

Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

April 9-12, 2026

**“Cultivating & Empowering Leaders Through
Empathy & Compassion”**

Lamentations 3:22-23

RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER
1 Ridgecrest Drive, Ridgecrest, NC 28770

Starting Thursday, April 9th at 2pm ~ Ending Sunday, April 12th at 10am



**Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr. &
Sis. Camille C. Starnes,**
*Host Prelate & Missionary Supervisor,
Piedmont Episcopal District*



Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder,
International President



Reverend Patty Smith,
*Connectional 2nd VP &
Dean of Institute*



Rutherford County DSS Lighthouse Partnership

Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society Leadership Training Institute Service Project

The **Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society Leadership Training Institute** (April 9–12, 2026 at Ridgecrest Conference Center) has selected the **Rutherford County DSS Lighthouse** as its community service project this spring.

Why Rutherford County DSS Lighthouse Was Selected

- Members saw the Lighthouse featured in the media, on television, and on Facebook.
- They were inspired by the mission of DSS to support children and families in crisis.
- They wanted to help ensure that children staying in the Lighthouse have the supplies and resources they need.
- They understand that county DSS agencies are often impacted by budget constraints and wanted to provide support.
- The conference location at Ridgecrest is within one hour of Rutherford County DSS, allowing them to directly support the Lighthouse.

Legacy Library for the Lighthouse

The organization will establish a **Legacy Library** inside the Lighthouse with books **vetted by DPI teachers** to ensure they are appropriate and enriching for children. This will be a **Legacy Library**, meaning the organization has committed to helping keep the library stocked with books so children staying at the Lighthouse may take a book with them if needed — **for as long as the Lighthouse is standing.**

Additional Donations for Families

Children & Infant Needs	Two cribs and two high chairs
Personal Supplies	Toiletries and personal hygiene items
Hair Care	Ethnic hair care products for all family members
Family Support	Gift cards for families staying in the Lighthouse

Presentation & Donation Retrieval

On **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, the organization has invited the **Rutherford County DSS Director** to attend the institute at the **Ridgecrest Conference Center** to:

- Provide a brief presentation about the **Rutherford County DSS Lighthouse**

- Share additional needs that support children and families served by DSS
- Retrieve collected **donations, books, and gift cards** designated for the Lighthouse

Prepared for Rutherford County DSS Board Meeting