



Summer 2025

In this issue... Two New Staff Members...Golf Registration Open... Spring Appeal: New Board & Mary Jo Reeves honored...Meet Summer Missions Team...2025 Mission Highlights...New Ministry Grants... Volunteers at Hope Terrace Garden... Save the Dates: Golf Tourney -August 23...Disaster Prep - September 4... BOOM 60+ - September 28... Home Maintenance 101 - September 30



Hannah von Hof
July 09, 2025



Welcome to Our Newest Team Members



Andie Gottlieb (pictured left)
Hannah von Hof (pictured right)

We're thrilled to welcome two new members to the Hinton Center team!

Andie Gottlieb has joined as Director of Operations. In this role, she oversees the logistics and daily operations of Hinton's programs and events, including lodging, meal planning, and retreat coordination. Andie brings strong leadership and organizational skills to our team along with experience as she served previously on our summer staff and is currently pursuing her Master's in Psychology through Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education.

Hannah von Hof joins us as Marketing & Communications Assistant. A North Georgia native, Hannah supports Hinton's mission through digital and print communications, storytelling, and outreach. She brings a background in media and promotion and currently serves as a 2025 Ambassador for the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce.



Please join us in welcoming Andie and Hannah as they begin their journey at Hinton Center. We are grateful for the skills and passion each of them brings to our mission!

Upcoming Event

Swing for Hinton • Charity Golf Tournament – August 23

5TH ANNUAL

JOIN US

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025
MOUNTAIN HARBOUR GOLF CLUB, HAYESVILLE, NC
8 AM CHECK-IN BEGINS & DRIVING RANGE OPEN
9 AM SHOTGUN START
4-PERSON SCRAMBLE FORMAT
BREAKFAST, SNACKS, WATER, MOUNTAIN HARBOUR GRILL LUNCH, HOLE COMPETITIONS, PRIZES, RAFFLE GIVEAWAYS



REGISTER YOURSELF, OTHERS, OR A 4-PERSON TEAM! BE A SPONSOR! VOLUNTEER!

WWW.HINTONCENTER.ORG/GOLF-TOURNAMENT-2025

CONTACT JEREMY AT 828-389-8336 OR JEREMY@HINTONCENTER.ORG

SPECIAL CHURCH TEAM COMPETITION!
NEW IN 2025, A TROPHY AND PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED THE CHURCH TEAM WITH THE BEST SCORE. REGISTER A TEAM OF 4 FROM YOUR CHURCH TODAY!



Supporting Hinton's work in our community through Safe & Healthy Home Repairs, Firewood Ministry, Christmas Care for Children, and Trails & Gardens for Rest & Renewal

Mark your calendars! Join us Saturday, August 23, for the *Swing for Hinton – Swing for Hope* Charity Golf Tournament. All proceeds benefit our local outreach programs. It's a great way to give back while enjoying a day on the green!

Hinton Center will host its 5th annual "Swing for Hinton, Swing for Hope" Golf Tournament, at Mountain Harbour Golf Club in Hayesville, NC. Check-in opens at 8:00 am, followed by a 9:00 am shotgun start. The tournament features a 4-person best-ball format, limited to 88 players, and includes a light breakfast, snacks with bottled water, and lunch at the Mountain Harbour Grill. There will be fun hole-in-one contests, prizes, raffle drawings, and separate church and ladies flight competitions.

This charity event supports Hinton's community ministries in Clay, Cherokee, and Towns counties—such as the Safe & Healthy Home Repair, Firewood Ministry, Christmas Care, and more. Sponsorship opportunities are available at \$400 (Driver), \$200 (Chipper), and \$100 (Putter) levels, with registration for sponsors due by August 11. For more information, please reach out to Hannah or Jeremy at hannah@hintoncenter.org, jeremy@hintoncenter.org, or call 828-389-8336.

Register Now!!

Support Hinton Appeal Letter



Rev. Betsy Eaves, Hinton Board Member

New Hinton Board Member Pens Passionate Appeal

At the April meeting of Hinton's Board of Directors, Hinton Minister of Church Relations & Development Karen Kluever met new Board member Rev. Betsy Eaves and sat at her table for lunch. "Betsy was telling everyone at our table about her first – and only! —time at Hinton as a youth director in 1979, when she brought her youth group from Paducah, Kentucky, for a summer mission week," recalled Kluever. "Then, she just kept going on and on about everything she was learning about Hinton and our ministries and how we need to make sure we're telling everyone about them, and she was coming up with lots of ideas for how to get the word out and to whom. So, I asked her, 'How about you? Would you like to tell people about Hinton and encourage their support?'" Eaves enthusiastically said yes and agreed to pen Hinton's summer appeal letter. A portion of it follows, but look for the full letter in your email inbox or on our web site at www.hintoncenter.org/donate. Thank you, Betsy!

Betsy Eaves: "When I rediscovered Hinton this year, I was amazed at how the good work of home repair for people living in poverty in rural Appalachia has expanded immensely, not just in terms of project numbers, but in the focus on leaving homes safer and healthier for those who live in them. I discovered that the 10 weeks of summer youth missions continues, but that, over time, the ministry has expanded to include even more year-round mission opportunities for youth, campus ministries, men's and women's groups, and intergenerational groups. I was excited to learn about the educational component in Hinton's mission outreach that helps local residents learn about home repair and maintenance, poverty perspective activities for mission teams, community members, and other organizations, and Hinton's vital firewood ministry that keeps hundreds of people warmer in the winter. And, during these times when we all face challenges to our physical, mental, and spiritual health, Hinton offers us opportunities to retreat, reflect, and renew.

"Please join me in making a financial gift to support the good and impactful work of Hinton Center. Donations from individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations provide a critical component of the financial support that is needed. **You can mail a check or donate online at www.hintoncenter.org/donate.** The site also provides information and opportunities for giving monthly (very significant!), tribute gifts, legacy giving, donor-advised fund giving, and donating through the United Methodist Advance. **Thank you for your ongoing support of Hinton Rural Life Center!"** *Rev. Betsy Eaves*

DONATE TODAY

Hinton Center Welcomes New Board Members and Honors Mary Jo Reeves



Jim & Mary Jo Reeves

Hinton Rural Life Center is excited to welcome five new board members for 2025 and to honor the remarkable service of **Mary Jo Reeves**, whose board term concluded in December 2024 but will continue to serve as an honorary board member. We appreciate Mary Jo Reeves for her years of faithful leadership, vision, and tireless commitment to the mission of Hinton Center. "As Hinton Center moves forward, we honor Mary Jo's dedication over the years and welcome new leaders to help guide us into our next chapter," said President and CEO Jacqueline Gottlieb.

Rev. Betsy Eaves, a retired United Methodist pastor, brings a lifetime of ministry experience and spiritual guidance. She has served as a chaplain, pastor, Enneagram teacher, life coach, and spiritual director. Her love of nature, acoustic guitar, and spiritual retreats reflects her deeply holistic approach to faith and service.

James Mason, a U.S. Army veteran with over thirty years of service, has also worked for the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church. After recently completing a mission volunteer placement at Hinton Center, James brings his strong leadership, nonprofit experience, and heart for serving others to the board.

Rev. Jeremy Noffsinger, currently serving at Calhoun First United Methodist Church in Georgia, brings a unique path to ministry that began in law enforcement and youth development. His commitment to community-building and revitalizing mission programs is aligned with Hinton's heart for outreach and transformation.

Attorney James Freeman, based in Elkin, NC, brings more than 30 years of legal expertise, focusing much of his work on representing children in abuse and neglect cases. He is also active in youth ministry and missions at his local church, combining professional insight with a deep passion for service.

Bishop Robin Dease, resident bishop of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church, is joining Hinton's Board of Directors, as **Bishop Ken Carter** steps away from the Board due to other commitments. We are grateful for the guidance and support Bishop Carter, of the Western North Carolina Conference, has provided Hinton over the years, most recently as a Board member. Bishop Carter and his family have long been "friends of Hinton" and faithful supporters of Hinton's mission and ministries.

We welcome **Bishop Robin Dease** to the Hinton family and are excited about her leadership in the North Georgia Conference and her enthusiasm to serve as an active and engaged member of our Board. She is in her second year as Bishop of that conference and, prior to her election to the episcopacy, served as pastor and district superintendent in the South Carolina Conference. She has been involved in numerous denominational and conference boards and committees.

"We are excited for what lies ahead," said Gottlieb. "With fresh perspectives, diverse experience, and servant hearts, these new leaders will help us grow and continue serving our community with purpose and love."

Meet Our Summer Mission Staff



Say hello to this summer's incredible mission staff! These passionate individuals are spending their summer serving, leading, and growing with us—and we're so grateful for their hearts.

Kaedon Edwards (not pictured): Kaedon is a rising sophomore at Western Carolina University, where he is majoring in Business Administration and Law. He is originally from Fletcher, North Carolina.

Zhané Fowler: Zhané is from Maiden, North Carolina, where she has lived her entire life. She is entering her sophomore year at Appalachian State University, majoring in K-12 Art Education.

Justin M. Morgan: Justin is a graduate of Delaware State University, Class of 2023. He hails from Dover, Delaware.

Kevin B. Lopez: Kevin is originally from Miami, Florida, but currently calls Charleston, South Carolina his temporary home. He is a rising senior at The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina, majoring in Intelligence and Security Studies with a concentration in Counter Terrorism.

Joshua Fillingame: Josh is from Bainbridge, Georgia and will be starting his junior year this fall.

Laura-Clare Moore: Known as LC, she is originally from Hayesville, now living in Hickory and soon moving to Franklin, North Carolina.

Isabella Reuter: Bella is a sophomore biology major at Young Harris College. She's from Daytona Beach, Florida.

Mission Update: Work in Action



It's an exciting season at Hinton Center as our Summer Missions program is in full swing. We're grateful to have an outstanding group of summer staff and are anticipating over 500 youth and adult participants throughout the 10-week program.

Mission teams have already begun arriving from across the country, including Wisconsin, Texas, Virginia, Florida, Ohio, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Alabama. These dedicated groups are serving the local community through a wide variety of projects such as painting, yard work, building accessibility ramps, porches, stairs, firewood production and sheds, and raised bed gardens.

One highlight this summer is our continued partnership with the Clay County Master Gardeners to provide raised garden beds to families interested in growing their own food.

Rev. Dawn Martin, Minister of Mission Outreach and Engagement, shared a recent story: "One of the projects we completed was for Mr. Perry, a neighbor with extensive home repair knowledge who is no longer physically able to do the work himself. Our mission teams repaired his porch and built an accessibility ramp—while Mr. Perry offered guidance and shared his expertise. It's incredibly meaningful to see young people learning new skills while being mentored along the way."

At Hinton, mission teams not only help repair homes and build relationships, but they also engage in programming that fosters a deeper understanding of rural poverty, encouraging them to reflect on what they've learned and carry those lessons back to their own communities.

[VOLUNTEER TODAY](#)

BOOM: Boomers on Outreach Mission



BOOM!
SEPT 28-OCT 3, 2025

SEE VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS FROM BOOM 24!

Join us for a mission week designed for adults 60+ in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

BOOMERS ON OUTREACH MISSION

SIGN UP FOR A ZOOM INFO SESSION ON TUES, JULY 15 NOON OR 7 PM EST

Sunday at 5 pm - Friday at 10 am, with 1/2 day off on Wed!
\$425/person includes 13 meals, project materials, programming, worship, and 5 nights lodging. Commuter rate for local residents: \$285/person. Spots are limited.
www.HintonCenter.org

BOOM returns Sept 28–Oct 3, 2025!

Adults 60+ (all welcome!) enjoy a week of service, worship, and fun—repairing homes in NC & GA, daily devotionals, great food, and comfy lodging.

Cost: \$425 shared | \$450 single | \$285 commuter

Register solo or with a group.

Contact Dawn: revdawn@hintoncenter.org | 828-389-8336.

REGISTER TODAY

Hinton Center Awarded \$500,000 Grant from Dogwood Health Trust



We are honored and excited to share that Hinton Center has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from Dogwood Health Trust to support our ongoing efforts in rural community outreach and engagement. This generous grant will significantly enhance our capacity to serve individuals and families through programs that promote safe and healthy homes, leadership development, and holistic well-being across Western North Carolina.

Dogwood Health Trust is a private foundation dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all people in the region, with a strong commitment to equity and lasting impact. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and shared vision.

We extend our deepest thanks to Dogwood Health Trust for believing in the mission of Hinton Center and investing in the work we're doing to build stronger, healthier communities.

Grants Received – Thank You!



We're excited to share that Hinton Center has recently been awarded several generous grants, supporting our work in affordable housing, youth programming, and food security. We are grateful for this investment in our mission.

	Funded	Date Funded	Purpose
Cannon Foundation	\$53,243	June 2025	Tool Shed renovation for laundry facilities
Wesley Memorial Methodist Church	\$5,000	January 2025	Building supplies for home repair projects for women and children
Impact Health	\$81,485	April & June 2025	Healthy Opportunities Pilot, personnel
Community Foundation of NC	\$25,000	February 2025	Disaster-Related Work
Rotary Club of Lake Chatuge	\$500	May 2025	Accessibility ramp in Georgia
Walmart, Franklin	\$300	May 2025	Home safety giveaways
WNC Bridge Foundation	\$50,000	June 2025	"Building" Hope
Walmart	\$1,000	March 2025	Safe and Healthy Homes
United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network	\$1000	May 2025	Meals for Neighbors during Summer Missions
Intentional Growth Center	\$8,500	March 2025	Summer Mission/Spiritual Formation

Hope Terrace Garden Gets Volunteer TLC



Hope Terrace Garden Volunteers



Hope Terrace Garden

Hinton is grateful for the recent work done in our Hope Terrace Garden—including cleaning out, planting, tending, mulching, and watering—by David Alsobrook and his team of Master Gardeners and local volunteers. Special thanks to David, Jeff King, Matt and Kate Lunger, Stephen Mesimer, John Knoblich, and Dave Battle for their time and care. Michael Hockaday, who regularly tends the nearby Swing Garden, also assisted with initial clearing. The Master Gardeners of Clay County generously donated perennials and mulch, and we're deeply thankful for their continued support. We also appreciate Els Vingerling, our long-time Guest Services Associate, who lovingly maintains many of the gardens and plantings across campus.

The Hope Terrace Garden is part of the Joe Ervin Sanctuary Trails & Gardens, a treasured space for both campus guests and community members. Designed to promote physical, mental, and spiritual renewal, these areas include the Vista



Trail, Vista Garden, Creekside Trail, Vista Loop, Labyrinth, and Memory Garden with Infinity Path.

Disc Golf Course Renovations

Exciting news for outdoor enthusiasts—Hinton's disc golf course is being renovated under the leadership of Lane Eaton, a dedicated volunteer from Hiawassee United Methodist Church. Updates include improved course design, refreshed signage, and new features for players of all skill levels. Plans are also in the works for a companion walking trail, further enhancing the outdoor experience on campus.

If you enjoy gardening or outdoor work in a beautiful setting, we'd love your help! To volunteer with Hinton's trails and gardens, contact karen@hintoncenter.org.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Golf Tournament 2025 - "Swing for Hinton, Swing for Hope" - August 23

Disaster Preparedness – Tips to stay ready for natural disasters - September 4

BOOM: Boomers on Outreach Mission - September 28

Home Maintenance 101 – Simple ways to keep your home safe and healthy - September 30

[Calendar Events!](#)

Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Center serves individuals, congregations, and rural communities through retreat ministries, educational opportunities, and missional outreach.



Hinton Rural Life Center

[Home](#)
[Posts](#)

Enter Your Email

[Subscribe](#)

© 2025 Hinton Rural Life Center.

[Privacy policy](#) [Terms of use](#)



Powered by beehiiv