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NC MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE GRANTS $75,000 TO FOUR NC NONPROFITS

Grants from 102-year-old organization will fund nonprofits supporting seniors

The North Carolina Medical Society Alliance has awarded grants to four nonprofits serving the health needs of older North Carolinians.

Wilson-based COMPASS and Charlotte-based Cross Connection both were awarded $25,000 grants. GOLD, of Fuquay-Varina, received $15,000, and AIMHigh-Keep Pressing in Henderson received $10,000. The gifts bring the NCMSA's total grantgiving over the past year to $155,000.

The Alliance, made up of spouses of physicians practicing in North Carolina, has responded to the evolving health needs of our communities and state for more than a century. These recipients were selected in recognition of the growing aging population and the challenges they face in remaining independent.

"The North Carolina Medical Society Alliance is delighted to award grants to COMPASS, Cross Connection, GOLD and AIMHigh-Keep Pressing," said NCMSA President Kirby Sheridan. "These organizations meet seniors where they are and provide the support they need to remain in their homes. We are so grateful for their invaluable services."

COMPASS, the Center on Maintaining Preferred Aging Services and Solutions ($25,000), helps older adults and vulnerable residents of six counties in Northeastern NC maintain stability, independence, and access to essential supports in their home communities. Their Unmet Needs program addresses urgent individual health needs, filling the gap between medical care and the basic conditions older adults need to remain healthy at home.

“COMPASS is deeply grateful to the N.C. Medical Society Alliance for this generous $25,000 investment in older adults across Eastern North Carolina. This funding will directly support North Carolina residents in remaining safe, independent, and connected in their own home – helping ensure that seniors can age with dignity in the communities they know and love,” said Mary Marlin, Aging Program Director at Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments.

Cross Connection ($25,000) serves seniors in 15 rural N.C. counties by constructing wheelchair ramps and porches that enhance residents' safety, mobility, and independence in their homes. The work is undertaken each summer by church youth groups from across the state, equipping students with hands-on skills and fostering meaningful relationships with the neighbors they serve.

"When an older adult can safely get in and out of their own front door, they keep their independence, health, and connection to the people around them. Cross Connection is deeply grateful to the North Carolina Medical Society Alliance for investing in that kind of everyday well-being," said Salem Sheridan, Program and Community Director. "This grant puts materials directly into those projects and helps more older adults across North Carolina stay safely at home."

GOLD, Growing Older Living Digitally ($15,000), began in response to a growing need among older adults for practical technology support. They offer virtual and in-person digital health programming in counties throughout the state, including hands-on support with patient portals and MyChart, telehealth, provider messaging, test results, appointments and prescriptions, caregiver proxy access, accessibility features, account security and medical scams.

"At GOLD, we see every day that giving an older adult access to the digital tools their care now depends on is only half the story. The other half is the confidence to actually use it," said RJ Reyes, Co-Founder and Director. "This generous support from the NC Medical Society Alliance lets us reach more North Carolina seniors and help them manage their health care with real independence. We are deeply grateful to the Alliance for investing in that work."

AIMHigh – Keep Pressing ($10,000) is committed to promoting community well-being by providing accessible, low-to no-cost services and events that foster connection, support, and resilience. Their Park & Play Senior program addresses social isolation among Vance County seniors with structured recreational and social activities to encourage movement and socialization.

"At AIMHigh- Keep Pressing, we are committed to bringing meaningful health and wellness activities directly to senior communities, creating opportunities for seniors to stay active, connected, and engaged," said Executive Director Jessica Rice Hawkins. "This grant is an incredible encouragement and a meaningful investment in our mission. We are thankful for the confidence placed in our organization and look forward to continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of the seniors we serve."

The Alliance's grant program allows it to best respond to the needs of our state's residents while honoring the dedication of thousands of Alliance members over the decades. The Alliance's spring grant cycle will award up to $10,000 each to health-related nonprofits. Applications will open January 27, 2027 at www.ncmsalliance.org/grants.