



SOPHIE RALPH | Forsyth County News

Michelle Prater, left, and Lynn Jackson, right reveal the amount of grant money, a total of \$84,925, given out by the Forsyth County Arts Alliance on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.

Forsyth nonprofits, arts groups get \$187,000 in grants

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A total of \$186,725 is flowing into local nonprofits and art programs, funding 39 programs that benefit Forsyth County residents.

Representatives from each recipient organization packed Denmark Library's conference room on Tuesday, Aug. 11, to receive thousands of dollars in grants from the Forsyth County Arts Alliance or the Forsyth County Community Foundation at a joint ceremony branded the Forsyth County Grant Celebration.

The FCCF awarded \$101,800 through 21 grants, and the FCAA awarded \$84,925 through 18 grants.

The FCAA has awarded \$900,000 in grants since 2008. This was the inaugural grant cycle for the FCCF.

"We really work hard to be an advocate for our nonprofits every day," said Michelle Prater, president and CEO of the North Georgia Community Foundation. "For us to be able to do these things that make their work easier, and I think that hearing that—people were like, 'we could not do this without you, like, you truly are our partner.' To me, that means everything."

Organizers chose to conduct their award ceremonies together as FCAA has a fund with the North Georgia Community Foundation and FCCF is an affiliate of the foundation.

The North Georgia Community Foundation contributed \$1 million to the FCCF Community Grant Endowment Fund in 2025, which was matched by philanthropists and Forsyth County residents Tommy and Chantal



Confident Threads receives a grant of \$5,000 from the Forsyth County Community Foundation at their inaugural grant ceremony on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.



Evan Shoemaker, executive director of the Forsyth Community Clinic, accepts a grant for \$5,000 from the Forsyth County Community Foundation on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.



Forsyth County Community Foundation and Forsyth County Arts Alliance grant recipients pose after the Forsyth County Grant Celebration at the Denmark Library on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.



Representatives from each organization receiving a grant attend the award ceremony at Denmark Library on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.

Bagwell, bringing the endowment total to \$2 million. Each year, the FCCF will give away 5% of the funds in grants back to Forsyth County organizations and nonprofits. "What we built wasn't just for today. It's going to benefit the organizations in perpetuity," Prater said. "(That's) what makes it so special."

These grants offered crucial funding to local nonprofits. One recipient, the Forsyth Community Clinic, is a free clinic for uninsured Forsyth County residents that opened in May 2023. Demand for the

clinic has grown rapidly, with the nonprofit completing 1,755 patient visits so far in 2026, compared to 1,552 visits the year before.

Evan Shoemaker, executive director of Forsyth Community Clinic, said the \$5,000 grant to pay for lab work is a "lifeline."

"The cornerstone of what we do is lab testing," Shoemaker said. "So, this allows us to keep going and to see the people who need the testing that we provide."

Another nonprofit getting a funding boost is Confident Threads, which

provides clothes to underprivileged and foster children in the community.

Their grant supports the purchase of back-to-school clothes and shoes, one of the biggest expenses for the nonprofit.

"We bought about 772 pairs last year, so, we're expecting about a 20% increase this year, in need, and this is going to help in a very huge way," said Cindy Morris, executive director of Confident Threads. "To be such a young nonprofit and to receive a grant, in the amount of \$5,000, and to be one of the recipients of

their first distribution, we're incredibly honored and grateful."

This year's grants awarded by FCAA are supporting more than a dozen visual art and performance programs.

"Since 2006, the Forsyth County Arts Alliance has really been a steadfast champion for the arts," said Lynn Jackson, a longtime board member of the FCAA. "What began as the sale of a public asset, namely the Sawnee Cultural Arts Center, helped to fuel a vision for a dedicated source of financial support for local

artists and art organizations, and that vision has evolved into a lasting investment in the creative spirit that represents our community."

Nonprofits selected for grants received live checks at the ceremony, so that funds could be used immediately.

For a full list of Forsyth County Community Foundation grant recipients, visit ngcf.org/who-we-are/fccf/fccf_grants/ and for Forsyth County Arts Alliance grant recipients, visit focartsalliance.org/grants/past-recipients/.



The Forsyth County Public Library receives a grant of \$20,000 from the Forsyth County Arts Alliance on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.



The Forsyth County Community Foundation and Forsyth County Arts Alliance award grants to Forsyth County nonprofits and art programs during the Forsyth County Grant Celebration at Denmark Library on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2026.