hopestar FOUNDATION Annual Giving Report: 2025

nurture NC www.nurturencnow.org

As 2025 concludes, the **HopeStar Foundation** is filled with deep gratitude for the community we serve and the dedication of every North Carolina and National stakeholder.

The most significant milestone came in **August 2025** with the official launch of **Nurture NC**, our signature, long-term investment. This initiative, which is the result of 18 months of stakeholder convenings, is the heart of our commitment to the state. We are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Elizabeth Tilson** has stepped into the role of Inaugural Executive Director, guiding Nurture NC's strategic development and implementation. We also welcomed **Miranda Cominole** as Executive Assistant, ensuring seamless support for both the Foundation and Nurture NC's critical work.

Nurture NC is already being recognized by peers as a powerful model for innovative, collaborative community investment. This success belongs to all of us, and we look forward to sharing more of Nurture NC's impact in the new year.

Nurture NC Steering Committee Meetings

We're Proud to Share

Chief Justice Paul Newby presented the Friend of the Court Award to the HopeStar Foundation. This award is given to individuals whose contributions have demonstrated the highest commitment to genuine professionalism and the highest standards of legal ethics.

We were honored to assist in hosting a Meet & Greet Welcome Reception for the Secretary of the N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Jocelyn Mallette, with partners from Camp Corral, With Honor, Pike Corporation, Carmen Hooker-Odom, and Blue Star Families.

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Strategic Grants

Strategy: Maternal & Child Health

- **Nurture North Carolina (NNC):** Investment in our signature initiative to convene and coordinate statewide partners, catalyze action in priority areas, develop a strategic communication plan, and drive policy change.
- **HealthConnect One**: Continued investment to support advancing equitable, community-based, peer-to-peer support for pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, and early parenting expenses.
- **Atrium Health Foundation; Dr. Shivani Mehta:** Three-year grant to support Dr. Mehta's role as Physician Champion for Community Child Health & Advocacy (2024-2026).

Strategy: Early Childhood

- **Carolinas Collaborative**: One-Year grant to support a building a two-state network of advocacy leaders from 8 pediatric academic institutions across the Carolinas promoting the well-being of children (2024-2026).
- **Invest Early NC:** Two-year grant to support a statewide early childhood funders collaborative, including a direct investment into the Invest Early Pooled Fund (2023-2025).
- **Eastern AHEC**: Three-Year grant focused on Results Based Accountability/Scorecard to include state-level early childhood data relevant for comprehensive health assessment work in the NC Data Portal (2025-2027).

Strategy: Education and Advocacy

- **Aspen Ascend Institute**: Three-year grant to support an Aspen Ascend Fellowship which brings together a diverse cadre of national leaders who are powerfully positioned to build the political will, change systems, and drive the policy agenda needed for the prosperity and well-being of all children and families. (2024-2026)
- **NC Alliance for Health**: One-year grant to develop and implement an educational, public awareness campaign that shares collective messaging and the lived experiences of individuals and families who have positively benefited from Medicaid (2025).

Strategy: Trauma & Resilience

- **Bolch Judicial Institute of Duke Law School**: Three-year grant to support the development of a training program for judges, court administrators and other court staff on the effects of childhood trauma (2024-2027).
- **Bolch Judicial Institute of Duke Law School**: Six-year grant to support activities that advance and promote the rule of law, including fellowships, seminars, conferences, publications, and other initiatives designed to educate judges, lawyers, and the public at large about the rule of law, judicial independence, and the role of the judiciary in a democratic society (2025-2030).