

Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation awards \$208,000 in grants to 23 local nonprofits for social capital programs

CHARLOTTE – The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation recently announced awards totaling \$208,000 to 23 grant recipients of its Social Capital Grants Program. Awards went to local nonprofits such as the Foundation For Girls, GenerationNation, Refugee Support Services of the Carolinas and Safe Alliance. CMCF is a discretionary grantmaking arm of Foundation For The Carolinas.

Social capital is the relationships and networks people have that connect them to opportunities. The Social Capital Grants program aligns with [the recommendations of the Leading on Opportunity report](#). Grant awards ranged from \$5,000-\$25,000 to organizations and programs focused on building social capital networks, relationships and access to opportunities – through the lens of increasing economic opportunity for all.

“Social capital is a key factor in improving the life possibilities and economic opportunities of our next generation,” said Brian Collier, FFTC executive vice president in charge of civic leadership. “However, there’s no road map on how you build social capital. So it’s exciting to not only ask the community for their best ideas but to fund these innovative programs that directly support underserved communities.”

The 2019 Social Capital grant awards included:

- \$10,000 to the **Andreas H. Bechtler Arts Foundation** for its Jail Arts Initiative, which places teaching artists directly in Mecklenburg County Detention Centers to conduct residencies for youth and adult residents.
- \$5,000 to **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas** for its mentorship program
- \$7,500 to **Charlotte Family Housing** for a Hope Team manager who will recruit, train and manage volunteers
- \$10,000 to **Communities In Schools** to support its Social Capital Campaign
- \$10,000 to **Arts+** for Project Harmony, a community-based youth orchestra program
- \$5,000 to **EmpowHERment Inc** for its Annual Summit for girls in grades 6-12
- \$10,000 to **Foundation For Girls** for its “Circle of Love” lunch series, pairing mentors and life coaches with teen moms.
- \$10,000 to **Free Press** to increase news coverage and awareness in underserved communities
- \$7,500 to **Generation Nation** to support its mentorship program
- \$25,000 to **Life Navigators** for its middle school-focused mentoring pilot program.
- \$10,000 to the **Lynnwood Foundation** for its African-American nonprofit executive training program
- \$10,000 to **QC Family Tree** to expand its community meals/discussions program
- \$10,000 to **Refugee Support Services of the Carolinas** for its Family Mentoring and Education Program, which pairs 125 refugee families with 125 mentoring families.
- \$10,000 to the **Renaissance West Community Initiative** to fund its Community Advocacy Navigator position
- \$10,000 to the **Rowan Regional Medical Center Foundation** to mentor leaders in underserved communities
- \$10,000 to **Safe Alliance** to send children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence to Camp HOPE, a trauma-focused, values-based mentoring initiative.

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- \$5,000 to **Stiletto Boss University** in support of its Stiletto Boss University Headquarters training program
- \$10,000 to **Students for Education Reform** to help organize students to advocate for education-related issues during the 2020 campaign
- \$5,000 to **The Relatives, Inc.** to support its mentor program
- \$10,000 to **Thompson Child & Family Focus** to pair high-risk children with life navigators
- \$5,000 to the **University of North Carolina at Charlotte** for resident-led walking tours through its City Walks program
- \$5,000 to the **YMCA of Greater Charlotte** to increase volunteer training
- \$8,000 to the **YWCA Central Carolinas** for its 1902 Society and Racial Justice program

For a complete list of Social Capital grant recipients – as well as all of CMCF’s recent grants – or for more information on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation, visit charneck-cf.org.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Founded in 1958, 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 \$2.6 billion, FFTC’s mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit www.ffc.org.

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