



# WELLSPRING FOUNDATION

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OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

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

851 French Moore Jr. Blvd. | Suite 110 – Box 25  
Abingdon, Virginia 24210



# A message from the Board Chair & the Executive Director

It's hard to believe the Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia recently wrapped up its third year! We continue to be encouraged by the incredible work of the organizations in our region and all the amazing projects we have been able to support.

As we reflect on another year, we are excited to share with you the partnerships and projects we funded from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. While we continue to evolve as a philanthropic partner, we rely on the immense knowledge and guidance of our Board of Directors as well as the incredible work of our staff to cultivate relationships with local organizations, learning more deeply about the needs of the communities we serve.

Our mission of enhancing the health and wellbeing for the Virginia residents of Washington, Grayson, Russell and Smyth counties by cultivating goal-oriented partnerships continues to be the driving force behind the projects we support.

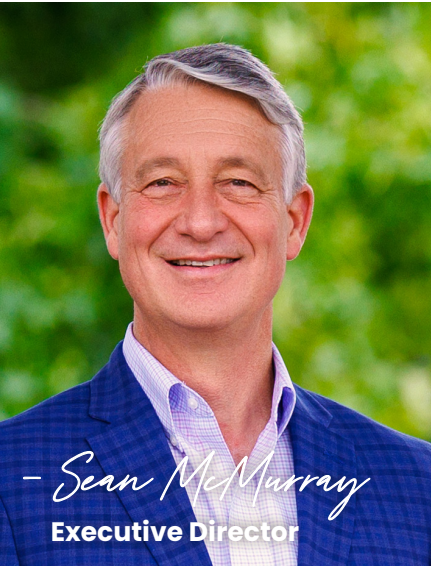
We'd like to take a moment to mention some exciting news. In our conversations with advisory groups from each of our four counties, the availability of affordable housing for members of the workforce has continued to rise to the top of the list of challenges. After doing in-depth research and talking to other community leaders about the need for workforce housing, the Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia has created a wholly owned subsidiary, Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners (AHHP), dedicated to providing housing solutions.

AHHP was established in November 2024 to increase the supply of critical workforce housing in our service region. In addition, AHHP will work to address the entire housing ecosystem, from supporting training programs for skilled trades to the construction of homes. The organization is in the early stages of development and we are excited to see the impact it will have on the communities we serve.

This is an exciting time for the Wellspring Foundation and our newly created subsidiary, AHHP. We look forward to the continued work ahead for both organizations with the overall goal of working collaboratively with others to provide transformative change to move our region forward.

Sincerely,

Marvin Gilliam, Chair of the Board of Directors  
Sean McMurray, Executive Director



# About Us

The Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia was created in late 2021 following the sale of the Foundation’s minority ownership stake in Johnston Memorial Hospital (JMH). That sale established Wellspring Foundation as a local, independent private foundation focused on serving the needs of the Virginia residents of Washington, Grayson, Russell and Smyth counties.

The Wellspring Foundation humbly bears the responsibility to care for the funds we’ve been entrusted to steward. Our mission is to ensure the projects we support and the partnerships we cultivate will have a lasting impact on our region and will promote a healthy and thriving Southwest Virginia for generations to come.

## Our Mission

To enhance the health and wellbeing for the Virginia residents of Washington, Grayson, Russell and Smyth counties by cultivating goal-oriented partnerships.

## Our Values



Commitment



Compassion



Integrity



Stewardship



Transparency

# Service Area & Areas of Interest

## Our Vision

Leveraging collaborative partnerships to promote a healthy, thriving region.

Our operating model will emphasize convening people and facilitating discussions to address regional issues. We will accomplish this by:

- Partnering to create systems that support growth and achieve sustainable impact
- Catalyzing new initiatives, programs and projects that fill gaps in our service area
- Grantmaking to non-profit organizations with missions focused on addressing challenges of the communities we serve

## 2 Grant Opportunities

### HOPE Grant

Applications for one-time funding up to \$50,000\*

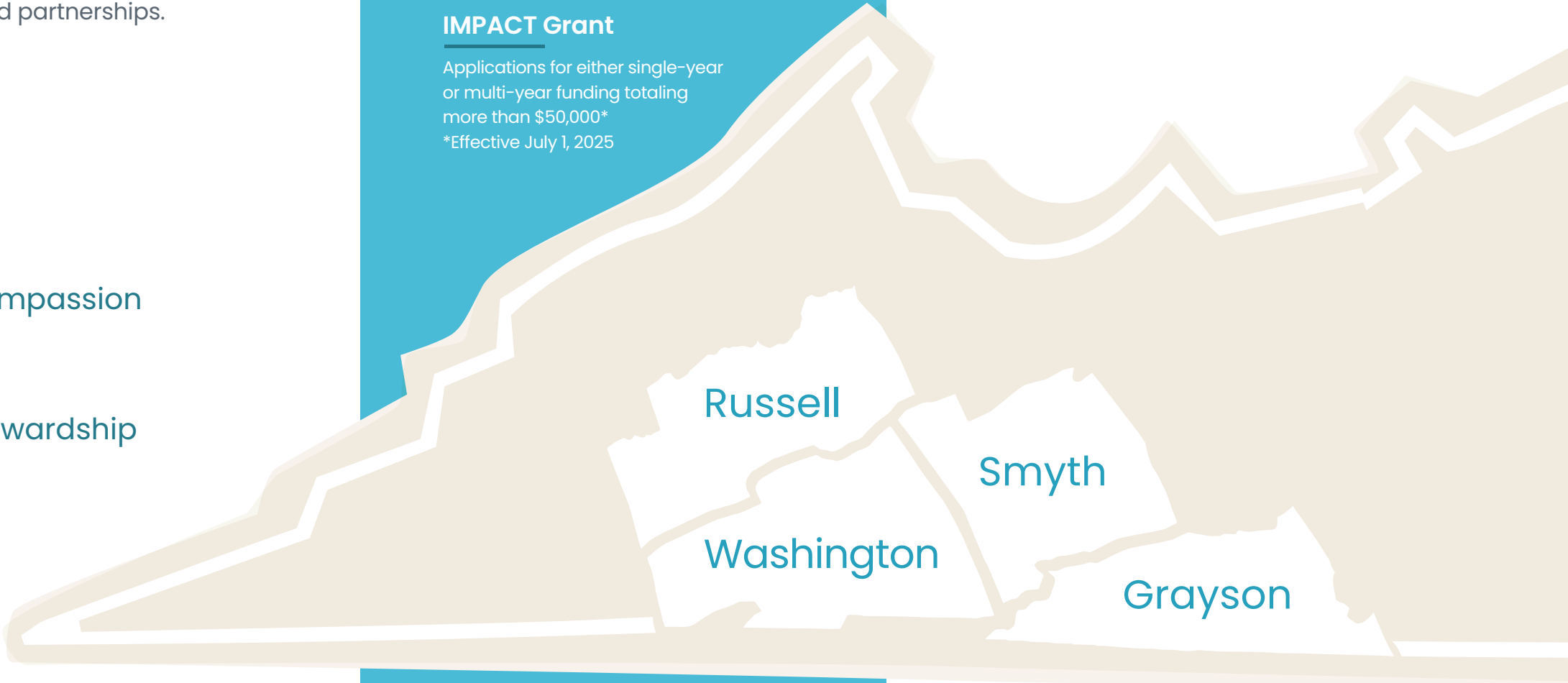
### IMPACT Grant

Applications for either single-year or multi-year funding totaling more than \$50,000\*  
\*Effective July 1, 2025

## Our Five Areas of Interest Include:



- Health
- Children & Families
- Workforce Development
- Education
- Economic Development





# Board of Directors

Like you, we are proud to call Southwest Virginia home, which also means we are keenly aware of the challenges rural areas like ours face. Improving the health and wellbeing of our region is complex and requires collaboration among those who live, work and serve in these counties. We seek to address these challenges at their roots, supporting others in ways that will create the maximum impact for our communities.



**MARVIN GILLIAM**  
BOARD CHAIR



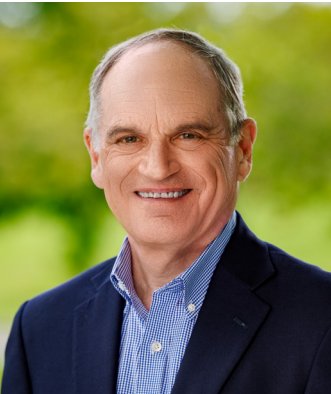
**HAYTHAM ADADA, M.D.**



**KEVIN CAMPBELL**



**KAREN ELMORE, M.D.**



**KARL KINDIG**



**ELIZABETH LOWE**



**MIKE MCCOOL**



**RAMESH MURTHY**



**JOANN PRICE, DNP**



**THOMAS REVELS**



**STEPHEN SPANGLER**

# Staff

Like the Board of Directors, the staff at Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia are dedicated to our mission and the people we serve. We look forward to partnering with local and regional organizations as they work to address the complex issues impacting our communities.



**SEAN MCMURRAY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**SUSAN ABEL**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



**RUSTY LITTLE**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



**COURTNEY STRINGER**  
DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT



**JENNIFER GUENTER**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



# FY25 Grant Commitments

Wellspring Foundation is honored to support projects that have direct impact on the people of Washington, Grayson, Russell & Smyth counties.

Grantee	Project Name	Amount
Appalachian Highlands Community Dental Center	Serving Southwest Virginia Patients with Digital Dental Technology	\$174,720
Appalachian Sustainable Development	ASD Campus: Building Resilient Food and Agriculture Systems and a Skilled Workforce for Appalachia	\$2,250,000
Ballad Health Foundation	Pritikin Pilot Program at Johnston Memorial Hospital	\$47,016
Ballad Health Foundation	Transforming Behavioral Health in Southwest Virginia	\$2,000,000
Barter Theatre	Facility Sustainabilty Study	\$16,500
Blue Ridge Discovery Center	Outdoor Environmental Education Program	\$20,000
Blue Ridge Public Television	PBS Appalachia Studio Communication System	\$25,000
Bristol Regional Speech & Hearing Center	Audiometer Purchase	\$13,510
Center for Nonprofit Excellence	Center for Nonprofit Excellence Serving Southwest Virginia	\$1,818,011
Communities In Schools of Appalachian Highlands	Building Transformative Relationships to Shape Tomorrow's Communities	\$779,277
Damascus Volunteer Fire Department	Jaws of Life Rescue Tools	\$25,000
EO	Shared Services Alliance for Early Childhood Educators	\$252,530
EO	The Rural Summit	\$22,000
Feeding Southwest Virginia	Abingdon Distribution Center Capital Improvements	\$25,000
Feeding Southwest Virginia	Food Bank Inventory Study	\$25,000
Friends of Honaker	Friends of Honaker Community Park	\$650,000
Grayson County, VA	Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief	\$600,000
Grayson County, VA	Creativity, Play and Laughter: A Safe Community Playground in Western Grayson County	\$25,000
Healing Hands Health Center	Enhancing Patient Care Through Medication Storage & Quality Improvement	\$13,431
Highlands Community Services Board	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Services for Child Victims	\$363,258
Huddle Up Moms	Diaper Bank Distribution Pilot in Grayson County, VA	\$11,616
Inthrive Film Festival	Inthrive Film Festival	\$10,000
Lebanon Lifesaving Crew	Emergency All-Terrain Vehicle	\$10,000
Locus Impact Fund	Rural E-Commerce Boost Pilot Program	\$25,000
Mount Rogers Community Services	Smyth County Peer Recovery Center	\$1,000,000
Mount Rogers Community Services	Workforce Development Pipeline Program	\$358,112
Mount Rogers Community Services	Teen Mental Health First Aid	\$21,520

Mount Rogers Development Partnership	Economic Study of Pathway Park in Smyth County	\$56,658
Mount Rogers Volunteer Fire & Rescue	Whitetop Regional Medivac Helipad	\$165,000
Project Crossroads	Home Accessibility Renovations	\$10,000
Prosim Engineering	VA Creeper Trail Trestle Engineering Study	\$146,325
Russell County Sheriff's Office	Tactical Medical Supplies	\$23,225
Russell County, VA	Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief	\$500,000
Smyth County, VA	Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief	\$500,000
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA)	International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Trail Accelerator - Damascus, VA	\$10,000
Southwest Academy Training Foundation	Correctional Officer Training Equipment	\$20,400
Southwest Academy Training Foundation	Southwest Criminal Justice Academy Location Study	\$179,800
Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center	A Plan to Serve - Strategic Planning for Our Future	\$195,700
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center	Southwest Virginia Regional Health Careers and Workforce Partnership	\$25,000
The Nature Conservancy	Clinch Mountain Pinnacle Rocks Preserve	\$250,000
Town of Abingdon	Community Kitchen	\$584,925
Town of Abingdon	Senior Center Feasibility Study	\$65,000
Town of Damascus	Damascus Gap Analysis & Feasibility Study	\$20,000
Trails to Recovery	Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief for Town of Damascus Residential Support	\$100,000
Tri-Area Community Health	Tri-Area Community Health at Independence Express Clinic & Pharmacy	\$132,000
Virginia Highlands Community College Educational Foundation	Washington County Promise Program	\$14,897,866
Virginia Hospital Research & Education Foundation	Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program to address Intimate Partner Violence	\$370,334
Virginia Polytechnic & State University	Increasing Educator Capacity to Support Students with Autism	\$25,000
Virginia Polytechnic & State University	Supporting Teachers for Success	\$24,750
Virginia Tech Center for Economic & Community Engagement	VA Creeper Trail Economic Impact Study	\$46,936
Virginia's Kids Belong	Building Connected Communities to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Vulnerable Kids and Families	\$25,000
Washington County Career & Technical Education Center	Burning & Learning	\$24,975
Washington County, VA	Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief	\$800,000
Whitetop Community Improvement Club, Inc.	Whitetop Gazette	\$8,830

Total Impact: \$37,723,800

*\*From inception through June 30, 2025.*

# Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners

Responding to an overwhelming need for affordable workforce housing in our region, Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia created a wholly owned subsidiary, Appalachian Highlands Housing Partners (AHHP), dedicated to providing housing solutions.

AHHP, a 501(c)3 established in November 2024, provides long-term attainable housing, education, and job creation in Washington, Grayson, Russell, and Smyth counties in the State of Virginia. The organization’s director, Mayana Rice, was hired in January 2025. Creating relationships with local leaders, community stakeholders and other regional partners to learn about the specific housing needs in each of our four counties has been the initial goal.

AHHP is taking a three-pronged approach to addressing the critical shortage of affordable workforce housing in the region. Developing new housing stock, rehabilitating existing structures to add units back into the market and preserving existing affordable housing opportunities within the service region are all utilized to address workforce housing needs. The types of housing will include for purchase as well as rentals of both single family and multifamily.

At AHHP, the focus is on partnerships to create lasting change. AHHP aims to address the housing affordability gap by providing sustainable, quality opportunities for individuals and families. To create attainable housing, the housing ecosystem needs to change. This is accomplished through education, increasing employment in the trades, home building and creating attainable living solutions.

AHHP believes in the strength of community. Residents, who live in Washington, Grayson, Russell and Smyth counties, will benefit from this innovative model which allows the workforce to live and work in the place they call home. AHHP is committed to investing in homes and investing in communities through innovative housing solutions.



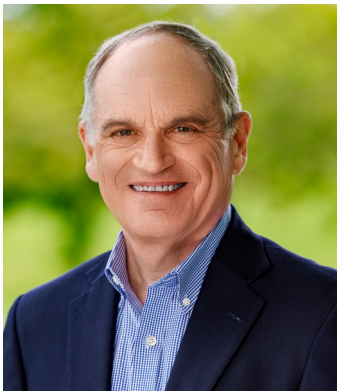
## Leadership



**THOMAS “TOM” REVELS**  
BOARD CHAIR, AHHP



**RICHARD “DICK” GAIL**  
BOARD MEMBER, AHHP



**KARL KINDIG**  
BOARD MEMBER, AHHP



**MAYANA RICE**  
DIRECTOR, AHHP

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