

LBCA Foundation announces 2026 grant award recipients

By Megan Horn
News Editor

The Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) recently announced its 2026 grant award recipients.

There were 25 grants totaling \$101,075 awarded to nonprofit organizations serving the Rabun community. Several received LBCAF support for the first time.

“This year, the LBCAF Grants Committee faced one of its most rewarding-and most challenging-seasons yet,” Jeanine Marlow, LBCA Foundation Grant Chair, said in a press release from the organization.

Marlow said they received 33 applications requesting more than \$160,000 in funding.

Marlow said the committee was made up of seven voting members and three advisory members. She said they carefully reviewed every application.

“Each request was evaluated on how well it aligned with LBCA’s mission [of] advancing water quality, water safety, preservation, and community building in our beloved Rabun community,” Marlow said. “We know that behind every application is a real organization doing real work for our neighbors.”

Marlow told *The Clayton Tribune* the LBCA Foundation wants to be good community partners. She said grant recipients must be registered 501(c)(3) organizations that benefit the Rabun community.

“We’re very thankful to our members who are very generous,” Marlow said.

She said grants are given to nonprofit organizations who benefit Rabun County and the lake in some way.

The 2026 LBCAF grants awarded were \$25,000 to Savannah River Keeper; \$10,000 to Rabun County Fuller Center for Housing; \$7,000 to Camp High Harbour; \$7,000 to Fight Abuse In The Home (F.A.I.T.H.); \$5,500 to Foxfire; \$5,000 to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia Mountain Branch; \$3,500 to Place of Hope North Georgia; \$3,000 to the Rotary Club of Clayton; \$3,000 to Valor Academy; \$2,500 to FCA of Rabun County; \$2,500 to Sid Weber Memorial Cancer Fund; \$2,500 to Victory Home; \$2,375 to Camp Evergreen; \$2,200 to Headwaters Master Gardeners; \$2,000 to Northeast Georgia CASA; \$2,000 to Richard’s Kids; \$1,500 to Ferst Readers of Rabun County; \$1,000 to Georgia ForestWatch; \$1,000 to the Lake Burton Fun Run; \$1,000 to Save Georgia’s Hemlocks; \$750 to Rabun County 4-H; \$500 to BSA of Rabun; and \$250 to Mountain Ivy Garden Club.

Impact Award Winners

The two Impact Award Winners announced were Women of Worth (WOW) Recovery/Freedom Ministries Lighthouse in the amount of a \$7,000 grant and the Creative Learning Center, which was awarded a \$3,000 grant.

Marlow and LBCA President Dan Marlow presented many of the nonprofits with checks in the amounts of the grant funding on July 9 in the upstairs conference room at First American Bank.

The Marlows shook hands with representatives from the different nonprofits and told them “we are so excited about partnering with y’all.”

Snacks and refreshments were provided by Rabun County Fuller Center for Housing.

Recipients thank the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF)

“The Fuller Center for



Photography by Megan Horn/The Clayton Tribune

Save Georgia’s Hemlocks was awarded \$1,000 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) recently. Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left, Buz Stone with Save Georgia’s Hemlocks, and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow. Stone thanked the Foundation for the support.



Food Bank of Northeast Georgia Relationship Manager Colson Holt, center, accepts grant funding in the amount of \$5,000 from LBCA President Dan Marlow, left, and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.



Place of Hope North Georgia was recently awarded \$3,500 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF). Pictured with Place of Hope North Georgia Executive Director Elizabeth Adams, center, are LBCA President Dan Marlow and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.

Housing sincerely thanks the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation for awarding this grant,” Rabun County Fuller Center for Housing President Tracie Ronemus told *The Clayton Tribune* July 9. “Their support will help fund our Greater Blessings program, which helps seniors and individuals with disabilities remain safely in their homes.”

Steve Carruth, executive director of Victory Home, said they are “extremely appreciative” of the LBCA Foundation’s generosity.

Victory Home is a Christian, nonprofit men’s drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility.

“We appreciate the LBCA Foundation and their support of our projects,” Maggie Waggoner told *The Clayton Tribune*.

“We are so grateful,” WOW Recovery Director Ashley York told *The Clayton Tribune* about the \$7,000 grant amount.

York said that because of the generous donation, the nonprofit can continue helping women in Rabun County.

WOW Recovery is dedicated to helping women break free from the chains of addiction, trauma, and brokenness through a Christ-centered recovery program.

WOW Recovery plans to use the grant funding to construct a fence separating its thrift store and the women’s dormitory, according to the LBCA Foundation press release. York described the project as “a critical safety improvement for

the vulnerable women it serves.”

The Creative Learning Center (CLC) was the other recipient of grant funding in the amount of \$3,000.

Jan Pearce with CLC thanked the LBCA Foundation for its donation that will help “meet a huge need in this community.” Pearce told *The Clayton Tribune* the grant funding would be used to expand services.

Bruce Gant, president of the Sid Weber Memorial Cancer Fund, said the \$2,500 in grant funding will go in the general support fund to further the mission of the nonprofit, which is dedicated to providing financial support and services to cancer patients of Rabun County, their caregivers and families.

Gant showed appreciation for the funding and said that it’s going to impact Sid Weber in a positive way.

“We appreciate everything y’all are doing,” he said while accepting the grant funds on behalf of the food bank.

The funding is expected to support 12,500 meals for Rabun County neighbors in need, according to the press release.

“This is huge for us. We are excited,” Valor Academy Director Rachel Rasmussen told *The Clayton Tribune*.

Valor Academy is a faith-based, Georgia nonprofit, early childhood education center located in Rabun County.

Elizabeth Adams, executive director for Place of Hope North Georgia,



The wilderness-centered Christian Camp Evergreen has been awarded \$2,375 from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF). Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, Camp Evergreen Pastor Toby Grady and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.



Foxfire Executive Director Todd Faircloth accepts \$5,500 in grant funding from the LBCAF to further its mission of education and preservation of Appalachian culture. Pictured with Faircloth are LBCA President Dan Marlow and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.



Photo submitted

Savannah River Keeper received \$25,000 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) to further their efforts as a nonprofit. Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left, Riverkeeper/Executive Director for Savannah River Keeper Tonya Bonitatibus, and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.

thanked the LBCA Foundation for their generous support.

Camp Evergreen was awarded \$2,375 in grant funding.

“Thank you so much. We appreciate y’all,” Toby Grady, pastor at Camp Evergreen, told Lake Burton Civic Association officials July 9. Camp Evergreen is a wilderness-centered Christian camp.

Foxfire Executive Director Todd Faircloth told the LBCAF the local nonprofit appreciates the \$5,500 in grant funding. It will be used to further its mission of education and preservation of Appalachian culture.

Generous support

“None of this would be possible without our generous members. Their continued support is what allows us to say yes-and to work toward saying yes more often,” Jeanine Marlow said in the prepared press release. “Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of those around us.”

“Thank you all for helping Richard’s Kids,” Pat Henry with the nonprofit said July 9 to LBCAF members about the \$2,000 grant for Richard’s Kids. Carolyn Dillard said they are blessed to have great support from the community.

“It’s an honor to partner with you,” Jeanine Marlow told Dillard and Henry.

“We feel honored to partner with you,” Henry responded.

Richard’s Kids provides students and children in Rabun County with needed supplies like clothing, shoes, jackets and other needs.

Headwaters Master Gardeners said they appreciate the \$2,200 grant funds and thanked the LBCAF for their support of its projects.

“We are thankful for the continued support and partnership of the LBCA,” Linda Shadburn, executive director of Northeast Georgia CASA told *The Clayton Tribune*.

CASA received \$2,000 in grant funding.

The mission of Northeast Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is to provide training, supervision and resources for volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children within our communities.

Shadburn said the donation will “help to impact the lives of the children we serve.”

Camp High Harbour Engagement and Alumni Relations Director Erin Pitts said \$7,000 in grant funding will be used for the next section of the boardwalk project at the camp. Pitts said the project is expected to be completed before fall and thanked the Foundation for the generous support.

Camp High Harbour is the YMCA Camp at Lake Burton.

Grants Committee reviewing 2027 application process

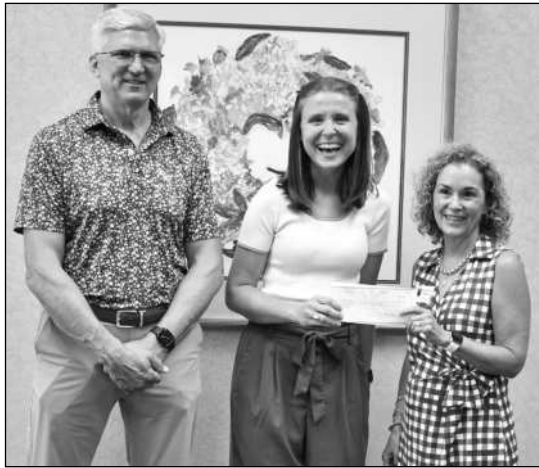
The Grants Committee is actively reviewing and



Camp High Harbour was recently awarded \$7,000 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF). Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left, Camp High Harbour Engagement and Alumni Relations Director Erin Pitts, and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.



Sid Weber Memorial Cancer Fund (SWMCF) was recently awarded \$2,500 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation. Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left; SWMCF President Bruce Gant and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.



Valor Academy, a faith-based, Georgia nonprofit, early childhood education center, Director Rachel Rasmussen accepts grant funding in the amount of \$3,000 from the LBCAF on behalf of Valor Academy. Pictured also are LBCA President Dan Marlow and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.

revising the 2027 application process to better serve the growing Foundation and the LBCA community, according to the press release. It is “committed to building a transparent, fair and forward-looking process that reflects the priorities and values of all its members.”

About the Lake Burton Civic Association and Foundation

The Lake Burton Civic Association is for people who love Lake Burton and the surrounding area. We are here to promote and protect the lake’s integrity and the interests of those who live here.

The Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF), a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, was established in 2000 with the support and contributions of the LCBA and our community. The funds raised through the LBCA Tour of Homes and the Annual LBCA Golf Tournament are reinvested in our community.

During their lifetime, LBCA and the Foundation have contributed over \$2 million to the Rabun community, making a significant difference in the operations of Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) and nonprofits, as well as in the educational journeys of scholarship recipients.

Visit <https://lbca.net/> for more information.



Members of Headwaters Master Gardeners accept \$2,200 in grant funding for the nonprofit from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) on July 9. Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left; LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow; and Maggie Waggoner and Kathy Booker with Headwaters Master Gardeners.



Local nonprofit Richard's Kids receives \$2,000 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF). Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, Carolyn Dillard and Pat Henry with Richard's Kids and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.



Local nonprofit Rabun County Fuller Center for Housing board members are presented with grant funding in the amount of \$10,000 from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) on July 9. Pictured are Lorie Autry; Denise Midyette; LBCA President Dan Marlow; Rabun County Fuller Center for Housing President Tracie Ronemus; Joy Martin; Anita Hunnicutt; LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow; and Mike Singer.



Northeast Georgia CASA recently received \$2,000 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF). Pictured are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left, Hal Vincent, Northeast Georgia CASA board member, Linda Shadburn, executive director for Northeast Georgia CASA and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow



Victory Home recently received \$2,500 in grant funding from the Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) as part of 2026 award recipients. Pictured from left are LBCA President Dan Marlow; LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow; Victory Home Executive Director Steve Carruth; and Brian Palen and Jenny Carruth with Victory Home.



The Lake Burton Civic Association Foundation (LBCAF) gave grant funding for Impact Awards to local nonprofits Women of Worth (WOW) Recovery in the amount of \$7,000 and the Creative Learning Center (CLC) in the amount of \$3,000. Pictured on July 9 are LBCA President Dan Marlow, left; Jan Pearce with CLC; WOW Recovery Director Ashley York and LBCA Foundation Grant Chair Jeanine Marlow.

Featured

RABUN REAL ESTATE

× × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×

SOUTHERN PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE

68 NORTH MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 7 • CLAYTON, GA 30525 • 706-782-9997 • WWW.SOUTHERNPROPERTIESREALESTATE.COM

× × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×

KATHY LEE
706-490-0007 (C) • 706-782-9997 (O)
kathylee0007@gmail.com
MLS REALTOR Licensed in GA & SC

*Thinking about selling?
Give me a call...*

SHARON STOVER-RAMEY
706-982-5468 (C)
706-782-9997 (O)
askforsharonramey@gmail.com
www.askforsharonramey.com
MLS REALTOR Licensed in GA / NC / SC

252 NAVIGATOR LN, TIGER, GA 30576
GMLS# 10780136 • \$359,900
A CABIN IN THE WOODS! Beautiful 3BR/2BA log cabin on 0.84 wooded acres backing to USFS land. Rock fireplace, pine floors, covered porch and peaceful mountain setting. Minutes to Lake Burton and Clayton.

MEGAN SUAREZ
706-490-9124 (C) • 706-782-9997 (O)
megansrealestate@outlook.com
MLS REALTOR Licensed in GA & SC

× × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×

POSS REALTY

809 HWY. 441 SOUTH • CLAYTON GA 30525 • 706-746-5962 • WWW.POSSREALTY.COM

× × × × × × × × × × × × × × × ×

Sam Rumsey / 706-982-9673 / samrumsey66@gmail.com

90 Old Stone Place Tallulah Falls, GA
2BR/2BA • 1068 SQFT
MLS 10807576 • \$94,400

Joe Thompson / 706-982-3423 / joethompson217@gmail.com

0 Hwy 76 W, Clayton, GA
6.77 AC LOT
MLS 10798600 • \$175,000

Joe Thompson / 706-982-3423 / joethompson217@gmail.com

Highway 76 West
6+ acres in the Lake Burton area!
Zoned HB but could be utilized for Residential use.
Two potential homesites.
MLS 10798600 \$175,000

Lorie Thompson / 706-490-1820 / rabunrealestate@gmail.com

The Overlook at Kingwood
Multiple lots being sold as a package or individual lots ranging from \$5,700 to \$27,900
Extremely reasonable prices
MLS 10796013 \$412,900