

FILLING STATION



NUTRITION • EDUCATION • CONNECTION



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



The Filling Station, a dream born out of a long vacant, propane company building, opened its doors on August 28, 2017. ***Why the Filling Station name?*** During a walkthrough of the building, someone noticed a red hazardous material warning sign with a flame and the number 1075, the DOT classification for propane. The group discovered that Psalm 107:5 read:

“They were hungry and thirsty; their lives were slipping away.”

A new mission was launched and it was called “The Filling Station” to refer to the building’s prior use as well as to its new purpose.



Our mission is to assist with filling unmet needs in the areas of Nutrition, Education, and Connection serving the residents of Jones County.

Message from Executive Director Mary Ann LeRay

As we reflect on 2025, we want to say a heartfelt thank you for the many ways you showed up—through giving, volunteering, partnering, praying, and encouraging. In our eighth year, the story isn't just that the work continued—it's that the work expanded in meaningful, visible ways across the year.



2025 Highlights

- A major capacity milestone: our new food warehouse was completed and celebrated with a ribbon cutting on September 8, 2025.
- We launched our NEW recording studio (opened in March 2025), creating a consistent platform to share stories, spotlight partners, and keep the community connected.
- Our Teaching Kitchen continued to grow in impact, including “Healthy for Living” and other nutrition education classes.
- We invested directly into healthier food access through grant support— including a \$7,500 grant to purchase fresh produce and meats from local farms.
- We hosted the 5th Annual Dance, Art & Music Camp, continuing a strong tradition of summer enrichment and community partnership.
- Our community fundraising continued strong with “Jones County – A Perfect 10” on November 8, 2025.
- Emergency communications strengthened: With support from a Duke Energy Foundation grant, the amateur radio repeater and antenna system was upgraded, strengthening reliability for disaster communications and helping equip trained volunteer operators to support local emergency response.
- We were encouraged by meaningful support from churches and community partners, including an anonymous \$50,000 gift delivered to help feed our neighbors.

None of these wins happened in isolation. They happened because people like you made room in your budgets, schedules, and hearts for this work—again and again. Whether you gave a one-time gift, volunteered behind the scenes, sponsored an event, shared a post, or invited someone to get connected, you helped move the mission forward in 2025.

To learn more about our history, mission and future plans, visit our website: fillingstation1075.com

With gratitude,

Mary Ann LeRay

Executive Director

fsdirector@fillingstation1075.com |  @FS1075

2025 in Review

2025 GRANTS RECEIVED

- » **\$35,000—The Anonymous Trust**
(General Operations/Challenge Grant)
- » **\$20,000—Harold Bate Foundation**
(Enhanced Mission Project)
- » **\$10,000—Duke Energy Disaster Preparedness Grant**
(New Equipment Amateur Radio Office)
- » **\$6,000—International Paper**
(Food Pantry)
- » **\$3000—Weyerhaeuser**
(Forklift Lease)
- » **\$25,050—NC Community Foundation / Louise Oriole Burevitch Endowment**
(Food Insecurity)
- » **\$20,000—Harold Bate Foundation**
(Expanded Food Pantry Operations)
- » **\$2,375—Jones County Committee of 100**
(New Warehouse)
- » **\$1,150—NC Community Foundation/ Jones County Community Foundation**
(Food Pantry Operations)
- » **\$12,500—Blue Cross Blue Shield**
(Purchased Local Produce/Food Pantry)
- » **\$39,365—Golden Leaf Foundation**
(New Warehouse)

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS/ADDITIONS

- » Completed Warehouse - refrigeration/ freezer units/2 bathrooms
- » Completed Recording Studio - Podcast/ Teaching Kitchen

- » Installation of 3 Water fountains with bottle filling capacity
- » Upgrade Amateur Radio Equipment Office
- » Removal of Old Building on campus

AWARDS & CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

- » New Bern Chamber of Commerce/Non Profit Council/ Giving Tuesday
- » Pollocksville Rotary Club/Christmas on Main Event
- » Jones County Hunters Association
- » Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC - partnership thank you
- » Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NC
- » American Heart Association

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

- » Armstrong & McGuire - Executive Director Coaching
- » Tutoring Program at Pollocksville Elementary School - Joan Knight
- » Out of the Box Recipes in the Teaching Kitchen with N.C. Cooperative Extension
- » Healthy Holiday Recipes in the Teaching Kitchen with Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC
- » Leadership Jones - 13 graduates
- » Ham Radio licensing - 20 new licenses earned
- » Food Pantry - 48 weeks a year/Tues & Thurs

2025 in Review

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS (CONT'D)

- » Volunteer Orientation and Training—once a month
- » Annual Board Training - Intentional Excellence Consulting
- » Dance, Art and Music Camp - Kono Gnaga/ Atlantic Dance Theatre
- » NC Symphony Music Education Session
- » Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Brunch
- » Perfect 10 Annual Fundraising Event
- » Back to School Backpack event with Jones County Recreation
- » Neuse River Bridge Run
- » Giving Tuesday event
- » Christmas on Main with Pollocksville Rotary Club
- » Santa Letters with Pollocksville Post Office
- » Sponsored Angels for Christmas with Salvation Army

2024 CHURCH PARTNERS (CONT'D)

- » Kinston Pentecostal Holiness Church
- » Pollocksville Baptist Church
- » Pollocksville Methodist Church
- » Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
- » Shady Grove Methodist Church
- » Solid Rock Global Methodist Church
- » St. James AME Zion
- » St. Matthews Church AME Zion
- » St. Pauls Catholic Church
- » St. Phillips Missionary Baptist Church
- » The Living Word Worship Center
- » Triune Holiness Church

2024 CHURCH PARTNERS

- » 902 Church
- » Christ Church
- » Christian Faith Assembly
- » Clinton Memorial Chapel AME Zion
- » Coastal Carolina Church
- » Cypress Creek Methodist Church
- » Friendship Church
- » Garber Methodist Church
- » Joe's Branch Church





NUTRITION • EDUCATION • CONNECTION

THE FILLING STATION OVERALL STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2029

VISION

The Filling Station is the premiere connector of people and resources in Jones County and the world.

MISSION

Our mission is to assist with filling unmet needs in the areas of Nutrition, Education and Connection serving the residents of Jones County.

GOALS

- 1. Finance and Investment**—to have a balanced budget and have an investment portfolio supported by a yearly plan that will increase the quantity, variety and consistency of funding sources by 10%
- 2. Facilities**—to maintain and improve the buildings, grounds and real property to better serve the people of Jones County
- 3. Marketing/Media/Public Relations**—to partner with local, state and national organizations, churches & religious organizations and set the standard in community outreach for marketing and public relations
- 4. Programs**—to provide programs and partnerships with organizations and to deliver education and connections for the residents of Jones County
- 5. Orientation/Training/Nominations**—to provide orientation and annual training for all individuals associated with The Filling Station and recommend board nominations

CORE VALUES

Christ-Focused | Educate | Empower | Encourage | Equip

Adopted: November 2021 | Revised: July 2024 | Reviewed: July 2025

2025 Financial Performance

REVENUE

Grants	\$148,861
Individual Donors	\$40,564
Business/Corp Donors	\$18,550
Civic Organizations	\$2,544
Churches	\$75,663
Fundraising Income	
—Neuse River Bridge Run	\$18,000
—Perfect 10	\$70,158
—Brick Walk	\$771
Rental - Radio Club	\$930
In- Kind Donations	\$37,600
Other Income	\$594
Interest Income	\$548
Total Revenue	\$414,783

Total Revenue \$414,783

EXPENDITURES

Advertising/Promotional	\$6,427
Program Related	\$77,124
Contract Services	\$16,730
Operations & Facilities	\$80,439
Payroll	\$111,266
Travel and Meetings	\$2,537

Total Expenditures \$294,523

Profit/Loss +/- \$120,260

127 Volunteers worked 5,510 hours

**Value of
Volunteer
Time in 2025**



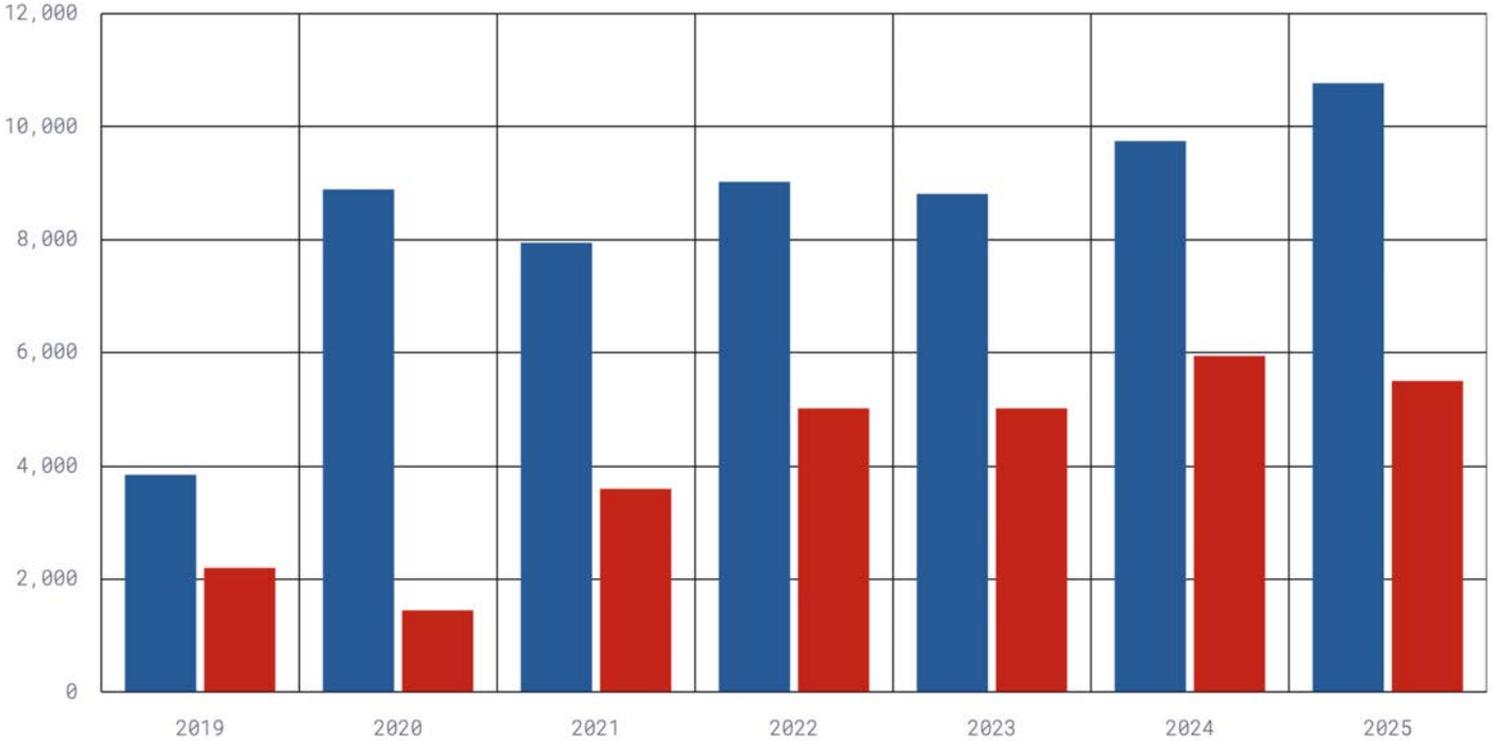
** based on information provided by Independent Sector and the Do Good Institute (independentsector.org)*



In service to others

2025 Performance Statistics

Households served Volunteer hours



Notes on chart: 2019 was the beginning of the pandemic. 2020 was the height of the pandemic and while numbers served were high, the volunteer hours were kept deliberately low. The pandemic continued in 2021 but restrictions loosened up some.

REGULAR CLIENTS

Month	Total Clients Registered	Nonduplicated Clients Served	Total Clients Served	Total Individuals Served
Jan	1365	266	715	1728
Feb	1376	264	766	1868
Mar	1383	277	854	1989
Apr	1391	293	1099	2639
May	1395	294	936	2221
Jun	1405	264	717	1741
Jul	1415	268	1046	2483
Aug	1424	278	930	2279
Sep	1471	323	1060	2517
Oct	1514	333	989	2251
Nov	1547	342	1003	2290
Dec	1556	279	655	1426

CSFP CLIENTS

Month	Total Clients Registered	Nonduplicated Clients Served	Total Clients Served
Jan	115	96	96
Feb	114	99	99
Mar	110	102	102
Apr	114	103	103
May	115	109	109
Jun	115	103	103
Jul	115	105	105
Aug	114	106	106
Sep	115	110	110
Oct	115	110	110
Nov	116	114	114
Dec	116	110	110

VOLUNTEERS

Month	No. of Volunteers	No. of Hours
Jan	59	375
Feb	47	378
Mar	45	379
Apr	64	462
May	43	654
Jun	45	464
Jul	58	485
Aug	50	380
Sep	50	420
Oct	44	377
Nov	63	644
Dec	43	492

2025 Volunteers who served 25 hours or more

This group of 45 volunteers served a total of 5026 hours in 2025

Emily Andrews	46	Mark Jekel	46
Lyle Bailey.....	36	Linda Jekel.....	27
Barbara Ball	34	Cynthia Kinsey.....	219
Ellis Banks.....	115	Joan Knight	180
Eddie Banks	29	Holly Ladner	130
William Beech	45	Richard (Renny) Long	26
Dianne Bell.....	78	Diane McCaffity	198
Jimmy Bender.....	524	Ella McDaniel.....	50
Hilda Bender	203	Randy McDaniel	34
Sheron Bender	72	Norma McDonough	123
Celeste Cavanaugh	25	Lorraine Moore.....	26
Coastal Carolina Church of Jacksonville	123	Julia Murphy	329
Sharon Connelly.....	28	Clyde Murphy Jr.....	322
Bobby Darden.....	28	Stephen (Greg) Parker.....	35
George (Dave) Davis	36	Karen Plaster	50
Rachel Fisher	75	Willie Smith	225
Alicia Gouge	34	Kenneth Spivey.....	100
Ava Gray	33	Estelle Surles	25
Eileen Griswold.....	213	The Epiphany School of Global Studies.....	323
Thomas Hamill	26	Greg Thornburg	28
Allen Harriett.....	256	Pete Wene	75
Jane Hobbs	74	Polly Whitehead.....	117
Noreen Jekel	205		

We appreciate you!

2025 Major Contributors

AB's Gravel Driveways LLC
Abundant Life Farms LLC
Benita and Edwin Afflerbach
Emily Andrews
Andrews Family Farm Inc.
Rudolph & Joanne Ashton III
Vx Baldwin
Ellis and Dianne Banks
Eddie Banks
Banks Brothers Beaver Dam Farm
Allen and Jean Bender
Jay and Sheron Bender
Betsy Jones
Brook Stone Living Center
Vic and Shirley Bryan
Carolina Creations
CarolinaEast Health System
Carolina Handling
Christ Episcopal Church
Christian Faith Assembly Inc
Ellen and John Cioccio
Michael & Cheryl Coeyman
Craven County Independent Insurance
Agents Assoc.
Cypress Creek Renewables
Cypress Creek UMC
Bobby and Betsy Darden
Denver United Methodist Church

Duke Energy Carolinas
Harold Elkins
First Capital Antique Car Club
Fisher Oil Company
Ford of Jones County
John Robert and Rani Celeste Foscue Jr.
Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
Norman Fuhr
Howard Furnas III
Garber Methodist Church
Garber Methodist Women
Graham-Cameron Land LLC
Harold Bate Foundation
Allen Harriett
Ginger Hodge
Jim and Marcy Hoffman
International Paper
J&J Contracting LLC
Ed and Noreen Jekel
Dan & Claire Hageman Jenkins
Johnny Jernigan
Jones County Hunters Association
Jones Onslow EMC
Knights of Columbus
Holly & Scott Ladner
Lenoir Community College
John Robert and Alison Mattocks
Janis McDaniel

New Bern Chiropractic Care
New Bern Civitan Club
New Bern WebDesign/Jeremy LeRay
Pinecone Home & Garden Center LLC
Pollocksville First Baptist Church
Pollocksville Methodist Church
Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
Pollocksville Rotary Club
Ron and Mary Pound
Jeffrey Reynolds
Christopher Rogerson
Segal Family Charities
Shady Grove Church
Zachary and Cheryl Simons
Solid Rock Global Methodist Church Sisters
in Service
Solid Rock Global Methodist Church
St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
Sumrell Sugg PA
Johnny & Estelle Surles
Trent Cadillac Buick GMC
Triune Holiness Church of Maysville
Tryon Civitan Club
Jeffrey and Wendy White
William and Kelly Wicks
Bonnie Zimmerman



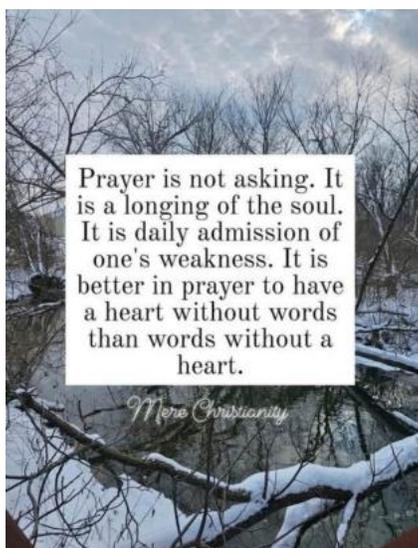
Around The Filling Station



Sarah Ware, NC Cooperative Extension/Jones County, leading a Sourdough Class in the Teaching Kitchen.



NEW Recording Studio is up and running - Videos from the Teaching Kitchen and Podcast coming soon!



Food Pantry food box- Thank you to Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC for your support!



Even on the coldest of days, our volunteers are committed to serve - Thank you Julia Murphy!

The Filling Station at Midday Mingle



Bobby Darden, Board Chair & Willie Smith, Treasurer

Thank you
New Bern Chamber of Commerce
for partnering with us and
American Heart Association
in hosting February Mid-Day Mingle!
Approximately 45 people attended the event.



Joe Brown, Joe Brown Band



Thank you John and Brenda Hall for making Valentine lunch boxes complete with chocolate covered strawberries.



Jill Thompson, Executive Director, Weisser Foundation



Meredith Edminster, ED for Atlantic Dance Theatre



Theresa Lee, Facilitator for Leadership Jones, and friends



Bethany Richards, Bike Box Project for Parkinson's

2025 in Photos



Thank you to the 4th grade “Leader in Me” group from **Pollockville Elementary School** for donating \$120 to the Food Pantry. Last year they visited and toured The Filling Station learning how to build an organization. Then attended the Leadership Jones Graduation Jones County Civic Center and were so inspired they raised \$120 to give back to those hungry and thirsty in our community. Thank you Kelly and Nicole for your leadership and partnership to pouring leadership into our future generation.



Jim and Marcy Hoffman, Jeremy and Mary Ann LeRay represented The Filling Station at the American Heart Association 2025 Heart Ball in New Bern, NC.

Remembering Erik Dyke



We share our sympathy with North Carolina Symphony upon learning the heartbreaking news of the passing of Erik Dyke, a cherished musician of the Symphony. Erik joined the double bass section of the North Carolina Symphony in 1978, and during the past 40+ years left his mark on the hearts and minds of Symphony patrons, young and old.

What a blessing to have crossed paths with this great man who loved music and teaching at the summer camp here on campus. He will be greatly missed.



Nutrition · Education · Connection

The Filling Station's New Warehouse



The Vision of a New Warehouse is becoming a reality. We are planning for it to be fully operational by late spring. Thank you Goldenleaf Foundation, Bate Foundation, Duke Energy and all the church partners for making this possible.



New Warehouse Ribbon Cutting



The **Filling Station** marked a historic milestone on September 8, 2025, with its first-ever ribbon-cutting ceremony, celebrating the completion of a new food warehouse building that will expand the organization's capacity to serve Jones County residents through enhanced nutrition, education, and connection programs.



The \$310,000 facility represents the culmination of a four-year planning and development process, made possible through funding from the **Golden Leaf Foundation** (\$227,720 grant), **Harold H. Bate Foundation**, **Jones County Committee of 100**, and **Filling Station church partners**. The ceremony coincided with The Filling Station's 8th anniversary, which was celebrated on August 28.



Leadership Jones

Building even a greater Jones County!



Thank you Tharesa Lee for leading Leadership Jones Cohort 5.

Many thanks to [Chick-fil-A](#) for leading the way in 2023 with funding, then

[SECU Foundation](#) for 2024 and now [Duke Energy](#) along with church partners making 2025 a possibility.

Additional sponsorships available for 2025.

Email

fsdirector@fillingstation1075.com

for more information

A GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

2025

Leadership Jones
 Making Connections
 Empowering people
 Building Places
 Engaging Resources

LEADERSHIP JONES
 A GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A PLACE AT THE TABLE
COHORT 5

CHICK-FIL-A
True
 INSPIRATION AWARDS

www.fillingstation1075.com

SECU Foundation
 PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

INTENTIONAL EXCELLENCE

A PLACE AT THE TABLE with Tharesa Chadwick Lee
 PROGRAM DIRECTOR
 Certified Masterful Facilitator & Content Creator

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. —John Maxwell.



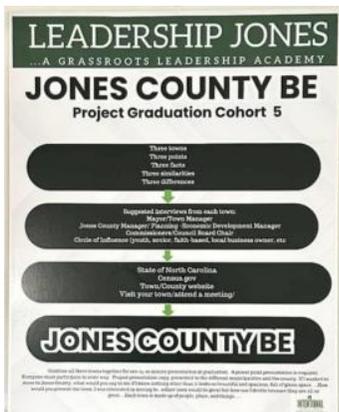
Mayor Bender with the Town of Pollocksville speaks with Cohort 5.



Amazing to hear what goes on behind the scenes for us to enjoy "power". Great conversations around the table with Duke Energy.

A full day...a full agenda...including lunch from Ghent Sandwich Shop, a family diner.

Leadership Jones Graduation



Congrats to Cohort 5

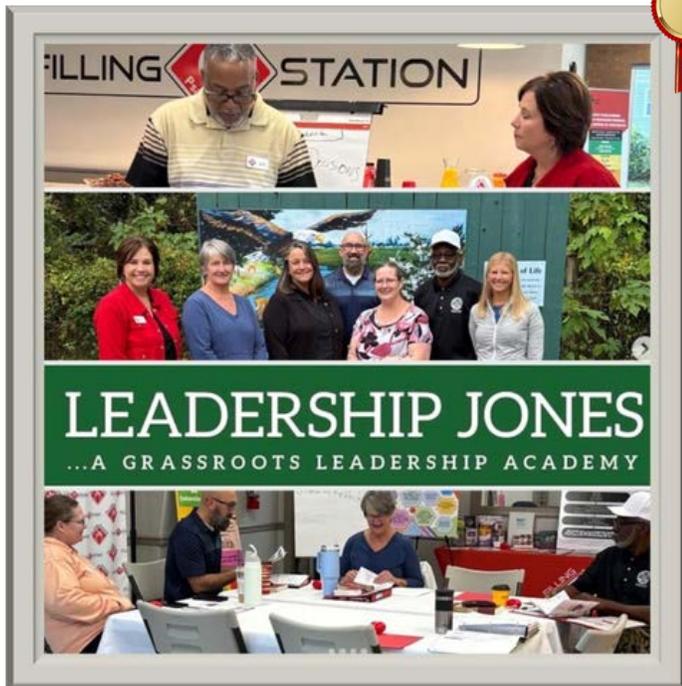
- Wendy Winslow
- Robert Brock
- Shelby Morse
- Kayley Merritt
- Dawson Rule
- Nicole Jenkins
- Amy Moody



Thank you!

Town of Maysville for hosting

Chick-fil-A of New Bern, State Employees' Credit Union foundation, Duke Energy, Lifeplus Foundation, and our church partners.
Dr Michele Eley, NC Cooperative Extension/NC A&T for sharing her appreciation to The Filling Station for embracing this leadership training. Sissy Mills, Jones County Emergency Services Cohort 3 for sharing your remarks at the celebration.
Theresa Lee for leading this leadership training at The Filling Station.

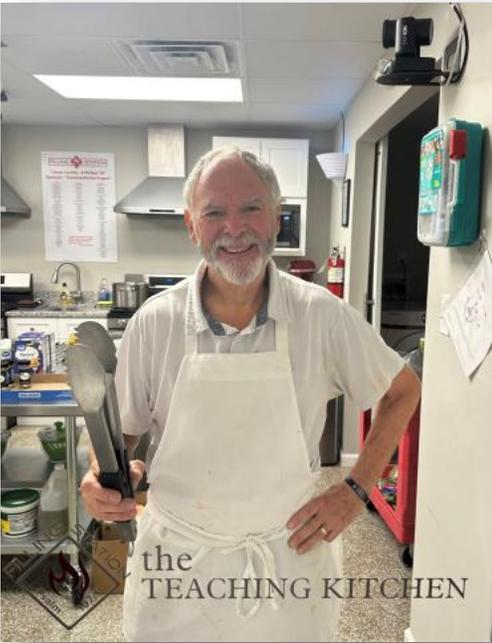


Empowering, equipping, & encouraging those who desire to live with excellence and invest their work in Jones County NC. A 3 year project that began in 2022 with a goal of 30 graduates.

With the leadership of Theresa Lee, we have had 50 graduates to successfully complete this grassroots leadership program!



Leadership Jones



Leadership Jones “A place at the Table” Cohort 6

This session highlights the importance of connecting at the table, asking great questions, being prepared for opportunities and listening to one another. Huge thank you to **Ed Jekel**, on site chef extraordinaire, for preparing a fabulous lunch for this session.

Thank you **Kyle Smith**, Jones County NC manager, Mayor **Jay Bender** Town of Pollocksville and **Schumata Brown** Town of Maysville for supporting and recommending many to this program.

Thank you **Theresa Lee**, Intentional Excellence Consulting, for directing the program in now year 3...over 44 graduates and 6 more in November.



Building even a greater Jones County!

LEADERSHIP JONES

...A GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Take Your Seat at the Table

— A 6-WEEK LEADERSHIP CLASS —

APPLY ONLINE TODAY! Fillingstation1075.com

An opportunity for Jones County residents, local government, non-profits and faith-based leaders to develop key leadership skills

TOPICS INCLUDE: Effective Communication, Personal Branding, Servant Leadership, & Bridging Communities
Led by Tharesa Chadwick Lee, Program Facilitator

**FIRST SESSION STARTS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 AT 8:30AM**

The Filling Station, 221 Main Street, Pollocksville, NC

** Applicants will be notified (email/phone) 2 weeks before class begins **

*“Through our grant program, Chick-Fil-A helps empower local nonprofits that are leading positive change and creating tangible impact throughout the communities they serve,”
said Brent Fielder, Senior Director of Corporate Social Responsibility.*

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” -John Maxwell



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THARESA CHADWICK LEE
at 252-349-6212 | tharesalee@gmail.com

A COUNTY WIDE MISSION

Scan QR
FOR MORE
INFORMATION



Partnerships



Thank you to the **Jones County Health Dept** and **CCSAP** for their continued partnership. Overdose Reversal Training was held on Tuesday, April 8th.

Pictured from left to right: Gae Phatsorn, Adrian Smith (Director of the Health Dept), Tamra Church (CCSAP) and Chris Meadows (Director of Dept of Social Services)



Thank you **Duke Energy** for the volunteer team during Food Pantry Distribution PLUS the presentation of an investment in the Ham Radio/ Disaster Preparedness Education New Bern Amateur Radio Club and Jones County Emergency Services. These funds will be used to purchase new ham radio equipment for the onsite office The Filling Station supporting alternative communications, especially during a disaster. We have been partnering with New Bern Amateur Radio Club and Jones County Emergency Services for 2 years to provide this education to over 50 new technicians in Jones County NC Craven, Lenoir, Carteret and Onslow Counties. Thank you to our Mayor Bender Town of Pollockville for your partnership and support.



Thank you **Town of Maysville** for the invitation to the Town Manager's Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the town for amazing work and the vision of things to come. It's an exciting time to be living in Jones County NC!

Grants Received



Thank you **Blue Cross Blue Shield** and Johnny Jernigan, Sr. Regional Liaison, County Engagement for your support.

The Food Pantry received a \$12,500 grant to purchase fresh produce and meats from local farms in Jones County.

"This is full circle impact - fueling bodies with locally grown food as well as fueling Jones County economy", says

Mary Ann LeRay, Executive Director, The Filling Station.



How many boxes can you check?

Thank you Blue Cross NC for your support as we partner to assist in filling unmet needs....

Nutrition, Education and Connection.

SELF-CARE CHECK-IN

Small moments of self-care can make a big difference

- 7-8 hours of sleep
- Take a walk outside
- Write in a journal
- Practice deep breathing
- Yoga or gentle stretching
- Drink enough water
- Aske for help when needed
- Have a nutritious meal
- Reach out to a supportive friend



Facilities



Great to welcome Cat and Mitchell from Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Raleigh branch. Excited we passed our compliance interview thanks to the great work of Clyde Julia Murphy running the CSFP program for Seniors 60 plus. We appreciate your support and partnership as we are working together in building the new warehouse to accommodate our capacity.



Teaching Kitchen



Thank you Brenda Hall for sharing some delicious and creative recipes using items from the food boxes. Click [here](#) for the recipes and to watch Brenda in the kitchen!

Thank you American Heart Association - North Carolina for the funding to support the teaching kitchen video production.

"Food is the universal love language." - Brenda Hall



Our new friends from Martha's Mission Cupboard who wanted to see how we are using the Teaching Kitchen, Recording Studio and new warehouse to assist in filling unmet needs in the areas of Nutrition, Education and Connection. Thank you Jones & Onslow Family and Consumer Science Program of NC State Extension Sarah Ware for connecting us.



Thank you Jones & Onslow Family and Consumer Science Program of NC State Extension for partnering to bring Canning Class to the Teaching Kitchen.

Facilities



LET'S COOK
Healthy **TOGETHER**
WITH DR. LISA YANNI, CHIROPRACTOR

3 THURSDAY CLASSES
MAY 22, JUN 26 & JUL 31, 2025
5:30-7pm in the Teaching Kitchen
of The Filling Station | 221 MAIN STREET
POLLOCKSVILLE, NC

CLASS 1: Benefits of Fiber, Buying Organic, Alternative Ingredients and Portion Sizes
CLASS 2: Herbs and Spices, Determining Your Healthy Weight, Not All FATs are Created Equal
CLASS 3: Nutrition Labels and Setting SMART Goals
* Each class includes a meal

\$30 FOR ALL 3 CLASSES
(Lower ticket cost made possible by funding from the United Way of Coastal Carolina)
- Please make checks payable to : The Filling Station -

Register online! fillingstation1075.com
phone: 252-224-1127



Next Series of
“Let’s Cook Healthy Together”
 kicks off May 22nd with
 Dr. Lisa Yanni
 This will be the 2nd round of Nu-
 trition Education classes in the
 Teaching Kitchen.
 Thank you
United Way of Coastal Carolina
American Heart Association -
North Carolina
Helmet and Carmen Weismer
Foundation
 along with our church partners
 for making this possible.
Register today by clicking [here](#).



Nutrition · Education · Connection

What classes would you like to take in the Teaching Kitchen?

Complete this survey to let us know:
[N.C. Cooperative Extension - Jones County Center](#)



Facilities



Thank you to **Jones County Economic Development** and **Duke Energy** for the mini grant for the refrigeration in the new warehouse.



Thank you **Coastal Carolina Church** team for the labor on the new bathrooms in the warehouse.



Celebrating a Clear Title after paying off the truck loan thank you to our church partners who are behind the scenes making this organization run.



Meet **Bob Gragson**...new Executive Director of **United Way of Coastal Carolina.**

Bob was excited to see the new warehouse and chat with Ed Jekel, Facilities Manager, about the progress and possibilities. It was a wonderful morning sharing with him all the programming we are able to do because of our partnership!

He comes to ENC with a rich knowledge of United Way having been part of 5 offices across the country.

Welcome Bob to NC!



Facilities

Teaching Kitchen



What classes would you like to take in the Teaching Kitchen?

Complete this survey to let us know:

[N.C. Cooperative Extension - Jones County Center](#)



Great to host **Jones County 4-H** for Chopped Class in the Teaching Kitchen. 12 youth attended this amazing 3 day summer camp with hands on cooking experience learning kitchen safety, cooking skills, and etiquette. On the final-day, they compete in a challenge to see who comes out on top!

Jones & Onslow Family and Consumer Science Program of NC State Extension



FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES PROGRAM

Volunteer Highlights



The Epiphany School of Global Studies

Love in Action Senior Class

In May, The Filling Station welcomed the Love in Action Senior Class for the 5th year in row. Kirk Ronzheimer, Chaplain for The Epiphany School of Global Studies, shares his deep appreciation for the opportunity for the senior class to serve in Jones County. He highlights the leadership of Ed Jekel, Facilities Manager, for organizing, empowering and equipping the youth as they complete many projects over the 3 week period.

Over the past 5 years, 1500 volunteer hours have been donated by the Senior Class bringing \$48,000 in labor value to the organization.

Thank you Epiphany Seniors!



Board Member Highlights



Alicia Gouge

Representing Pollocksville Methodist Church

Alicia is Owner and Operator of StepOut Counseling in Morehead City. She received her BS in Psychology from Tulane University & her Masters in Education from Liberty University. Alicia is married to George Gouge, Army Chaplain and Minister of Pollocksville Methodist Church. They are parents to 8 children. Alicia shares how much she appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors.

"Thank you to Alicia and her entire family for jumping right in and signing up for the Bridge Run and being part of the Dance, Art and Music Camp", says Mary Ann LeRay, ED.



Neuse River Bridge Run



Shoutout to [Jeremy LeRay](#) with [New Bern Web Design, LLC](#) for being the official photographer of the event.



Huge shoutout to ***Sheron Bender***, rockstar board member for The Filling Station AND Neuse River Bridge Run Volunteer Coordinator for over 200 volunteers to support the bridge run.

Thank you ***David Mallard Jones County Recrea on*** for creating running teams promoting health and wellness as well as bridging communities in Jones County. Wow, your leadership set a record in 2025!



Food Pantry



Serving over 200 households each week with over 300 volunteer hours each month.

So appreciate Lyle Bailey from **American Red Cross** who serves with us each month if not deployed on disaster response. Thank you Thomas Hamill who is serving with us this summer.



Youth volunteer numbers are on the rise.

Eileen Griswold, Food Pantry Volunteer, shares what she hears from clients when they visit the Food Pantry. Clients say "we are angels" and often express how much the food boxes help with their monthly expenses. One client called Eileen "Ms. Dependable" and shared appreciation for always wearing a smile. We often receive love offerings from clients (\$1, \$5, \$10) for providing a place to receive a "hand up". Eileen admits these kind words keep me volunteering.

Great to welcome **Ruth Vasquez**, Network Engagement with [Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina](#) for our annual visit making sure our systems strongly support the flow of nutrition to our clients.



Pictured here: Marcy Hoffman, Admin Coordinator, Jimmy Bender, Food Pantry Director, Geraldine Eubanks, volunteer coordinator with Ruth Vasquez

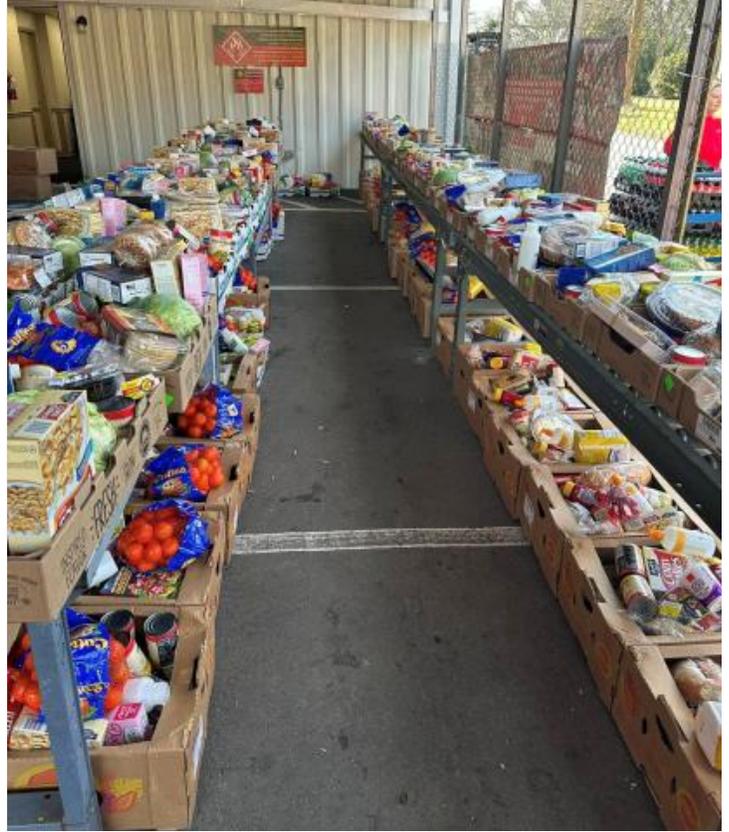
2025 Food Donations

Donations	Weight (lbs)	Name/ Organization
100	410,409.94	Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
96	51,632	Harris Teeter
2	10,000	Backpack Buddies
16	4,553	Food Lion
5	701	Pleasant Hill Christian Women Fellowship
2	434	Connie Carlton
1	357	Bridgeton Methodist Church
1	312	Weight Watchers
1	309	Catholic Sisters
1	270	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc
1	243	Catholic Daughters of St. Paul's Church
1	218	Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
1	210	Frogley Chiropractic, PLLC
1	117	Saint Paul Catholic Church
2	77	Friendship Free Will Baptist Church
1	71	Diana Snyder
1	64	New Bern Christian Women's Group
1	58	Tryon Palace Dancers
1	52	Steven and Rebecca Long
2	52	Pollocksville First Baptist Church
1	50	Neuse Regional Library
1	32	Pollocksville Methodist Church

**480,222 Pounds
of Food Donated
in 2025!**



Food Pantry



Thank you for the amazing volunteer teams led by **Geraldine Eubanks** & our Food Pantry Director, **Jimmy Bender**, for the organization of all the food.



Jimmy and Hilda Bender have a passion to FEED, FUEL and FILL our neighbors with food.

AARP recognizes their service. Thank you Jimmy and Hilda Bender for all the love you share each week.

You make a difference!

Dance, Art & Music Camp



Filling Young Hearts with the Arts

DANCE, ART & MUSIC DAY CAMP
FOR JONES COUNTY RESIDENTS

Thank you [Atlantic Dance Theatre](#) for your amazing partnership as we bring this camp for the 5th year to [Jones County NC](#)



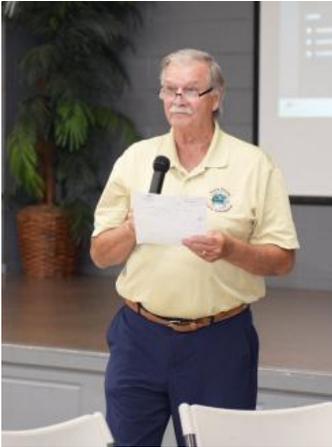
Community

Joint Leadership Meeting July 29, 2025, Jones County Civic Center

Town of Trenton, Town of Pollocksville, & Town of Maysville coming together to create an even more beautiful place to live, work and worship.



Thank you Kyle Smith, our Jones County NC county manager, for inviting ***The Filling Station*** to present an overview of the mission and Cohort 5 Leadership Jones Tharesa Lee to present their project "Jones County Be".



Patrick Woodie, NC Rural Center shared about all the great work throughout the state of N.C. cultivating leadership, advocacy, capital and engagement.

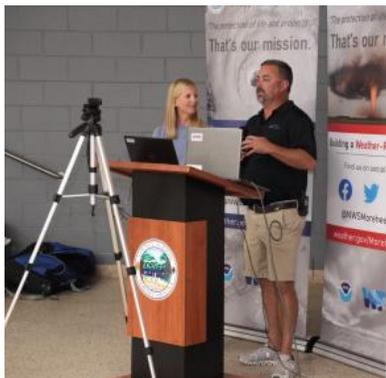
John Bender, Jones County Economic Development shared possible solutions as Jones County grows.

Adrian Smith, Jones County Health Department shared about new strategies and priorities in education responding to opioid crisis.

Sheriff, Matt Weinman, Jones County Sheriff's Office shared overdoses are "down".

Community

Hurricane Community Forum, Jones County Civic Center



Thank you US National Weather Service Newport/Morehead City NC, Jones County Emergency Services, CCDRA—Coastal Carolina Disaster Resiliency Agency, and Duke Energy for partnering to fill the room to hear how to prepare and stay connected in hurricane season.

Stay prepared, informed and connect with your community.

Community Spotlight

The Filling Station's Heartfelt Impact—

Empowering Service Through HR Excellence

At the heart of Jones County, The Filling Station stands as a beacon of hope and compassion. Rooted in the vision of Psalm 107:5, this faith-based nonprofit provides nourishment, both physical and spiritual, to those in need. Through food distribution, education, and fellowship, it embodies the call to “Love thy Neighbor.”



Marie Mynster, Human Resources Specialist, recently partnered with Mary Ann to strengthen the organization’s HR functions. Reflecting on the experience, Marie shared:

“Working alongside Mary Ann to enhance the HR functions at the Filling Station was a true privilege. This remarkable organization is a shining example of what it means to 'Love thy Neighbor', they work closely with partners to assist and bridge gaps by empowering, encouraging, equipping those most in need within our community with a faith-based approach. By acting locally and thinking globally, the Filling Station continues to inspire through its unwavering commitment to service and compassion.”

(This was a pro bono project in partnership with Western NC University where Marie received her Masters in Human Resources.)

Community



We enjoyed supporting **N.C. Farm Bureau** at Jones County Field Fest on Aug 2, 2025

Thank you to our amazing volunteers and board members for your continued support of partnership events.

5th Annual Back to School Bash

Jones County NC Recreation Jones County Civic Center



Recording Studio

We are excited to share with you our ***NEW podcasts***.

In each episode, we interview partners, supporters, and volunteers who have been part of building The Filling Station.

Please visit our [website](#) to view all the episodes.



Episode #11: Holly Williford

Join host Mary Ann as she sits down with Holly Williford, a dynamic Girl Scouts staff member whose passion for community connection has helped create something truly special. You'll discover how Girl Scouts is breaking down barriers by bringing programming directly into schools, serving 80+ students during the school day, and how a simple conversation about a whiteboard sparked the creation of the now-legendary Jones County Back to School Bash.



Episode #12: Melanie Avery

Did you know that when you hear "Farm Bureau," there's so much more happening than just insurance? Today, we're talking with Melanie Avery, a 12-year veteran of the Jones County Farm Bureau, who reveals how this local non-profit is investing membership dollars directly back into scholarships, FFA programs, 4-H initiatives, and community events that matter most to Jones County families.



Episode #13: Kirk Ronzheimer

In Episode #13 of the Filling Station Podcast, discover how one chaplain's global perspective is revolutionizing local education and creating measurable community impact. This isn't just another feel-good story about volunteering—it's a blueprint for an authentic partnership that has generated over \$50,000 in documented community value. Mary Ann LeRay welcomes Kirk Ronzheimer, Chaplain at Epiphany School of Global Studies, for a conversation about their remarkable five-year partnership.



Episode #14: Jacob Morgan

In this episode of The Filling Station Podcast, host Mary Ann LeRay welcomes Jacob Morgan, executive director of NC Carolina Cooperative Extension – Jones County Center, for a conversation about the upcoming Jones County Heritage Festival. Together, they highlight the festival's exciting lineup—from parades, pageants, and car shows to unique competitions like the Toast Chee eating contest—while also exploring the important role of the extension office in community education and the creation of the Filling Station's teaching kitchen.

NC Cooperative Extension



Dean Fox's Expedition Extension



On Monday, September 22, 2025, **Dean Garey Fox** from **NC State University** visited the Filling Station on his Expedition Extension tour. On this statewide tour, Dean Fox visited all 101 local Extension centers across NC. The tour amplified how Extension transforms science into everyday solutions across our state. Thank you **Jacob Morgan, Director of NC Cooperative Extension**, for including us for this special visit.

"The county support that we get for Extension is so critical for what we want to be able to do," said Dean Fox. *"What happens at the ground level is the engine of our college, it's the engine of our university."*



Click here to watch a video about the tour.

[**N.C. Cooperative Extension - Jones County Center**](#)



NC State University and N.C. A&T State University work in tandem, along with federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership called N.C. Cooperative Extension, which staffs local offices in all 100 counties and with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

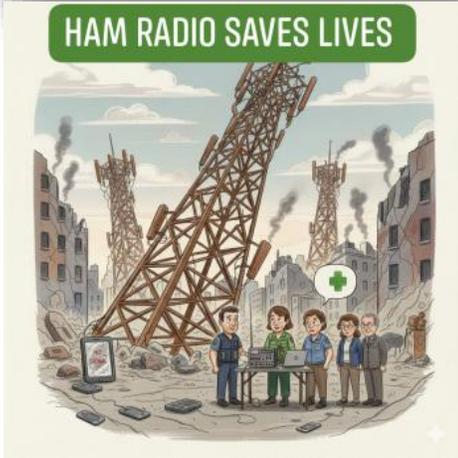
Heritage Festival



Radio Club



Thank you to **The Rotary Club of New Bern** for your sponsorships supporting the mission of The Filling Station. What an honor to host a “field trip” meeting for your group and tour the facility and “hear the story”. One of the highlights ...seeing the NEW equipment in the **New Bern Amateur Radio Club office**. Upgraded repeater and antennae made possible by **Duke Energy** grant.



Thank you **Pete Wene, retired Air Force, New Bern Amateur Radio Club** for volunteering to provide ham radio education 2 sessions a year. There are 10 in the class this session learning how to equip, prepare and support Jones County Emergency Services in times of disaster with important communication.

Volunteer Appreciation

All volunteers who have served The Filling Station 25 hours or more in 2025 were invited to a Volunteer Appreciation Christmas party in December. Such a treat to honor those who serve 48 weeks out of the year...many of them serving over 200 hours in 2025.



Thank you Posh Nosh Catering



Bonita Simmons with TRIED BY FIRE INC. singing the most heartfelt Christmas message.



Thank you!



Great to welcome Amy Beros, President/CEO of Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina for a tour and to be able to share her thanks for our work in Jones County NC.



Pictured left to right: Johnny Jernigan, BCBS, Sheron Bender, Vice Chair of the Board, Amy Beros, CEO of Food Bank of CENC Mary Ann LeRay, ED of The Filling Station



Jimmy Bender, Food Pantry Director served over 500 hours this year.



Christmas on Main

Pollocksville Rotary Club did an awesome job bringing another amazing event to the Town of Pollocksville Rain stopped just in time for the parade! Santa visited with lots of folks at The Filling Station and throughout Main Street.



*Tis the
Season*

A Perfect 10 Event

Raising awareness and funds for the mission



Nutrition · Education · Connection





Save the Date

TITLE SPONSORS



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025 | 11AM-2PM

The Filling Station fundraiser,

“Jones County–A Perfect 10”

We are planning a time of fellowship with a lunchtime meal to raise funds and awareness of The Filling Station and our community.

WE ARE “FILLING NEEDS”

We will be asking for support though voluntary donations.

The event will be held at The Filling Station Campus

221 Main Street, Pollocksville, NC

SCAN!



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Barbeque Lunch in the Garden Venue, Cloggers and Music, Bake Sale, Drop in Painting on canvas, Red Farmall Tractor Photo Booth & Country Games
Educational opportunities: Ham Radio and Forest Service Trailers on site

Visit fillingstation1075.com or call Karen at 252-635-0828 for more information



A County Wide Mission: Nutrition, Education & Connection

2025 Perfect 10 Sponsors



Title Sponsor



Thank you CarolinaEast for your continued support!

Thank you to our 2025 True Inspiration Sponsors

Cypress Creek Renewables
Community Foundation of SC
Betsy Jones

Thank you to our 2025 Filling Needs sponsors

Jack and Julia Bircher	Christine Van Dyck
Mitchell's Hardware	Leigh Wilkinson
Anonymous Donor	Grant Grove
Mark Bardill	Chuck DeCourt
Ken and Sandy Yearick	Jeff Mallard
Anonymous Donor	Allen & Karen Plaster
Theresa Lee	George and Alicia Gouge
Todd and Sheila Meadows	Polly Whitehead
Thomas and Susan Braaten	Charles and Patricia Jones
McDavid Associates Inc.	Vx Baldwin
Living Word Worship Center	Robert Fisher
Joe and Dianne Bell	New Carolinians
Hannah Compton	
Bruce and Linda Berry	
Norma McDonough	
Kay Larson	

Thank you to our 2025 Trent River Sponsors

Duke Energy Carolinas
Carolina Handling
Graham - Cameron Land LLC
Pollocksville Baptist Church
Jones-Onslow EMC
St. Andrews Apostle Catholic Church
Ford of Jones County
New Bern Web Design
Harold Bate Foundation
Garber Church
Segal Family Charities
Scott & Holly Ladner
Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
Cypress Creek Methodist Church
Robert Foscue
Abundant Life Farms LLC

Thank you to our 2025 Food for Thought Sponsors

Ellen and John Cioccio	Mike & Cheryl Coeyman
J&J Contracting LLC	Jeff Reynolds
Jeffrey White	Benita and Edwin
Rachel Fisher	Afflerbach
Trent Cadillac GMC Buick	
Jay and Sheron Bender	
William and Kelly Wicks	
New Bern Chiropractic Care	
Norman Fuhr	
Solid Rock Global Methodist	
Pollocksville Rotary Club	
anks Brothers Beaver Dam Farm	
Brook Stone Living Center	
Howard Furnas III	
Allen and Jean Bender	
Emily Andrews	
Randy and Joanne Ashton	

Thank you to our 2025 Connection Sponsors

Zach and Cheryl Simons	Jeff Reynolds
Sun Journal	Sumrell Sugg P.A.
Pollocksville Methodist Church	Lenoir Community College
Ellis and Dianne Banks	Allen Harriett
Eddie Banks	Friendship OFWB Church
Dan Jenkins/Claire Hageman	Craven Co Independent
International Paper	Insurance Agents
Pinecone Home & Garden	Chick-Fil-A of New Bern
Fisher Oil	Andrew's Family Farms
Jim and Marcy Hoffman	Bob and Carol Mattocks
Ed and Noreen Jekel	Vic and Shirley Bryan
	Johnny Jernigan
	Johnny and Estelle Surles



Staff & Key Volunteers



Marcy Hoffman
Administrative Coordinator



Jimmy Bender
Food Pantry Director



Geraldine Eubanks
Volunteer Coordinator



Ed Jekel
Facilities Manager



Clyde and Julia Murphy
CSFP Program

Annual Board Meeting



The Board voted to approve 3 NEW Board Members:

- Alicia Gouge, Pollocksville Methodist Church
- Sheila Meadows, Triune Holiness Church
- Jeff Reynolds, Coastal Carolina Church



The New Officers for 2025-2027:

- Chair—Bobby Darden, Garber Church
- Vice Chair—Sharon Bender, Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
 - Treasurer—Estelle Surles, Pollocksville Baptist Church
- Board Secretary—Emily Andrews, Cypress Creek Methodist Church



We honored Board Members who are rotating off:

- John Taylor was honored for serving 7 years. John has served as the Treasurer and Facilities Chair.
- Clyde Murphy was honored for serving 7 years. Clyde has served on the facilities committee and most recently, as the Vice Chair.
- Beverly Collins (not pictured) was honored for serving 3 years as the Board Secretary.

We wrapped our meeting up with a few words from Mayor Jay Bender who highlighted the power of partnership. As a thank you to Town of Pollocksville, we presented a framed Our State Magazine to the Mayor.



Board of Directors



2025 Annual Board Training for The [Board of Directors](#) held at the Doubletree Hilton Riverfront, New Bern, NC on Sat, July 19, 2025.

So grateful for the time, talent and treasure of these board members who "stand in the gap", connect people and resources as we serve Jones County.



Thank you [Tharesa Lee](#) Intentional Excellence Consulting for leading the training as we reviewed the Strategic Plan, SCOT



Celebrating the [Neuse River Bridge Run](#) check presenta-



Thank you to our board member, Shelia Meadows, for representing the Filling Station at [National Night Out](#) in the [Town of Maysville](#).

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.



Thank you to all of our local law-enforcement! We appreciate you!

Board of Directors



Front Row: Emily Andrews, Estelle Surles, Mary Ann LeRay, ED, Bobby Darden, Alicia Gouge, Ella McDaniel, Charley Jones

Back Row: Ellis Banks, Willie Smith, Jeff Reynolds, Michael Pretty, Sheron Bender, Sheila Meadows, Christopher Rogerson, Kenneth Spivey, Greg Thornburg

Board Member not pictured: Colby Jordan

Executive Director

Mary Ann LeRay

Executive Committee

Board Chair—Bobby Darden, *Garber Church*

Vice-Chair—Sheron Bender, *Pollocksville Presbyterian Church*

Treasurer—Estelle Surles, *Pollocksville Baptist Church*

Secretary—Emily Andrews, *Cypress Creek Methodist Church*

Board Members

Ellis Banks—*Friendship Church*

Alicia Gouge—*Pollocksville Methodist Church*

Charley Jones—*Individual businessman*

Colby Jordan—*Triune Holiness Church*

Sheila Meadows—*Triune Holiness Church*

Board Members (Cont'd)

Carol Mattocks—*Board Advisor*

Ella McDaniel—*Shady Grove Methodist Church*

Michael Pretty—*Joe's Branch Church*

Jeff Reynolds—*Coastal Carolina Church*

Christopher Rogerson—*Kinston First Pentecostal Holiness Church*

Willie Smith—*Clinton Chapel Memorial AME Zion*

Kenneth Spivey—*Christian Faith Assembly*

Greg Thornburg—*Solid Rock Global Methodist Church*



Our Mission: To assist with filling the unmet needs in the areas of Nutrition, Education and Connection serving the residents of Jones County.

PO Box 222
221 Main Street
Pollockville, NC 28573

252.224.1127
info@fillingstation1075.com
www.fillingstation1075.com



**Wonder why we chose
Psalm 107:5 as our
foundational scripture?**



**Relying on God's fuel  brings the
glory to Him so we can fill more needs
...the tank never runs dry.**