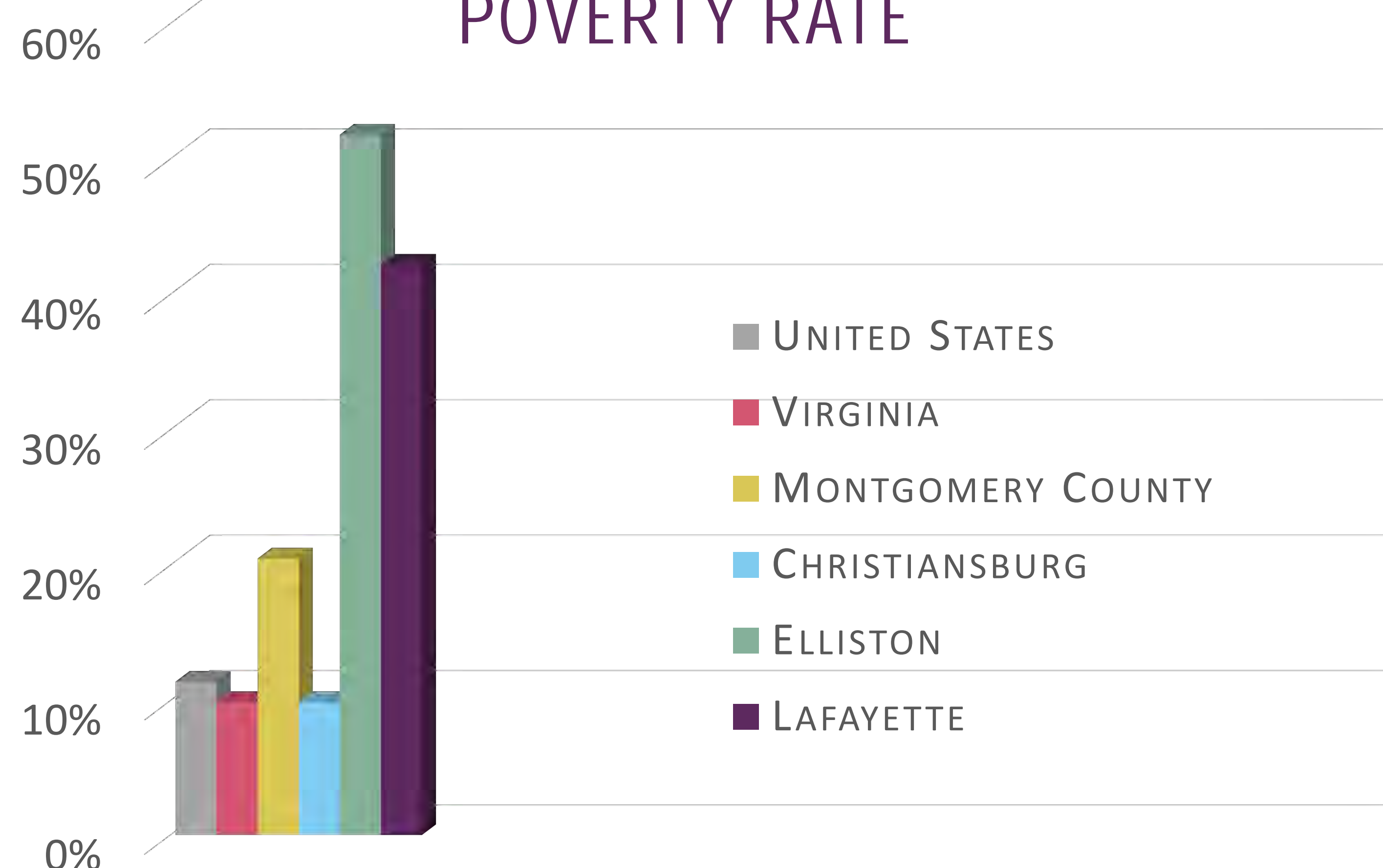


## THE SUMMARY

The Eastmont Community Foundation has been integral in the fight against poverty in the eastern most areas of Montgomery County, Virginia, since 1983. Over the past 38 years, the organization has provided the community with a thrift store, food bank, library, fitness center, community center, outdoor entertainment and recreation areas, and scholarships. While the county's poverty rate is 20.5 percent, more than double the state's rate, poverty in two of three Eastern Montgomery communities more than doubles the county rate. One has a poverty rate of 51.8 percent. A mere 20 minutes away sits Christiansburg, with a poverty rate of 9.9 percent, and Virginia Tech with \$540 million in annual research expenditures. The Eastmont Community Foundation has worked tirelessly to help even the economic and educational playing field in Montgomery County by providing necessities at little to no cost to community members with a deep understanding of the community's economic position.

## POVERTY RATE



## THE RESEARCH

The research conducted through this project was based around the participatory action-based research method. We wanted to better understand the organization, their problems and needs, as well as their ideas for addressing those things.

**SOURCES:** U.S. Census Bureau, datausa.io, Eastmont Community Foundation Records



# EASTMONT

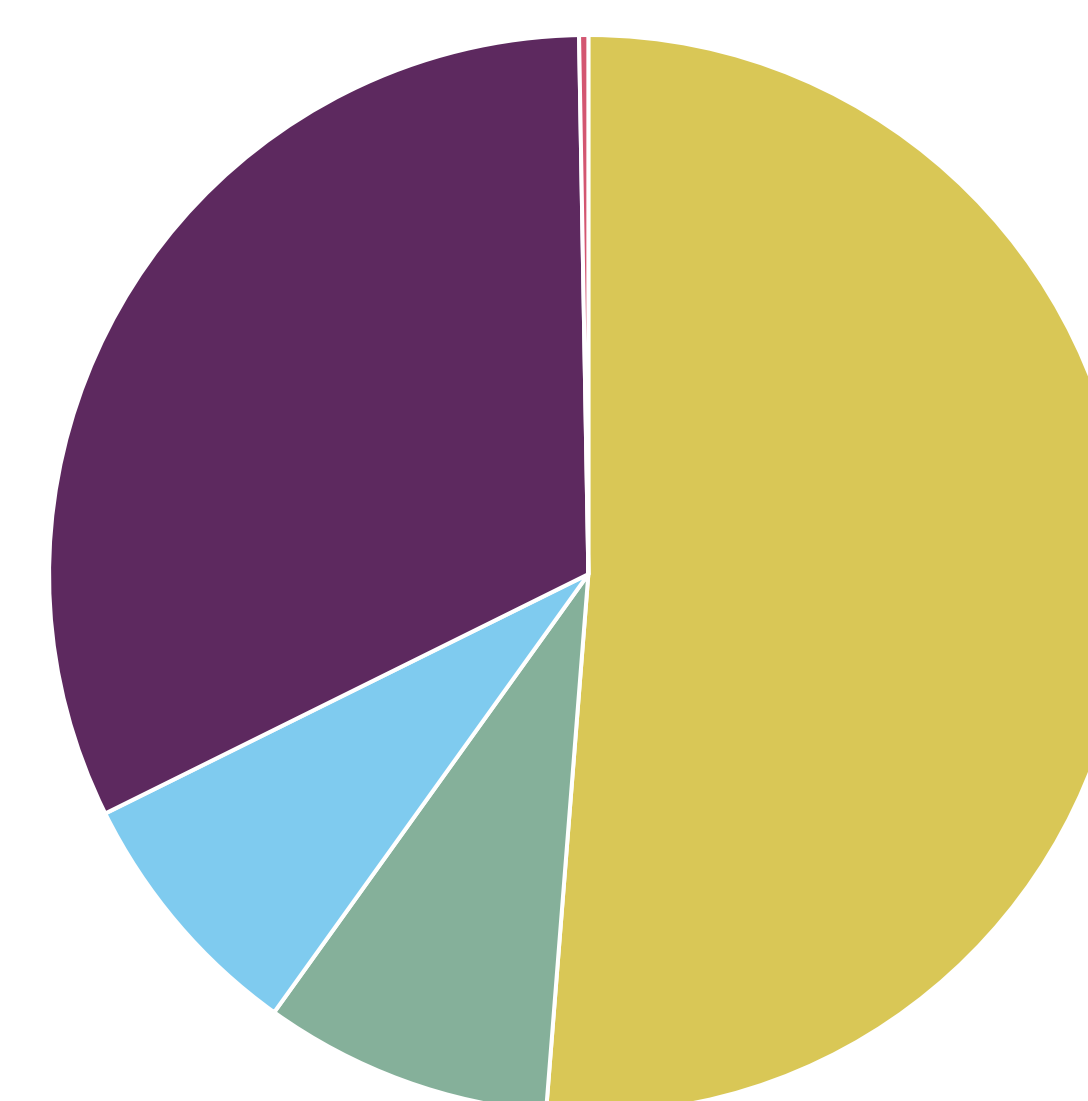
## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## THE ORGANIZATION

The Eastmont Community Foundation has helped better the lives of those living in eastern Montgomery County by using grants, fundraisers, and generous donations to create and maintain a thrift store, food bank, public library, fitness center, community center, and an outdoor recreation and entertainment area. They also issue several scholarships annually to students in the community, as well as grants to local businesses. The thrift store, food bank, and scholarships have helped make what was once unattainable to many readily available and affordable.

## INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY EASTMONT

(9 MONTH AVERAGE)



EASTMONT POPULATION  
 WALDRON WELLNESS CENTER  
 SCHOLARSHIPS  
 DALE'S FOOD PANTRY  
 MEADOWBROOK LIBRARY

## THE PLAN

After talking with members of the organization and touring their multiple facilities, we started working on our plan.

- Provide access to a credit card reader to be used at the thrift store
- Work within the community/organization
  - Town beautification?
- Create a better social media presence



0  
Posts

0  
Followers

0  
Following

Eastmont Thrift Store

1870 Big Spring Dr, Elliston, VA 24087

[www.eastmontcf.com/eastmont-thrift-store](http://www.eastmontcf.com/eastmont-thrift-store)



## THE OUTCOME

Working through the semester I was able to achieve the following for the organization.

- Work at the "Shawsvegas" annual casino night fundraiser
- Planned a mural, to be painted in Spring 2022.
- Compiled interviews to create an oral history of the Eastmont Community Foundation from conception to present day.
- Created a new Instagram for the thrift store
- Donating banners for facility fronts.
- Our plan to provide access for a card reader was completed by an outside force halfway through the semester



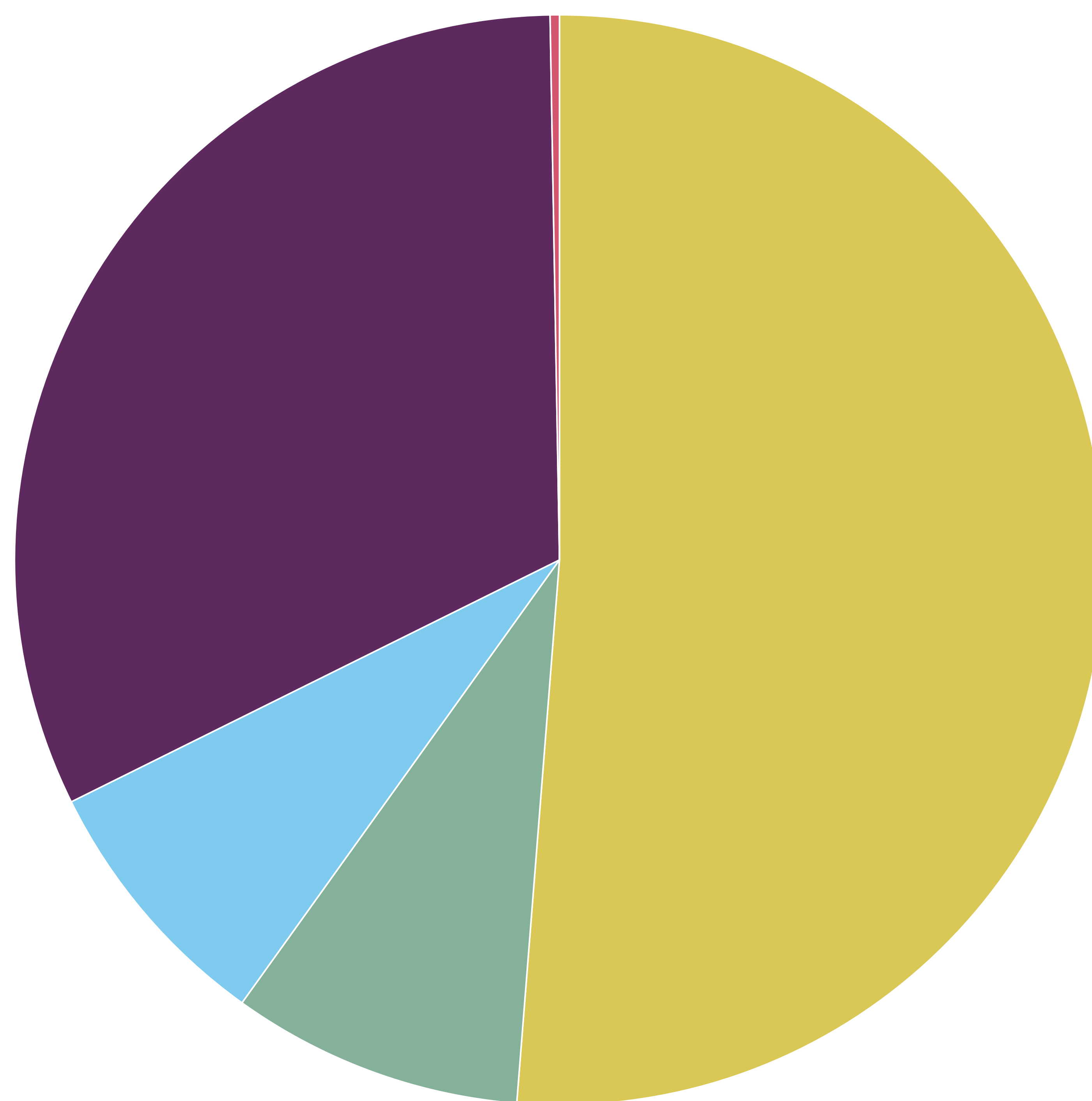
# THE ORGANIZATION



## EASTMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Eastmont Community Foundation has helped better the lives of those living in eastern Montgomery County by using grants, fundraisers, and generous donations to create and maintain a thrift store, food bank, public library, fitness center, community center, and an outdoor recreation and entertainment area. They also issue several scholarships annually to students in the community, as well as grants to local businesses. The thrift store, food bank, and scholarships have helped make what was once unattainable to many readily available and affordable.

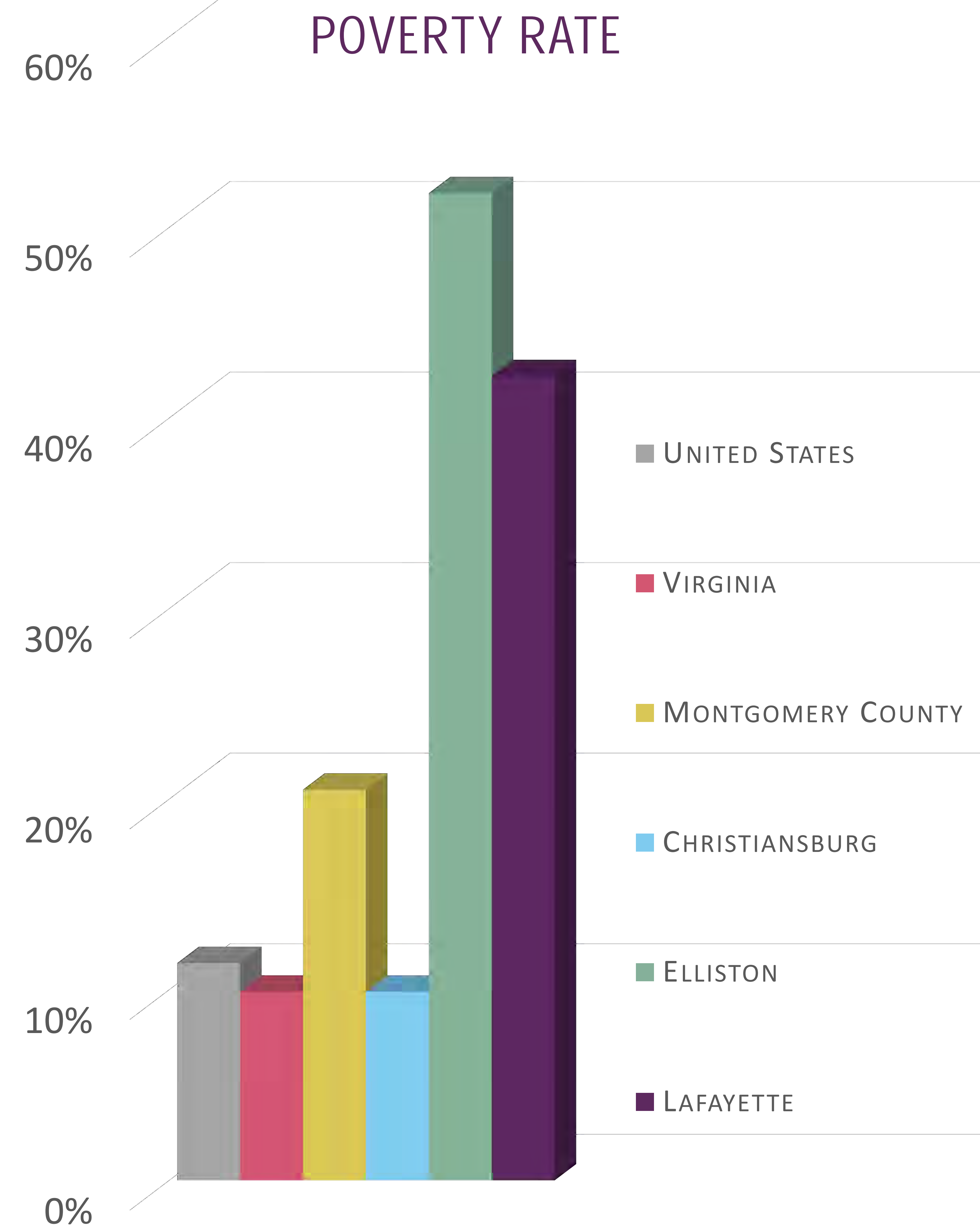
INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY EASTMONT  
(9 MONTH AVERAGE)



■ EASTMONT POPULATION    ■ DALE'S FOOD PANTRY    ■ WALDRON WELLNESS CENTER  
■ MEADOWBROOK LIBRARY    ■ SCHOLARSHIPS

# THE SUMMARY

The Eastmont Community Foundation has been integral in the fight against poverty in the eastern most areas of Montgomery County, Virginia, since 1983. Over the past 38 years, the organization has provided the community with a thrift store, food bank, library, fitness center, community center, outdoor entertainment and recreation areas, and scholarships. While the county's poverty rate is 20.5 percent, more than double the state's rate, poverty in two of three Eastern Montgomery communities more than doubles the county rate. One has a poverty rate of 51.8 percent. A mere 20 minutes away sits Christiansburg, with a poverty rate of 9.9 percent, and Virginia Tech with \$540 million in annual research expenditures. The Eastmont Community Foundation has worked tirelessly to help even the economic and educational playing field in Montgomery County by providing necessities at little to no cost to community members with a deep understanding of the community's economic position.







## THE RESEARCH

The research conducted through this project was based around the participatory action-based research method. We wanted to better understand the organization, their problems and needs, as well as their ideas for addressing those things.



# THE PLAN

After talking with both the current and former president of the organization, meeting a few board members, and taking a tour of the multiple facilities operated by the organization, a plan of action was made. It was decided that the thrift store needed the most attention.

- Provide access to a credit card reader to be used at the thrift store.
  - Internet/signal booster?
- Create a better social media presence.
  - Instagram for thrift store
- Work within the organization.
  - Volunteer
  - Shawsvegas
  - Beautification
- Oral history of organization.





# THE OUTCOME

Working through the semester with the Eastmont Foundation I was able to do the following:

- Created a new Instagram for the thrift store.
- Work at the “Shawsvegas” annual casino night fundraiser.
- Planned a mural, to be painted in Spring 2022, on the thrift store wall, with the help of local youth artists.
- Donating custom banners to display at facilities.
- Created an audio narrative of the foundation's history.

Our plan to provide access for a card reader was completed by an outside donation to the organization halfway through the semester.



eastmont\_thrift ▾ ●



0  
Posts

0  
Followers

0  
Following

Eastmont Thrift Store  
1870 Big Spring Dr, Elliston, VA 24087  
[www.eastmontcf.com/eastmont-thrift-store](http://www.eastmontcf.com/eastmont-thrift-store)

Edit Profile