

# Grant to Piedmont Community Services Expands Support Platform Across Martinsville & Henry, Franklin, Patrick Counties

MARTINSVILLE, VA, UNITED STATES,  
October 28, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ --

A new regional initiative is launching this fall to support residents in crisis in Southside Virginia. Thanks to a generous grant from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and in partnership with Piedmont Community Services serving the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick and the City of

Martinsville—will expand access to CareForward, a Roanoke-based mobile technology platform that connects community members with neighbors in urgent need.



The expansion will officially launch with a community kickoff event at 11:00 AM December 4th, 2025 at the New College Institute.

“We’re always looking for ways to strengthen the continuum of care in our region,” said Greg Preston, Executive Director of the Piedmont Community Services. “CareForward expands that network by connecting local organizations, volunteers, and resources directly to those in need - helping bridge the gap between community support and long-term well-being.”

CareForward operates a secure, mobile-friendly platform that connects local volunteers and partner organizations with critical needs identified by departments of social services. These needs may include transportation to appointments, donation of gently used medical equipment and furniture, basic home repairs, accessibility improvements, or other supports that promote safety, dignity, and health at home.

“This partnership allows Piedmont Community Services to offer new tools that directly address urgent gaps in care,” said Greg Preston. “It’s an opportunity to activate local volunteers, businesses, churches, non-profits, our higher education institutions and civic groups to improve lives right here in our communities.”

CareForward supports individuals who are at risk of experiencing a negative health outcome without timely community intervention. This includes seniors, people with chronic or complex health conditions, individuals with disabilities, and those facing housing instability or social isolation. CareForward's goal is to connect these individuals with volunteers and resources that help them remain safely in their homes and communities. Eligibility is determined by whether the person's well-being could be significantly improved, or harm prevented, through a responsive act of care.

"Our mission is simple: bring people together to improve health and well-being," said Natalie Handy, CEO of CareForward, Inc. "This partnership with Piedmont Community Services through DBHDS allows us to strengthen the fabric of Southwest Virginia communities by mobilizing care at the neighborhood level. We're grateful for their investment and excited to get started."

Community members are encouraged to get involved by signing up as individual volunteers or partner organizations. Volunteers can build ramps, check in on isolated individuals, provide transportation, and more. Businesses, churches, nonprofits, higher education, and civic groups can contribute by donating goods, offering discounts, or organizing volunteer teams.

To learn more or to sign up, [volunteer.careforward.io/piedmont](https://volunteer.careforward.io/piedmont)

Natalie Handy  
CareForward, Inc  
+1 540-819-4514  
[natalie@careforward.io](mailto:natalie@careforward.io)  
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