

# Media Contact:

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United Way Awards Over** $43,000 **in Venture Grants to Eight Agencies in Greater High Point**

The United Way of Greater High Point's successful fund-raising campaign in Fall 2013 has resulted in the organization awarding eight Venture Grants totaling $43,458 to agencies in the Greater High Point community. The United Way of Greater High Point received 34 Venture Grant applications from Guilford and Randolph counties equaling over $295,824 in requests.

This is the fifth time since 2007 that the United Way of Greater High Point has awarded Venture Grants. These grants provide an opportunity for any 501(c)(3) organization serving the Greater High Point area to apply for funding from the United Way of Greater High Point.

Venture Grants are small, one-time grants to qualified, local nonprofit organizations. These grants are designed to meet emerging or unmet needs. They can be used to start a new program or to purchase needed equipment or supplies for an existing program. In more limited cases, Venture Grants can be used for administrative expenses such as staffing, so that a program can increase its sustainability with the support that paid staff can provide.

**The eight agencies receiving Venture Grants for 2014-2015 are:**

**Alcohol & Drug Services of Guilford, Inc.**

**Grant Amount:** $2,607.92

**Program Description:** In Greater High Point, ADS provides best practice substance abuse prevention services to youth and adults. ADS’s leadership and staff have endured a challenging environment while continuing to provide high quality services. One such challenge was the decision by Microsoft to stop support of Windows XP. ADS’s current 10-year-old computers are not equipped to move to the new operating system, and we all know that computers are an essential part of all work environments today. The UWGHP is pleased to provide funding for ADS to purchase 4 new computers for their High Point office.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Piedmont**

**Grant Amount:** $2,400

**Program Description:** For over 40 years, BBBS has been providing positive adult mentors to children in our community facing adversity. One of the reasons the BBBS model is so successful is the support that the staff provides to mentors and mentees. This support requires touch and technology. After over 7 years, BBBS needs to replace several outdated staff computers, and UWGHP is pleased to provide funding for 3 of them.

**High Point Community Against Violence**

**Grant Amount**: $8,250.00

**Program Description**: HP CAV has done a tremendous job in supporting local law enforcement’s efforts to reduce violent crime in our community. The level of excellence they have achieved in their programs has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. One of these programs is the Wrap Around Offender’s Program, which provides job training to violent offenders and teaches them to do better instead of just telling them. The UWGHP has awarded HP CAV $8,250 to support their efforts to move their clients forward in a positive direction.

**Horsepower, Inc.**

**Grant Amount**: $5,000.00

**Program Description**: All it takes is one visit to Horsepower and you will see why the work they do is so important to this community. Through therapeutic horseback riding, they provide opportunities for children and adults with intellectual, physical and emotional disabilities to receive evidence-based therapy in a non-traditional environment with a non-traditional “horse partner” that provides a rewarding and comforting experience for the rider, the parent and the facilitator. The UWGHP is excited to provide $5,000 to their Ride to Thrive program that will enable 20 local students from Guilford and Randolph County Schools to participate who are otherwise financially unable to.

**Jamestown Public Library**

**Grant Amount**: $2,300.00

**Program Description:** The Jamestown Public Library is a community oriented organization that seeks to support lifelong learning in Jamestown and the surrounding communities by providing free access to literature, culture and information through books and other resources. The UWGHP has awarded JPL matching funds of $2,300 to purchase and install an early literacy computer station for young learners ages 2-12 that will provide safe, age appropriate, literacy boosting games and activities.

**Out of the Garden Project**

**Grant Amount**: $9,900.00

**Program Description**: The statistics reflecting the number of children in Greater High Point who don’t have access to sufficient food and nutrition are staggering. Just 1 mile from this building, 100% of the children at Fairview Elementary qualify for free and reduced meals, an indicator that outside of school it is very possible that these children don’t eat on a regular basis. The mission of Out of the Garden Project is simply to feed hungry kids. Fairview is one of the sites where they do this with their innovative and FREE Mobile Food Pantry that provides fresh meats and produce, and non-perishable foods to families with children. The UWGHP is providing $9,900 to OOG to expand this program to Ferndale Middle School, where over 80% of the students qualify for free or reduce meals, in addition to sustaining it at Fairview Elementary.

**Reading Connections, Inc.**

**Grant Amount**: $10,000

**Program Description**: Imagine what it would feel like to be a parent or grandparent who had never experienced reading a bedtime story to your child. Imagine being dropped in another country where you can’t read, understand or communicate anything. What if you were laid off from your job, but couldn’t complete a job application? This is where Reading Connections has stepped in and helped many adults in our community overcome the obstacle of illiteracy so that they can truly engage in activities that many of us take for granted. The UWGHP is pleased to award Reading Connections $10,000 to support their Adult Literacy Program.

**The Volunteer Center**

**Grant Amount:** $3,000

**Program Description:** Today, the competition to get into college is fierce. Service Learning gives students the opportunity to develop themselves in a way that better prepares them for the experience. More than that, it allows them to physically connect to their community in a time when technology has disconnected them as much as it has opened doors. The Volunteer Center provides site-based summer Service Learning Leadership Camps in High Point that not only provides participants with the opportunity to earn 64 Service Learning hours, but also creates a job for a local teacher over the summer. The UWGHP is providing $3,000 to support the High Point site for local students.

**For more information, please call Bobby Smith, President of the United Way of Greater High Point, at 336-899-0878.**

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**About United Way of Greater High Point -** The United Way of Greater High Point works with the business community, volunteers, and its 29 local partner agencies to develop resources and partnerships that address critical human service needs in our community. United Way-funded programs help children learn and families thrive, build self-sufficiency and financial stability, create stronger and safer neighborhoods, and improve the health of our communities throughout High Point, Archdale, Trinity, and Jamestown. Visit The United Way of Greater High Point at [www.unitedwayhp.org](http://www.unitedwayhp.org).