

## FOCUS Broadband Honored with Pro Patria Award



*Pictured L-R: Justin Parsons (FOCUS Broadband Director of Operation Services), Keith Holden (FOCUS Broadband CEO/General Manager), Jason Thompson (ESGR NC State Committee), Shannon Engelhardt (FOCUS Broadband Director of Human Resources & Air Force Veteran), and Donnie Milligan (Business Services Technician & NC Air National Guard Master Sergeant).*

FOCUS Broadband was honored with the prestigious Pro Patria Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the highest honor awarded by an ESGR State Committee. This recognition highlights FOCUS Broadband's strong commitment to creating a supportive work environment for military service members; currently, almost 10% of FOCUS Broadband's workforce are veterans or active Guard and Reserve members.

"We consider FOCUS Broadband fortunate to benefit from the leadership, dedication and skills that those coming from a military background bring to our team," said FOCUS Broadband CEO, Keith Holden.

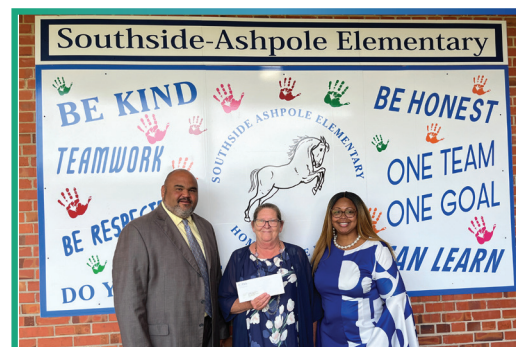
# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

ALL FOCUS BROADBAND LOCATIONS WILL BE CLOSED ON  
DECEMBER 25TH AND ON JANUARY 1ST FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## Now Accepting Applications for the 2025 FOCUS Broadband Community and Education Grants Programs

Now through February 28th, FOCUS Broadband is accepting applications for our 2025 Smart Connections and Community Connections Grant programs. Each category will award \$40,000 in funds to local nonprofit organizations and educators to support initiatives that will directly benefit the residents, students and teachers in FOCUS Broadband service areas.

Community grant funds are awarded in the spring, and education grant funds will be awarded in the fall. Since the grant program's inception in 2006, FOCUS Broadband has awarded more than \$1 million in grant funds. To view the grant application, or for more information on eligibility and exclusions, please visit [www.focusbroadband.com/giving-back](http://www.focusbroadband.com/giving-back).



*Public Schools of Robeson County Superintendent Freddie Williamson with Southside Ashpole Elementary School Smart Connections Grant Recipients*

# Grant Helps Provide Supplies for BCC Food Pantry

Thanks to a FOCUS Broadband Community Connections Grant, Brunswick Community College (BCC) has been able to keep its student food pantry stocked with a variety of essential non-perishable foods and hygiene products, providing support to students in need. This funding has sustained the pantry throughout the fall 2024 semester and will continue helping students well into the spring 2025 semester.

“The overall mission of the food pantry is to help students be successful and overcome barriers,” said BCC President, Dr. Gene Smith. “It benefits over 40 students per month, and FOCUS Broadband is helping us reach even more students, supporting their success.”



## In The Spirit of Giving

In the spirit of giving this holiday season, FOCUS Broadband employees are coming together to make a difference in our communities. Over the last few weeks, we've hosted a company-wide food

drive, launched a corporate fundraiser for United Way of the Cape Fear Area, and we are now teaming up with the local chapter of the Marine Corps Reserve to be a donation drop-off site for Toys for Tots. Anyone interested in making a donation may do so by dropping off a new, unwrapped toy at our Shallotte location before December 13th.



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- ♥ Shallotte
- ♥ Leland
- ♥ Whiteville
- ♥ Burgaw
- ♥ Sunset Beach

## Navigating the Future of Cable TV and Streaming

With programming costs climbing and the demand for Cable TV declining, we have made the difficult decision to begin our exit from the Cable TV industry. In the coming weeks and months, more information will be communicated to you outlining the timeline in which FOCUS Broadband will stop offering Cable TV service. We encourage our customers to explore more cost-effective options like streaming, where larger providers such as DirecTV, YouTube TV, Hulu + Live TV, and Sling TV offer flexible packages and competitive pricing — all of which can be streamed with FOCUS Broadband's high-speed internet.

Our goal is to help you get the most for your entertainment dollar and to be transparent about Cable TV and streaming. On our website at [focusbroadband.com/streaming](https://focusbroadband.com/streaming), you'll find helpful resources to support your transition to streaming, including a series of "Guide to Streaming" videos, information on popular streaming options, and a tool to help you find the best platforms for your needs. With FOCUS Broadband's reliable internet, you can enjoy seamless streaming and discover a world of entertainment tailored to you.