



News Release

**Lincoln County Community Foundation awards
\$29,530 to 15 organizations
*22% increase in grants over last year thanks to Give, Grant, Grow program***

The Lincoln County Community Foundation recently **awarded \$29,530 in grants to 15 local organizations**, including Catawba Lands Conservancy and Sally's YMCA. Grants support causes ranging from environmental protection to serving area children in Lincoln County.

Grants awarded totaled **22% more than in 2016**. This growth in funding is thanks to a new partnership between the Lincoln County Community Foundation and Foundation For The Carolinas titled, "Give, Grant, Grow Lincoln County." Under the program, current and former board members' contributions were matched by FFTC and awarded to local nonprofits.

Board Chair Walter Clark shared, "The board understands the needs in our community are great. We were excited to step up and add to our grantmaking funds, and especially appreciated Foundation For The Carolinas' matching dollars."

Catawba Lands Conservancy was one of the beneficiaries of Lincoln County's increased grant funding this year. The project will link the Marcia Cloninger Rail Trail to the South Fork Rail Trail, creating a segment that will be 1.5 miles long in length and lie adjacent to 440 acres of Catawba Lands Conservancy protected properties. Once this project is complete, it will be a five mile segment connecting all parts of Lincoln County.



"Extending the South Fork Rail Trail will connect a beautiful conserved area along the South Fork River near the historic Laboratory Mill to the Marcia Cloninger Rail Trail in downtown Lincolnton. Linking these two segments will be transformative for Lincoln County. We constantly hear from citizens that they are looking for longer distance trails and these funds will help create a five mile continuous path that will benefit the health of local residents, connect important destinations and provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation" -- Tom Okel, Executive Director of the Carolina Tread Trail.

Grants awarded include:

*Catawba Lands Conservancy
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
Hesed House of Hope
Lincoln County Coalition Against Child Abuse
Lincoln County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Lincoln County Family YMCA
Lincoln County Public Library
North Carolina Lions, Inc.
Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties, Inc.
Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte
Sally's YMCA
Shining Hope Farms
Speak Up For Children, Inc.
Special Olympics North Carolina
United Way of Lincoln County*

About the Lincoln County Community Foundation:

Established in 2001 as a permanent endowment, the Lincoln County Community Foundation benefits a wide range of charitable purposes. As an affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas, the Lincoln County Community Foundation inspires philanthropy, increases charitable giving and strengthens the community.

The Foundation assists donors in making charitable contributions to the community, provides services for nonprofit organizations to create new or manage existing endowments and awards grants to local nonprofits. For more information please visit lincolncounty-cf.org.

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