

## FOCUS Broadband is Celebrating National Co-op Month

Each October, FOCUS Broadband and cooperatives across America celebrate the significant impact and achievements of cooperatives nationwide. A cooperative is a special type of business in that it is owned and operated by its members. Each member has equal ownership in the company. As such, cooperatives operate with the best interests on those it serves foremost in mind. This often means expanding services to places that do not have it, keeping prices lower than for-profit companies, and a focus on giving back to the local community through a variety of ways. It also means providing excellent customer service and support.

FOCUS Broadband was founded in 1955 to serve the communication needs of residents and businesses in Brunswick County. Through the years, we have expanded our reach to serve over nine eastern North Carolina counties. Today we are North Carolina's largest member-owned communications cooperative providing high speed internet to over 70,000. The key to our success today is the same that it has been for almost 70 years, we focus on you. Thank you for choosing FOCUS Broadband.



## We're Hiring!

Visit our website to view current openings  
and apply today at [focusbroadband.com/careers](https://focusbroadband.com/careers)

## Streaming Alternatives Offer Viacom Channels

As part of our ongoing efforts to combat rising cable TV costs and adapt to changing viewing habits, FOCUS Broadband has removed Viacom Networks from our cable TV lineup.

While losing channels like Paramount, BET, TV Land, CMT, Comedy Central, MTV, and Nickelodeon may be disappointing to some, they had relatively low viewership and the increased cost of carrying them was no longer sustainable.

If you are a fan of these channels, there are many streaming alternatives that offer them. Services like YouTube TV, Hulu + Live TV, and DIRECTV via Internet each offer Viacom channels. Through our new partnership with DIRECTV, you can access these channels along with local programming, live news, and sports — all delivered over your FOCUS Broadband internet connection, with no satellite dish required. Plus, you can take advantage of special introductory pricing for up to two years.

We're committed to helping you get the best value for your entertainment dollar, which is why we've introduced a streaming recommendation tool to help you find the shows and channels you love. To learn more, visit [focusbroadband.com/streaming](https://focusbroadband.com/streaming).

# Now Accepting Scholarship Applications



Now through Friday, December 6th, FOCUS Broadband will be accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors! To be eligible, applicants or their legal guardians must be customers of FOCUS Broadband.

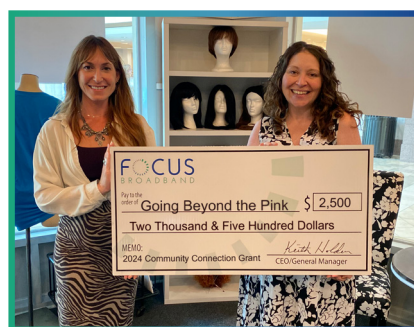
Ten \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded and recipients will be selected based on academics, school-sponsored activities, community involvement, and interview skills. For more information about our scholarship program, contact the guidance counselor at your local high school or visit [focusbroadband.com/scholarships](http://focusbroadband.com/scholarships).

## Going Beyond the Pink Awarded Community Grant

A FOCUS Broadband Community Connection Grant is helping a local non-profit, Going Beyond the Pink, extend its breast health awareness and risk reduction program to reach more Brunswick County residents. The organization's What's Normal, What's Not program provides vital information for making informed health decisions.

"We are so honored and grateful to receive the grant from FOCUS Broadband," states Kara Kenan, Executive Director and founder of Going Beyond the Pink. The funds from FOCUS Broadband will also help the local non-profit in purchasing essential items for their Care Bag program which assists individuals undergoing breast cancer treatment.

FOCUS Broadband awards \$40,000 in Community Grant funds annually to non-profit organizations across its service area. Over \$1.085 million in community and education grants have been awarded since the grant program's inception in 2006.



Right: Kara Kenan, Executive Director & Founder of Going Beyond the Pink

## Stay Safe Online: Protect Yourself from Cyber Threats

Staying informed about tactics being used to exploit your sensitive information is crucial. Here are some tips to help you stay safe and secure online:



1. Don't share any personal information through unsolicited calls, texts, or emails. Legitimate businesses won't ask for data this way.
2. If contacted unexpectedly, hang up or delete the message and reach out directly to the organization using official contact details.
3. Be cautious of emails or messages that have poor grammar, urgent requests, or strange URLs. These are often phishing attempts.
4. Create complex passwords for each of your accounts and consider using a password manager to keep track of them securely.
5. Add an extra layer of security by enabling two-factor authentication on your accounts, requiring a second form of verification beyond just your password.

Protecting your online presence is more important than ever. If you ever have any doubts about communications from FOCUS Broadband, don't hesitate to contact us using the official information listed on [focusbroadband.com](http://focusbroadband.com).