

## \$40,000 Awarded in Community Connection Grants

FOCUS Broadband is committed to enriching the lives of those living in our local community. This year in support of that effort, we have awarded \$40,000 in Community Connection grant funds to 18 local non-profit organizations. "We have received outstanding feedback about the impact that supporting our grants have made for previous recipients," states Gene Ward, FOCUS Broadband Director and Board Liaison for the grants committee. "I am proud that we are able to continue to help these great organizations make a difference in the areas we serve."

FOCUS Broadband began awarding grants in 2006. Since then, FOCUS Broadband has awarded more than \$1 million in community and education grants to hundreds of programs.

### 2024 Community Grant Winners

Brunswick Community College Foundation  
Brunswick County Literacy Center  
Brunswick Search and Rescue, Inc.  
Building Bridges After School Program  
Camp4Heros  
Columbus County Beekeepers Association  
Foster Pantry, Inc.  
Going Beyond the Pink  
Jack Helbig Memorial Foundation

Las Amigas Red Springs Chapter, Inc.  
Lower Cape Fear LifeCare  
Lumber River United Way  
National Alliance for Father Friendly Schools  
Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Seaside Teaching & Reading Students (STARS)  
St. James Fire and Rescue  
Stop Soldier Suicide  
Women's Life Center

*Join Our Team!* Explore current openings at [focusbroadband.com/careers](https://focusbroadband.com/careers)

## More Cooperative Areas Upgraded to Fiber Optics



FOCUS Broadband is continuing its commitment to upgrade its entire cooperative service area to fiber optics. As part of this multi-year project, more than 5,000 Brunswick County members already have access to the newer fiber optic delivered technology. Areas recently receiving fiber optic upgrades include Smithfield Townhomes, Woodlands at Crow Creek, Highland Forest Townhomes, and areas near Winnabow, Holden Beach, and Town Creek.

Work is currently underway to make fiber optics available for Carolina Shores and The Village at Calabash. Customers in these communities will be contacted about establishing a conversion appointment once work has been completed.

# Learn How to Stream: Register Now for Our Streaming 101 Class

Have you been thinking about cutting the cable TV cord, but you don't know where to start?

FOCUS Broadband is here to help! Join us on Tuesday, July 9th at 6 PM for a FREE class where you'll learn everything you need to know about how to choose a streaming device and find streaming options that deliver your favorite shows and movies.

Seating is limited, scan the code to reserve your seat.



## Local Students Awarded Roger Alan Cox Scholarship through Foundation for Rural Service

Alicia High and Bryce Harrelson are the 2024 recipients of a \$1,000 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Roger Alan Cox Scholarship. Both scholarships were made possible through the generosity of Herman & Whiteaker LLC and were created to honor the memory of former FOCUS Broadband CEO Roger Cox who dedicated much of his life to working in the telecommunications industry here in Brunswick County.

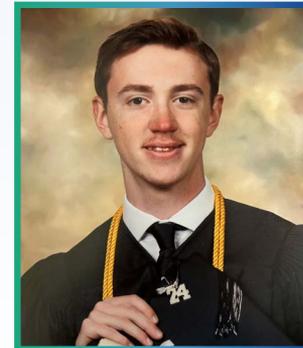
Alicia High, of Ash, attends the NC School of Science and Mathematics. Upon graduation, Alicia plans to attend NC State and major in Chemical Engineering. Bryce Harrelson lives in Whiteville and attends South Columbus High School. Harrelson will be attending Campbell University in the fall and will be majoring in Engineering.

"FOCUS Broadband is proud to be an FRS member and it is an honor to have local students receive these national scholarships," said Keith Holden, FOCUS Broadband CEO. "We appreciate that FRS and Herman & Whiteaker LLC continue to honor Roger's legacy and passion for ensuring that students in rural communities have access to technology and education."

This year, over 1,300 applications were received from students in rural communities across the nation for only 55 scholarships.



*Alicia High of Ash, NC*



*Bryce Harrelson of Whiteville, NC*



## Celebrate Christmas in July!



Get ready to join us as we spread a little cheer with our Christmas in July giveaway! From tech gadgets to summer essentials, you won't want to miss out on your chance to win big. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for giveaway announcements. It's all happening July 8th through the 19th!