



Annual Report 2025

Brunswick County Homeless Coalition
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"Together, WE CAN Make a Difference"



Brunswick County Homeless Coalition 2025 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve as an advocate and provide education on issues in Brunswick County and to provide resources for people who are homeless or in need.

OUR VISION

BCHC is dedicated to preventing or alleviating homelessness by providing support, resources, and advocacy for those in need. Through collaboration, compassion, and a commitment to sustainable solutions, we work to ensure everyone has a safe, stable, and permanent home.

NON-PROFIT STATUS

Established as a charitable body in 2011, BCHC is an all-volunteer organization. BCHC was recognized as a 501c(3) non-profit in 2013. Our EIN is 80-0807696. BCHC files an annual 990N with the IRS. Current and past 990N reports may be accessed by going to <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/> and typing in BCHC's EIN as noted above.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of CZ Griffith Plumbing, 565 Meadow Summit Dr., #4, Ocean Isle Beach. All are welcome to attend. (Special thanks to Ty Griffith for generously providing meeting space at his business.)

**Brunswick County Homeless Coalition
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IN MEMORIAM

The Brunswick County Homeless Coalition (BCHC) 2025 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Barbara Serafin and Rita Canfield, both of whom who passed away this year.

Barbara and Rita were founding members of BCHC. In 2011, they and other concerned County residents joined together to form an all-volunteer organization to address the problem of homelessness in the community. BCHC was notified of its on-profit status on June 29, 2013.

Barbara served as president of BCHC for several years. Her leadership, compassionate heart, and her tireless efforts to help those in need in our community were an inspiration to many. Likewise, Rita provided leadership in several capacities over the years including Board vice-president and secretary. She was a vocal and steadfast advocate for unhoused families and individuals, often attending Board of Commissioners meetings to endorse efforts to improve their lives and to support establishment of a county homeless shelter. She, too, was an inspiration and many of us joined BCHC because of Rita's shining example of service to her community, which was motivated by her strong faith.

Both Barara and Rita helped organize and participate in BCHC's annual fundraising and community awareness event, which continues to be held to this day, in recognition of national "Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week."

The dedication of Barbara and Rita and their hard work created a strong and vibrant all-volunteer organization which today is firmly established as a valuable community resource. All of us at BCHC are committed to upholding their legacy to advocate, educate, and provide services to those in need.

We wish to note that a number of donors contributed to BCHC in 2025 in memory of Barbara and Rita and we gratefully acknowledge their generosity.

Thank you, Barbara and Rita for everything you've done for BCHC and our community.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear friends and supporters of the Brunswick County Homeless Coalition,

This year was marked by the passing of two of our cherished founders, Barbara Serafin and Rita Canfield. As the *In Memoriam* page of this year's report observed, their work formed the basis of the vibrant and effective organization that BCHC is today. We are forever in their debt and their many contributions are a legacy we will uphold in the years ahead.

Our efforts during 2025 focused on addressing the increasing need for stable housing. BCHC spent the greater part of its funds on eviction prevention and rental assistance by securing grant funds for this purpose in addition to utilizing individual and faith community donations. BCHC provided \$82,086 in direct aid to clients in 2025. This is a record amount of assistance for us as an organization—a 39% increase—and speaks to the growing need in the County.

We are keenly aware that we cannot always rely on grant funds for ongoing support. This is an especially challenging aspect of our mission in 2026 and beyond. Requests for assistance have risen, as evidenced by our direct aid numbers. The reduction or elimination of government programs has negatively impacted our capacity to aid those in need as well. Other organizations are under the same strain and they also will be asking the community at large for help. As there are many worthy, local charities, donors will have to make difficult choices about which groups to support.

With this in mind, our goal in 2026 is to increase our visibility with a clear message that BCHC, as an all-volunteer organization, offers services that are cost effective and of value to the community. Of every dollar spent, more than 97 cents is directed to client services and we will strive to inform the public that supporting BCHC is a positive community investment.

Thank you for your continued support and for assisting our efforts to prevent and remedy homelessness and to ensure there is safe, stable, and permanent housing in Brunswick County. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,



Joe Staton, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Joe Staton, President and Acting Treasurer

Betsy Duarte, Vice-president

John Callaghan, Secretary

Board Members:

Jay Boulter

Bobby Brown

Vikki Hine

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2025

- Service Highlight: 662 household calls to the BCHC help line; 1,404 clients assisted.
- Homelessness Prevention: 367 clients provided financial assistance to those at risk of eviction, helping them stay housed using grant funds designated for eviction prevention.
- Emergency Shelter: 149 clients were provided shelter.*

*(*There is no permanent shelter in Brunswick County. BCHC uses local motels for temporary housing. This approach is costly—BCHC spent \$18,634 for emergency housing in 2025, representing 12% of the households helped.)*

- Food: 273 clients received food boxes in cooperation with A Second Helping-3G.
- Utilities: 338 clients helped
- Veterans helped: 9
- Client Outreach: 119 outreach contacts. This is a new service. It was initiated by a Board member who has provided person-to-person assistance to BCHC clients in emergency shelter settings or otherwise in need. Assistance has included bringing food boxes, water, blankets, clothing, hygiene items, and toiletries. Referrals were made for social or psychosocial support. Local transportation also was offered. BCHC believes this is an important preventive strategy to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in addition to lessening the negative health impacts on those unhoused or living in at-risk housing.
- Community Outreach: Board members made community presentations to: The St. James Service Club, the Franciscan Associates of St. Brendan Church, and monthly reports to Brunswick County Senior Resources, Inc. staff.

- **Advocacy and Public Awareness:** At its November 17, 2025 meeting the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation recognizing the work of BCHC and declaring the week of November 17-23, 2025 as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Brunswick County. Three BCHC members attended. To further increase community knowledge and understanding of homelessness in Brunswick County a “Soup-to-Go” event was held November 15, 2025 at the Seaside United Methodist Church, Sunset Beach. Information about the event reached residents through social media and local media outlets. Members of the Greater Federation of Women’s Clubs—Holden Beach prepared and distributed more than 100 servings of soup along with other BCHC volunteers. More than \$3,000 was raised to support BCHC services. BCHC also improved its visibility on Facebook thanks to the efforts of a new volunteer who began posting content and links to the BCHC website for reports, events, and news.
- **Referrals:** 1,010 clients were offered referrals for other sources of assistance.
- **Other direct aid (gas, transportation, etc.) :** 47 clients helped.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income Sources

- Carryover funds from 2024 into 2025: \$39,747.21
- Grants: \$25,000
- Private Donations: \$53,694

Expenditures

- Direct aid (Emergency Shelter, Rent, Utilities, etc.): \$82,086
- Administrative: \$1,778
- Percentage spent for direct client aid: 97%; administrative: 3%
- Fundraising and Public Awareness: No BCHC funds are budgeted or spent for this purpose. Costs are covered by in-kind or direct financial contributions from members or the community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Brunswick County Homeless Coalition extends its heartfelt thanks to the following grant makers, community partners, and donors who have made this year’s progress possible:

- **Special acknowledgement:** BCHC thanks the generous donors who contributed to BCHC in memory of Barbara Serafin and Rita Canfield.
- **Grant Makers:** Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council #12537 of Southport, the St. James Service Club, and the St. Elizabeth Mission Society.
- **Civic:** Shallotte Rotary Club.
- **Property Owner Associations:** Ocean Ridge Community Association and the St. James Service Club.
- **Local businesses:** CZ Griffith Plumbing, KISS Yoga, and Sea Level Stay, LLC.
- **Faith Communities:** Holden Beach Church Chapel, Seaside United Methodist Church, St. Brendan’s Catholic Church, and Shallotte Presbyterian Church

- Non-profit agencies and service providers: A Second Helping-3G, Brunswick Family Assistance, Brunswick Senior Resources, Inc., Christian Recovery Centers, Inc., and Manna/Our Daily Bread
- Fraternal/religious organizations: Elks Club #2679, St. Brendan Catholic Church Knights of Columbus Council #9039 and Our Lady of the Rosary Auxiliary #9039 Columbiettes
- Local government: Varnamtown Town Council
- Veterans: VFW Post #10226
- Volunteers and community groups: A Second Helping-3G, Greater Federation of Women's Clubs—Holden Beach and Cape Fear and South Brunswick Islands, Christian Recovery Centers, Inc., Franciscan Associates of St. Brendan Church and Jesus 24/7 Global Ministry.

LOOKING AHEAD: GOALS FOR 2026

- Meeting the Need for Emergency Housing and Eviction Prevention: We will continue pursue grant opportunities and maintain our community fund-raising efforts to support this goal.
- Increased outreach to the community: We will identify opportunities to make presentations to the community about homelessness and our work.
- Volunteer Recruitment: In 2025, four new members joined BCHC and two of them volunteered as call-takers. One of the new volunteers became our social media coordinator. BCHC previously had placed four weeks of ads in a local shopper's publication to recruit a social media coordinator and volunteer coordinator. We will continue to explore ways to recruit volunteers.
- Continued Support for Veterans: We will continue to identify resources and services for homeless veterans, ensuring they receive the care and housing they deserve.
- Support for Older Clients: We will seek funding to help clients, 55 years of age and older.
- New Partnerships: A new partnership was formed with Manna/Our Daily Bread. We will continue to seek opportunities to form new alliances to support our mission.

GET INVOLVED

- **Donate:** Financial contributions provide rental assistance, emergency shelter, and other vital services to those in need. Donations can be made through our website: <http://Brunswickhomeless.com> or mailed to: PO Box 7411, Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
- **Volunteer:** Join our team of dedicated volunteers who answer calls for assistance, conduct outreach in the community, and help out at BCHC events. Interested? Contact us by email: info@brunswickhomeless.com.
- **Advocate:** Raise awareness of homelessness in our community by engaging in advocacy efforts and supporting policy changes. Information sheets are available on the BCHC website.

To learn more, please visit our website at
<http://Brunswickhomeless.com>