



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**AMERICANS  
HELPING  
AMERICANS®**

## A Message From The Executive Director

Dear neighbors,  
Fred McFreely Rogers (AKA Mr. Rogers) once said, "We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

Growing up I watched a lot of Mister Roger's Neighborhood where he instilled a behavior of kindness and compassion in a young man. I probably didn't appreciate it as much at the time but seeing where I am today, doing what I love, and remembering their words makes me feel young and hopeful. It is so easy to think not my child, community, problem, but if you're reading this report – you took the hard path. You saw the problem - children in Appalachia are having worse life outcomes than their peers in affluent areas - and you mobilized. You saw the issue, educated yourself, thought, 'This shouldn't happen in America,' and did something about it. You're my hero!



Executive Director Cameron Krizek (left) giving a computer to a veteran (right)

When I look back at what was able to be accomplished this year, I see tens of thousands of Americans who have responded to Americans Helping Americans® letters and emails with their donations to help the people struggling in the Appalachian Mountains. The combined effort of you, your friends, family, and community ensured children have the supplies required to get a good education, helped an aspiring nurse pay for her exams, and kept an elderly American who has given so much of their life to better the world be more food security during times of uncertainty.

As you read through the reports and stories, facts and figures, I hope you know you had a big part in this success.

I can't thank you enough. Thank you being a kind neighbor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Krizek".

Cameron Krizek  
Executive Director



## Our Mission

Our Mission is to join communities, build and strengthen neighbor relations, and work side-by-side with residents to address community-wide concerns and link resources supporting a healthy, safe, and economically comparable standard of living.

## Our Philosophy

Our Philosophy is to nurture inclusive communities, unite to create support networks and determine the necessary strategic actions to address chronic, but preventable, problems.

## Our Programs

Our Programs focus on partnering with community-based efforts that target the emergency needs of severely poverty-stricken families and individuals in rural Appalachia, including providing food, shoes, winter coats, medical assistance, school supplies, utility assistance, and home repairs for families, people with disabilities, elderly individuals, and veterans who suffer due to economic and physical hardship. In addition, our programs focus on children's future by supporting after-school programs, summer camps and enrichment programs, summer food programs, youth mentorship, vocational training, and bridging the digital divide challenges that Appalachian children experience.



# Our Methods

We partner with individuals and local grassroots organizations to fund innovative and sustainable programs to meet the needs of communities living in poverty within Appalachia. As the financial sponsor of numerous programs, our partnership with community leaders ensures the necessities of children and the elderly are met. Our basic philosophy of providing the tools to achieve self-sufficiency rather than dictate what will be done to impoverished people aligned with our community networks creates a ripple of ideas that work and are shared across the Appalachian Region.



## *Educational Support*

Appalachian students don't receive the same resources as students in other places in America. Our grants sponsor after-school sessions and tutors to help struggling students as well as provide a meal they may not get at home; grants are given directly to educators to enhance their classrooms and schools; sponsor tutors and vocational equipment for career building; provide school supplies to thousands of students yearly; and sponsor summer camp groups to prevent hunger, boredom, and isolation during the quintessential childhood experience that is Summer Break.



## *Home Repair*

Thousands of elderly and disabled homeowners live in homes they can't even get into because of uneven or dangerous steps, no wheelchair ramp, or deteriorating construction. Our grants to numerous partners in Appalachia provide the cost of materials and labor so that work groups, volunteers, and contractors can rehabilitate the home for its owner.



## *Utilities and Basic Needs*

Not being able to pay your rent or utilities could mean eviction and homelessness. We ensure thousands of lights stay on, respiratory assisting machines operate, and children stay warm during the frigid winter months. We also provide hundreds of children with new shoes, coats, and blankets.



## *Food Security*

For many children living in poverty, having a reliable meal is just a dream. Our grants stock food banks with healthier items; deliver meals to children in the summertime when school is out and to families without vehicles who live too far from grocery centers; and provide grants to purchase turkeys and dinner meals for holiday celebrations.



## *Medical*

Grants fund free medical care helping hundreds receive treatment for diabetes and hypertension as well as thousands of dental kits for youth to continue practicing proper oral health care.



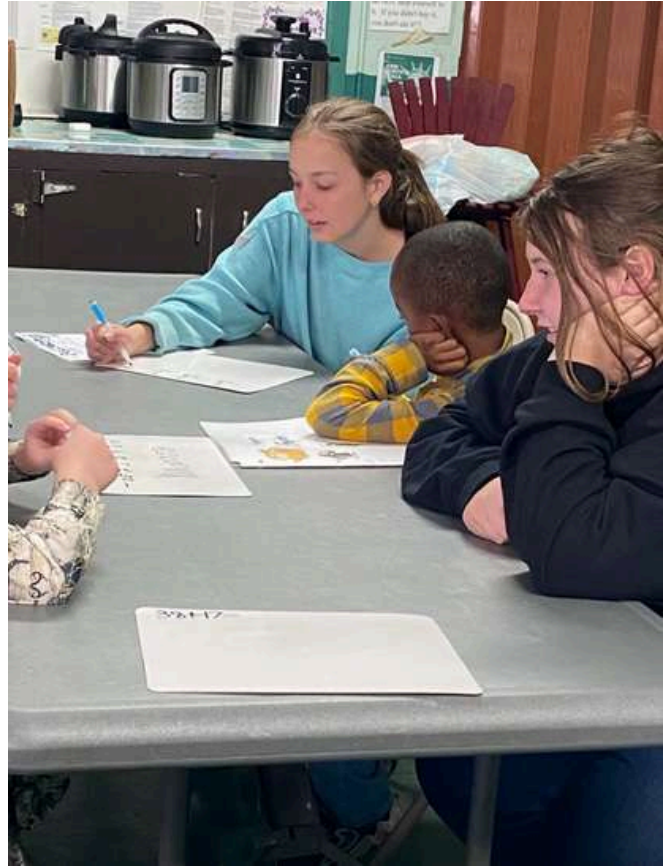
## *Community Outreach*

Flexible spending allows investments into communities and program partners, helps grow nonprofit organizations in all states, and responds to natural disasters.

## Afterschool

In 2025, Americans Helping Americans® partnered with three organizations – Big Creek People in Action, LAMP, and Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies – to address the educational need of students by funding afterschool programs with \$28,100 in cash grants. Through this support, 380 students participated in structured learning opportunities, physical activities, and received guaranteed nutritious meals. Our partners also reported that the mentorship and guidance provided contributed to meaningful academic gains, with students showing improved test scores.

Big Creek People in Action (BCPIA) operates a free afterschool program for 30 students, providing a safe environment with caring adults who foster strong bonds and support academic growth. This year, a group of college students from Notre Dame spent a week with BCPIA working on housing rehab projects for the community. After working to restore homes, they had free time and decided to spend it helping the students in the afterschool program with their studies. The college students assisted the young students with their homework, multiplication tables, reading, and spelling much to the delight of the impressionable students.



During their time with BCPIA, the children and college students developed a strong bond. So much so that the children would see the college students in the hall and go running towards them thanking them for their help. Two little girls in particular were in the middle of test week and Liam, one of the college students, offered to help them. Liam is a Law student and really wanted to see the children ace their tests. After they worked hard together throughout the week the little girls came into the center with their eyes beaming ready to show Liam that they both aced their tests!

*“It was truly an honor to have the students volunteer their time with the children and we have asked them to please work with our students when they come back next year.”*

*-Dyanne Spriggs, BCPIA Co-founder*

# Summer Camp

Americans Helping Americans® made a significant impact to the youth by funding two summer camp programs – Cumberland Mountain Outreach in Kentucky and Big Creek People in Action in West Virginia. These camps not only provide safe and structured environments for children during the school break but also addresses the critical needs that are often magnified during the summer months such as food insecurity, academic learning loss, and lack of outlets for recreation. To support this work, AHA awarded **\$22,000** in cash grants enabling our partners to serve **273** children.

## Americans Helping Teachers Grant

Teachers throughout America frequently purchase educational materials to meet the needs of their classroom with funds from their own pockets. They are also infamously underpaid, and the problem is exacerbated in rural American towns such as within Appalachia. Five educators were selected to receive a total of **\$20,000** in cash grants to benefit **1,315** students this past year.

*Rebecca Smallwood* – West Elementary – Magic Tree House book series for school library, Columbus Zoo school presentation.

*Tammy Spoon* – Bean Station Elementary – Trauma-informed safe space for students.

*Heather Estep* – Washburn School – Schoolwide behavioral support system rewarding good behavior.

*Jean-Maree McCulloch* – Ackerman Elementary – 6th grade class field trip to Chattanooga TN.



## Want2Work

Americans Helping Americans® grew the Want2Work initiative from three schools the prior year to five schools in 2025 thanks to your amazing support allowing the investment of \$70,000 to purchase professional uniforms and accessories, PPE, certifications, as well as field trips to recruitment conferences, job sites, skills competitions, and leadership clubs. These grants helped 765 students with their dream career.



In Georgia, White County High School student Isabella enrolled in the nursing program to pursue a magnanimous career. She comes from a single parent home and is driven to become a nurse to break the cycle of poverty for her family. She excels in healthcare science classes and AP science classes at the high school. She needed a set of scrubs and a stethoscope for her internship and because of AHA supporters, she began her internship with Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Labor & Delivery and the ER. She was able to start building relationships with the hospital she may end up working for after getting her degree from University of North Georgia. Her supervisors say, "I wish Isabella was graduating college right now, I would hire her."

**"Thank you so much for supporting my future nursing career!**

**I have chosen to pursue a career in nursing because of my passion for helping others and my fascination with the human body's functions and abilities. The scrubs and stethoscope will help me in my future career and current internship, by providing me with the necessities for a successful nursing career.**

**The Americans Helping Americans® program is exceptionally kind for providing grants to purchase necessary materials for many American youth to start their successful careers. I am beyond grateful for this act of kindness! Thank you so much!"**

*-Isabella*

## Home Repair



Evelyn Evan's home **before**



Evelyn Evan's home **after**

Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies (AMOS) recruits volunteers to assist with the home repair projects allowing them to maximize the use of their funds to serve as much of the community as they can. One recipient this summer, Evelyn age 75, lived in a double-wide manufactured home which needed extensive work done. She relied on her son to help with various household tasks and administer her medicine.

The left side of the front porch collapsed due to a falling tree last year during a storm and the remaining deck surface and structure were deteriorated and in need of replacement. Her wall underneath the living room window and bedroom window were rotten due to window air conditioning units. She had no deck on the rear entrance and no steps. There were also signs of effluent above the septic tank at the time the team visited for inspection. Lastly, her shingles were in really bad shape.

After the team from Winston-Salem NC finished the project, Mrs. Evelyn expressed her joy to AMOS. "I'm able to sit outside of my porch for the first time in years," she expressed while pulling air in from her oxygen machine. "I'm so proud of my porch and everything they did for me." She speculated that those kids were going to grow up knowing what it felt like to help people and she hoped they continue to do that.

We hope Mrs. Evelyn's speculation is correct because I also believe that's what Americans Helping Americans® provides. Our grants give immediate aid to those who are most vulnerable in our society as well as empower the people who want to act and provide services for their fellow American. Our grants multiply the impact by strengthening the hands that lift others out of poverty.

## Utilities & Basic Needs



Nearly **60% of Americans** are a paycheck away from being homeless, and missing rent or a utility payment is grounds for eviction in many communities we serve. When money is tight, you often forgo basic needs such as dental care, eye care, proper shoes, seasonal clothes, and nutrition. Americans Helping Americans® ensures that hard-working people keep a roof over their family's heads, the elderly have electricity to power medical devices, and children can do homework under a lamp, not a candle.

This year, the government shutdown caused massive harm due to many people, especially those in Appalachia. Families who already lived on the edge suddenly found themselves without the stability of SNAP benefits, unsure of when or even if their monthly assistance would resume. For the tens of thousands, we serve across Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Virginia SNAP is essential for their food security. When that support froze, households with children, seniors, and veterans were forced to make impossible choices: skip meals, stretch what little they have far past what is reasonable, or go without altogether.



Amid this uncertainty, Americans Helping Americans® stepped in thanks to the generosity of donors who were dedicated good neighbors. A scheduled delivery of food boxes was sent out in October supplementing meals but when news came that the shutdown would impact SNAP we worked hard to ensure 2,000 additional food boxes were delivered quickly. Each box contained enough shelf-stable food to keep a family fed for nearly a week. BCPIA co-founder Dyanne Spriggs tells us, "One woman even cried when she received the supplies because she didn't know she how she was going to feed her family." Thank you for providing dignity to your fellow American.

The shutdown exposed just how vulnerable American families are to sudden disruptions, but it also revealed the strength of this compassionate community. While Washington stalled, you helped ensure that thousands of our neighbors didn't go hungry.

# Food Security

## Holiday Food

Americans Helping Americans® granted \$27,700 to sponsor 4 partners' holiday food celebrations in Appalachia feeding 3,358 individuals. These grants are extremely important to these communities because without them there wouldn't be any main entrée to the meal. Our grants fund the primary protein for the celebrations ensuring a healthy, nutritious event for all recipients. Big Creek People in Action purchased 160 hams to deliver to all residents in War, WV along with a food box also distributed by AHA. LAMP fed 678 Gainesville residents at their Thanksgiving celebration in Georgia. Cumberland Mountain Outreach distributed turkey vouchers to 380 for Thanksgiving and also held a Christmas party at their facility for 219 children, 169 adults, and supported 74 volunteers providing a hot meal and distributed AHA inkind coats and blankets.



**“This was the best year ever!”**  
*-Larry Hyler, Church of God leader*



## Summer Food Program

This past summer, Americans Helping Americans® restarted our Summer Feeding Program to address food insecurity among children and families. Two partner organizations, Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies and Labor of Love, each received \$10,000 grants to operate mobile feeding programs, using vans and buses to reach vulnerable communities. Through their efforts, a total of 2,249 meals were distributed, ensuring children had reliable access to nourishment during the summer months when school meals are unavailable.



The origin of Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies summer food program is extremely fortunate. About the time executive director Cameron Krizek brought up the idea to feed children in the summer months by means of driving to where they are at and improving food security, AMOS executive director, Jean-Ann Washam, was contacted by the First Baptist Jefferson City looking for a service project in the community. Several members in the church are teachers and they approached Jean-Ann about children during the summer. It was beneficial to have the core group of volunteers, especially teachers, familiar with the children. Having the same group of volunteers at the sites each week allowed them to build relationships with the families. "Without your support, we would not have these items to give out to our families," explains Jean-Ann.

The AMOS Lunchbox was a weekly food distribution program primarily for the youth. AMOS offered food boxes for adults if they stopped by and were in need of food because no one should be turned away. They were also able to handout boxes for food for infants. In June, they distributed to three sites; two were local housing authority properties and the third was the local elementary school. They provided food bags for the children taking summer class. AMOS serviced 98 children weekly. In July, they distributed it to the two housing authority properties and the local middle school since summer school ended for elementary school and began for middle school. They serviced 75 children weekly.

# 2025 Highlights



## *Educational Support*

765 students received Want2Work support.  
380 students attended sponsored after school programs.  
1,315 students benefited from Americans Helping Teachers grants.  
4,500 school kits delivered & 3,425 students have supplies in their classrooms.  
209 vocational students received tutor support.  
273 children participated in sponsored summer camp programs.  
125 computers given to students.



## *Home Repair*

141 home rehabilitation projects completed servicing 154 individuals.



## *Utilities and Basic Needs*

18,648 food boxes delivered.  
5,012 winter coats, 1,008 winter gloves, & 5,700 blankets delivered.  
18 US veteran families in subsidized housing.



## *Food Security*

3,358 holiday meals prepared.  
2,249 children fed in the summer.  
21,623 visits to sponsored food banks.



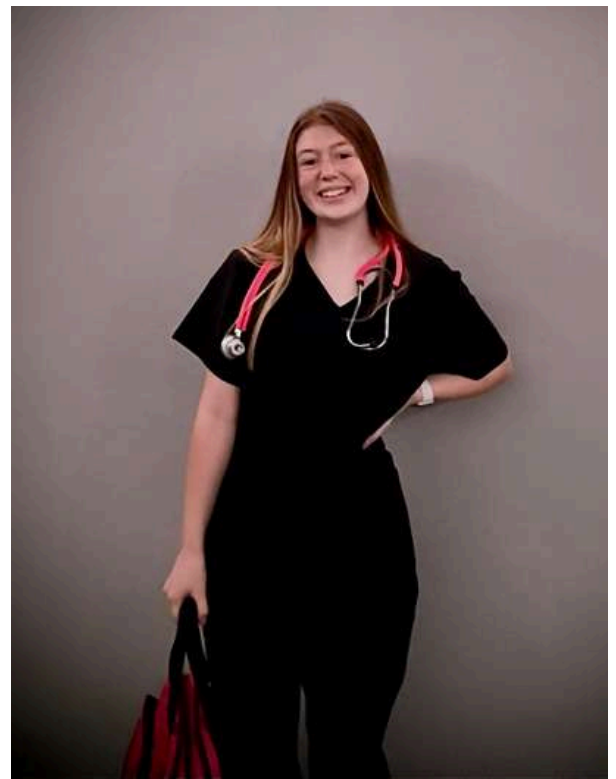
## *Medical*

191 patients received free health care.  
3,000 dental kits delivered.



## *Community Outreach*

Over \$100,000 delivered in relief packages for victims of Hurricane Helene



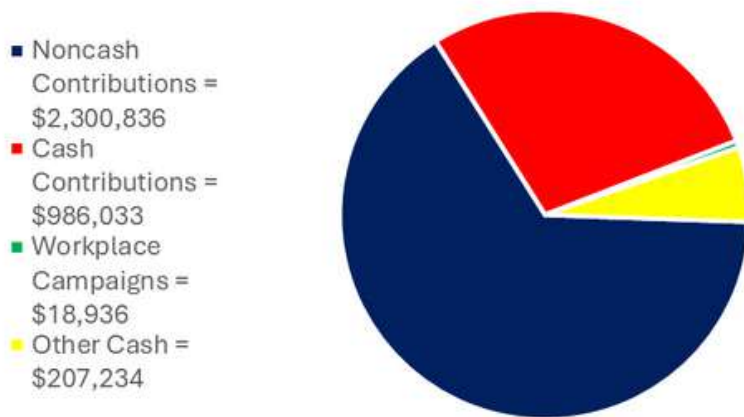


# Financials

The financial results are depicted here are derived from the Americans Helping Americans® June 30th, 2025 audited financial statements, which contain an unmodified audit opinion. Our complete audited financial states can be obtained at [www.HelpingAmericans.org](http://www.HelpingAmericans.org), or by calling 571-451-9055 and requesting a copy.

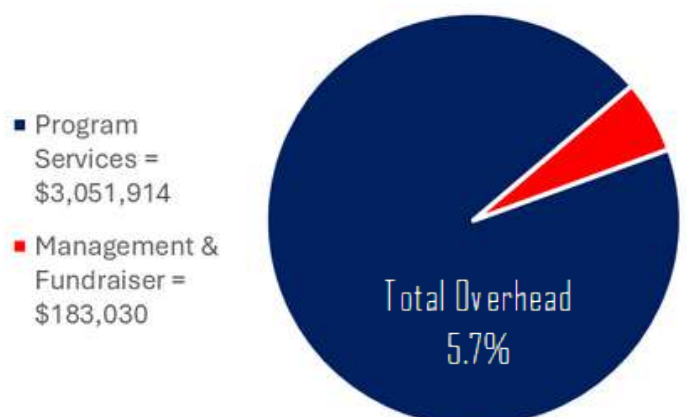
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	Unrestricted	Donor Restrictions	Total
• Noncash Contributions	\$2,300,836	\$ -	\$2,300,836
• Cash Contributions from Affiliates	\$820,000	\$ -	\$820,000
• Cash Contributions	\$63,954	\$102,079	\$166,033
• Workplace Campaign Contributions	\$ -	\$18,936	\$18,936
Wills & Bequests	\$118,059	\$ -	\$118,059
Other Income	\$12,500	\$ -	\$12,500
Rental Income	\$19,815	\$ -	\$19,815
Investment Income Net	\$56,860	\$ -	\$56,860
Satisfaction of Time Restrictions	\$21,537	\$(21,537)	\$ -
Satisfaction of Purpose Restrictions	\$102,079	\$(102,079)	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$3,515,640</b>	<b>\$(2,601)</b>	<b>\$3,513,039</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services			
Domestic Services	\$3,051,914	\$ -	\$3,051,914
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$3,051,914</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$3,051,914</b>
Supporting Services			
Management And General	\$29,395	\$ -	\$29,395
Fundraising	\$153,635	\$ -	\$153,635
Total Supporting Services	\$183,030	\$ -	\$183,030
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,234,944</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$3,234,944</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$280,696	\$(2,601)	\$278,095
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,027,118	\$22,992	\$1,050,110
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,307,814	\$20,391	\$1,328,205

Support and Revenue



Fiscal Year 2025 Total Income  
\$3,513,039

Expenses



Fiscal Year 2025 Total Expenses  
\$3,234,944

## Board of Directors

Bryan Krizek, President  
James J. O'Brien esp., Chairman  
Thomas O'Brien, Treasurer  
Robert J. Hisel Jr, Director  
Rear Admiral Eric C. Jones USCG, Director  
Elayne Silversmith (Diné), Director  
Frank L. Stitely, CPA, Director, Director  
Bishop Ketlen A. Solak, Director  
Colonel John F. Williams, USA Retired, Director  
Ashley Shultz, Director  
Loretta Afraid of Bear Cook, Director  
Corporate Officers (non-voting)  
Paul E. Krizek Esp., Vice President / General Counsel  
Bieu Do, CFO  
Nhi Ho Cao, Secretary

## Executive & Key Staff

Cameron Krizek, Executive Director  
Dave Frank, Fulfillment Manager

## Special Thank You to Our Partners and Major Supporters

Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies  
Big Creek People in Action  
LAMP Ministries  
Cumberland Mountain Outreach  
Pine Crest Camp Inc.  
Community Helping Hands Clinic  
Estill County ATC  
Lee County ATC  
Lee County CTC  
Ocoee Outreach  
Labor of Love  
White County High School CTAE  
Andrew Garrett  
Vicie Pruden  
Marta Rojas  
Joan Harshbarger  
Christine Fennelly  
Karen Kehoe  
Arleene Keller  
Wanta Kurtz

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David Stonick  
Douglas Knapp  
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Kerry Roetzel  
Annette Vilaro  
Nita McElwain  
Francis Madsen  
Northeast Contracting  
IPA  
Stitely Karstetter PLLC  
Betty Cameron  
Melissa Hutchison  
The Ulrich Emil Boesch Charitable Gift Fund  
Christian Relief SVCS Charity  
The Edward & Alice Mertze Charitable Fund  
Judy Bailey  
Constance Madsen  
Kevin & Tina Rutz

Congratulations to Anita Uyehara on her retirement from Christian Relief Services!

## We Could Not Do It Without You

Thank you to all who continue supporting Americans Helping Americans® and our partners! We especially thank all Federal and Military personnel who have contributed to our organization through the Combined Federal Campaign and state, local, United Way, and corporate campaigns across the country.



**8301 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
703-317-9440  
[www.HelpingAmericans.org](http://www.HelpingAmericans.org)**