May 18, 2020

COVID-19 Response Fund awards more than $3.5 million to 67 local nonprofits aiding victims of coronavirus crisis in third round of grants

CHARLOTTE – More than $3.5 million has been awarded to 67 local nonprofits in the third round of grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund. To date, more than $10 million has been granted to nonprofits helping those affected by the pandemic with basic needs such as child care, education, housing, food, emergency financial assistance, legal advocacy, health and mental health, and workforce development.

The latest grants were awarded via a competitive grant cycle open to all Mecklenburg County 501(c)3 nonprofits that met eligibility requirements. Since the Charlotte-Mecklenburg COVID-19 Response Fund was launched on March 16, more than $18.5 million has been raised from corporations, foundations, individuals and local government.

“These grants will help nonprofits assist the people who need it the most in this time of unprecedented crisis,” said Laura Yates Clark, United Way of Central Carolinas president and CEO. “Keep in mind, our nonprofits are serving the community while also dealing with many of the same limitations and concerns we’re all facing. It's important we help those who are helping others.”

“First and foremost, we thank the donors for contributing to this fund,” said Foundation For The Carolinas President and CEO Michael Marsicano. “We've seen an extraordinary response in what has truly been a community effort. These grants are going to feed people, keep them housed, provide healthcare, emergency financial assistance and more – and it’s all thanks to the donors who have contributed so far.”

The third round of grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund include the following (visit fttc.org/covid19grants for a full list with project descriptions):

Basic Needs
- $6,342 to Charlotte Village Network
- $25,000 to Lakewood Neighborhood Alliance
- $10,000 to Liberian Community Association of Greater Charlotte
- $125,000 to Renaissance West Community Initiative
- $15,000 to Shepherd’s Center of Charlotte
- $25,000 to Universal Institute for Successful Aging
- $5,000 to Vietnamese Association of Charlotte

Child Care
- $300,000 to Child Care Resources, Inc.

Education
- $30,000 to Augustine Literacy Project – Charlotte
- $25,000 to Bethlehem Center of Charlotte
- $25,000 to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool
• $40,000 to First Baptist Church – West
• $60,000 to Freedom School Partners
• $5,200 to Greater Enrichment Program
• $25,000 to Promising Pages
• $20,000 to Stiletto Boss University
• $15,000 to Save Our Children Movement
• $20,000 to Urban Promise Charlotte
• $25,000 to Young Black Leadership Alliance

Emergency Financial Assistance
• $25,000 to Changed Choices
• $200,000 to Common Wealth Charlotte
• $100,000 to Comunidad Colectiva
• $15,000 to InReach
• $100,000 to Johnson C. Smith University
• $20,000 to Matthews HELP Center
• $30,000 to QC Family Tree
• $20,000 to Youth Villages

Food Security
• $12,000 to Angels and Sparrows Soup Kitchen
• $25,000 to Bags of Hope
• $15,000 to First Legacy Church
• $16,500 to Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte
• $20,000 to Little Rock AME Zion
• $60,000 to Loaves & AME Zion
• $25,000 to Project 658
• $900,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
• $20,000 to The Bulb
• $45,000 to University City Foundation

Health and Mental Health
• $15,600 to Agape Dental Ministry
• $40,850 to Care Ring
• $20,000 to Center for Prevention Services
• $50,000 to Charlotte Community Health Clinic
• $100,000 to Charlotte Rescue Mission
• $40,000 to HeartBright Foundation
• $26,000 to Jewish Family Services of Greater Charlotte
• $20,000 to McLeod Addictive Disease Center
• $8,398 to Mental Health America of Central Carolinas
• $15,000 to American Heart Association
• $50,000 to C. W. Williams Community Health Center
• $30,000 to Time Out Youth
• $15,000 to Wilson Oasis

Legal Advocacy
• $50,000 to Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
• $75,000 to Council for Children’s Rights
• $25,000 to International House of Metrolina
• $25,000 to Legal Aid of North Carolina

Shelter and Housing
• $20,000 to Block Love Charlotte
• $50,000 to Hope Vibes
• $13,000 to Samaritan House
• $75,000 to Supportive Housing Communities
• $150,000 to Salvation Army Charlotte
• $75,000 to UMAR Services
• $50,000 to YWCA Central Carolinas

Workforce Development
• $30,000 to ASPIRE Community Capital
• $60,000 to Community Culinary School of Charlotte
• $33,000 to North End Community Coalition
• $50,000 to She Built This City
• $20,000 to Southside Rides Foundation
• $75,000 to Urban League of Central Carolinas

Visit uwcentralcarolinas.org/grants/COVID for details on future grant cycles.

The COVID-19 Response Fund is administered through a partnership between Foundation For The Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas, in close coordination with the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. A COVID-19 Response Fund Grants Committee reviews applications and distributes grants from the fund. The committee is made up of 17 local leaders representing a diversity of business sectors, backgrounds and Mecklenburg County geographic locations.

The grants committee is co-chaired by Tanya Blackmon of Novant Health and Edwin Peacock of Pomfret Financial. Other members include: Charles Bowman, Bank of America; Jordan Boyd, Rockwell AME Zion Church; Heath Campbell, Truist Financial; Alexis Coleman, Davidson United Methodist Church; Betsy Conway, Lowe’s; Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County; Malcolm Graham, City of Charlotte; Mark Jerrell, Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners; Cliff Matthews, St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church; Brian Middleton, Atrium; Michaela Miller, Humana; Dee O’Dell, U.S. Bank; Jill Olmstead, LendingTree; Susan Patterson, community volunteer; Federico Rios, City of Charlotte; Mike Rizer, Ally Financial; and Lisa Saunders, Christ Church Charlotte.

Donations to the COVID-19 Response Fund have ranged from a two-dollar commitment from an anonymous online donor to $1.3 million from Mecklenburg County. Other major gifts include $100,000 each from the Charlotte Hornets Foundation, the Springsteen Foundation, the Philip L. Van Every Foundation, Kim and Johnny Belk, and Alfred and Amy Levine Dawson; $150,000 each from Wells Fargo, Wells Fargo Championship and Sean & Andrea Smith; $200,000 each from Allstate Insurance and Vanguard; $250,000 each from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation, the Weisiger Fleming Family Fund, EY, PwC/The PwC Charitable Foundation, and The Hearst Foundations; $270,000 from BlackArch Partners/The Regions Foundation; $500,000 each from Ally Financial, the Duke Energy Foundation and the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation; and $1 million each from LendingTree, the City of Charlotte, the Howard R. Levine Foundation, Truist Financial Corporation, Bank of America, the David A. Tepper Charitable Foundation, Lowe’s, the C.D. Spangler Foundation/National Gypsum, Coca-Cola Consolidated, the John M. Belk Endowment and Pamlico Capital.

To contribute to the COVID-19 Response Fund, visit HelpCharMeck.org. Corporations and foundations that wish to make a donation may contact either Catherine Warfield, Senior Vice President of Philanthropic Advancement at FFTC, at 704.973.4515 or
cwarfield@ftc.org; or Clint Hill, Chief Development Officer at United Way of Central Carolinas, at 704.371.6359 or chill@uwcentralcarolinas.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.fftc.org.

About United Way of Central Carolinas
United Way fights for the education, health and financial stability of every person in our region, improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of local communities in Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Mooresville/Lake Norman, and Anson, Cabarrus and Union counties. For more information, please visit uwcentralcarolinas.org.

Media Contact:
Timothy Hager, 704.973.4587 or thager@ftc.org
Shelly Ridgeway, 540.209.4886 or sridgeway@uwcentralcarolinas.org