) (\$755)**
- Riverside Baptist Church donated tuna each month to the pantry **(12 projects) (12 hours)**
- Encouraging Word Baptist Church donated funds to support the pantry **(12 projects) (12 hours) (\$600)**
- Spring Hill Baptist Church donated food quarterly to the pantry **(4 projects) (2 hours)**
- Duncan family donated staples periodically **(9 projects) (26 hours)**
- Listed with regional 2-1-1 service to facilitate food support to individuals **(1 hour)**
- Website updated/webmaster regarding changes in chairmanship, etc. **(1 hour)**
- Data retrieval/report our numbers to MANNA **(24 hours)**
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures **(16 hours)**

Expenses: \$2,588.68 – \$420 Counted as RP; Total:\$2,168.68; Income: Business-\$500 counted as RP;

Churches:\$1,355; In-Kind Donations: 1 family & 2 churches; Projects: 228; Partners: 27; Volunteer Hours: 1,086

HISTORIC PRESERVATION (HP) COMMITTEE **researches/collects/documents/educates and distributes information about Bethel/Haywood County historical sites/documents/data.**

- Commissioned painting of historic Woodrow train depot/post office by Nick De Paolo **(10 hours) (\$300)**
- Commissioned painting of the extinct passenger pigeon by Stephanie Grimes **(1 hour) (\$740)**
- Framed art prints at Village Framer **(3 hours) (3 projects) (\$142)**
- Art print reproduction at Staples **(5 hours) (5 projects) (\$49.10)**
- Volunteers photographed art prints for website **(2 projects) (2 hours)**
- Article about two art prints in 2 media outlets **(2 projects) (11 hours)**
- Editing with (Doug Chambers)/ordering 600 copies (Disc Makers)/website design of *Sunburst* DVD **(3 projects) (130 hours) (videography: \$4,887.23)(disc production: \$1,595.14) = \$6,482.37**
- Submittal of *Possum on a Whale* CD to the NC Society of Historians for state history award **(10 hours)**
- Submittal of *Sunburst* DVD to the NC Society of Historians for state history award **(12 hours)**
- Website updates with webmaster, Beth Cook **(31 hours)**
- *Sunburst* DVD publicity to *Mountaineer*, *Smoky Mountain News*, and *Vicinitus* **(3 projects) (17 hours)**
- *Sunburst* DVD featured by staff writers in two articles in *Smoky Mountain News* **(2 projects) (1 hour)**
- *Sunburst* DVD featured with 2 interviews on NPR **(1 hour – listed as Education)**
- *Sunburst* DVD donated to Creative Thought Center for fundraiser **(1 hour)**
- *Springdale* DVD featured in article in *Vicinitus* **(10 hours)**
- Collaborated with Blue Ridge Books, Blue Rooster Restaurant, Canton Area Historical Museum, Lake Logan Conference Center as sales outlets for *Sunburst* DVDs **(4 projects) (10 hours)**
- Pigeon River Railroad culvert in Bethel article in *The Mountaineer* and *Vicinitus* **(2 projects) (2 hours)**
- Collaboration with author about black musicians and banjo history in Bethel **(1 hour)**
- Collaboration with John Ross with Riverlink about *Sunburst*/Pigeon River history **(2 hours)**
- Filmed DVD segment of historic Chinquapin Grove School **(6 hours) (\$214)**
- Filmed 2 DVD segments of historic Bethel Kaolin Mine **(2 projects) (11 hours) (\$128.40)**
- Correspondence/emails about Bethel history with HP Committee and with visitors **(26 hours)**
- Developed power-point presentation about Bethel history for Bethel Middle presentation **(25 hours)**
- Power-point presentation to Bethel Middle eighth graders **(8 hours – listed as Education)**
- Coordinated with NCDOT to repair BRCO's Calvin Filmore Christopher historic marker **(1 hour)**
- Filed documents in HP library **(2 hours)**
- Haywood Community College dendrology students took measurements of Osborne Boundary Oak (historic tree in Bethel which BRCO oversees)for BRCO **(1 hour)**
- Pigeon Gap Watering Hole historic site – hired contractor to mow **(1 hour) (\$100) (Contractor)**
- Pigeon Gap Watering Hole gate maintenance and contact with new owner **(5 hours) (\$Donated)**
- Charles/Martha Trantham - 2018 Pigeon Valley History Award/framed art print **(1 hour) (\$123.73)**
- Charles/Martha Trantham - program - Lenoir's Creek history **(1 hour – listed as Education)**
- Cheryl Haney selected as 2019 Pigeon Valley History Award recipient **(4 hours) (\$16.02)**
- Researched/wrote for website about the 14 historic post offices in Bethel from 1841-1942 **(36 hours)**
- Researched history of historic Terrell house/farm/store photo to determine today's location **(10 hours)**
- Researched history of saving Truss Bridge #79 (oldest metal truss bridge in NC) **(10 hours)**

- National register submittal/community celebration **Truss Bridge #79s induction into the National Register of Historic Places**. Haywood County commissioners and officials, state preservation officials, local citizens, and BRCO members attended (2 projects) **(11 hours – listed as Education) (\$133.50)**
- **Publicity about Truss Bridge #79 on WLOS-TV, *The Mountaineer*, *Smoky Mountain News*, *Vicinitus*, and state preservation news agencies (5 projects) (13 hours)**
- Donated 1 Plott family quilt to Appalachian Women’s Museum **(3 hours)**
- Committee toured Appalachian Women’s Museum **(3 hours)**
- Donated 1 Plott family quilt to WCU’s Mountain Heritage Center **(6 hours)**
- Committee toured Mountain Heritage Museum **(3 hours)**
- Donated 4 Plott family quilts to Museum of NC Handicrafts in Shelton House **(2 hours)**
- Inventory - Plott family donations - papers/documents/photos - Mountain Heritage Center **(2 hours)**
- Membership donation to Preservation NC **(1 hour) (\$50 – Listed as Benevolence)**
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures **(21 hours)**
- Sold/delivered 5 art prints **(10 hours) (\$259.30)**, 8 Legends, Tales & History of Cold Mountain books/mailed books **(1 hour) (\$95)**, 9 *Possum on a Whale* CDs **(1 hour) (\$99)**, 8 *Walking in the Footsteps* DVDs **(1 hour) (\$133)**, 3 *Springdale* DVDs **(1 hour) (\$37.26)**, 1 *Cold Mountain Heritage Tour* CD **(1 hour) (\$20)**, 276 *Sunburst* DVDs **(35 hours) (\$4,886.47)**, delivered 82 *Sunburst* DVDs to all DVD participants/sponsors who received free copies **(50 hours) (8 projects)**
- Videographer made 10 copies each of *Springdale* DVD and *Possum* CD **(2 projects) (2 hours) (\$85.60)**
- Mail orders (includes postage/envelopes/mailed trips) **(25 hours) (\$218.07)**
- DVD storage on external hard drive of all BRCO CDs and DVDs **(1 hour) (\$85.79)**
- One of 54 sites on Haywood County Quilt Trail
- One of 70 sites on Blue Ridge National Heritage Area’s Heritage Trail
- Donations from individual supporters **(4 donors) (\$268)**

Expenses: \$8,868.58 - \$50 – Benevolence = \$8,818.58; Income - Sales: \$5,530.03; Donations: \$268; Total: \$5,798.03; Projects: 83; Partners: 49; Volunteer Hours: 601 - 21 Counted elsewhere = 580; Contractor: \$100

5K/HALF MARATHON RACE COMMITTEE holds the chief fundraiser for the group each October. The race is the oldest half marathon in NC and the third oldest in the Southeast. Reference the previous section about the most successful fundraiser for details about the race organization/affiliation/outcome. RURAL PRESERVATION (RP) COMMITTEE focuses on informing landowners about conservation easements (543 permanent acres/several thousand feet of stream front since 2007), land/water protection, agricultural sustainability, sponsoring Buy Haywood’s agri-tourism brochure, and showcasing Bethel landscapes by implementing projects through processing agencies.

- Sponsor Buy Haywood: Educates/supports Haywood County farms, produce stands, tailgate/farmers’ markets, stores, restaurants, ag sites, and value-added businesses. BRCO sponsors the Agri-Tourism brochure (7,000 distribution) **(1 hour) (Expenses: \$500 – listed as Benevolence)**
- Sold the Fertile Fields of Bethel DVD that showcases Bethel farmers **(1 hour) (\$15)**
- Haywood County Farm Bureau sponsors RP food coupon initiative. **(1 hour) (\$500)**
- Haywood Electric Membership Corporation sponsors RP initiatives **(1 hour) (\$500)**
- Committee Chair provided maintenance/educated visitors at Shelton House’s Monarch Butterfly Waystation on how to identify, monitor, and protect Monarch caterpillars. **(40 hours)**
- Committee Chair helped a group from Brevard to establish a Monarch Waystation. **(24 hours)**

- Funded Bethel Middle FFA horticulture projects. **(1 hour) (\$200 – listed as Benevolence)**
- Funded Bethel Middle FFA - 24 T-shirts **(1 hour) (\$308.40 – listed as Benevolence)**
- Donated funds to Haywood Waterways Association **(1 hour) (\$50 – listed as Benevolence)**
- RP printed coupons/Food Pantry disbursed coupons/RP collected coupons from farms and produce stands that needy families could use to purchase fresh produce **(30 hours) (Expense: \$420)**
- Contribution – Thomas Smith **(\$23.97)**
- Farm Credit Carolina Corporate Mission Fund grant application for food coupon program **(5 hours)**
- Attended land use meetings - Bethel Corridor **(2 projects) (8 hours – listed as Education)**
- Presentation - Leadership Haywood about BRCO and conservation **(10 hours – listed as Education)**
- Haywood Waterways meeting presenter - “State of the Watershed” **(2 hours – listed as Education)**
- Planning BRCO/Hemlock Restoration Initiative/Lake Logan Conference Center workshop to educate landowners about Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatment options **(2 hours)**
- Land conservation inquiry from Bethel landowner **(1 hour)**
- Developed a mission statement and policies and procedures **(16 hours)**

Expenses: \$1,478.40 - \$1,058.40 (Benevolence); Total: \$420; Business: \$1,000; Individual - \$23.97 Sales: \$15; Total: \$1,038.97; Projects: 17; Partners: 20; Volunteer Hours: 145 – 20 (Education) = 125

ORGANIZATIONAL

- Meetings/financial/legal concerns in which officers become involved or oversee organizational business such as Bylaws and Policies and Procedures **(President – 40 hours; Vice-President – 7 hours; Secretary – 40 hours; Treasurer – 262 hours; Chair – 104 hours) ; Vice-Chair – 11 hours) ; Total Hours - 464**
- Publicity for 6 bi-monthly meetings **(6 projects) (6 hours)**
- Food prep/main dish for 6 bi-monthly meetings to encourage attendance **(6 projects) (18 hours)(\$249.52)**
- Agenda prep for 6 board meetings and 6 general meetings **(12 projects) (12 hours)**
- Attendance at 6 bi-monthly board meetings **(6 projects) (Guests - 51 hours – Board counted above)**
- Membership attendance at 6 bi-monthly meetings **(6 projects) (404 hours)**
- County Council meeting attendance **(3 projects)/3 reports (3 projects) (57 hours) (\$125)**
- Yard sale involved several volunteers, storage, set-up, and take-down **(135 hours) (\$1,656) (\$40)**
- Booth/Blue Ridge Heritage Day at Shelton House **(23 hours) (\$100) (\$70 – HP sales; \$3 – HP donation)**
- WNC Communities attendance at annual meeting **(27 hours) (\$2,000)**
- Application for awards/honors **(150 hours)**
- Deed research about land donation **(20 hours)**
- Meeting with Terri Wells (WNC Communities) donated 5 DVDs/CDs **(14 hours - Education)**
- Manage the 2 BRCO websites (general and race) **(2 projects) (128 hours – 11 hours - Race)**
- Manage the BRCO Facebook account **(30 hours);** Manage the BRCO email account **(25 hours)**
- Manage BRCO facility for rentals and with Harmony Baptist **(8 projects) (31 hours) (\$9,365)**
- Utilities expense with Duke Power **(\$3,041)**
- Insurance expense with Canton Insurance Agency **(\$3,170)**
- Operational expenses (bathroom/kitchen/office supplies **(\$586)**
- Art print gift for retiring secretary and treasurer **(1 hour) (\$90.95)**
- Donations: Bethel High Class of 1964 **(\$75)** and Haywood County Commissioners **(\$1,500)**
- Bylaws ad hoc committee **(20 hours)**

- Policies and Procedures ad hoc committee (2 hours – bulk of hours listed under each committee)

Expenses: \$7,277.47; Income: donation: \$75; Governmental Agency: \$1,500; Awards: \$2,125; Rental: 9,365; Sales: \$1,656; Total Income: \$14,721; Projects: 66; Partners: 20; Volunteer Hours: 1618 – 25 elsewhere = 1,593

COLLABORATION (*Worth up to 20 points*): What joint efforts with other community centers, local government, nonprofit agencies, schools, farms or businesses does the community support? These efforts may be related to conservation, beautification, health, education, technology, job support, serving those in need, etc.

Collaboration with key partners is the chief reason that BRCO's 7 committees are successful. They connect with individuals who are in need or who request guidance or information. In an ongoing and routine fashion, BRCO also connects with schools/students, churches, sponsors, corporations, local businesses, fire departments, law enforcement, health services, other non-profits, individuals, museums, historical societies, state preservation officials, farms, County Council of Community Clubs, governmental agencies, news outlets, etc. Space limitation of this application do not allow us to enumerate every detail about every association. Previous listing by each committee reveals BRCO's outreach in a variety of areas. The list below (with a very brief indicator in parentheses) will mention the number of relationships BRCO maintains in order to serve the community. The organization purchases from and donates monetarily and service-wise to dozens of entities within BRCO's area of service.

ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS rent our facility, provide insurance/utilities/other services, and receive donations to ensure BRCO's smooth operation. Our website links to local businesses.

Partners are listed in 10-point font because of space limitations.

PARTNERS (20): Bethel Class of 1964 (renter), Canton Insurance (insurance/sponsor), Carl Ledford (renter), Carroll Jones (renter), County Council of Community Clubs (member), Danny Heatherly (warehouse/yard sale), Duke Power (utilities), Harmony Baptist (renter), Haywood Commissioners (donor), Katie Barker (renter), Kaye Riddle (renter), Mitchell McKinnish (renter), Shelton House (Blue Ridge booth), *Smoky Mountain News* (press sponsor), Ted Carr (renter), Terri Wells (WNC Communities meetings), *The Mountaineer* (press sponsor), *Vicinitus* (press sponsor), Village Framer (art print gift),

BEAUTIFICATION PARTNERS with maintenance and decorating related businesses to provide upkeep of the facility as well as to decorate/arrange food at meetings.

PARTNERS (18): AC Moore (supplies), B Fire Safe (extinguishers), Clark & Leatherwood (roof), Cold Mountain Nursery (shrubbery), Dale Green (circle drive), Dollar General (supplies), Dollar Tree (supplies), Harmony Baptist (lawn), Haywood Fire Inspector, Lowe's (carpet and shades), Michael's (supplies), NCDOT (land right of way), Pottery Barn (supplies), Carol Ploch (land donation), Richard Ploch (land donation), Ted Carr (maintenance), Wal Mart (supplies), Window World (windows)

BENEVOLENCE PARTNERS receive monetary support from BRCO.

PARTNERS (24): Barefoot Campus Outfitters (FFA), Bethel Elementary (donation), Bethel FFA (donation), Bethel Middle (donation), Buy Haywood (donation), Carol Litchfield (donor), Center Pigeon Fire Department (donation), Duke Power (electric payments), Haywood Advancement Foundation (donation), Haywood County Health Department (school dental donation), Haywood County Sheriff's Department (Cops for Kids donation), Haywood Electric (utilities), Haywood Waterways (donation), Klingspor Woodworking (FFA supplies), Lake Logan Fire Department (donation), Pigeon Community Center (helped with clean-up), Preservation NC (donation), Seven families (utilities support)

EDUCATION PARTNERS include meeting speakers, members who attend meetings of other groups, or members who give programs. We grant scholarships and awards to students at 3 local schools.

PARTNERS (112): Annie McDonald/NCDNCR (speaker), Bethel Elementary (awards), Bethel Middle (award, program), Brandon Rogers (speaker), Charles & Martha Trantham/Lenoir's Creek Farm (speaker), Cooper Kruk (award), County Council of Community Clubs (programs), Emma Sorrells (Journey Scholarship), Gracie Yeargin (scholarship), Haywood County Historical Society (program), Haywood Historic Commission (programs), Haywood Waterways Association (program), Jennifer Cathey/NCDNCR (speaker), Leadership Haywood (program), Lee Barnes/WNC Dowsing Society (speaker), Linda Lamp/Southwest Workforce Development (speaker), Lisa Morris/Haywood NC Works Career Center (speaker), Lori Sojourner/Lake Logan Conference Center (speaker), Matthew Mehaffey (award), Michelle Arrington (award), National Public Radio (interview), Nina Bright (award), Pisgah High Guidance (scholarship), Sheriff Greg Christopher (speaker), Students who participated in the scholarship competition (5), Sydney Smith (2018 scholarship -granted in August), *The Mountaineer* (publicity), Town of Waynesville (programs), WLOS-TV (publicity), WNC Communities/Terri Wells (award and visit), Zeb Smathers/Canton Mayor (speaker), 69 business partners we listed on our website – Too Many to List.

FOOD PANTRY PARTNERS coordinate food access programs with donors for families in need.

PARTNERS (27): Beth Cook (webmaster), BRCO's Rural Preservation Committee (coupons), James Duncan family (donor), Century Appliance (pantry refrigerator), Encouraging Word Baptist Church (donor), 17 Families receiving assistance, Haywood County Farm Bureau (coupon donation – listed as RP), MANNA (food), Riverside Baptist Church (donor), Spring Hill Baptist Church (donor), 2-1-1-Service (listing service)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PARTNERS include artists, a videographer, speakers who participate in DVD filming about local history, state and national historic preservationists, museums, schools, government officials, news agencies, sales outlets, and citizens who are interested in our collected history.

PARTNERS (49): Annie McDonald (National Register Truss Bridge speaker), Anonymous (donor), Appalachian Women's Museum (donated quilt/tour), Beth Cook (webmaster), Bethel Middle School (program), Bill Holbrook (Pigeon River Railroad story), Blue Ridge Books (sales), Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (Heritage Trail), Blue Rooster (sales), Brandon Rogers (County Commission speaker for National Register), Canton Area History Museum (sales), Carol Litchfield (photographer), Carroll Jones (donor), Charles Trantham (speaker/award), Cheryl Haney (award), Creative Thought Center (donation), Dave McCarson (mowing historic site), Dick Coltman (digitization), Disc Makers (DVD duplication), Doug Chambers (videographer), Erica Hannah (donor), Haywood Community College Dendrology Department (Osborne Boundary Oak measurement), Haywood County TDA (quilt trail), Jennifer Cathey (National Register Truss Bridge speaker), John Ross/Riverlink (consultation), Lake Logan Conference Center (sales), Martha Trantham (speaker/award), NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (National Register program, state news release), NC Society of Historians (award applications), National Public Radio (NPR) (publicity), National Register of Historic Places (Truss Bridge #79 listing), Museum of NC Handicrafts in Shelton House (donated 4 quilts), J.M. Long (DVD interview), Norman Long (DVD interviews), Preservation NC (donation), Nick DePaolo (artist), NCDOT (marker repair), Scott Valancore (historic site owner), Staples (prints), Stephanie Grimes (artist), *Smoky Mountain News* (publicity), *The Mountaineer* (publicity), *Vicinitus* (publicity), Tom McNeil (donor), Village Framer (framing), WCU's Mountain Heritage Center (donated quilt/tour), WLOS (publicity)

5K/HALF MARATHON RACE PARTNERS include corporate/individual sponsors, runners/running groups, school affiliates/personnel, awards providers, website advertisers, and dozens of volunteers.

PARTNERS (311): Appalachian Apothecary (sponsor), Asheville Track Club (advertising/Grand Prix), Bethel Community citizens (volunteers), Bethel Middle School (location), Burrell, CPA (sponsor), Canton Insurance (insurance/sponsor), Carolina Farm Credit (sponsor), Carolina Runner (advertising), Cataloochee Dental (sponsor), Center Pigeon Fire Department (safety), Clark & Leatherwood (sponsor), Cold Mountain Nursery (sponsor), Cold Mountain Toffee (awards), Dr. John Highsmith Dentistry (sponsor), Event Mercenaries (timing), Fat Buddies (sponsor), First Citizens Bank (sponsor), Haywood County Sheriff's Department (safety), Hometown Hardware/Frank's Singlestop (sponsor), Hometrust bank (sponsor), Hyatt Pipeline (sponsor), Johnson Tomato (sponsor), Jukebox Junction (breakfast/sponsor), Ken Wilson Ford (sponsor), Lake Logan Fire Department (safety), Laura Ivey (webmaster), Lucas Cody (medallion design), Michael Reese (donor), *Mountaineer* (publicity), Mud Dabbers (awards), NCDOT (permit), Pace Running Magazine (advertising), Patti Boos (t-shirts), Patton, Morgan & Clark (sponsor), Pigeon River Grill (sponsor), Pisgah High School Athletic Department (volunteers), Pisgah High Cheerleaders (volunteers), Pressley Group (sponsor), Queen Mountain Law (sponsor), Riverview Farms (sponsor), Robin Blu (awards/sponsor), Rogers Express Lube (sponsor), Smoky Mountain Roasters (awards), Spencer Reeves (Bethel Middle oversight), Sunburst Trout (sponsor), USATF Certifiers (track certification), Underwood-Dills (sponsor), *Vicinitus* (publicity), Waynesville Tire (sponsor), Wells Funeral Home (sponsor), 260 runners

RURAL PRESERVATION PARTNERS include schools, FFA, farmers, landowners, produce stands, Buy Haywood, governmental agencies, and local businesses. The RP Committee confers with landowners about conservation easements and facilitates projects through rural preservation/governmental agencies.

PARTNERS (20): Barefoot Campus Outfitters (FFA t-shirts) Bethel Middle School FFA (donation), Brevard Monarch Waystation (consultation), Buy Haywood (donation/sponsor), Haywood Advancement Foundation (donation), local farms (coupons), BRCO Food Pantry (coupons), Danny Heatherly (land conservation request), Farm Credit Carolina Corporate Mission Fund (grant application), Haywood County Farm Bureau (donor/coupons), Haywood EMC (donor), Haywood Waterways Association (donation/meeting consultant), Hemlock Restoration Initiative (planning collaboration on seminar), Klingspor's Woodshop (FFA project), Lake Logan Conference Center (Hemlock Restoration Initiative planning collaboration on seminar), Leadership Haywood (program), Museum of NC Handicrafts in Shelton House (Monarch Waystation maintenance), produce stands (coupons); Thomas Smith (donation), Town of Waynesville (land use planning meetings)

STANDARD OF LIVING (*Worth up to 15 points*): How does your community assist or support progress, small business or the entrepreneurial spirit in your rural area?

Please reference each committee section previously discussed to comprehend BRCO's outreach which enables the organization to support progress in a wide variety of directions while also encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit.

Beautification Committee members take pride in the facility and in maintaining its place in the community as a well-tended and appealing historical site that is on both The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Heritage Trail and on the Haywood County Quilt Trail. In order to keep the facility attractive for our long-term lessor (Harmony Baptist Church) as well as for the frequent rentals by individuals, families, and groups, BRCO is constantly performing upkeep and improvements. Purchases are directed to local businesses whenever possible.

Benevolence Committee members support individuals who need a helping hand in getting back on their feet while also enabling three local schools and a variety of non-profits to benefit from our generosity. Our financial

support to a variety of beneficiaries allows those people, businesses, and non-profits to perform programs and projects that would be prohibitive without BRCO's assistance. Some of our members also assisted Pigeon Community Center with clean-up after that center experienced a fire and vandalism.

Education Committee endeavors to entertain as well as to educate with the organization's selection of bi-monthly speakers who bring important messages to our members in the fields of education, benevolence, non-profit agendas, historic and rural preservation, available county and regional services, and governmental outreach. In addition, the committee solicits and screens applicants for the annual scholarship granted to a Pisgah High senior. Journey scholar applicants are given assistance, and scholarship recipients are recognized at a meeting. We offer financial awards to local elementary and middle school students in the areas of citizenship and STEM. Our school support encourages responsible citizenship. In addition, BRCO members give informative speeches to other groups while also attending meetings that have the potential to educate our members. Our website will, by the end of the year, have a listing of all businesses in Bethel. This effort to educate our community about the entrepreneurial resources available locally will also serve to enhance support for local farms and other businesses so that they may experience increased income and business growth.

Food Pantry Committee members are dedicated to food sustainability and devote hundreds of hours yearly to ensuring that Bethel's citizens do not go hungry. We supply MANNA food as well as BRCO's coupons to purchase fresh produce at local farms and produce stands. This program helps both farmers as well as those participating in our food program. The food projects allow these Bethel residents to have more purchasing power for buying other products that enable them to experience an enhanced quality of life/health meshed with a sense of emotional security and a social connection as they gather to meet with everyone on pantry day. Pantry committee also educates with menus and about social programs available to food pantry members.

Historic Preservation Committee researches, collects, documents, and educates about the special history of our community while also collaborating with individuals/public institutions/agencies/educational establishments/museums/other non-profits concerning preservation of information/documents/data/artifacts. The committee has collected 21 historic art prints which serve as decorative features in our dining hall, making the community center an attractive and historically relevant place for rentals. We have produced a collection of 7 books, 2 CDs, and 3 DVDs, recently completing a 5-year project for our 3rd DVD. We have received 3 state history awards and have two nominations for this year's state history awards. We have erected 5 local historical markers. The annual Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation honors those in the community who have made a positive contribution to preserving local history. We use the services of local artists, photographer, framer, videographer, sign maker, and we receive support from individuals and local businesses connected through our website. We have developed an impressive documentation of local history on our website. Four of our members also volunteer as docents at the Museum of NC Handicrafts in Shelton House/Canton Area Historical Museum/Shook House Museum – services that enhance local museum sustainability.

5K/Half Marathon Race Committee's primary purpose is to connect to the running community while also producing a quality event that is our chief fundraiser. The committee purchases, when possible, awards, t-shirts, food, meals, supplies, etc. from local businesses. We advertise these businesses through signage, on t-shirts, via publicity, Facebook, and our race website that allows a connection from our website to theirs. We interact with other local non-profits, businesses, and school organizations that enable BRCO to carry out race functions while furthering the organization's mission. Local fire and sheriff departments support this effort, and we reward them with donations. Business sponsorships for the race provide a large part of our organizational income. Community involvement is impressive, with many individuals who do not belong to BRCO coming out to support us because they approve of the many beneficial projects we perform for the community.

Rural Preservation Committee's primary goal is to preserve the rural character of Bethel by promoting practices that foster good stewardship of the natural resources, supporting activities that help to sustain a healthy local economy based on agriculture and tourism, and facilitating partnerships between BRCO and other entities in order to enhance the accomplishment of rural preservation goals. One RP project that supports this mission is sponsoring the Buy Haywood Agri-tourism Brochure (7,000 distribution). This project encourages farming/sales of produce/value added products/restaurants/historic agricultural sites. Our chair has supplied labor for development/maintenance of a Monarch Waystation at a local museum in order to save an endangered species which also serves the purpose of promoting environmental stewardship and educating the public about it. RP

actively seeks landowners who are interested in permanent conservation easements to protect land/water for future generations (543 acres/thousands of feet of stream front protected to date). We helped to establish an FFA at Bethel Middle and continue to financially support the group. BRCO's history of educating land owners and obtaining means to promote conservation easements while also developing 2 educational DVDs about farming has enabled our area to remain rural - with the special significance rural areas have for providing farm-related income, feeding people/animals as well as creating an enticing visual connection to the landscape. The RP Committee's advocacy for land/water conservation and flood mitigation provides protections for the economic viability of the entire Upper Pigeon River Watershed. Our focus on protecting wild lands and natural features, as well as our historic preservation emphasis, helps to draw tourists to the area which supports local businesses and promotes local sustainability.

General Organizational connections to the community include support for local individuals, businesses, schools, and non-profits that promote the physical and educational welfare of local citizens with the aim of elevating their standard of living while enhancing the quality of life. Organizational also includes all procedures involved with enhancing the functionality of our community group in order to enable it to reach out to the community.

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS (*Worth up to 5 points*): Number and briefly describe each photo (up to 5) that has been included with this application. These photos should reflect programs and activities described in this application.

1. **The Historic Preservation (HP) Committee produced *Sunburst*, a 19 section, 20 interview, 5-year DVD project about historic logging operations in Bethel - nominated for a state history award.**
2. **BRCO's HP Committee's nomination of Truss Bridge #79 enabled it to be inducted into the National Register of Historic Places – the oldest metal truss bridge in NC and the only 19th Century truss bridge of its kind in the United States. This photo shows the community celebration.**
3. **The Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation with committee and recipients, Charles and Martha Trantham, who were also speakers about their 211-year-old Lenoir's Creek Farm.**
4. **President Carroll Jones awards two members, Ron and Bonny Chamberlain, who have participated in several committees over a 10-year timespan.**
5. **Ten Acre Farm is one of several local farms supported by BRCO in our Buy Haywood brochure, our *Fertile Fields of Bethel* DVD, and with our coupon program for food pantry participants.**

BONUS QUESTIONS (*Worth up to 5 points each*)

New Activity: Did your community try a new or different program, activity or fundraising method this year? What was the outcome?

General Organizational: BRCO scheduled several new projects and events that were designed to enhance the organizational functionality of the association, community outreach, and financial stability.

- Began a year-long process of forming an ad hoc committee to update the Bylaws and develop a Policies and Procedures Manual that will designate general organizational tasks and develop an outline of every job of each committee. The board and officers and each committee have been involved. Project completion is scheduled for this year. When completed, BRCO will run more smoothly and alleviate potential concerns.
- BRCO held its first yard sale. The event was well attended and financially beneficial for BRCO.
- Participated in the first Blue Ridge National Heritage Area craft festival that was BRNHA's initiation of the Craft Trail at the Museum of NC Handicrafts in Shelton House in Waynesville. Our booth featured brochures, CDs, DVDs, and art prints for sale. BRCO also made connections that brought in new members to the group. We discussed our website that has directed attention to our presence in the area.
- BRCO is continuing to develop its website as an educational tool. Our Vice-President was tasked with the job of collecting names, contact information, and data about every business in Bethel. We anticipate that this information, categorized by type of business, will provide a valuable tool to lend free advertising for Bethel businesses and will allow the public to know what businesses are available in the community.
- For the first time ever, BRCO placed \$10,000 into a CD in order to earn extra interest income.

Beautification Committee

- Completed the window project that was started the previous year so that all windows in the new section of the facility are new, easy to clean, and energy efficient
- Purchased a new rug for the dining hall that provides an attractive entry

- Took down all venetian blinds and purchased attractive shades for the dining/kitchen area. The project to provide shades for the entire facility will be completed next year. We realize that our facility is used by families with children. When we learned that blind cords are a leading cause of injury and death among children, we decide that the project must be completed immediately.
- A community resident has offered to donate a triangle of land at the western entry to Bethel Community. Facilitating the land transfer has required coordination among the landowner, NCDOT, and BRCO board members, officers, and membership. Members have also assisted in mowing the area. The anticipated purpose for the land is to place a large sign welcoming people to Bethel Community, thereby creating an attractive entrance to the community while also educating locals and visitors about BRCO. This project will be our first community beautification project since BRCO usually focuses on facility beautification only.
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

Benevolence Committee

- Board set up an ad-hoc committee to study potential new benevolence projects – report by end of year.
- Assisted Pigeon Community Center with clean-up after a fire and vandalism
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

Education Committee

- Raised the amount of our scholarship to \$1,000
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

Food Pantry Committee

- Changed committee chair to include two individuals
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

Historic Preservation Committee

- Outreach to the community via publicity sought pictures of the historic Woodrow Post Office/Depot. This outreach resulted in Western Carolina University's Heritage Center contacting us with a historic photo.
- Extensive online forum with committee members about historic post offices in Bethel. This discussion led to the development of an entire new section for the website: "Historic Bethel/Cruso Post Offices."
- Researched information about a historic railroad culvert, the only remaining portion of the original T&NC Railroad from the early 1900s. Publicity about this rail culvert was placed in local media outlets.
- Began filming a new DVD about historic schools in Bethel.
- Began filming DVD segments about a kaolin mine that existed in Bethel in the early 1900s
- Developed a power-point presentation for Bethel Middle School 8th grade classes about Bethel history. The program was well received by students, and they learned a great deal about their own community.
- Had our largest fundraising event for this committee with sales our *Sunburst* DVD – almost \$5,000 and recognition of excellence from several local media outlets
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

5K/Half Marathon Race

- Committee held a competition among students to select a winner of the race medallion lavalier that is placed around every runner's neck as they cross the finish line with subsequent publicity in two local media outlets.
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

Rural Preservation Committee

- Collaborated with Hemlock Restoration Initiative/Lake Logan Conference Center to organize training session for citizens about how to treat infestations of the woolly adelgid that devastates hemlock trees.
- Successfully trained a Transylvania County group who set up its own Monarch Waystation
- Developed mission statement and policies and procedures for the Policies & Procedures Manual

Cash Award: Briefly share the community's plan for the cash award received through the WNC Honors Awards. BRCO is diligent about seeking ways in which our organization can offer benefit to the community, particularly regarding benevolence projects that benefit children. Our Benevolence Committee is researching how our group will be able to expand its outreach to institute new programs to assist the local community, and the funding could

go to that project. Another possibility is that we fund a circular entry ramp into our building in order to accommodate MANNA delivery. Currently, MANNA transporters drive their vehicle over a sidewalk and through the grass in order to unload the thousands of pounds of MANNA pick-up that we retrieve monthly. A circular drive would allow for a more user-friendly way to transport food for the pantry. Any funds that we are fortunate enough to receive could be well-spent enhancing either our benevolence or our food pantry programs.

Technology: Does the community have access to high speed Internet?

How does the center/club use the Internet to advance the community?

We do not have high speed internet at our facility, though we are adjacent to the school, and their Wi-Fi could possibly be used by visitors to our center. We took a vote as to whether to purchase high speed internet for the facility, but the membership voted it down. Their reasoning is that the county commissioners have promised to explore extending high speed internet to outlying areas, particularly to community centers. We are waiting for the county commissioners to follow through with that suggestion. We plan to encourage the County Council of Community Clubs to pursue this issue for all the community centers with our governmental officials.

Vision: Briefly share future plans for the community.

BRCO's Vision Statement: Preserving Yesterday-Helping Today-Planning for Tomorrow. Our organization, therefore, intends to continue to perform projects that ensure that all players – citizens, schools, farms, businesses, religious institutions, non-profit groups, and governmental agencies that play a valued role in the community will be validated with our efforts. Preserving our community center as well as our history and landscapes fulfills our vision of “preserving yesterday.” BRCO intends to continue the path of sustaining and reclaiming through our Beautification, Historic, and Rural Preservation Committees. BRCO fulfills its vision of “helping today” with its committees that are dedicated to benevolence, education, and food pantry initiatives. At the forefront of our concern as an organization is that we assist in helping our citizens to lead comfortable and productive lives. BRCO's board is continuously analyzing approaches that will maintain us as a productive entity that looks to future sustainability of our organization, our special location, and our citizens. Our chief fundraising efforts through rentals, sales, sponsors, donors, and our 5K/Half Marathon race enable us to fulfill our aspirations.

Beautification Committee will complete the window shade project to the remainder of the facility, paint the food pantry and disability ramp, and rearrange our historic art collection to accommodate more art prints. We will add a circular drive for easier pantry transport, install new flooring and baseboard in the dining hall/kitchen/hallway, and begin addressing the outdated kitchen. We will add signage at the entry to Bethel Community.

Benevolence, Education, and Food Pantry Committees will assist individuals with utility needs and/or food insecurities, address the needs of local schools and school children that are passed along to us by school administrators, and support local non-profits and other institutions. Informative programs at our bi-monthly meetings and our scholarship and awards initiatives at local schools will be expanded to reward worthy students.

Historic Preservation Committee has started a 3-year DVD project of filming people/sites about historic schools in Bethel. We plan to interview/record experts and local citizens about a local Native American historical mound site. We will commission another painting featuring a local historical site while also recognizing individuals worthy of receiving our Pigeon Valley Award for Historic Preservation. We will reach out to connect with historical agencies in the county to form a Haywood County coalition of historical organizations.

5K/Half Marathon Race is beginning its 2nd 25 years with the anticipation of connecting with a larger sponsor.

Rural Preservation Committee will expand its efforts with farmers and other landowners to place land into conservation easement. We will continue support of the Buy Haywood agri-tourism brochure and the Bethel Middle School FFA while also using our *Fertile Fields of Bethel* DVD as a teaching tool about local farming.

Organizational: On our website, we have a listing of the Bethel writers and media contributors. We recently added a listing of Bethel businesses. We hope to begin another list that includes all artists in Bethel. These listings help to encourage pride in the accomplishments of Bethel people while also helping to develop free advertising and support for individuals and businesses.