



Issue: April 2026

Our Mission

Connecting women who care with causes that matter.

In this issue

- A note from Sharon Shealy
- PEARLS 2026 Impact
- International Women's Day 2026
- How to Renew Your Membership



As I reflect on our International Women's Day celebration held on March 7, 2026, in Varnville, I am filled with gratitude and pride for our community.

The event brought together voices that reminded us of the strength, resilience, and impact of women—both past and present. From First Lady Velma Carter's heartfelt opening prayer to Mayor Nat Shaffer's remarks on the vital role women play in our communities, each moment contributed to a meaningful and inspiring gathering.

We were moved by Becky Young's reflections on Olympic gold medalist Lucille Godbold, an Estill native whose legacy continues to resonate, and by Kari Foy's journey in engineering, highlighting the importance of encouragement and support for young women. Avril Yturate, a fourth-grade Girl Scout, spoke about Mae Jemison and her own dreams of traveling to space—reminding us that the future is bright.

We also heard from Tashara Morgan, Hampton County's Director of Voter Registration and Elections, whose work bringing mock elections into elementary classrooms is a powerful example of how early experiences can inspire lifelong civic engagement.

A highlight of the day was awarding over \$14,000 in grants to organizations serving Hampton County. These funds support critical efforts including home repair, food access, water safety education, healthcare workforce retention, legal services, and early childhood learning—demonstrating the impact of collective giving in action. Events like this remind us how much there is to celebrate—and how important it is to continue supporting one another and the work being done across our community.

Thank you to everyone who made this day so special.

Warmly,
Sharon Shealy

PEARLS 2026 Impact



The PEARLS 2026 grants reflect the power of collective giving in Hampton County. This year, over \$14,000 was awarded to organizations addressing critical community needs—from home repairs and food access to water safety education, legal services, and healthcare workforce retention. Each grant represents the shared commitment of PEARLS members to support, uplift, and invest in the well-being of our neighbors. *With continued growth in membership, PEARLS' impact in Hampton County continues to expand.*

2026 Grant Recipients:

- **Lowcountry Legal Volunteers** – Healthy and Thriving Hampton County (\$2,000)
- **Second Helpings, Inc.** – Healthy Food Initiative Hampton (\$3,000)
- **Beaufort-Jasper YMCA of the Lowcountry** – Hampton 2nd Grade Water Safety (\$3,000)
- **Black Swamp Salkehatchie** – Home Repairs in Hampton County (\$5,000)
- **South Carolina Nurse Retention Initiative** – 2026 Nurse Retention – Hampton County (\$1,400)

www.cf-lowcountry.org

International Womens Day 2026



The 2026 International Women’s Day celebration was a meaningful success for PEARLS and the Hampton County community. The event highlighted the power of inspiration across generations, from Avril Yturate, a fourth-grade Girl Scout, who spoke about Mae Jemison and her own dreams of traveling to space, to community leaders like Mayor Nat Shaffer, who emphasized the vital role women play in shaping our society. The presence of partners such as Anne Caywood of Lowcountry Legal Volunteers reflected the strong spirit of collaboration and shared commitment to uplifting women and strengthening the community.



Events like this are made possible through the collective generosity and engagement of PEARLS members, whose support continues to create opportunities, fund impactful programs, and bring people together across Hampton County. With growing interest and new members joining, the momentum behind PEARLS continues to build—demonstrating the powerful difference that a community of women can make when they come together with purpose.



Join a community of women making a meaningful difference in Hampton County.

If you are a current or returning PEARLS member, your annual contribution can be made online or by mail using the card below. New members may also join this way. To renew online, visit cf-lowcountry.org and choose PEARLS of Hampton County under "Make an Online Donation."



Join PEARLS or Learn More
Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code below.

Open your camera app, point it at the code, and tap the link that appears on your screen.

