

2025 Community Non-Profit Award

Henry County Salvation Army

At a local charitable organization, a dedicated coordinator worked tirelessly to ensure 400 children experienced the joy of the holiday season. Throughout the entire month of December, she committed to sixteen-hour days, laboring every single day to provide for those in need. By sacrificing precious time with her own family, she guaranteed that others in the community did not go without.

Her impact extended far beyond holiday gifts, as the team prepared and distributed over 200 food boxes to families in the area. This commitment to service is a year-round mission; the organization facilitates monthly food assistance specifically for veterans and hosts weekly food pantries to combat local hunger. On many occasions, their reach even extends to financial stability, providing critical assistance to help neighbors cover their utility bills and keep their homes running. Her selfless devotion serves as a backbone for the community, turning a season of potential hardship into one of security and hope.

Lightkeepers of Henry County

This organization serves as a vital, community-driven nexus for advocacy, education, and essential support. Operating as a beacon of inclusivity, the collective focuses on bridging gaps in resources for disenfranchised residents while fostering a culture rooted in empathy and transparency. By prioritizing human rights and social justice, the team transforms systemic challenges into opportunities for unity and collective healing.

The mission is realized through a diverse range of initiatives designed to empower individuals across generations. During times of hardship, the group coordinates seasonal meal programs and emergency assistance, ensuring that basic needs are met with dignity and without stigma. Beyond immediate relief, the organization is deeply committed to cultural education and historical preservation. Through mobile exhibits, mural projects, and public celebrations of heritage, they create meaningful spaces for reflection and pride, helping young people feel seen and valued within their community.

The organizational philosophy centers on "tending the flame" of justice by providing a safe environment for those navigating discrimination. This includes dedicated support for the disability rights community through training in inclusive design, as well as programming tailored for the wellbeing of diverse youth. The collective also emphasizes legal empowerment, hosting workshops that educate the public on their rights and responsibilities. By maintaining a physical presence that functions as a resource hub, they act as a bridge for residents in crisis, offering mental health referrals and connection to safety.

Sustainability is achieved through a collaborative model that integrates institutional grants, local business sponsorships, and individual contributions. Rather than working in isolation, the group partners with schools, faith organizations, and fellow nonprofits to maximize impact and reduce the duplication of services. This forward-looking vision is currently focused on transforming underutilized spaces into comprehensive centers for mentorship and after-school enrichment. Through consistent presence and disciplined outreach, the organization demonstrates that meaningful change is built on a foundation of trust and a relentless commitment to long-term community wellbeing.

Affordable Housing Solutions of Henry County

This organization serves as a dedicated engine for regional stability by transforming the dream of homeownership into a tangible reality for working families. By bridging the gap between vacant land and high-quality residential development, the collective addresses the increasing difficulty of securing affordable housing. The mission is rooted in the belief that stable residency is the cornerstone of a thriving community, achieved through a complex process of land acquisition, architectural design, and strategic financial navigation.

The impact of this work is felt across the entire region, where the group identifies underutilized spaces—such as vacant lots or formerly demolished sites—and revitalizes them with new construction. This process does more than just provide shelter; it restores the local tax base and encourages long-term economic participation. By securing utility fee waivers, navigating bank financing, and facilitating down-payment assistance, the team removes the traditional barriers that often prevent qualified buyers from entering the market.

Operations are sustained through a sophisticated blend of low-interest construction loans, public housing grants, and the proceeds from home sales. This self-reinforcing financial model allows the organization to maintain a consistent pipeline of new projects while working closely with lenders to develop favorable terms for first-time owners. The internal environment is defined by disciplined foresight, ensuring that every home is built to support the future of the family residing within it.

Through a commitment to community-first development, the organization acts as a catalyst for growth and neighborhood pride. By hosting open houses and engaging in local outreach, the collective ensures that prospective residents are aware of these opportunities to build equity and security. The result is a stronger, more invested population where the benefits of homeownership ripple outward, creating a more prosperous environment for everyone in the area.