

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.

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 at

www.drfonline.org.



presented the
**2019 B. R. Ashby, M.D. Award for
Outstanding Community Service**



Danville Speech and Hearing Center (DSHC) is a nonprofit United Way partner agency that has been providing Speech-Language Pathology services to individuals of all ages throughout the Dan River Region since 1961.

Their Mission

- Provide the highest quality speech-language pathology services at the lowest possible cost to citizens in need of these services.
- Enable each client to attain his/her optimal communications skills.
- Provide not only restoration or acquisition of speech and language skills, but also increase patients' abilities to participate in activities to enhance their quality of life.

DSHC achieves this mission by offering:

Screening: Communication and/or hearing screenings are brief tools that may be conducted to determine if a comprehensive speech-language evaluation or hearing evaluation is needed.

Evaluation: A comprehensive assessment of the communication area(s) of concern (such as language, articulation, fluency, cognition or swallowing) is conducted by a licensed speech-language pathologist.

Treatment: A certified speech-language pathologist works directly with the client during therapy to address long and short-term goals that have been developed to address the client's specific needs. Family/caregiver education is also provided to insure generalization of skills outside of the clinical setting.

The clinical staff of DSHC is state licensed and nationally certified in their field of expertise. The center supports the clinical staff in meeting continuing education requirements for maintaining certification and identifying recent developments in their field.

Good communication skills are vital to success throughout life. DSHC takes great pride in serving the communication needs of anyone with a disorder, including those whom may not otherwise be able to afford these essential services.

The B. R. Ashby, M.D. Award for Outstanding Community Service will help DSHC to provide important services to clients who need therapy services but lack insurance, have high deductibles and co-pays, or lack the coverage needed by their insurance carrier. The award will also help to cover the costs of speech-language pathology evaluation and therapy supplies that are not covered by insurance.

Who DSHC Serves

Residents of Danville, Pittsylvania County, Halifax County, Martinsville, Henry County and Caswell County of any age who need speech-language pathology services including screening, evaluation and treatment of speech sound disorders, voice disorders, language disorders, stuttering, swallowing problems, memory impairments and aphasia (language disorder resulting from a stroke or traumatic brain injury).

Children of all ages experience communication disorders including speech sound disorders, language delays, stuttering and voice disorders. Some are due to autism, hearing loss, chronic ear infections or developmental delays but for many, the cause is unknown. In recent years, the center has seen a growing number of clients in their 30s, 40s and 50s needing services due to strokes and neurological diseases including ALS and Parkinson's Disease.

Clients are referred to DSHC by physicians, area hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes, the Infant & Toddler Connection Program of Danville-Pittsylvania, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Disability Determination Services, the Veterans Administration, local schools and self-referrals.



“ When we felt helpless and didn't know how to help our child who stuttered, we turned to Danville Speech and Hearing Center. It was such a comfort to have a local, caring organization to help us navigate this disorder that we knew very little about, just like they have helped countless other families. It is our hope that Danville Speech and Hearing will have the resources needed to continue aiding local families and help individuals channel their struggles into positive outcomes that benefit our community.”

- Parent

“ In the early years of attending elementary school, I was diagnosed with a severe speech impediment. I was recommended to receive services within the school; however, I was terrified of the speech therapist provided within the school system. Danville Speech and Hearing Center was there to provide the needed services. The individuals were very easy to work with and made the experience seamless. Today, I can speak in front of multiple individuals and groups with confidence. I was fortunate to overcome this challenge thanks to Danville Speech and Hearing Center.”

- Former Client

“ These employees were absolutely wonderful to me. They listened to my sob stories, wiped my tears away and told me that I would be able to do these things again, the very things most people take for granted. I cannot speak loud enough to tell you that their services help so many people. The staff goes beyond their call with their patients. They are patient, give of their personal time, and truly care for their patients.”

- Former Board Member And Client

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 Winners

- 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

DSHC By the Numbers (2017)

2
Full-time employees

1
Part-time employee

12
Volunteers

437
Clients served

8,240
8,240 service units
(One unit of service = 15 minutes.
Clients are typically seen for
30-45 minutes one to two times
per week for therapy.)