

LOCAL

Lowe's, Duke Endowment donating \$27M to hurricane recovery after Helene, Milton

BY JEFF A. CHAMER AND CATHERINE MUCCIGROSSO
jchamer@charlotteobserver.com
cmuccigrosso@charlotteobserver.com

In the wake of hurricanes Helene and Milton, Charlotte-area companies like Lowe's and nonprofit Duke Endowment are committing a combined \$27 million to recovery efforts.

Lowe's funding comes on the heels of Duke Endowment's commitment to give \$15 million to recovery efforts in the Carolinas.

The private foundation named after industrialist

James B. Duke said Wednesday that \$7.5 million of that money would be split between organizations— one in Western North Carolina and one in Upstate South Carolina.

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina's Emergency and Disaster Response Fund will receive \$5 million, the foundation said.

The Central Carolina Community Foundation's One SC Fund, which works with nonprofits to provide food and housing in South Carolina, will receive \$2.5 million.

Based in Charlotte, The Duke Endowment is not related to Duke Energy or Duke University.

"It has been overwhelming to see the devastation in Western North Carolina and upstate South Carolina," said Charles C. Lucas III, chair of the foundation's board of trustees, in a press release. "Our hope is that these initial dollars will go towards addressing short-term and urgent needs for those affected. As the region transitions to recovery and rebuilding, this is the right way to start."



ROBERT WILLETT / willett@newsobserver.com

Green River Cove Road along the Green River was destroyed by flooding in the wake of Hurricane Helene on Monday near Saluda.

The other half of the \$15 million commitment will be donated as staff members from the foundation vet organizations, the press release said.

LOWE'S DONATES \$10 MILLION MORE TO HELENE RECOVERY

Lowe's is adding \$10 million to the multi-state

recovery efforts on top of \$2 million already announced Sept. 30, the Mooresville-based home improvement chain said in a news release Friday.

The money will be used to assist Lowe's nonprofit partners and first responders in recovery efforts, including support in Western North Carolina, the

company said.

Lowe's employees also are volunteering hours and using Lowe's merchandise to help communities clear mud and debris, the company said.

Jeff A. Chamer: @jeffchamer

Former Green Beret flew to 3-year-old daughter, then helped other Helene victims in NC

BY RYAN OEHRLI
roehrli@charlotteobserver.com

A former Army Green Beret has been helping lead volunteer helicopter pilots as they drop suppli-

es and rescue people across Western North Carolina.

Black Mountain's Adam Smith led the effort after a more personal job. His ex-wife, Megan, and three-year-old daughter,

Tove, live close to the Broad River.

He lost contact when the storm hit and feared they were dead. In a brief interview before he went on another helicopter mission Tuesday, Smith

said he was in Texas at the start of the storm.

"I legitimately didn't think there was any hope," he said. "The house is, like, 30 yards from the river."

A friend flew Smith to


the house and airlifted his family out.

Since then, he's rounded up other military connections, and they've set up base at a Harley-Davidson shop in Swannanoa. About 300 volun-

teers have delivered food, rescued people and brought a generator to a community center by air, Smith said.

"That's really what it's been," Smith said. "It's been guys getting (stuff) done because they support their community."

Ryan Oehrli: @oehrli



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