



# Religion Youth Education

FALL Newsletter 2024

Dear Friend of the Rye Foundation,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of John “Warren” Steen III, the beloved president of the Rye Foundation, who unexpectedly yet peacefully entered his heavenly home on February 26, 2024.

Warren was a true “champion of children,” and we take comfort in knowing he is with the Lord, reunited with those he loved.

Guided by his faith, love for others, and a heart for service, Warren dedicated his life to philanthropy and serving children and families in need. His leadership and vision left a lasting impact on the foundation and the many lives touched by his work.

Since 2001, Warren led our annual Champions for Children meetings, where passionate leaders came together to address the needs of vulnerable children across North Carolina. His attention to detail, deep faith, and love for people will forever inspire the work we do in directing charitable dollars to many amazing ministries blessing the children throughout our state, including:

- Christian camps
- Sports and character development
- Children with parents in prison
- Music enrichment

*As we continue his mission, we invite you to honor Warren’s legacy by supporting the Rye Foundation. Your donations will help continue the work Warren held so close to his heart—serving children in need. If you would like to contribute in memory of Warren, please send your gift to:*

**Rye Foundation  
PO Box 25333  
Winston-Salem, NC 27114**

Your generosity will make a meaningful difference, ensuring that Warren’s passion for helping children lives on. We ask that you join us in prayer for Warren’s family: his wife, their children and grandchildren, his mother, and sisters. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we carry on Warren’s mission.

With gratitude,  
**The Board of Directors,  
Rye Foundation**



**John “Warren” Steen III**

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# Rye Foundation Notable News From The Past Year

The following stories offer insight into some of the lives touched by the work of the Rye Foundation. Your donations allow us to continue Warren's legacy of touching the lives of children and families throughout North Carolina.



## \$10,000 Gift To Surry Medical Ministries

In December 2023, a gift was presented to Surry Medical Ministries to help them expand their services for children.

Since 1993, this ministry has worked with Surry County citizens in need to provide a better quality of life by ensuring families have access to the comprehensive healthcare services everyone deserves – regardless of one's ability to pay.

The Rye Foundation gift allowed up to 200 children to receive care they may otherwise not have had access to, as well as allowed for the purchase of Bibles in both English and Spanish.

## All-State Youth Choir Update

Due in part to a Rye Foundation Donation, The 2024 All-State Youth Choir of North Carolina toured this past summer in the eastern half of the state during the week of July 14th. Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Aaron Rice, these talented students pulled off an amazing feat—preparing breathtaking music in just three days! They shared their gift in both ministry and concert, making a lasting impact everywhere they went.

Their performances included historic churches, a children's home, and a senior living center, and the choir's performances uplifted hearts and built connections that will be remembered for years to come. This unforgettable experience for our high schoolers was filled with new friendships, powerful music, and the joy of serving others through song!



## Baptist Association Awarded \$25,000

The New South River Baptist Association was named the recipient of this year's Bryan Award by the Rye Foundation. The recognition included a \$25,000 grant, which the Association is utilizing to expand its ministries to children in military families.

The Bryan Award honors the "life and legacy" of Ray Bryan, a Goldsboro businessman and philanthropist who died in 2016 at the age of 84.

He believed that God has a plan for every child, and that every boy and girl needed positive role models in the home and in the community.

*To Help Continue The Work of Rye Foundation, please send your donation to:*  
Rye Foundation • PO Box 25333, Winston-Salem, NC 27114