

About DRF

The Danville Regional Foundation (DRF) focuses on transforming the regional economy and creating a prosperous culture to benefit all Dan River Region citizens. It does so by making long-term investments to improve education, economic vitality, community wellness, financial stability and civic capacity for citizens throughout the City of Danville, Virginia; Pittsylvania County, Virginia; and Caswell County, North Carolina.

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 \$160 million through more than 500 grants

For more information on DRF, our programs, our partners and other grant making opportunities, please visit our website at www.drfonline.org.



Caswell Parish

presented the
2022
B. R. Ashby, M.D. Award
for Outstanding Community Service



Caswell County Parish, Inc.

is a non-profit ministry that serves the impoverished in Caswell County through several faith-based programs such as food, clothing, and emergency assistance.

In 1975, Caswell Parish was formed through a coalition of local churches who saw the overwhelming needs in Caswell County and realized that working alone they could not meet those needs. By pooling their resources and centralizing the ministry, they could make a much more significant impact on families in their community.

The Parish has served thousands through their programs becoming the primary source of emergency food and utilities assistance in Caswell County.

The Parish responds to requests on behalf of the most vulnerable with referrals coming from the North Carolina Division of Social Services, local school personnel, local churches, domestic violence officials, the court system, and concerned individuals. Often, the Parish can help without the delay that hampers other agencies because of policy or protocol. Often the Parish also serves as a referral agency to assist in finding the resources families need to make ends meet.

All of this is only possible with the support and combined resources received from local multi-denominational churches, charities, state programs and private businesses and the many volunteers that keep the Parish moving smoothly and efficiently day in and day out. You can learn more about the Parish and their services at their website, www.caswellcountyparish.org.

By the Numbers (2021)



1,506
individuals
received food



438
new
clients



7,435
food pantry
visits



9,992
pounds of
food donated
and distributed



150
children served
through the
Backpack
Program
during the
school year



239
households
received
utility
assistance



92
children
received
gifts through
the 2020
Christmas
Cheer program

A Volunteer View

“Working at the Caswell Parish has underscored the importance of seeing the whole person and finding ways to lift up the whole person. It has taught me the importance of empowering people toward independence and self-sufficiency and engaging a person's talents. It has been a great reminder that everyone has value and something to contribute. It's not just the clients who are being transformed by the work the Parish does; it's the volunteers too. The Parish is a vessel and a locus for generosity, for connections to be formed, and for mutual care for one another to take place. And that's the very definition of community.”

A Client View

“We have been getting help from the Caswell Parish and Two Hearts Thrift Store for some time now whether it be help with our utilities during a hard time or our monthly food box. The workers and volunteers are always amazing, making our food pick up quick and easy and never making us feel any less than someone more fortunate. The Thrift store has been where we do most all our clothes shopping and it's always neat and easy to find everything we need. Everyone that either works there or volunteers there has basically become our second family with their warm smiles, kind hearts and all that they do for everyone in the community. They are doing more than just their jobs they're making a difference in people's lives every day without ever second guessing it and that speaks volumes.”

Caswell Parish Services

Food Assistance

Distributes on Tuesdays and Thursdays to families who are eligible to receive approximately one week's worth of food monthly.

Backpack Program

Provides weekend meals for food insecure children through the schools.

Christmas Cheer

Provides Christmas gifts for children in families with no means to purchase them.

Utility Assistance

Pledges payment to the utility companies or those who sell propane, oil, or wood. A family is eligible for up to \$300 of such assistance during a three-year period.

Two Hearts Thrift Store

Supports parish programs but also provides low cost, gently used merchandise for anyone who wishes to shop there. When families are faced with catastrophe, they are eligible to “shop” in the store at no cost.

How Will Caswell Parish Use the \$50,000 Ashby Award?

There are many needs, but the greatest need currently is for additional pantry space. Currently, Caswell Parish does not have adequate space for food storage nor anywhere an additional cooler can be installed due to limited floor space and an electrical system that is already challenged.

Due to this space issue, the Parish is not able to accept some foods offered by Second Harvest such as milk and other refrigerated items. Second Harvest has offered the Parish more resources but due to these space issues, the assistance has not been accepted.

A local architectural firm, Dewberry, has generously donated their services by carefully studying the problem and creating a plan that would meet this need. With the \$50,000 award along with other funds raised, Caswell Parish can move forward in expanding the pantry area and procuring an additional cooler to provide even more assistance to their families.

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.

PAST B. R. ASHBY, M.D. AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE RECIPIENTS

- Grace & Main Fellowship/Third Chance Ministries - 2021
- 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