

FOR RELEASE
June 25, 2024

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Youth Growth Stock Trust Grants \$349,400 to Benefit Cumberland County Youth

United Way of Cumberland County Board of Directors has approved the 2024 allocation of \$349,400 in grants from the Youth Growth Stock Trust (YGST). Every spring, the YGST, founded by the late Robert Short, provides grants to local programs, initiatives and scholarships that specifically benefit Cumberland County youth.

Cumberland County schools and local nonprofit organizations submit Request for Funding Proposals for their programs that help youth become successful in their educational pursuits and beyond. This year, 20 local non-profit programs and 37 local public schools were the recipients.

The following are the local programs that received funding:

Action Pathways, Inc	Face Off Against Hunger
Armed Services YMCA of the USA - Fort Liberty	Family Support Program for Military Children (ages 0-18)
Cape Fear Botanical Garden	Interactive Garden Kaleidoscope
Cape Fear Regional Theatre	Student Matinee Series
Cape Fear Bands & Ensemble Booster Club	Bands of America Championship
Cape Fear Valley Medical Foundation, Inc.	Support for Adolescent Patients at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center
Child Advocacy Center, Inc.	Child Abuse Prevention and Education
Cumberland Master Gardener Volunteer Association	Master Gardener Demonstration Garden Education Improvements
Fayetteville PAL	Fayetteville Police Activity League (PAL) - Computer Lab & Program Expansion
Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra	Third Grade School Visits & Concerts
FTCC Foundation, Inc.	FTCC Youth Community Dental Health Fair
Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church	Youth in Action Summer Enrichment Camp
Methodist University, Inc.	Shelton Leadership Challenge 2024
Miller's Crew	Miller's Brew Training Program
Science Olympiad Alumni Organization at NC State	2025 NC State Science Olympiad Division B Invitational Tournament

The 2-6 Project	The Two-Six Project - Emerging Leaders Program
The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County	Artist in Schools Program
The Salvation Army	Community Center Recreation & Nutrition
thegroupTheory, Inc.	Build Your Self Summer Camp
United Way of Cumberland County	Meals of Hope

Total Programs Awarded: \$172,400

The following are the public schools that received funding:

Alderman Road Elementary	Growing in Confidence and Leadership in 2nd Grade!
Armstrong Elementary School	All-Stars Running Club
Cape Fear High School	Academy of Agriculture (FFA) Scholarship
Cumberland County Schools AIG Discovery Program	Hands-On = Minds On: Growing our K-2 Gifted Learners
Cumberland County Schools Career Pathways	Career Pathways/Youth Growth Stock Trust Scholarship
Cumberland County Schools Communication Department	Committed Community Connection: The Family Engagement Bus
Cumberland Polytechnic High School	Cumberland Polytechnic Esports Program
District 7 Elementary	Budding Ecologists Bloom Here!
Douglas Byrd (Academy of Green Technology)	AoGT Academy Scholarships
Douglas Byrd High School	Pride in Printing Excellence
Douglas Byrd High School	Academy of Finance Scholarships - AOF
Douglas Byrd High School	Culinary Artistry Mastered to Perfection
Douglas Byrd High School	Jackie Warner Leadership Institute and Transitional Summer Academy
E. Melvin Honeycutt Elementary	The Last Great Race: A Sphero Robotics STEM Unit
E.E. Smith High School	Transitional Summer & Leadership Academy
E.E. Smith High School	CCS Fire Academy Scholarship Program
Elizabeth Cashwell Elementary School	PBIS Incentive
Fayetteville Academy	Fine Arts Outdoor Learning Pavilion
Gray's Creek High School	Academy of Information Technology Scholarship Program
Grays Creek Middle School	GCMS - "Cubs to Bears" 6th Grade Transition Program
Jack Britt High School	Mechatronics - Spread the Word
Jack Britt High School	Integrated Systems Technology Academy of Engineering Scholarships
Pine Forest High School	Academy of Information Technology College Bound Scholarships
Pine Forest High School	Academy of Emergency Medical Science College Bound Scholarships
Reid Ross Classical School	G.L.O.W. U.P. Girls Leading On With Unprecedented Poise Leadership and Mentorship Program
Seventy First High School	Class Sets of Scripts for Theatre Arts
Seventy First High School	PBIS: Seventy First Falcons SOAR
Seventy First High School	Singing New Songs

Seventy-First Classical Middle School	Imagine 2035
South View High School	Skill Development and Practical Experience for Exceptional Students of SVHS Café
Spring Lake Middle School	Operation Jumpstart
Terry Sanford High School	ManUp @ FTS
Westover High School	Academy of Health Sciences
Westover High School	Academy of Engineering Technologies
Westover High School	Wolverines Unite
William H. Owen Elementary	Promoting Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) through Family Engagement
William H. Owen Elementary	Summer Principal Patrol Adventures

Total Public School Program Awards: \$177,000

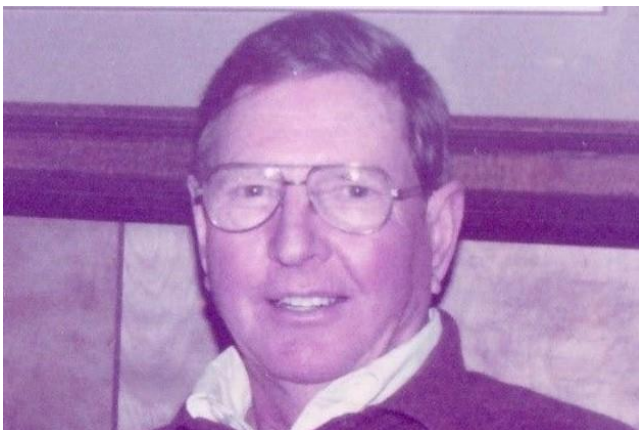
About the Youth Growth Stock Trust (YGST)

The Youth Growth Stock Trust was established in 1992 due to the late Robert Short’s concern for the well-being of local youth. United Way of Cumberland County serves as the Trust Beneficiary and income from the YGST is awarded once a year to programs that support local youth educational and developmental needs. Volunteers serve on the Grants Committee and Stuart Walters serves as the Program Administrator. The Grants Committee is responsible for reviewing applications and making allocation recommendations to the United Way. The YGST is wholly separate from the United Way’s campaign funds. May 11th would have been Mr. Short’s 102nd birthday. We celebrate by reflecting on his lasting legacy and over \$5 million in grants to our community’s youth!

Mr. Short has a remarkable story. One of six children, he left school early to help support the family when his father passed away. He never completed high school. Despite the odds, he joined the military and later purchased a major appliance business. Meanwhile, he began researching the stock market where he developed his own successful investment strategies. Though he never had children of his own, he cared deeply about his community and chose to entrust United Way of Cumberland County with a generous financial gift designed to support local youth indefinitely. His wisdom and deep passion for scholarships and community support remain profound today as he continues to touch lives.

About United Way

United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. United Way of Cumberland County strives to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life: education, health and basic critical needs & financial stability. At United Way, we recognize that lasting changes are achieved by addressing the underlying causes of problems. United Way partners with other nonprofit agencies to improve lives right here in Cumberland County. Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED.



Photograph of the late Robert Short

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