



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
CARES

Newsletter

Summer 2026

Livingston County CARES Community Improvement Grants

Livingston County CARES is pleased to announce the recipients of our inaugural CARES Community Improvement Grants. Since 2005, Livingston County CARES has assisted communities and individuals locally, regionally, nationwide, and globally in disaster relief and other humanitarian projects. In an effort to advance this work locally, the CARES Community Improvement grants are intended to provide financial assistance to support projects or programs that specifically benefit the residents of Livingston County. A total of \$5,000 has been awarded to seven grant recipients:

- Be Well in Mount Morris for a community garden and nutrition program.
- Be Well in Lima for technology to bring EBT/SNAP benefit payments to the Lima farmers' market.
- Chances and Changes, Inc., for domestic violence prevention programs.
- The Community Center of Geneseo for transportation to community programs at the center.
- The Geneseo Jam group for staging of the upcoming E Pluribus Music Festival in Geneseo.
- The Groveland Federated Parish for an accessible entry ramp.
- The Livingston County Historical Society for the construction of an accessible ramp as part of the renovations to the Livingston County Historical Museum.



Be Well Mt. Morris Community Garden



Grantees will complete their proposed projects by April 2027 and will be honored at the annual CARES Award Volunteer Recognition Event to be held on April 10, 2027 at the Big Tree Inn in Geneseo. The organization expects to open applications for another round of grants in April 2027.

According to Livingston County CARES President Tom Matthews, the CARES Community Improvement Grants represent *“a natural extension of our organizations efforts to support community service and volunteerism; we are pleased to support the grantees in making meaningful, lasting impacts that will benefit the residents of Livingston County for many years to come.”*

March 2027 Service Trips Announced

March 14 - 20

Kissimmee, Florida Give Kids the World

Students will share their time and passion as part of volunteering at Give Kids the World (GKTW) village. The village serves as a home away from home to families who have a child with a life-threatening illness.



**Applications Available
September 1, Due
October 1.**

**Applications available
at:**



Biloxi, Mississippi Humanitarian & Social Justice Work

This 43rd trip will involve work with the Back Bay Mission, a local agency that serves the Biloxi community with emergency assistance, with an overarching focus on improving lives through education and empowerment. Participants in this year's program will have the opportunity to assist with Back Bay Mission's housing rehabilitation outreach, food pantry, and meal assistance program. This is an excellent opportunity for cross-generation learning and growth through service to others.



San Juan, Puerto Rico Ongoing Recovery Work

Volunteers will engage in recovery work supporting individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Fiona. The work will be hands-on and will focus on replacing roofs on one-story homes in the San Juan area of Puerto Rico. Volunteers will work under the supervision of the host agency.



*Join us in
changing lives!*

**You can make a difference by
donating at**

<https://www.livingstoncountycares.org/donate>

**GUMBO
TO GO**

Dinner includes Hot Gumbo,
Fresh Cornbread and
Homemade Pralines.
Vegetarian Option Available



**Mark your calendars
November 5, 2026**

Student Board Member Spotlight

Olivia Marra '27

Education Major from Syracuse, NY

I love volunteering with Livingston County Cares because it gives me the opportunity to serve my community in a meaningful way while connecting with so many incredible people. It's rewarding to know that even small acts of service can make a positive difference in someone's day. I also enjoy being part of an organization that brings so much joy and support to the community, and I'm grateful to contribute to something that has such a meaningful impact.



Claire Carmen '28

**International Relations and Spanish
Major from Williamsville, NY**

I wanted to be a part of Livingston cares because after my first volunteer trip to Puerto Rico, I was so inspired. I wanted to be on the board that makes all these incredible experiences possible and I want ensure that they keep happening because I believe that they are so important.



Disaster relief

Each year Livingston CARES donates to relief and recovery efforts for major disasters. Our disaster response team reviews possible humanitarian agencies that are credible and with low overhead and recommends donations for the board to approve.

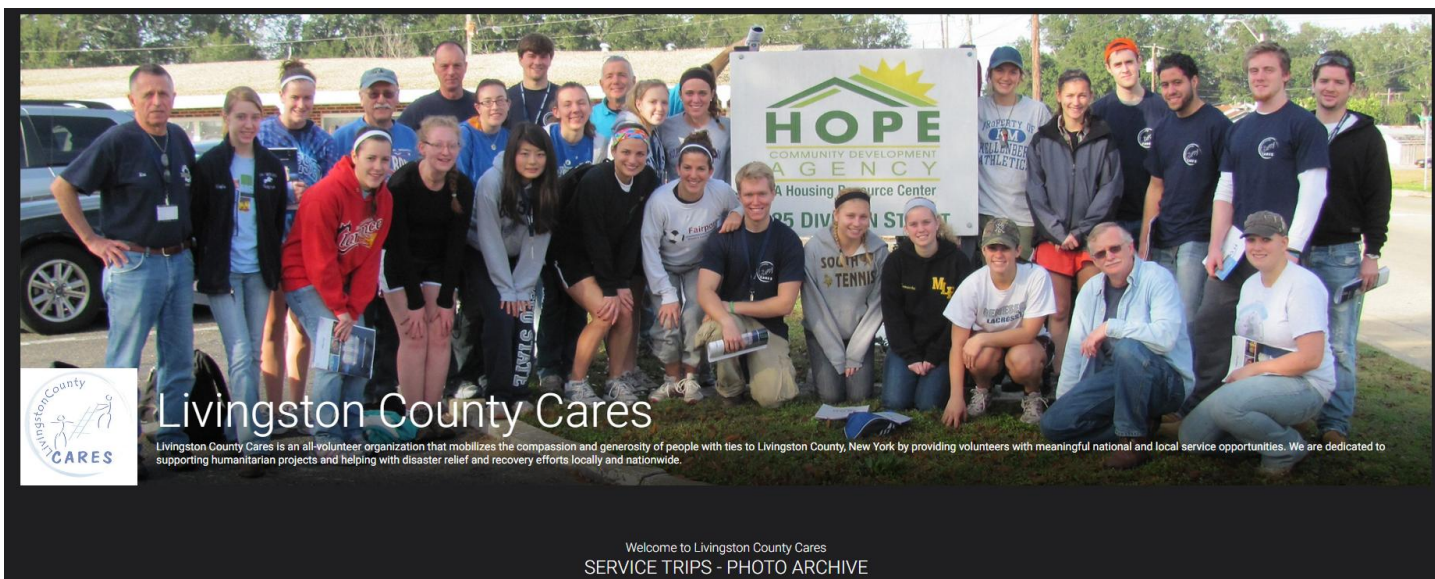
In July, Livingston County CARES made two donations to help with humanitarian recovery efforts in Venezuela after the recent earthquake and in Broome County, New York after the devastating fire at the Knights Inn in Endwell. CARES donated \$1,000.00 to CORE (founded by Sean Penn, which provided aid to individuals and families during the Los Angeles fires) to help with the relief efforts. CARES donated \$500.00 to the United Way of Broome County to assist the families through the Knights Inn Emergency Relief Fund.

To contribute directly to one of these efforts visit:

https://www.coreresponse.org/venezuela-earthquakes/?c_src=VenezuelaEarthquakesEmail3A-062926

<https://www.uwbroome.org/>





Livingston CARES Photo Archives

Since 2006, Livingston County CARES has sent 1,603 volunteers on 103 service trips to multiple states to help with disaster recovery efforts rebuilding homes, restoring parks and neighborhood projects, and helping families with cancer. We collected over 5,000 photos from the trips, and the gallery is our growing photo archive telling the stories of the hard work, the laughter, the friendship formed, and the communities we've had the privilege to serve alongside. To view the collection organized by year, month, and location, visit <https://livingstoncountycares.smugmug.com/>. If a trip is missing and you have photos, please use directions below to upload photos and note the year, the month, the location, and any names you wish to share. Every photo tells a story--of a roof shingled, a garden planted, a family helped, or a group of strangers who became friends over a shared project. Help us preserve that history.

Livingston County Cares Now has a Photo Archives

Please help us add to our gallery of past service trip photos!

How to Upload Files to SmugMug

1. Open the Upload Link

Click or paste this link into your browser:

<https://livingstoncountycares.smugmug.com/upload/mzJFWs/upload>

2. Add Your Files

- Once the page opens, click **"Choose Photos"** (or similar button),
- OR **drag and drop** your photos/files into the upload area.

3. Select the Files

- Browse your computer or device,
- Select one or multiple files, then click **Open**.

4. Wait for the upload to Complete

- A progress bar will show the upload status,
- **Do not close the page** until all files are finished uploading.

5. Add Your Name or Notes (if prompted)

Some upload pages include fields for your name, email, or captions; please fill them out if requested.

6. Confirm Submission

When complete, you should see a confirmation message indicating your upload was successful.