

WNC Honors Program

Member Benefits

Connection with Other Communities and their Best Practices

Members gain access to monthly Coffee Hours held via Zoom. We invite leaders from communities with exemplary programs or successes to come and present how they did it so other communities can learn from their experience. To foster collaboration, community leaders also meet in breakout rooms to get to know each other.

Examples of past topics include:

- Grant Writing Tips from the Pros
- Engaging Youth
- Getting Great Rental Income
- Fundraising Success



Strategic Planning workshop at Spring Creek Community Center, hosted by WNC Communities.

Education

WNC Communities offers online and in-person regional training and workshops to member communities.

A few examples of past workshops include:

- Volunteer Recruitment and Retention
- Expanding Board Leadership
- Setting SMART Goals
- Grant Writing Prep

Scholarship Eligibility

High school seniors from our member communities can apply for our renewable, 4-year George H.V. Cecil Journey Scholarship.

Strategic Planning

Each year, we select 2 communities to receive tailored assistance and facilitated strategic planning. Others can attend our Strategic Planning 101 workshops.

Technical Support

Staff answer your questions about best practices for programs, leadership, volunteerism, governance, financial stewardship, and collaboration.

Grants

We sometimes provide grants for building repairs, disaster relief, and more. We also send grant alerts and hold regular grant workshops to educate our members.

Cash Awards & Recognition

Since 1949, each year in November, we hold our WNC Honors Awards where we celebrate the accomplishments of our 70+ communities. Each community receives an award of at least \$1000 for participating in the WNC Honors Program. Additional cash awards for Best in Class at each WNC Honors level range from \$500 - \$3000.

Members-Only Website Access

Our WNC Honors Learning Center is a website containing an archive of all our Coffee Hours, webinars, templates, and best practice articles. It also contains a private, password protected Members Directory where communities can share their best practices and contact each other for more information.

Emergency Readiness Network

In the wake of hurricane Helene, we formed this network of community centers that were impacted by the storm, or that wanted to be ready for any future disasters. We are working to build relationships, fund needed equipment and develop post-disaster SOPs.

For more information, contact Susan Garrett at susangarrett@wnccommunities.org or (828) 252-4783. Visit www.wnccommunities.org.