



# Religion Youth Education

CELEBRATING \$1 MILLION IN CHARITABLE GIVING

## Rye Provides Camp Scholarships for Military Families

From a distance, the picturesque, pastoral setting almost seemed to portray a normal day at summer camp.

Children walked from the morning chapel service toward a calm lake, where canoes and kayaks awaited. In the distance, others moved quickly to arts and crafts activities.

However, the day was anything but routine for the 238 boys and girls who attended Camp Corral, held at the historic YMCA Camp Hanes in King, North Carolina.

One important factor set this summer camp apart: every participant came from a family that had a parent wounded or killed in battle.

Several of the attendees were able to participate due to generous scholarship funding from the Rye Foundation. Two of Rye's priorities are offering support to children of prisoners and children from military homes.

"This is a very special week," said camp director Val Elliott, "and we are thankful for the Rye Foundation and its financial commitment to these children."

During a recent site tour, leaders of the Foundation visited with children and staff members, attended the chapel service, and enjoyed lunch in the dining hall.

A daily highlight is seeing the boys and girls gather at the flagpole and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The informative site tour was part of an ongoing strategic plan to observe quality programming that is "making a difference" in the lives of North Carolina children. Other on-site tours have been to Camp Vandemere near New Bern, Kamp Kiwanis in Lexington, the Mount Sinai – McCreary Community Center in Catawba, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, and Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville.



Reciting the Pledge – At Camp Corral, each morning begins at the flagpole.



Standing Tall - In May of 2017, a tornado ripped through Camp Hanes and 12,000 trees were downed. When volunteers assessed the damage, they noticed that all three wooden crosses were still standing amidst the rubble.



Water Sports – Following the daily chapel service, students can choose from a variety of outdoor activities.

# FAQ 5 Frequently Asked Questions

During 2018, the Rye Foundation will celebrate the milestone of surpassing \$1 million in total charitable giving.

Q: How did the foundation get its name?

When the organization began, a small group of philanthropists wanted to focus on helping North Carolina children in a faith-based setting. They decided not to put their own names in the title. It was decided to place the emphasis on three priority areas—religion, youth, and education.

Q: What are the major areas selected for funding?

Leaders have identified these four areas of support: Christian Camps, Music Enrichment, Children of Prisoners, and Sports and Character Development.

Q: Could you name some examples of your philanthropy?

All across North Carolina, the Rye Foundation has built chapels, constructed camp lodges, provided scholarships, purchased musical instruments, distributed Bibles, and supported programming for children from military families.

Q: Why is there a special emphasis on children of prisoners?

Research from the Annie E. Casey Foundation showed that there are 179,000 boys and girls in our state whose parents are incarcerated. We believe that these special children need positive role models and opportunities to reach their God-given potential. Projects have been funded in Burgaw, Taylorsville, Tabor City, and Winston-Salem.

Q: Will you list some of your most meaningful gifts?

- \$ 7,500 to the Presbyterian Orphanage in Black Mountain, for their youth leadership team and the purchase of musical instruments
- \$47,000 to Kamp Kiwanis in Lexington, for construction of an outdoor chapel and two cabins
- \$65,500 to Camp Caraway in Asheboro, for construction of the Rye Lodge
- \$16,000 to Ebenezer Christian Children's Home in North Wilkesboro, for support including a new ministry to infants and toddlers
- \$47,250 to the NC Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, for expansion



Thank You – Rye funding supported the “Bibles, Baseball, and Heroes” project for Davidson County youth, and every child received a Bible.

## News and Notes

### Memories of Billy Graham

Soon after the establishment of the Rye Foundation, the organization made its very first gift of \$25,000 to the Billy Graham Training Center in Asheville. Later, Warren Steen had the opportunity to introduce Mr. Graham to each member of the Board of Directors, and he graciously thanked each one. A photo of that memorable day hangs in the Foundation office.

### Dedication Day: Rye Children's Room

In Tabor City, the new Matthew 25 Center will provide overnight accommodations for family members who visit the 1,750 inmates who are incarcerated at the Tabor Correctional Institution. The 5,160 square foot facility features a special area for children's activities. It is named the Rye Children's Room.

### Music Scholarships for All-State Choir

Over several years, the Foundation has given thousands of dollars to enhance the 65-voice Baptist All-State Youth Choir. The group has performed in retirement homes, churches, and prisons.

### Estate Planning Tip

One way to help children is very simple: update your beneficiary designation and include the Rye Foundation.

### Web Site Features Children

Our user-friendly web site contains updated information on charitable giving, along with colorful photos of boys and girls who are being helped by Rye funding. It can be accessed at [ryefoundation.org](http://ryefoundation.org).

### Champions for Children Day

Part of the “corporate culture” at Rye is the importance of holding face-to-face meetings with leaders of children's charities. Since the “Champions” event began, a total of 115 organizations have sent delegates to Winston-Salem to discuss their plans, priorities, and funding needs.

## 17 Observations from Traveling Across NC

By J. Warren Steen

Periodically, I am asked this thought-provoking question: "What are you learning in your travels across North Carolina?"

Since the Rye Foundation is currently involved in projects which span 11 towns and cities, maybe I am qualified to offer an answer. In meetings from Hendersonville to Hertford and from Cashiers to Caswell Beach, here are some things I have heard and observed.

1. Partnerships are thriving, and many involve local churches cooperating with civic clubs and nonprofits to provide backpacks for children and hot meals for adults.
2. Church signs are still in vogue. My favorite message appeared at a Lutheran church in Hickory and stated, "Today's test is tomorrow's testimony." Another sign, spotted in Wayne County, offered four words: "Heavenly Forecast: Reign Forever."
3. Two of my favorite streets are Blessing Way in High Point and Legacy Drive in Advance.
4. The statewide transformation from tobacco to technology is slow and painful, especially in rural counties.
5. Perhaps our greatest resource is the state's 58 community colleges, which offer job training and career development to over 700,000 students.
6. In hundreds of conversations with business leaders and philanthropists, the most often-used word is "transparency."
7. There is much criticism of the so-called North Carolina Education Lottery. It reminds me of the Broadway musical, "Promises, Promises."
8. To escape all the negative news, citizens seem to be doing two things: watching Hallmark movies and meeting friends at their local YMCA or coffee shop.
9. Every small town is attempting to revitalize its downtown.
10. Every large city is attempting to provide more parking.
11. Both still have work to do.
12. Leadership consultants believe the "80-20 rule" is now the "90-10-rule." Translation: 10 percent of the people do 90 percent of the work.
13. By unanimous agreement, playing the ACC basketball tournament in Brooklyn, New York was a terrible idea.
14. A random note to church music directors and worship leaders: "We don't sing the old hymns nearly enough."
15. Among children, the single greatest need is for Godly role models within their home. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a total of 179,000 North Carolina children have a parent or step-parent serving time in prison.
16. Four great restaurants with quality food and first-rate service are: Tupelo Honey in Asheville, The Carousel in Wilkesboro, Wilber's in Goldsboro, and Darrell's Seafood Restaurant in Manteo.
17. A note to my four children: always seek out people who are building things, rather than those who enjoy tearing things down.

Overall, I am extremely optimistic. There are more opportunities than obstacles, and citizens who care about the future can make a monumental difference through their church, their civic club, and their philanthropy.



J. Warren Steen is the president of the Rye Foundation in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A graduate of Wake Forest University, he served as Founding Chairman of the Parents Council at the UNC School of Medicine. In addition, he was Chairman of the David Richards Memorial Polio Campaign, which provided the polio vaccine to 37,000 children.

## Rye Launches Ray Bryan Award With \$100,000 Commitment

Two years ago, leaders of the Rye Foundation unveiled plans to honor one of the organization's most generous supporters, Goldsboro businessman and philanthropist Ray Bryan. He died on March 30, 2016 at the age of 84.

Rye leaders established the Ray Bryan Award and committed \$100,000 to recognize a faith-based nonprofit which is "making a life-changing impact on North Carolina children."

The first recipient was Young Life on the Crystal Coast, based in Morehead City. The funds were used for summer camp, leadership training, and curriculum.

The second recipient was The Refuge, a camp located near Ayden. The funds are being utilized on a capital project which will increase the camp's capacity.

Members of the Board of Directors will meet soon, so expect an announcement on this year's winner.

# Leaving a Legacy

## Lowes Estate Gift Funds Children's Projects

A sizeable gift from the estate of long-time benefactors Boyd and Leely Lowe is providing funds for three Rye projects across North Carolina.

In the early days of the Foundation, Boyd and Leely participated in site tours, attended "Champions for Children" events, and made regular financial contributions. They always had a special interest in programs that helped children who had encountered obstacles in their young lives.

Married for 67 years, the couple spent much of their life in Clemmons. Boyd retired from the Lipton Tea Company and died in 2013 at the age of 93. Leely retired from Salem Academy and died in 2017, also at the age of 93.

Several years ago, Boyd and Leely were the subject of a feature article in the Rye newsletter. Leely was quoted as saying, "I believe the Rye Foundation is a wonderful way to support and encourage children."

Their daughter, Anne Lowe Murphy, remembers that her parents appreciated the Foundation's clear-cut focus of supporting children. "My parents believed in the mission of the Rye Foundation because they recognized the importance of encouragement, support, and love in the lives of children," she stated.

Warren Steen, the president of the Rye Foundation, delivered the eulogy at Leely's memorial service. "Leely Lowe had a profound passion for encouraging children through the beauty of music," he stated. "She wanted every child's heart to be touched, and she sought out children who were overcoming obstacles."

As Anne reflected on her parents' generosity, she said, "For both of them, Christian stewardship was inherent in their faith. There was never a question of whether they would give back a portion of what they had been blessed with."

For thousands of boys and girls, they are "leaving a legacy" through their stewardship.



Spanning the Globe – During a Rye-sponsored site visit to Camp Mundo Vista in Randolph County, Boyd and Leely Lowe met with missionary speaker Caroline Jones (right).

## One Final Question:

What kind of legacy do you plan to leave?

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Rye Foundation is to make a life-changing impact on children by providing grants in the areas of religion, youth, and education.



Post Office Box 25333, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27114  
336-760-2260