



<https://wnccommunities.org/>

WNC Communities (Western North Carolina Communities) is a non-profit organization working with communities throughout the 20 counties of WNC to bring their ideas to action, positively impacting the lives of the people they serve. Upper Laurel Community Organization (ULCO), the organization that operates Ebbs Chapel Community Center (ECCC), is an active member of WNC Communities.

For 75 years WNC Communities has evaluated the activities of community centers and awarded exceptional achievement in serving the needs of the residents of their community.

In past years ULCO has received recognition with those awards: In 2023 we won their Calico Cat Jr. award for renovating two classrooms in the former Ebbs Chapel School into a Meeting/Events Room serving ECCC. We also won their Impact Award for the collaboration that created the Outland Family Medical Clinic at ECCC. The latter award provided unique access to Dogwood Health Trust that is helping ULCO develop grant opportunities and is funding a grant-writer to secure grants.

Due to Hurricane Helene, the annual WNC Communities Awards Luncheon was cancelled, but their awards were still given. All communities documenting their activities this year were awarded \$1000. In addition to this award, ULCO received \$3000 in recognition of our 2023 Impact Award! Donors to the WNC Communities' award fund include Dogwood Trust, Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resorts, Wells Fargo, Duke Energy, Biltmore Farms and many others.

Recently we applied for and received a WNC Communities' Disaster Recovery Grant to help with mold remediation in our building. In addition, WNC Communities supplied bins, tarps and hand trucks to process the truckload of supplies we received from a generous South Carolina church to assist with Helene recovery. Many Ebbs Chapel volunteers sorted and safely stored warm clothing, bedding, shoes, hats and scarves in bins, now available when needed to our community and others in need in Western North Carolina.