

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: January 6, 2025

SUBJECT: John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation Grant - Award Acceptance

PRESENTERS: Trina Rushing, Library Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. Award Letter
2. Press Release

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Library has received a grant award from the John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation for \$25,000 to aid in Helene recovery efforts. In partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), the Foundation aims to empower libraries to remain vital hubs of education and community engagement, by strengthening their ability to rebuild and enhance programming during challenging times.

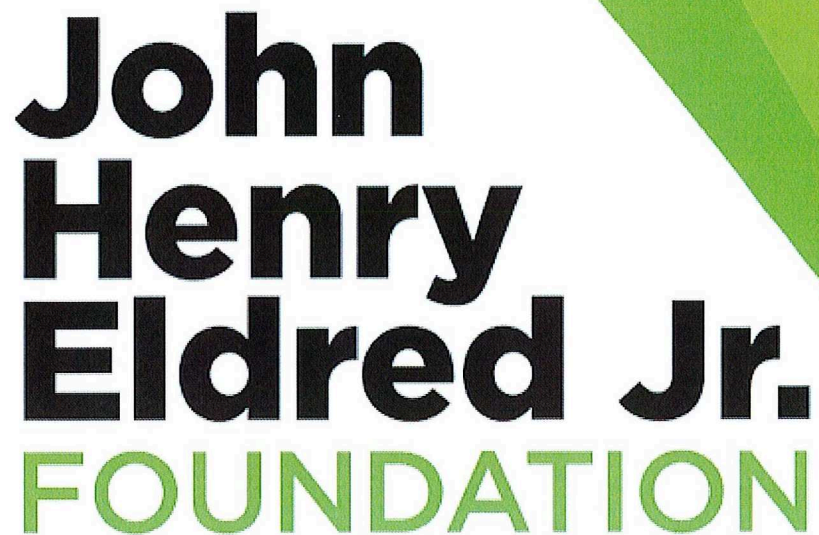
This unrestricted award does not have to be repaid nor are there any expense reporting requirements.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to accept the award of \$25,000 in grant funding from the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board accept the award of \$25,000 in grant funding from the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation.

The logo for the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation. It features the name "John Henry Eldred Jr." in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below this, the word "FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, all-caps, green sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a large green triangle pointing downwards, with a lighter green gradient on its left side. To the left of the text is a vertical light blue bar with a white-to-blue gradient.

John Henry Eldred Jr. FOUNDATION

Dear Trina,

We recognize the challenges that many rural communities are facing after the impact of Hurricanes Helene and Milton and know the value of libraries in these communities everyday and especially at this critical time. The **John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation** has a long history of supporting rural public libraries and this grant is in line with our mission of investing in initiatives that support families and the communities in which they live, work, and play. It is with this spirit in mind that the John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation is awarding a **\$25,000** unrestricted grant to aid in your recovery efforts.

This grant does not have to be repaid nor are you required to submit an expense. Please consider including the John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation as one of your funders should you decide to engage in any publications or announcements about your recovery efforts. Similarly, we work daily to uplift the work of our grantees. We welcome email updates throughout the recovery period so that we can amplify your work. You will have the

opportunity to provide an *optional* final report in November 2025. And finally, *you can expect to receive the grant check before the end of December 2024.*

Please contact us at miafelice@jhfoundation.org should any questions arise.

It is our privilege to join hands with you in the good work you are doing for your communities.

Sincerely

Kate Blake

Board President

John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation

Mike Deetsch

Executive Director

John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation

John Henry Eldred Jr. FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jessica Hover

jhover@thinkcommunica.com

John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation Partners with the Association of Rural and Small Libraries to aid Rural Libraries in North Carolina and Georgia

Grants Awarded to Libraries Serving Communities Affected by Hurricanes Milton and Helene

TOLEDO, Ohio — Dec. 3, 2024 — On this [Giving Tuesday](#), the [John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation](#) proudly announces critical support to 10 rural libraries in North Carolina and Georgia in communities that were significantly impacted by Hurricanes Milton and Helene, strengthening their ability to rebuild and enhance programming.

Founded by John Henry Eldred Jr., a lifelong advocate for books and reading, the Foundation honors his late mother, Dorothy Louise Kyler, and their shared belief in the transformative power of literacy. Since 2012, the Foundation has awarded over \$1 million in grants to rural libraries, enabling them to expand children's and young adult collections and programming.

By targeting areas recovering from Hurricanes Milton and Helene, through a partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), the Foundation aims to empower libraries to remain vital hubs of education and community engagement during challenging times.

"We are honored to work with ARSL and support the work of rural libraries in North Carolina and Georgia, particularly as they recover from the devastating impact of recent hurricanes," said Mike Deetsch, executive director of the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation. "These libraries are pillars of hope and resilience, providing essential resources to families and children as they rebuild their lives. The Foundation is humbled to play a small part in the incredible work these communities are already doing to recover and thrive."

The following libraries received grants to support community rebuilding efforts:

- Appalachian Regional Library (Boone, NC)
- Avery Mitchell Yancey Regional Library (Burnsville, NC)
- Henderson County Public Library – Main (Hendersonville, NC)
- Madison County Public Library – Hot Springs Branch (Marshall, NC)
- McDowell County Public Library (Old Fort, NC)
- Ohoopsee Regional Library System (Vidalia, GA)
- Polk County Library (Saluda, NC)
- Rutherford County Library System (Spindale, NC)
- Satilla Regional Library System (Douglas, GA)
- Transylvania County Library Foundation (Brevard, NC)

As communities continue to recover, these grants will help rural libraries restore their collections, develop engaging programming, and provide a sense of stability and connection for families and children.

On this Giving Tuesday, the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation reaffirms its commitment to empowering rural libraries and fostering the joy of reading and learning in underserved areas.

For more information about the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation and its mission, please visit jhfoundation.org.

###

About John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation

The John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation proudly funds nonprofits and libraries dedicated to addressing critical aspects of society, such as food insecurity, housing stability, and youth education. Since our inception in 2012, we've had the privilege of making substantial contributions, totaling \$3,046,900, to over 85 nonprofit organizations in the Greater Toledo Area and small, rural libraries in low-income communities. These contributions include the most recent grant cycle in 2023.

As a young and growing organization, The Foundation aspires to be a beacon of hope, embodying the values of our founder, John Henry Eldred Jr. His legacy of generosity and community service serves as our guiding light. Through strategic investments and unwavering dedication, we remain committed to uplifting families and communities, ensuring a lasting impact in the lives of those we have the privilege to serve.

For more information, please visit jhfoundation.org/.