



PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

A PUBLICATION OF
FOUNDATION FOR
THE CAROLINAS

SUMMER 2018

Pages 2-3

Centers for Giving
Our Generous Donors

Pages 4-5

Robinson Center for
Civic Leadership and
Community Programs

Pages 6-7

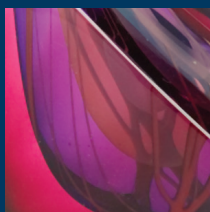
News from our
Partners and Region

Page 8

Foundation News and
Updates

FEATURED ARTIST

HARVEY
LITTLETON



Harvey Littleton was an American glass artist and educator at the University of Wisconsin, where he initiated the first hot glass program at an American university. His works are featured in the Sonia and Isaac Luski Gallery, which is free and open to the public.



FFTC Commits \$5 Million for Affordable Housing

Program-Related
Investment Launches
Housing Opportunity Fund

Read more on page 6

PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with Tanya Oesterreich

Tanya Oesterreich, of Oesterreich Law PLLC in Concord, NC, is a valuable FFTC partner. As a professional advisor, she works with clients to incorporate charitable giving in their current and long-term planning.



Tanya Oesterreich

Describe your relationship with Foundation For The Carolinas

"I have worked with FFTC for many years. Some of my clients have established donor advised funds with FFTC, while others have worked with them on planned giving solutions. I am currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cabarrus County Community Foundation, and I was previously a member of the FFTC Cabinet of Professional Advisors."

What value does your partnership with FFTC bring to your clients?

"Many clients are charitably inclined. While a client may want to establish their own private foundation or fund a charitable trust, often I find that FFTC has an alternative strategy that is less expensive and more efficient. The support FFTC gives clients has exceeded my expectations."

How do you encourage clients to consider giving as part of their estate plans?

"I frequently talk to clients about their current charitable giving and the organizations they want to support after their deaths. The establishment of donor advised funds has been a game changer in my practice. A client's charitable giving frequently changes over their lifetime, and clients can work with FFTC to update their gifts rather than changing their estate plans."

What would you share with colleagues who haven't yet partnered with FFTC?

"My partnership with FFTC has improved my ability to meet my clients' charitable goals. Clients want solutions, and they appreciate advisors who bring them ideas that are cost efficient and easy to administer. Most importantly, many of my clients live in smaller counties. They like that FFTC's regional affiliate foundations are managed by boards of community leaders who address local issues."

SALISBURY TEACHER LEAVES PLANNED GIFT



Louise Slade

This winter, home economics teacher and advocate Louise Slade left a planned gift to Foundation For The Carolinas, ensuring ongoing support for her favorite causes.

Having earned her master's degree in home economics, she began her career as a school teacher in Wilson County and later taught these practical skills to individuals and groups in Rowan County.

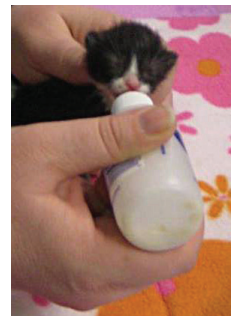
At her death, her planned gift established an endowed designated fund, which allowed her to support specific charities in perpetuity. Through her forethought, she ensured ongoing support for Trinity Presbyterian Church, where she had been an ordained elder, and her alma mater, North Carolina A&T University. The fund will also support Western Carolina University and two nonprofits that offer social services in Salisbury.

Several other teachers also established planned gifts that were realized in recent years, including Earl Willie, who taught in Cabarrus County schools, and sisters Jane and Katherine McKay from Laurinburg, NC.

Learn how you can create your own unique legacy at www.fft.org/PlannedGiving.

FFTC FUND SUPPORTS KITTEN NURSERY

Thanks to a 2017 grant from the George D. Patterson Family Fund, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Animal Control Division has re-opened its kitten nursery for its second year. The program provides care to orphaned kittens, promotes adoption and coordinates foster care. Last year, the nursery enabled nearly 1,300 adoptions, and they anticipate that number growing this year.



The George D. Patterson Family Fund supports programs that improve animal welfare. Through its annual competitive grant cycle facilitated by FFTC, the fund has granted more than \$2 million since inception.

As an FFTC Field of Interest Fund, it supports a specific area of community life and ensures the donor's charitable vision remains relevant over time.

Contact us at philanthropy@fft.org to support your favorite causes.



FFTC staff visited Renaissance West's Howard Levine Child Development Center.

FUNDHOLDERS SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Lack of access to high quality, affordable early childcare can be a roadblock to economic mobility – a key finding of last year's Leading on Opportunity report.

To address this issue, the Howard R. Levine Foundation and other FFTC fundholders made grants to support the new Howard Levine Child Development Center.

Operated by the YMCA of Greater Charlotte, the center serves children up to age 5 in Renaissance West, a mixed-income redevelopment, as well as the nearby Little Rock Apartments.

The center opened with 50 students in February, and enrollment has already increased to more than 100, with a goal to eventually serve more than 150 students.

Interested donors can help fund scholarships. Contact Amanda Golmont at agolmont@rwci.org to learn more.

WAREHOUSE SALE BRINGS JOBS AND INVESTMENT TO STANLY COUNTY

When a warehouse in Stanly County was donated to FFTC's subsidiary Community Real Property Holdings several years ago, the potential impact was greater than anyone realized.

After the Stanly County Economic Development office identified a potential buyer that planned to bring jobs to the region, the FFTC team realized they had a unique opportunity to help increase economic investment in the rural county. FFTC facilitated the sale, helping to bring 65 full-time jobs and nearly \$3.3 million in investments to the area.

To date, FFTC has accepted almost \$200 million in gifts of real estate and business interests, allowing donors to accomplish their charitable goals and impact the community with illiquid assets.

Visit www.ffc.org/BusinessInterests for more info.

FFTC LAUNCHES FAMILY OFFICE PARTNERS

Our region is home to a rising number of family offices that manage the affairs of one or more families. Family philanthropy — which can encompass grantmaking, tax-efficient giving and engaging future generations — is also rising in importance and complexity.

In response, FFTC recently launched Family Office Partners as part of the Advancement team to meet the sophisticated philanthropic needs of family offices, as well as family foundations and businesses. Family Office Partners offers a range of solutions, including donor advised funds, private foundation management, strategic grantmaking, family engagement and facilitating illiquid gifts.

The team is led by Catherine Warfield, CFP®, who has served community-minded families at FFTC for more than a decade. Whitney Feld, J.D., also recently joined as assistant vice president and brings legal background and community foundation experience. She most recently led FFTC's Robinson Center for Civic Leadership membership program.

Learn more at www.ffc.org/Family_Office_Partners.



Catherine Warfield, CFP®



Whitney Feld, J.D.



FFTC HOSTS PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Rusty Reed, partner at Kirk Palmer & Thigpen, **Doug Benson**, FFTC's deputy counsel & vice president, and **Andrea Chomakos**, private wealth services partner at McGuireWoods, shared insights into private foundations and donor advised funds at a recent Continuing Legal Education course.

CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH STUDY RELEASED

When the Charlotte Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force released its findings in 2017, mental health issues were cited as a major barrier to opportunity.

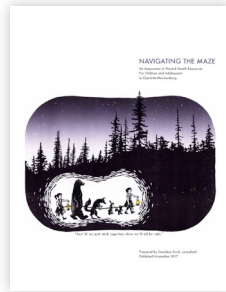
In response, FFTC, along with the Children's Medical Fund and Mitchell's Fund, sponsored a study to identify resources available for addressing mental and behavioral health needs for children and youth in Mecklenburg County.

The report identifies critical gaps, needs and opportunities, and provides recommendations in three strategic areas:

- ▶ Prevention, including focusing on early brain development
- ▶ Greater access to mental health services and support
- ▶ Improving the quality of available services and support

FFTC recently convened a group of leaders in the mental health field to discuss implementation strategies and next steps. In addition, FFTC is working with leaders from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to identify possible outreach, awareness and education programs for students and parents. This collaborative work will continue over the summer months.

Visit www.ffc.org/media_publications to read the report.



Mitchell Silver, New York City parks commissioner, addressed participants at the recent 2018 Innovation Challenge.

2018 INNOVATION CHALLENGE PUTS FOCUS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Queen City Forward, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and the Robinson Center for Civic Leadership teamed up in March at FFTC headquarters for the 2018 Innovation Challenge.

Designed as a deep dive into Charlotte's affordable housing challenge, the event brought experts and community members together to discuss access to affordable housing. The event aimed to catalyze innovative entrepreneurial solutions for the issue. Renowned planning expert Mitchell Silver was the keynote speaker.

According to the Leading on Opportunity Report released last year, Charlotte-Mecklenburg needs an additional 34,000 affordable housing units to meet the demands of the community.

The Innovation Challenge kicked off a weekend of upward mobility-related community events, including an affordable housing design sprint and hackathonCLT, a 24-hour gathering of computer programmers and designers with a focus on collaborating to solve societal needs.

GET ENGAGED THROUGH THE ROBINSON CENTER

Celebrating 10 years, the Robinson Center for Civic Leadership is FFTC's flagship program. It addresses critical needs and opportunities affecting our region. Over the last decade, generous RCCL members have made possible major community initiatives to address such needs as childhood literacy, economic opportunity and services for veterans.

Learn more at www.civic-leadership.org.



CMS Pre-K Literacy Facilitator Beth Locklear, Mecklenburg County Manager Dena Diorio and Read Charlotte Executive Director Munro Richardson recently joined FFTC Executive Vice President Brian Collier in an early childhood education discussion with Robinson Center for Civic Leadership members.



Community members participated in On The Table CLT in 2017. The event, a day for residents to come together and discuss ways to make our community more connected, dynamic and opportunity-rich, will return Oct. 24.

ON THE TABLE CLT RETURNS TO FFTC

On The Table CLT — an initiative to bring people together in conversation around community issues — returns to Foundation For The Carolinas for its second year on October 24.

On The Table expands community engagement through direct invitations from community members to friends, neighbors and networks, yielding more than 5,000 participants in civic dialogue. This year, the gatherings will be informed by the work of Leading on Opportunity to boost economic mobility in our region.

“On The Table CLT offers an exciting opportunity to connect deeply across our Carolina footprint, promoting trust, and encouraging humility and openness to differing opinions,” said Brian Collier, FFTC executive vice president. “This year, Foundation For The Carolinas seeks to create dynamic community change by examining individual accountability in Charlotte.”

FFTC is one of 10 community foundations across the U.S. participating in On The Table, which is made possible through support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

For more information or to participate as a host, please contact: OnTheTableCLT@fftc.org.

LEADING ON OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL HIRES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Stephanie Cooper-Lewter’s life journey has taken her from the doorstep of Mother Teresa’s orphanage in India to her new position as executive director of the Leading on Opportunity Council. The 45-year-old philanthropic leader does not think that is a coincidence.



Stephanie Cooper-Lewter

“My journey has guided my life purpose to ensure every child — regardless of income, race or zip code — has the same opportunities as yours and mine,” she said. “I have given my heart to this cause and to racial equity.”

Cooper-Lewter was orphaned as an infant in Kanpur, India. She arrived in the United States as a toddler, and her American adoptive mother raised her in Minnesota.

Cooper-Lewter most recently served as vice president of initiatives and public policy for the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. She also served as president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia.

The Leading on Opportunity Council was formed last year after the release of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report. Its mission is to put into action the recommendations set out in the report.

Visit www.leadingonopportunity.org for more info.

FFTC WELCOMES KEVA WOMBLE

I’m Keva Womble, and I’m grateful to join FFTC as vice president and director, community programs and civic leadership.



Keva Womble

My career has been centered on creating resourceful, purposeful connections and equitable, inclusive programming. In my role at FFTC, I help various grantmaking boards increase the quality of life throughout the Carolinas. I’m excited to lead our internal team of grantmaking experts who serve as trusted advisors to boards and grantees.

Prior to joining FFTC, Keva was director of grant innovation with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and senior philanthropic advisor with the Arizona Community Foundation.



Photo credit: Sean Busher

Leading on Opportunity Executive Director Stephanie Cooper-Lewter discussed how affordable housing influences economic mobility at a meeting of community leaders.

HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FUND KICKSTARTED WITH \$5 MILLION PRI

Affordable housing is a critical component for fostering upward mobility and creating vibrant communities. Yet, Mecklenburg County currently faces a deficit of 34,000 affordable housing units, and nearly half of its residents are cost-burdened — meaning housing costs exceed 30 percent of income.

To address the affordable housing shortage, Foundation For The Carolinas has kickstarted a new privately-financed Housing Opportunity Fund with a \$5 million program-related investment, the largest of its kind in FFTC's history.

The announcement follows the City of Charlotte's bold proposal to place a \$50 million bond referendum on the November ballot to dramatically boost its publicly-financed Housing Trust Fund.

The Housing Opportunity Fund will aim to lessen the growing affordability gap to develop housing that serves residents in a range of incomes — including moderate, low and extremely low-earning households. Local Initiatives Support Corporation, or LISC, will hold and manage the Housing Opportunity Fund, which will work in tandem with the City's trust fund.

The \$5 million commitment was made as a program-related investment, or PRI, versus a traditional grant. A PRI is a mission-related investment in the community in lieu of conventional investment vehicles, and that garners a low-yield return. FFTC's investment is contingent upon the passage of the bond referendum.

"By making a program-related investment instead of a traditional grant, we — and others in the philanthropic community — can participate at a more significant financial level," said Todd Mansfield, FFTC governing board chair.

The announcement was made in May at a meeting of



Hugh McColl Jr. and Leading on Opportunity Council Co-Chairs Andrea Smith and James Ford addressed the meeting of community leaders.



Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, with James Ford and CMS Superintendent Clayton Wilcox, spoke at the recent meeting of community leaders.

corporate, government, faith and philanthropic leaders. During the meeting, Hugh McColl Jr. and others issued a call-to-action to address the growing affordable housing crisis.

FFTC is developing additional paths for others to participate in the effort, such as a mechanism for fundholders to invest in the Housing Opportunity Fund and potentially using its subsidiary — Community Real Property Holdings, Inc. — to create a land bank to boost affordable housing.

Increasing access to affordable housing was a key recommendation in last year's Leading on Opportunity Report. The hope is that by leading the way, other members of the private sector will follow.

Visit www.ffc.org/HOF to learn more.

BARINGS GIFT HELPS CAROLINA THEATRE REACH FUNDRAISING GOAL

The construction goal for the renovation of the Carolina Theatre has been met, thanks to a \$500,000 commitment from Barings, the global financial services firm. That gift brought the total raised to \$51.5 million. Construction began last winter on the historic movie palace, which has been abandoned since 1978.

BARINGS

“We are excited to play a part in bringing the Carolina Theatre back to life,” said Tom Finke, Chairman & CEO of Barings. “This is an important project for the City of Charlotte and for the North Tryon corridor, and we look forward to being there for opening night.”

The Carolina Theatre also recently launched its website and kicked off a public awareness and fundraising campaign. The website — www.carolinatheatreCLT.org — allows the public to follow progress on construction, sign up for updates and get involved in the project. The public fundraising campaign is focused on equipment and furnishings that will aid in opening and operating the theatre.

The 36,000-square-foot historic theatre will feature diverse programming such as speakers, town hall meetings, films and more. The goal is for a 2020 opening of the renovated theatre.

Visit www.carolinatheatreCLT.org for the latest news.



The Carolina Theatre recently met its construction fundraising goal. The announcement was made at a celebration honoring donors and stakeholders. Representatives of the business, nonprofit and government communities attended, including Charlotte City Council Member Braxton Winston (top right).

Photo credit: Sean Bushner

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR REGIONAL AFFILIATE FOUNDATIONS

Cabarrus County Community Foundation recently announced a \$100,000 challenge grant by an anonymous donor. A Cabarrus County native has challenged the community to donate \$50,000 to CCCF's grantmaking funds. As incentive, the donor has offered a two-to-one match, giving one dollar to the 2018 grantmaking funds and one dollar to the foundation's endowed principal, which ensures the foundation's long-term sustainability. The challenge effectively triples the value of each dollar contributed.

“The singular mission of the Cabarrus County Community Foundation Board is to award as many grants to Cabarrus nonprofits as fiscally possible,” said Board Chair Peggy Wagstaff. “It is so rewarding to realize an anonymous donor shares our passion and is willing to contribute to our efforts. The board is very excited and hopes to rally our community around this opportunity.”

Visit www.CabarrusCounty-CF.org to contribute.

Iredell County Community Foundation

recently awarded more than \$127,000 in grants to seven local organizations. This year, in addition to the board's continued focus on early childhood literacy, the board will invest in workforce development projects. This is another example of how regional affiliate foundations address evolving community needs through strategic, tailored grantmaking.



ICCF provided funding to the Crosby Scholars program, helping students explore health care skills.

Visit www.IredellCounty-CF.org to learn more.

Lancaster County Community Foundation will award record grants to nonprofits in 2018. Thanks in part to a new grant from the J. Marion Sims Foundation and a continuing partnership with FFTC, the Lancaster board plans to award approximately \$50,000 — an increase of more than 400 percent from last year.

“This is a real game changer for our board to be able to grant this amount,” said Board Chair Jackie Harris. “We are honored to make a bigger impact in the community, and we are grateful to everyone who made this growth possible.”

Visit www.LancasterCounty-CF.org to learn more.

Our newsletter, *Philanthropy Focus*, is designed to inform and interest donors, clients and friends of the Foundation. The communications department welcomes your suggestions.

Editorial Staff:

Tara Keener
Susan Gray
Timothy Hager
Jennifer McClave
Erica Tomashitis

Foundation For The Carolinas cares about the environment. This newsletter is printed with vegetable-based ink on paper manufactured from 10% post-consumer, recovered and mixed fiber from 100% certified sources.



The Art of Hospitality

220 North Tryon offers one-of-a-kind venues for life's special moments, such as birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and receptions. Our team can help you create the ideal setting for your celebration.

Visit www.fftc.org/events for more information.

Revenue generated from 220 North Tryon supports FFTC's work in our community, and allows us to offer free meeting space to our region's nonprofits during weekday business hours.



at Foundation For The Carolinas



ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES FFTC'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The Foundation celebrated a milestone recently, honoring its 60th anniversary during the 2018 Annual Meeting. The event was attended by more than 1,500 corporate, nonprofit, government and community leaders. During the meeting, FFTC unveiled several videos that highlighted six decades of change and innovation.

The meeting also featured a report on the Foundation's 2017 financial results. Among the highlights:

- ▶ \$2.5 billion in assets
- ▶ \$550 million in contributions to FFTC funds
- ▶ 29,000 grants totaling a record \$420 million to nonprofits and individuals

In addition to FFTC's 60th anniversary, the event also served as the kickoff to the city of Charlotte's 250th anniversary celebration. In honor of that milestone, the keynote speaker for the sold-out event was city expert and political scientist, Dr. Robert Muggah, who addressed the potential challenges and growth that lies ahead for Charlotte.

**Look back at 60 years of our history on
FFTC's YouTube channel.**

