

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT

Jessie Figueroa, Resource Development Director | (828) 793 - 0072 | Jessie@HomewardBoundWNC.org

Abby Nelson, Development Officer | (828) 782- 0016 | AbbyN@HomewardBoundWNC.org

Date: December 12, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation Awards Grant to Homeward Bound of WNC

Nourishing our Neighbors grant increases access to nutritious food; provides nutritional education

ASHEVILLE, NC –

Homeward Bound has received \$3,200 from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to help nourish neighbors experiencing hunger. The Nourishing our Neighbors grant supports community feeding partners by helping neighbors increase their access to nutritious food and providing nutrition education to eliminate health risks for those experiencing food insecurity.

Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation's gift will directly strengthen Homeward Bound's mission to prevent and end homelessness in Buncombe County by ensuring that every neighbor who walks through the doors of the AHOPE Day Center has access to a healthy, reliable source of food. AHOPE serves more than 1,500 individuals experiencing homelessness each year, many of whom lack consistent access to nutritious meals. By funding the purchase of nutrient-rich food, this gift meets a critical basic need that allows our clients to stabilize, rebuild trust, and fully engage in the services that help them exit homelessness. Ensuring that every person is fed when they arrive enables our team to more effectively support them on their journey from crisis to stability, advancing our core mission of moving people into safe, stable homes.

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity across its 10-state footprint. Established in 2001, the Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to feeding local neighbors in the communities it serves. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$25 million in grant funding to help nourish communities with fresh food.

About The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation:

The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Food Lion, based in Salisbury, N.C. Established in 2001, the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations dedicated to eliminating hunger. The charitable foundation has provided more than \$25 million in grant funding, helping to nourish communities with fresh food for backpack programs, Kids Café's and other hunger-relief programs as well as funding for long-term programs to help shorten the lines at food banks. The charitable foundation partners with Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief agency, in addition to local food agencies serving the 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states in which Food Lion operates. For more information, visit foodlion.com/pages/food-lion-feeds.

About Food Lion:

Food Lion is an omnichannel grocery retailer committed to nourishing its neighbors. More than 82,000 associates across 1,100+ stores deliver an easy, fresh and affordable shopping experience throughout 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. With a focus on hunger relief, Food Lion is a pioneer in food rescue. Since 2014, the company's hunger relief platform Food Lion Feeds has donated more than 1.5 billion meals to those who are food insecure. The retailer has committed to donate 3 billion meals by 2032. Founded and based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, Food Lion is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA, the U.S. division of Zaandam-based Ahold Delhaize. For more information, visit foodlion.com.

About Homeward Bound of WNC:

Homeward Bound of WNC's mission is to prevent and end homelessness in our community through permanent housing and support. Our work is anchored in the belief that housing is a human right. Our AHOPE Day Center serves as the front door to services for individuals experiencing homelessness. We offer prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing to help neighbors find stability. Since 2006, we've moved over 2,658 people into their own homes. In 2024 alone, 96.5% of people in our Permanent Supportive Housing Program remained stably housed and did not return to homelessness. Visit HomewardBoundWNC.org to learn more.