FIRST STEP FARM OF WNC
50th ANNIVERSARY MONTH
SEPTEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, First Step Farm of WNC, Inc. was chartered in 1976 and has provided a unique and supportive pathway to recovery for adults overcoming substance dependency for five decades; and,

WHEREAS, located in Candler, it is a valued member of the Buncombe County community, serving individuals from throughout North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the Farm provides a long-term residential program that combines counseling, self-help, healthy living, and meaningful work to help individuals build confidence, self-respect, responsibility, and the skills needed for a life in recovery; and,

WHEREAS, through its innovative Work Therapy Program, residents gain practical vocational, social, and life skills while contributing to the operation of the farm, greenhouses, and other programs, providing opportunities to develop a strong work ethic and prepare for employment and independent living; and,

WHEREAS, the Farm has grown from its beginnings as a residential recovery program into a productive agricultural operation, with farming beginning in 1978 and greenhouse operations beginning in 1980, providing opportunities for residents to develop valuable skills while producing agricultural products for communities in the region; and,

WHEREAS, more than 4,000 North Carolina residents have benefited from First Step Farm's clinical counseling and work therapy programs, with former residents throughout the state who have gone on to lead productive lives in recovery; and,

WHEREAS, First Step Farm will celebrate its 50th anniversary during its annual "Pig Pickin" on September 19, 2026, bringing together members of the First Step Farm community to commemorate five decades of service and recovery; and,

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners recognizes and celebrates First Step Farm of WNC for 50 years of service, hope, opportunity, and commitment to helping individuals take the first steps toward a life of recovery and independence,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners proclaims **September 2026** as **First Step Farm of WNC 50th Anniversary Month** and encourages all residents to join First Step Farm in celebrating this significant milestone and honoring its five decades of service, recovery, and positive impact throughout the state.

This 15th day of September, 2026.

Amanda Edwards

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners