

Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation Awards \$630,000 to Aid DACA Recipients, At-Risk Children, Literacy Programs and More

CHARLOTTE – The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation – an affiliate and the primary grantmaking arm of Foundation For The Carolinas – recently awarded \$630,000 to 27 organizations serving children, youth and young adults of Mecklenburg County. Among the grants was \$70,000 to the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy and Coalición Latinoamericana to provide renewal clinics and other services to assist DACA recipients. An additional \$30,000 was reserved to fund emerging issues related to DACA beneficiaries.

Grants were awarded to fund programs that foster economic opportunity by boosting student achievement, promoting kindergarten readiness, and creating college pathways and career readiness for youth and young adults, among other focus areas.

Grant awards include:

- **\$45,500 to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool** to enable the program to aid at-risk Latino children through innovative, research-based solutions to closing achievement gaps, bridging cultural differences and building social capital.
- **\$70,000 to Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy and Coalición Latinoamericana** to provide renewal clinics, community education, and emergency planning for DACA recipients and their families.
- **\$20,000 to Charlotte Speech and Hearing** to fund the Community Language/Literacy Impact Program, which brings together speech-language pathologists and childcare facilities to improve the language skills of low-income children.
- **\$9,000 to Circle de Luz** to support its summer reading program and the Back to School meeting, provide funding for programming for its alumni, consisting of young Latinas, to support them through their college experiences and to support the College 101 mentoring program.
- **\$25,000 to Communities in Schools** to prepare at-risk high school students for the next phase of educational and economic opportunity, helping them succeed in the classroom, stay on track to graduate, and prepare for post-secondary education and careers.
- **\$12,000 to Digi-Bridge** to support #STEAMsaturdays at Allenbrook Elementary school – a Saturday morning experience that gives scholars hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics activities infused with college and career-readiness skills.
- **\$25,000 to E2D** for its Re-Image CLT East program that trains and employs Garinger High School students as computer technicians to refurbish decommissioned laptops and distribute them to CMS families.
- **\$15,000 to EmpowHERment, Inc.**, for its leadership academy and mentoring program, which equips girls in grades 6-12 with the skills, connections, access and resources to champion positive change.
- **\$5,000 to Foundation for Girls**, a collaborative and scalable initiative to engage, empower, educate and employ at-risk and vulnerable youth in our community.
- **\$40,000 to HEART Tutoring**, a math intervention program for students performing below grade level in math at high-poverty CMS elementary schools.

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- **\$10,000 to Latin American Women's Association** for its Padres y Padrinos Literacy Project, whose goal is to increase the reading proficiency of K-5 Latino students to grade level or above.
- **\$10,000 to The Learning Collaborative** for its Family School Readiness Program, which seeks to prepare the whole family for success in kindergarten.
- **\$25,000 to MeckEd** for expansion to its Career Pathways program, which provides transformative experiences to youth who face obstacles limiting access to opportunity.
- **\$25,000 to OurBRIDGE** to provide after school and summer enrichment to refugee, immigrant and first generation students through programming that has a proven track record of improvements in academic achievement and college readiness.
- **\$30,000 to Profound Gentlemen** to fund a 10-month pilot program to increase access to college and career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and the Humanities for young men of color.
- **\$20,000 to Project Scientist** to help provide access to its year-round STEM programming to daughters from families with limited resources.
- **\$10,000 to Reach Out and Read Carolinas** to deepen and expand the program. Focuses include strategic planning for core program components, expansion, mobilization of resources, collaboration and evaluation of outcomes.
- **\$30,000 to Read Charlotte** for its Ready To Read program, a demonstration project to show local communities how to stimulate evidence-based literacy routines at home and in childcare programs.
- **\$25,000 to Reading Partners** to train and support volunteers to help struggling readers master core literacy skills through data-informed, curriculum-driven, one-on-one mentoring and tutoring.
- **\$15,000 to REAL School Gardens** for its Outdoor Learning program, which builds dynamic learning gardens at schools. The group also provides teacher training along with community and student engagement.
- **\$30,000 to Right Moves for Youth**, which helps students learn and practice new skills, give and receive peer support, develop positive relationships with adult mentors, and find new meaning in succeeding in school and graduating.
- **\$20,000 to UNC-Chapel Hill, Carolina College Advising Corps**, which places recent graduates of UNC-Chapel Hill as college advisers in underserved high schools. The advisers help students secure scholarship dollars, increase college-going rates and help foster a college-going culture.
- **\$10,000 to United Way of Central Carolinas** for Tutor Charlotte, an initiative working to recruit, train, match and coordinate literacy and math tutors and reading mentors for children in grades K-3.
- **\$50,000 to YBM Leadership Alliance** for Top Scholars, a college/career readiness, leadership development and community service program for under-represented, low-opportunity black students and their families.
- **\$20,000 to YMCA of Greater Charlotte** for Y Readers, which teaches reading and provides confidence-boosting activities to kindergarten through third graders who read below grade level.
- **\$8,500 to Youth Development Initiatives INC** for its Comprehensive After School Academy to engage 15 high school students from the Dillehay Courts public housing projects in a year-round, project-based, competency-building learning process to gain essential 21st century living skills.
- **\$25,000 to Youth Villages** for its YVLifeSet program, a community-based approach serving young adults to ensure they leave foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems with the intensive support and guidance they need to make a successful transition to adulthood.

NEWS RELEASE

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation is a permanent endowment at Foundation For The Carolinas that envisions a community where every resident is afforded the opportunity to be well-educated, safely housed, meaningfully employed and actively engaged in community decisions. Further, CMCF believes that the preservation and protection of our natural resources and environmentally conscious decision-making are vital to maintaining our community's quality of life.

Thanks to a generous bequest from Lucille Giles in 1995, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation has awarded more than \$35 million to nonprofit organizations serving Mecklenburg County residents.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Foundation For The Carolinas is a nonprofit community foundation serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of \$2.2 billion, the Foundation encourages and makes possible philanthropic giving by individuals of all means to benefit their communities. Visit www.ffc.org.

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