

# ABOUT THE B. R. ASHBY, M.D. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

The DRF Board of Directors established the B. R. Ashby, M. D. Award for Outstanding Community Service in recognition and appreciation of the exemplary service and selfless leadership of B. R. Ashby, M.D., a founding Board Member and first Chairman of DRF. The \$50,000 general operating grant award - which began in 2009 - honors outstanding community service in the Dan River Region by nonprofit organizations, based on their success in helping needy families and individuals overcome significant challenges.

Each year, the general public is invited to nominate regional nonprofits that demonstrate commitment to caring and generosity of spirit. The nominator cannot be a paid staff member at the organization under review. Board members, volunteers, and community members are eligible to make nominations.

Nominated organizations that meet the award criteria will be invited to submit a full application.

## Eligibility requirements include:

- The nominated organization must be at least five years old.
- The nominated organization must be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501 (c)(3) organization. This can include churches and religious organizations as defined by IRS Publication 1828.
- The organization must be located in the DRF service area (Danville and Pittsylvania County, VA and Caswell County, NC) and a majority of its clients and/or programs must be located in the service area.
- Grantees currently funded or having a commitment to receive funding by DRF at \$200,000 + annually are not eligible.
- Previous Ashby Award recipients are not eligible to receive the award again until after five years.

The award selection process is overseen by an Advisory Committee of four community members and a DRF Board representative.

## B. R. ASHBY, M.D. AWARD past winners

- Just Kids Child Development Center, Inc. - 2020
- Danville Speech & Hearing Center - 2019
- Pittsylvania County Community Action - 2018
- Caswell Family Medical Center - 2017
- Danville Cancer Association - 2016
- God's Storehouse - 2015
- Northern Pittsylvania County Food Center - 2014
- Danville Life Saving Crew - 2013
- God's Pit Crew - 2012
- Danville Church-Based Tutorial Program - 2011
- Caswell Parish, Inc. - 2010



# About DRF

The Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) envisions thriving Dan River Region communities where all residents are encouraged and equipped to build healthy and productive lives for themselves and their families. DRF's mission is to be a catalyst for long-term transformation through the development, promotion and support of impactful activities and programs that address the health, education and well-being of all the Dan River Region's residents. The Foundation is one part of a large collaborative network of partners from all sectors working together as agents for innovation promising a sustained positive impact on the entire region.

**Since its establishment in 2005, DRF has committed more than \$116 million through more than 400 grants.**

Some of these grants are large, but just as many are made from the DRF Make It Happen! (MIH!) and Make More Happen (MMH!) program, which encourages individuals to make their dreams of community change a reality. Large organizational investments paired with these smaller grants create a culture of "bright spots" where those within the community as well as those visiting and researching for possible relocation can "see the possible."



For more information on DRF, our programs, our partners and other grant making opportunities, please visit our website

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

# Grace And Main

Presented the

## 2021

B. R. Ashby, M.D. Award for Outstanding Community Service





# Grace and Main Fellowship (G+M)



Grace and Main Fellowship (G+M) is an intentional, Christian community practicing hospitality, grassroots community development, and shared, simple lives.

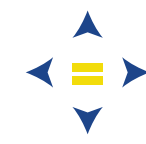
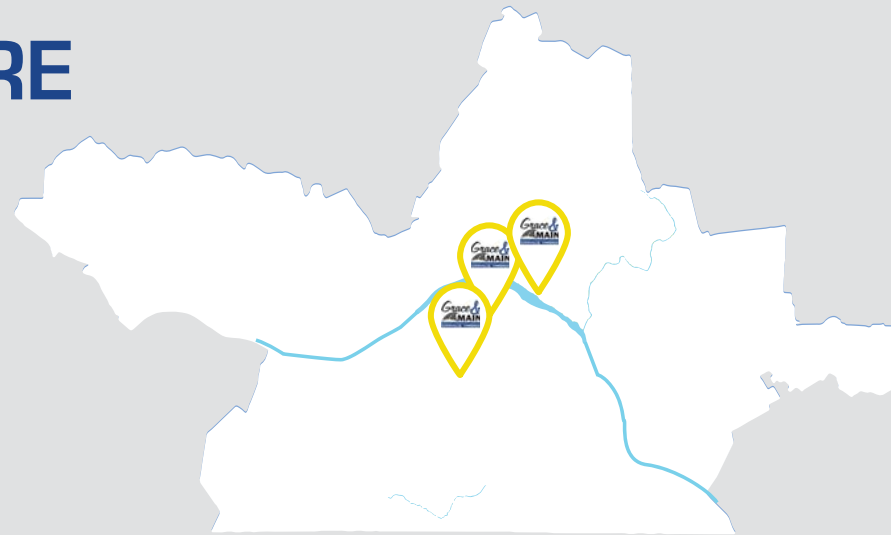
They are an ecumenical community (i.e., made up of a wide variety of different denominations of Christians) committed to living lives with and among those struggling with homelessness, near-homelessness, poverty, addiction, and hunger.

The heart of G+M's work is a commitment to love and person-focused decision-making. Their mission is to cultivate community and accomplish meaningful change in neighborhoods through asset-based methods and genuine, reciprocal relationships. G+M engages in relationship and community building among marginalized people in a variety of ways, including regular, open meals, an urban farm on the Northside, prayer gatherings and vigils, a community tool library, grassroots organizing around issues such as housing justice and tenants' rights, and other various activities.

While the rate of poverty, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and other challenges is high throughout Danville, those rates are notably higher in these neighborhoods. According to a variety of sources such as United States Census and the 2017 Dan River Region Health Equity Report: the median household income in these neighborhoods is \$21,866.67, which is 88.89% of the federal poverty line for a family of four and 107.08% of the federal poverty line for a family of three. The poverty rate in G+M neighborhoods is 40.86%, compared to the city rate of 21.5%.

## WHERE WE ARE

G+M primarily lives and works in the Old West End, Westmoreland, and Northside neighborhoods within the City of Danville.



### ADDRESSING RESOURCE DEFICITS

Grace & Main believes that poverty is not merely a lack of money but is a complex deficit of resources: social, emotional, health, dignity, and many others.



### PROVIDING STABILITY

Housing work addresses poverty and housing insecurity by providing stability to families and individuals through evidence-based interventions.



### STAMPING OUT FOOD INSECURITY

The Urban Farm addresses food insecurity through the production and sharing of food resources and the cultivation of increased awareness and new "food-minded" leaders.



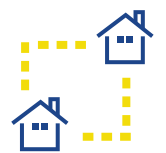
### BRIDGING THE GAPS

The transportation program addresses poverty by bridging the gaps between people and opportunities such as jobs, grocery stores, medical appointments, and other critical needs.



### TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING

Developing a new, community-driven phase of training for police officers addresses not only nationwide tensions around policing but also Chief Scott Booth's desire to extend the department's focus on community policing.



### BUILDING COMMUNITY AND NETWORKS

Fundamentally, G+M programs address poverty through asset-based community development by building community and other supportive networks that enable not only solidarity but also mutuality in the neighborhoods.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY AND FOSTERING HOPE: STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES



We know that we are achieving our mission when we look at the lives of those with whom we serve. Simply put, the strength of the relationships that make up our community are the strongest, most enduring testament to our mutual, shared, and collaborative success in the grassroots."

Joshua Hearne  
Director



**"Roland"** experienced chronic homelessness and largely untreated mental illness for nearly eighteen years and is now a leader in G+M's work and central to the work around homelessness and housing insecurity.



**"Lisa"** lived in a slumlord-owned building with an abusive spouse but is now an essential leader with a stable place of her own and a deep compassion for those most in need.



**"Todd"** lived in a slumlord-owned building, doing little more than smoking, drinking coffee, and trying desperately to avoid solving problems with violence and nowadays is always willing to ride along in the van to give rides to neighbors, cooks meals in his new apartment for neighbors he once fought and was victimized by, and played a substantial leadership role in getting the slumlord-owned building shut down and the tenants moved to better, safer accommodations.

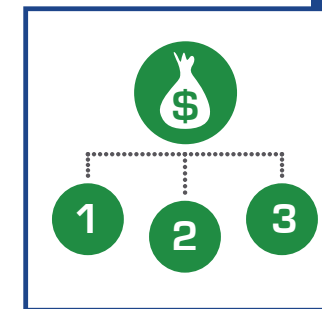


**"Bruce"** lived under a house when he first encountered G+M but helped to start the Tool Library and oversaw the Urban Farm until his death in 2017 just a few days shy of his six-year anniversary of sobriety.



**"Amanda"** a local mother recently released from jail but reunited with her family and going to community college.

## HOW WILL GRACE & MAIN USE THE \$50,000 ASHBY AWARD?



**1** Combine some portion of the granted funds with a grant already received from a state organization and with organizational reserve funds to purchase and renovate housing in one of G+M's neighborhoods to further increase their capacity and network of fair and affordable housing resources;

**2** Provide initial capital to pilot a small "Housing First" project to address chronic homelessness and housing insecurity modeled after other successful national projects; and,

**3** Provide start-up funds for some neighbor-led, cooperative projects that leaders have been thinking and talking about for a few years.

## Grace & Main: By the Numbers - 2019

In 2019, G+M provided over 5,135 nights of shelter to over 175 people. The Urban Farm had eight leaders who grew food that benefited more than 100 people. Over 1,360 rides were given to more than 60 people with transportation needs. Over 100 volunteers provided more than 850 hours of volunteer service. Coats and blankets were provided to 100 people during cold weather and numerous meals were served for approximately 1,100 total guests. Support was given to roughly 13 people in addiction recovery.

"All said and done, this amounts to 1,656 people served in these programs alone, though there is certainly overlap between these programs. Our units of service, as seen above, include a diverse set of metrics such as nights of shelter, pounds of food grown/shared, rides provided, meals shared, and intangible, community supports leading to better chances of addiction recovery," said Hearne.