
MONTREAT®
CONFERENCE CENTER
2025–2026 Donor List

A Word of Gratitude

Dear Friends,

The following pages recognize those who supported Montreat Conference Center with charitable gifts during the fiscal year ending April 30, 2026. As we reflect on the year behind us, we do so with profound gratitude – not only for the generosity itself, but for what that generosity has made possible.

Each year, one of my greatest joys is reading through this report and seeing these names gathered together. More than a list of donors, it is a testimony to a community bound together by affection for Montreat and a shared belief in its mission. Page after page, these names tell a story of generosity and enduring love for a place and ministry close to my heart and those of so many more.

As the year began, many wondered what recovery from Hurricane Helene would mean and what it would require of the conference center. This report reveals a key facet of that extraordinary response – a spirit of generosity that has continued well beyond the storm. Contributions to the Montreat Fund, Hurricane Helene recovery, capital improvements, endowment, and program support fueled more than a recovery – these gifts propelled us forward with renewed confidence and purpose. These gifts have strengthened our ability to care for our campus, improve facilities, support staff, expand hospitality, and enrich the programs that serve thousands each year. Among the highlights:

- Another rich summer season filled with worship, recreation, music, learning, and fellowship for all ages.
- Continued investment in campus restoration and storm mitigation, including repairs and improvements to infrastructure, facilities, and wilderness areas.
- The expansion of hospitality and guest services as conferences, retreats, and events returned with renewed energy.
- The generosity of volunteers, churches, foundations, and first-time donors whose support widened and strengthened our community.
- The faithful work of staff who carried on with resilience and creativity.
- The continued emphasis on our strategic priorities, which includes strengthening our financial foundation.

Every name listed represents an act of faith – a record of a gift that sustained this ministry and allowed us to invest meaningfully in the future. These gifts ground us in humility and renew our commitment to use these resources faithfully by offering excellent programs and recreation, careful stewardship of this beloved place, and hospitality that reflects the grace and spirit of Christ.

On behalf of all who come to Montreat and for all they are able to find here, thank you.

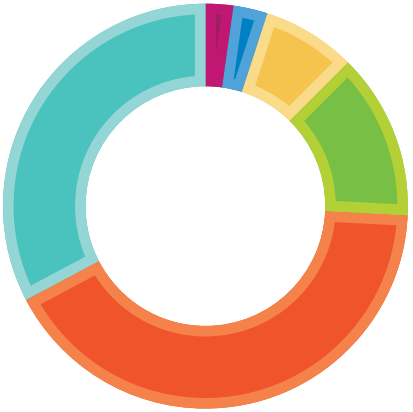


Gratefully,

Richard DuBose

President, Montreat Conference Center

Sources of Revenue



- Program | 32.7%
- Hospitality | 41.3%
- Montreat Fund | 13.5%
- Retail | 7.4%
- Unrestricted Endowment | 3%
- Other | 2%

Total Operating Revenue: $9,907,548

$1,335,145 donated to the Montreat Fund

$21,074,420 in Endowment net assets[1]

[1]As of 4/30/2026

83 church donors from 16 states

1,467 donor households

300+ volunteers

Giving

Thanks to the generosity of 1,467 donors, the Montreat Fund surpassed $1 million for the seventh consecutive year, making the 2025-2026 fiscal year our highest year on record. The Montreat staff and volunteers offer endless gratitude for the support of those listed below. Each donor offers a unique perspective on the Montreat experience, but are all joined in the common goal of supporting Montreat's mission of being a place to grow in faith, rest with family, and connect with wilderness for many years to come.

^ = Firefly Society	Recognizes those who have made a current or deferred gift of $10,000 or more to the endowment, those who have $100,000 or more in lifetime giving, and/or those that made a legacy gift to Montreat in their estate plan.
= Young Patrons	Recognizes donors age 35 and under who made a gift of $100 or more to the Montreat Fund.
⊘ = Board Members	Recognizes current members of Montreat's Board of Directors or Montreat's Development Foundation Board.
♡ = 10+ Consecutive Years of Giving	
† = Deceased	

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^ = Firefly Society | = Young Patrons | ⊘ = Board Members | ♡ = 10+Consecutive Years of Giving | † = Deceased

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Assembly Inn Dining Room Honors Katherine McKay Belk at Renaming Ceremony



The Mountain Retreat Association Inc. (MRA) recently honored the late Katherine (Kat) McKay Belk by officially renaming the Assembly Inn dining facility the "Katherine McKay Belk Dining Room" during a banquet in her honor on March 15, 2026. Guests included Kat's daughter, Katie from the 5th generation, as well as great granddaughter, Addy, from the 7th generation. Many other friends, community leaders, MRA board members, and staff also shared the celebration.

Throughout her life, Kat's philanthropic gifts, leadership, and support made a significant impact on the mission of Montreat Conference Center, a ministry of the MRA. In 2014, she made a transformational gift to the conference center's Assembly Inn renovation and served as honorary chair of a campaign to renovate the space. That gift, coupled with her leadership, was a catalyst for generosity and investment that resulted in the renewal of a cherished and vital facility in Montreat.

"Kat did not simply provide funding; Kat's gift provided momentum," says Pete Perry, president of the MRA during the time of that campaign.



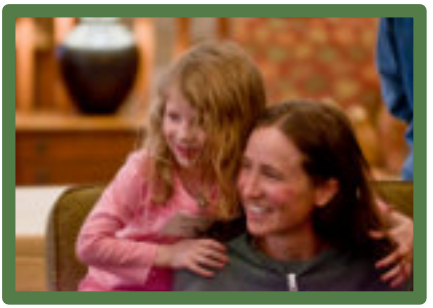
The space, formerly known as the Galax Dining Room, serves over 80,000 meals annually to those visiting Montreat for a conference, retreat, or gathering. "It is a place where faith is deepened and friendships are formed," says Richard DuBose, president of the MRA. "It is the heart of Assembly Inn and a space of nourishment in every sense of the word, and by naming this central gathering place in honor of Kat, we acknowledge not only her generosity, but her vision."

The McKay Belk family's commitment to Montreat continued in recent years through substantial gifts from the Katherine and Thomas Belk Foundation and the David Belk Cannon Foundation.

"This multi-generational commitment to Montreat has shaped some of our most important facilities," says Marti Hazelrigg, MRA's vice president for development. "Kat's commitment to philanthropy is an example of how faithful partnership with Montreat can help transform our work to reach more lives and extend hospitality to future generations."

As guests enter the newly renamed Katherine McKay Belk Dining Room in the years ahead, they may not know the full story of the campaign that renewed Assembly Inn. But they will experience its comfort, welcome, and community. And in that experience, Kat's legacy will continue, woven into the daily life and enduring mission of Montreat.





MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER

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PO Box 969
Montreat, NC 28757