

## Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation awards grants for innovative and diverse social-capital programs

*Grants awarded to build social-capital networks to improve economic opportunity*

CHARLOTTE – The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation announced awards totaling more than \$140,000 to 16 grant recipients of its Social Capital Grants Program. Awards went to local nonprofits such as Bruce Irons Camp Fund, EmpowHERment Inc, Free Press, GenerationNation, Stiletto Boss University and more. CMCF is the primary grantmaking arm of Foundation For The Carolinas.

The Social Capital Grants program aligns with [the recommendations of the Leading on Opportunity report](#). Grants were awarded from \$5,000-\$15,000, with a mission to support organizations and programs focused on building social-capital networks, relationships and access to opportunities – through the lens of increasing economic opportunity for all children, youth and families within Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

“Building social capital is essential to what we hope to achieve in improving economic opportunity and increasing economic mobility,” Brian Collier, FFTC executive vice president, said. “It’s exciting to ask the community for bold ideas and, when they respond, to be able to fund innovative programs that directly support underserved communities.”

2018 Social Capital grant awards were given to local nonprofits to support a diverse group of projects. They include, among others:

- \$5,000 to the **Bruce Irons Camp Fund** to provide mentoring, summer camp experiences and enrichment programs to CMS students in grades 5-11
- \$5,000 to **EmpowHERment Inc** for its Leadership Academy for girls in grades 9-12
- \$10,000 to **Free Press** to increase news coverage in underserved communities
- \$10,000 to **GenerationNation** to increase access for 450 youth from diverse backgrounds to connect and collaborate in civic affairs
- \$5,000 to **Stiletto Boss University** for a youth entrepreneurship program

CMCF also recently announced recipients of its Family Stability and Children, Youth & Young Adult grants. For a complete list of all three, including Social Capital grant recipients, or for more information on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation, visit [charmeck-cf.org](http://charmeck-cf.org).

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### About Foundation For The Carolinas

Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year, Foundation For The Carolinas is the sixth-largest nonprofit community foundation in the country, serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of \$2.4 billion, FFTC’s mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org).

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