



2025 IMPACT REPORT



A message from our Executive Director

2025 tested our capacity as an organization and a community. We wondered how we might not only be affected by what we faced on the Farm, but what was happening across the country.

Between our Graham and Burlington locations, nine people called Benevolence Farm home. We maintained 100% housing occupancy for the longest stretch in our history. At the same time, a key team member had to move away, which stretched all of our staff and what we could manage.

We braced as the non-profit funding landscape shifted dramatically. We sat with our trans community members who feared they would lose their gender-affirming health care. We witnessed the policing of our neighbors based on the color of their skin and immigration status. And yet, facing this nationwide upheaval, we were reminded that "rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation. Healing is an act of communion." (bell hooks, All About Love)

So, in 2025, Benevolence Farm dug deep into our community to heal. That meant asking for help. It meant doubling down on our non-profit partnerships. Sometimes, it meant crying in front of one another and being seen. Together, we found ways to persevere, to heal.

Thank you to each and every one of you for being a part of this community. We are still here, and healing, because of you.

With gratitude,

Kristen Powers
Executive Director



IMPACT SNAPSHOT

\$98,027

in living wages distributed to formerly incarcerated people via our social enterprise

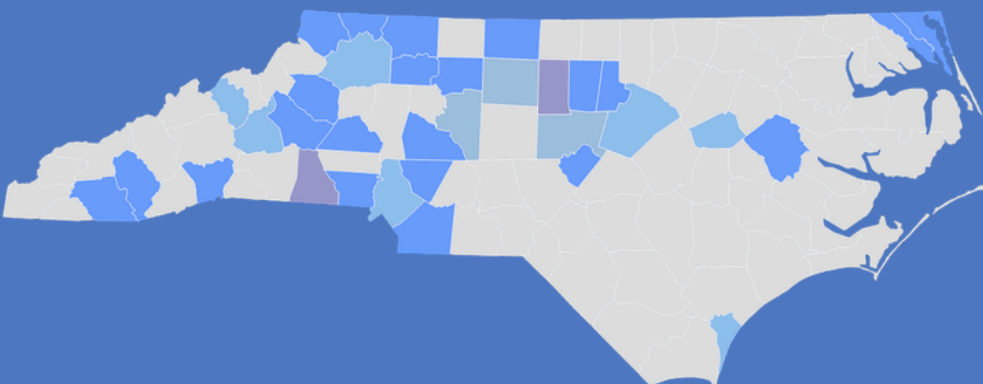
10

people moved in to their first home post-incarceration through our Housing First Fund

6

residents earned their own vehicle, more than any other year in our history and a critical factor to independence in rural North Carolina.

Our residents call counties across North Carolina home.

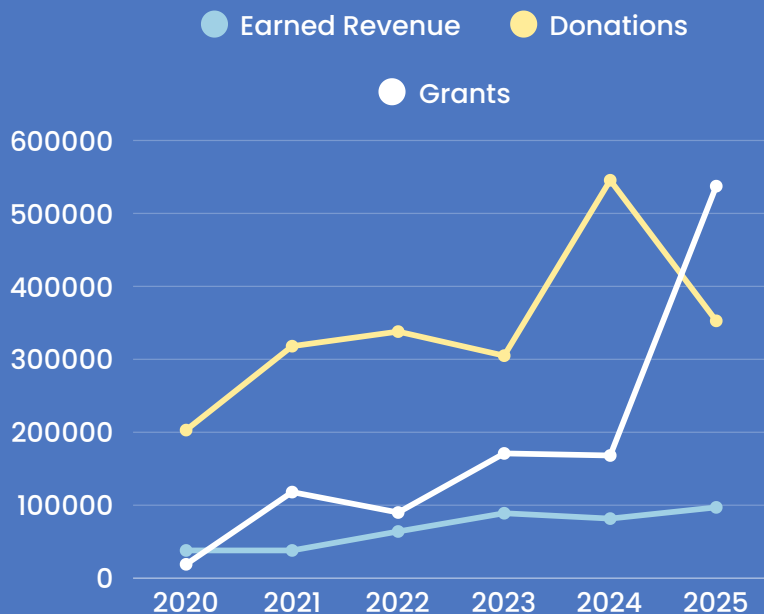


- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Alamance | Davidson | Orange |
| Alleghany | Forsyth | Pitt |
| Ashe | Gaston | Rockingham |
| Burke | Guilford | Rowan |
| Cabarrus | Henderson | Surry |
| Caldwell | Jackson | Union |
| Camden | Lee | Wake |
| Catawba | Macon | Wilkes |
| Chatham | McDowell | Wilson |
| Cleveland | Mecklenburg | Yadkin |
| Currituck | New Hanover | Yancey |

A LOOK AT OUR BUDGET



What We Raised

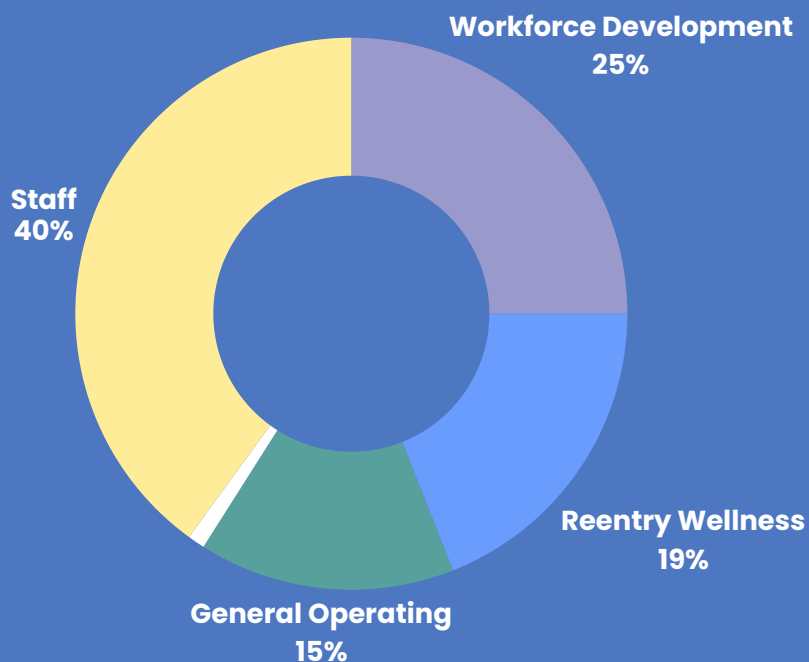


\$634,395

In 2025, we received our first state grant and continued to partner with Alamance County Health Department to support people in opioid use recovery, made possible with Opioid Settlement Funds.

Like many non-profits, we experienced a drop in individual gifts for general operating support. We were able to fill the gap from other sources, such as critical grant partnerships.

What We Spent



\$622,521

Nearly half of our budget supports Reentry Wellness and Workforce Development Programming. These two components provide people a safe place to live and work after prison so each person can focus on their healing.

Half of our staff are formerly incarcerated women. Donations directly support competitive salaries that recognize their expertise. In exciting news, because of individual giving, Benevolence Farm is able to offer a healthcare option for the first time in our organization's history, starting in 2026.

THE TINY HOME COMMUNITY

In November 2025, we celebrated the groundbreaking of our Tiny Home Community with the First Lady of North Carolina Anna Stein and the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

The seeds of this project were planted over seven years ago when an alumna, Deb, asked, "What would it would look like to practice living independently in a supportive community?"

After 27 years in prison, she appreciated our shared housing option, but had never lived alone. Deb feared doing so when she left Benevolence Farm. Her question took root and the idea for the Tiny Home Community started to grow.

These seven Tiny Homes will allow for both shared community support and private living where women can design their own space, build routines, make choices, and strengthen everyday skills. This milestone reflects a next phase of programming for our organization. It also represents growth for the people who will live there, creating a new pathway toward stability, dignity, and a life that feels fully their own.



Sharryse Piggott / WUNC

First Lady Anna Stein, Kristen Powers, and others break ground at the tiny home site location in Graham.

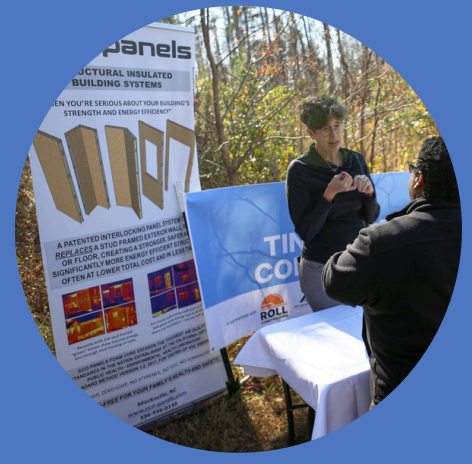


Photo Descriptions: Top images include a screenshot from WUNC's media coverage of the event and photo by Sharryse Piggott. Remaining photos feature attendees at the Tiny Home Groundbreaking Ceremony posing for the camera and connecting with one another.

COLLECTIVE PROGRESS

Doing More In And With Community

STITCHING STORIES REIMAGINED

Benevolence Farm was honored to be the first site in North Carolina to host Arise Collective's *Stitching Stories Reimagined* in Fall 2025.

Stitching Stories Reimagined is a retelling of *Stitching Stories: A Prison Awareness Quilt* that was crocheted at the minimum-security Canary Unit of the North Carolina Corrections Institution for Women by members of the H.A.T.S. (Handcrafted and Totally Special) group during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Arise Collective brought the original quilt to life as a 30-foot-long inclusive public art project. This public art piece recreates the quilt's stories using a mosaic wall, an opposing mirror wall, and a vinyl wrap. Each square in the mosaic reflects one year of time served, highlighted with ribbons representing each woman's struggles with addiction, domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health, COVID-19, children left behind, and the death of a loved one.

As a host site, Benevolence Farm collaborated with Arise Collective to host the opening ceremony of *Stitching Stories Reimagined* in October 2025. Our Community Advocacy Director, Mona Evans, shared her own story as to what crocheting in prison meant to her. You can scan the QR code or copy the URL to the right to watch her speech in full.



Watch Mona's speech
<https://bit.ly/monacrochet>



Photo Descriptions:

Images show the inside and exterior of a shipping container arts display called *Stitching Stories Reimagined*. Mona Evans is also featured posing besides a quilt of her parents, crocheted by someone she was incarcerated with in a North Carolina prison. Photos of *Stitching Stories Reimagined* by Owens Daniels Photography.

COLLECTIVE PROGRESS

Doing More In And With Community

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

In mid-2025, Jubilee Home, a reentry housing non-profit in Durham, welcomed Benevolence Farm and CANDOR into a Community of Practice to help them develop their own social enterprise operation, Jubilee Flowers. CANDOR's mission is to dismantle the systems, pathologies, and narratives that perpetuate the discrimination, exclusion, stigmas, and devaluation of Autistic, Neurodivergent, Chronically-ill, and Disabled people.

While we were originally consulted to advise Jubilee Home, we have found this Community of Practice to be a meaningful source of inspiration and collaboration, including learning new ways to support disabled people in our own social enterprise and housing programs.

USING OUR VOICES FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Our impact also meant tapping into our lived experience to not only push back against harmful policies, legislation, and stigmas, but to re-affirm our humanity and dignity.

Members of our community traveled to Washington, DC to advocate against harsh sex offense registries that continue to punish people long after release from prison.

Back in North Carolina, we spoke out against state legislation that expanded the death penalty and criminalized mental health. We continued our work on the NC Fines & Fees Coalition in hopes of ending debt-based bans of driver's licenses. We shared stories about the unique challenges mothers face returning home.

Our community members can do everything asked of them and still face criminalization for trying to survive.

Advocacy is how we challenge this criminalization and policing, and instead find ways to meet our needs together in community.

It is also how we bring the realities women and trans people share with us into rooms where decisions get made. If we can't get a seat, we'll build our own table.

Our advocacy work gets us closer to realizing our vision of creating a more equitable, just, and nurturing world for women and the communities they transform.



Photo Description: A community member shares her story with her state representative.

REBUILDING AND HEALING

Celebrating Together



FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Bonding Families Program supported 15 families by helping parents and children reconnect in steady, supported ways after incarceration. Thanks to a grant from United Way of Alamance County, two formerly incarcerated mothers received a year of free childcare for their littles ones, reducing their stress levels and freeing up funds to invest in their families. Mona Evans, our Community Advocacy Director, joined parents across the state in family court, supporting them in the challenging journey of petitioning for custody of their children.

Photo Description: A Bonding Families member celebrates with the Easter Bunny



LICENSE TO FREEDOM

Last year, a record number of residents regained their driver's licenses after clearing years of court fines and fees. In rural North Carolina, a license affects one's ability to access nearly every essential activity: work, court, medical appointments, and running errands. A record six residents earned their first vehicles, four of whom were matched with cars through our partnership with Wheels4Hope. Together, restored licenses and reliable rides reduced missed appointments, expanded job options, and increased independence.

Photo Description: Community members pose with their new cars.



AN OCEAN-SIZED RESET

We took our annual beach trip to Surf City, and thanks to support from LaShauna, our former Executive Director, her son Malik, and donors who hosted a beautiful fundraising dinner, we were able to stay two nights instead of one. While incarcerated, even basic choices like going outside on your own time or feeling the sun are restricted. That is why we make this an intentional activity each year, giving residents space to take in the ocean and return grounded. For many, time near the water helps them exhale.

Photo Description: Residents gaze out into the ocean.

ALL THINGS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

In the business of second chances

NAVIGATING MARKET SHIFTS

A part of our reality in 2025 was navigating economic pressures that directly shaped our social enterprise, including uncertainty as to how tariffs and economic shifts would affect our profitability.

Because our bottom line is people, not just profit, we felt the pressure of wanting to reach our revenue goals, without causing undue stress on our resident-employees. Our farm-to-body care business exists to support our community members in their workforce development goals and provide another source of revenue, which means we are always holding two responsibilities at once: meeting financial sustainability goals while honoring the individual needs and career aspirations of the people doing this work.

To balance these goals over the next few years, we aim to earn \$337,000 in farm-to-body care and fragrance annual revenue so that the social enterprise can sustainably pay our resident-employees a living wage without our non-profit subsidizing the cost.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HIGHLIGHTS

Despite another tough year in sales, Benevolence Farm maintained seven wholesale accounts across the state and fulfilled over a dozen orders with hospitality partners nationwide thanks to our partnership with Procure Impact.

We also created custom swag for a HR conference in Charlotte and designed I'm Home candles as client gifts for a real estate agent and a builder.

Benevolence Farm also launched a new product: Our Mountains To The Sea Candle Gift Box, a love letter to our state. This gift box celebrates fragrances from the hollers of Appalachia to the sandy dunes of the Outer Banks and the many places in between where our community members call home.

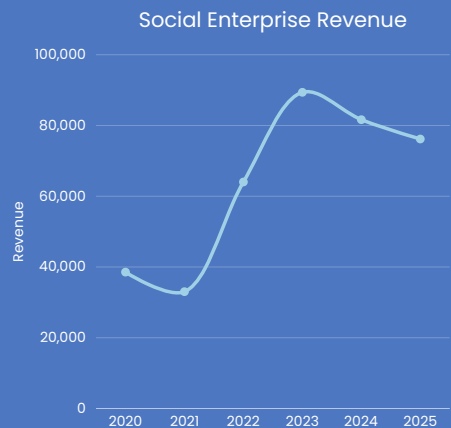
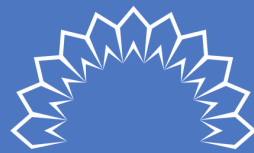


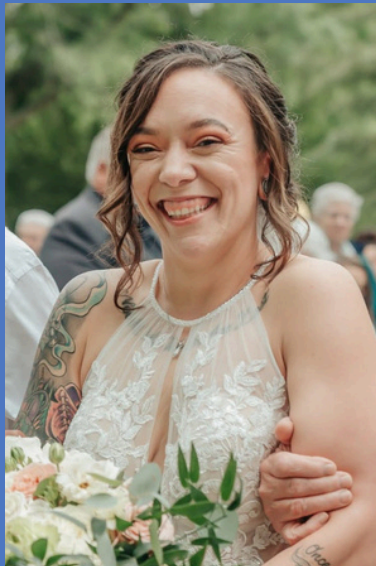
Photo Description: Our Mountain, Piedmont, and Sea candles sit against a white background and atop our gift set boxes. Photo Credit: Stacey Sprez



HEALING HAPPENS IN COMMUNITY

We deeply appreciate the people and organizations who joined us to build safe, affirming spaces for formerly incarcerated people and their families.

This work is possible thanks to your time, expertise, and investments!




THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

 info@benevolencefarm.org

 www.benevolencefarm.org

 Graham, NC

 (336) 639-8436