



# Religion Youth Education

CELEBRATING \$1 MILLION IN CHARITABLE GIVING

## Rye Funds Projects at Fort Caswell and Caraway: Both are Memorials to Edith Slate Watts



Mrs. Watts  
1930-2019

OAK ISLAND - Two significant gifts to the Rye Foundation from a Guilford County supporter have funded capital projects at Baptist camps.

The charitable gifts, which included appreciated stock, came from long-time benefactor Monica Slate Vaughan of Greensboro. They were made in memory of her mother, Edith Slate Watts, who died in 2019 at the age of 89.

“At an early age, I witnessed my mother caring for others with her time, energy, and resources,” said Mrs. Vaughan. “Gratefully, she passed on this passion for seeing and responding to the needs of others to her family.”

At the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, the Edith Slate Watts Prayer Garden provides a place of meditation as campers walk along the picturesque coastal site in Oak Island. And at Caraway Conference Center and Camp near Asheboro, the Edith Slate Watts Room fulfills a need for more meeting space.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Watts enjoyed her work at Cone Mills

Research and Development. After retirement, she joined her husband Jack in the operation of O’Henry Country Kitchen, which served as a gathering spot for the Rankin community of Greensboro.

She was actively involved in her local church, Rankin Baptist Church, and viewed her service as a privilege. “She was instrumental in assisting with the resettlement of the Greensboro Montagnard community,” her daughter recalled. “On any given day, you would find her helping with groceries, housing, jobs, enrolling the children in school, or seeking medical attention where needed.”

Currently, additional naming opportunities are available at children’s projects throughout the state. Detailed information may be obtained by contacting the Foundation office.

One final question: What kind of legacy do you plan to leave?



Coastal Retreat - A camper pauses at the newly-built Edith Slate Watts Prayer Garden at Fort Caswell.

# Funding Spotlight: Boys and Girls Homes of NC Receives \$10,000 for Music, Leadership

LAKE WACCAMAW - In its latest round of charitable grant-giving, the Rye Foundation has provided \$10,000 to the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina.

Rye leaders said the investment will help the Homes to:

- Expand music opportunities for children on campus.
- Create the Rye Leadership Award, to be presented to a child at the year-end recognition banquet.
- Provide pandemic-related equipment and supplies for Rotary Cottage.

“This is the third time that our friends at Rye have made a significant investment,” said Ricky Creech, president of the Homes. “We are thankful for their support, and we promise to spend these funds wisely as we carry out our mission of helping children and families.”

A feature article announcing the gift appeared in the Whiteville News-Reporter and contained the following paragraph:

“Over the years, the Rye Foundation has built chapels, constructed camp lodges, provided scholarships, purchased musical instruments, and supported programs aimed at children from military families.”

Once again, we are glad to support one of the leading child-care institutions in our state.



Quality Care - At the Boys and Girls Homes, children perform daily chores, receive religious instruction, and participate in outdoor activities such as caring for farm animals.

## Rye Extends Bryan Award: Commitment Now Totals \$175,000

GOLDSBORO - In a major announcement, the Rye Foundation said it is extending and expanding its premier statewide award.

Since its establishment in 2016, the Bryan Award has provided recognition for a children’s charity which is making a positive impact in the arena of faith-based philanthropy.

Each recipient receives \$25,000 to enhance its programming. The announcement reported that the original four-year time frame has been extended by an additional three years.

Rye officials explained that the award is named for Goldsboro businessman and philanthropist Ray Bryan. During his lifetime, he was one of Rye’s most generous supporters, and he served as an Honorary member of the Board of Directors. He died in 2016 at the age of 84.

Warren Steen, the President of the Rye Foundation, stated, “Hundreds of children have already been helped by our faith-based philanthropy, and we

are committed to expanding the impact of the Bryan Award.”

That impact is clearly visible in Hertford, home to recent recipient Cale Camp. Funding enabled the camp to launch its “Leaders of Tomorrow” initiative, where high school students receive specialized training in leadership skills.

Participants came from a multi-county region which included Manteo, Nags Head, Elizabeth City, and Hertford. Camp leaders believe that many of the students will return to Cale Camp and serve as summer counselors and role models for younger campers.

Every individual success story is a lasting tribute to Mr. Bryan, who loved children and believed that God has a special plan for each child.

## Philanthropy in the Pandemic: Trends, Dreams, and Opportunities

By J. Warren Steen

Leading a charitable foundation during the global pandemic has been both challenging and rewarding. Without question, there are more opportunities than obstacles.

Here are several trends and developments.

### Churches Buying Commercial Properties

A feature article in the Winston-Salem Journal reported on a new trend. Four local churches have bought area businesses, and announced their plans to convert the space into worship centers. Sites include a 10-screen movie theatre, and a Harris-Teeter grocery store.

Due to rising building costs, the churches "have chosen transformation over construction," the newspaper stated.

### Religious Households Donate More

Another trend is being analyzed by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. Researchers found that "religious donors" gave an average of \$2,656 annually, while secular households donated \$1,225.

### Basketball Coaches Raise Money for Street School

Three championship coaches and an entrepreneur were guest speakers at a fundraising banquet which generated funds for the Winston-Salem Street School. The event was a celebrity roast for Coach Dave Odom, who led Wake Forest to back-to-back championships in the ACC Tournament.

Speakers included Coach Bobby Cremins, Coach Tubby Smith, Coach Roy Williams, and businessman Ben Sutton. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Western Forsyth, the event chairman was Gene Blackwelder.

It was an honor to attend the banquet, and to learn that 250 students have already graduated from the Street School.

### Crisscrossing North Carolina

During the pandemic, I also:

- Discovered a Greensboro coffee shop named Special Blend. Operated by developmentally disabled adults, it offered outside seating for meetings with Rye supporters.
- Attended milestone birthday parties for two special friends and supporters, as David Braswell turned 90 in Wilkes County and Dottie Petree celebrated her 95th in Forsyth County.
- Traveled to site visits in Clayton, Clemmons, and Lake Waccamaw to view current and potential children's projects.
- Served as moderator for another uplifting "Champions for Children Day", when children's charities made formal presentations on their mission, goals, and funding priorities.
- Learned about City Lights Ministry and its remarkable achievement of building and delivering 900 beds to children in inner-city Winston-Salem, and giving each child a Bible.

### Restaurant Reviews

During my travels, these three places provided great food and quality service: Kure Beach Diner in Kure Beach, Mozelle's Fresh Southern Bistro in Winston-Salem, and Phil's Barbecue in Black Mountain.

### Lesson from Noah's Ark

On social media, a widely-circulated article shares this advice: "Remember that the ark was built by amateurs, and the Titanic was built by professionals."



J. Warren Steen is president of the Rye Foundation in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In addition to serving as Chairman of the David Richards Memorial Polio Campaign, he was also the Founding Chairman of the Parents Council at the UNC School of Medicine. A graduate of Wake Forest University, he has served on the Board of Directors for the school's Deacon Club.



# Leaving a Legacy

## News and Notes

### Gallup Survey: Church Members Now a Minority

Only 47 percent of Americans identify with a church congregation, according to a poll released by Gallup. In 1999, the number was 70 percent.

### Magazine Promotes “Patriotic Partnership”

A feature article in Forsyth Family magazine reported on the Rye Foundation’s collaborative efforts to provide summer camp for children who have had a parent die on the battlefield. Written by Denise Heidel, the article described how children benefit from a week at YMCA Camp Hanes in Stokes County.

### Sertoma Club Program

Rye board member Christa Warise and Warren Steen served as guest speakers at the Winston-Salem Sertoma Club. Their program was titled, “The Wide and Wonderful World of Philanthropy.”

### Estate Planning Tip: Perspective from Bill Moyers

A while back, our president Warren Steen met broadcasting legend Bill Moyers. They had a mutual friend in the late Dr. Foy Valentine, the Steen family’s across-the-street- neighbor in Nashville, Tennessee.

In his book *A Journalist and His Times*, Moyers wrote about life expectancy and concluded, “No matter how well we age, the death rate remains the same: one per person.”

One of the best ways to “leave a legacy” is to include the Rye Foundation in your will. If you desire to help children, remember that “where there’s a will, there’s a way.”

### Estate Planning Tip: Part 2

It is vitally important to review and update beneficiary designations on insurance policies and retirement accounts. Friends and supporters are encouraged to list the Rye Foundation as a beneficiary.

### Web Site Offers Statewide Coverage

Our colorful, user-friendly site includes newsletters, feature stories, and dozens of photos showing children who are helped by Rye philanthropy. It can be accessed at [ryefoundation.org](http://ryefoundation.org).

## In Loving Memory

This issue is dedicated to five special “Friends of Rye”, who supported the Foundation through their encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts.

Paul H. Broyhill ..... Lenoir  
Nancy Griffin Buchanan ..... Wilkesboro  
Margo Jackson Crofts ..... Winston-Salem  
Maurice Jennings ..... Greensboro  
Dorothy Bridgeman Maynard ..... Taylorsville



Board Leaders - Three members of Rye’s Board of Directors posed for a photo at their recent meeting, held at the Historic Brookstown Inn in Winston-Salem. Shown are (from left) Ingram Hedgpeth, Christa Warise, and Pam Cash. At the meeting, the Board voted to allocate funds to eight children’s organizations.

## 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