

Hope Vibes Co-Founder Adrienne Threatt Awarded 2021 Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award for Serving Homeless Community During the Pandemic

CHARLOTTE, NC – Hope Vibes Co-Founder and Executive Director Adrienne Threatt has received the 2021 [Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award](#) for her work aiding the homeless community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Founded in 2017 by Adrienne and her husband Emmanuel, Hope Vibes is a Charlotte-based nonprofit that works to address homelessness through direct relief, research, innovation and advocacy.

Foundation For The Carolinas

220 North Tryon Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 704.973.4500
Toll Free: 800.973.7244
Fax: 704.973.4599

www.fftc.org

The Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award is presented annually to an individual or group whose creative achievements elevate quality of life and show solid promise of enhancing the survival, dignity and well-being of humankind in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community.

During the pandemic, shelters reached capacity and the need for services to assist the homeless population spiked. Hope Vibes responded by distributing essential supplies such as hygiene packs, tents and tarps. The nonprofit also launched the Hope Tank, a box truck converted into a mobile shower center and laundromat serving the homeless community.

The truck was initially purchased in 2017 thanks to a \$10,000 grant from FFTC's African American Community Foundation. The Hope Tank project was completed in 2020 with a \$50,000 grant from the COVID-19 Response Fund, which the Foundation launched last year alongside United Way of Central Carolinas.

“Thinking back to the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the formation of what became known as Charlotte’s ‘Tent City’ occupied by people experiencing homelessness, and the response of citizens eager to see change ... I cannot help but give homage to all the supporters and volunteers of Hope Vibes and the many other organizations who make up the nonprofit landscape in our city,” said Threatt. “We are living proof that ordinary people can produce extraordinary results that leave our communities better than we found them.”

Named for the retired UNC Charlotte professor who established the program, the Nish Jamgotch Jr. Humanitarian Award is facilitated by Foundation For The Carolinas, which also holds the fund that supports the award. In the words of Dr. Jamgotch, “to be creative means to uncover something new; or to synthesize seemingly unrelated experiences in a fresh and inspiring way; or to provide a foundation for future intellectual and scientific breakthrough that can truly make a difference”, and it is in this spirit that awards should be made.

“When I told Adrienne she had been selected for this award, she responded, ‘Are you sure? I’m just a regular person,’” said Brian Collier, FFTC Executive Vice President and member of the award committee. “That response reinforced that we made the right decision. It is her humility that makes her such an important and compassionate voice for a population that, too often, does not have a voice of its own.

“The goal of Dr. Jamgotch in establishing this award was to celebrate our unsung heroes and provide examples to others of how we can all play a role in improving our community. Adrienne’s dedication to serving those experiencing homelessness is in keeping with the humanitarian philosophy of Dr. Jamgotch.”

Previous award winners include:

- Thereasea Elder, a public health pioneer who was among the first to integrate health care in the Charlotte region.
- Ric Elias, CEO of Red Ventures and founder of Golden Door Scholars, a nonprofit that creates educational and career opportunities for high-performing undocumented students.
- Jeffrey Balek, a blind man using specially made braille books to volunteer at Y Readers, the YMCA of Greater Charlotte's literacy program for students in grades K-3 who are reading below grade level.
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Major Mike Campagna and Mecklenburg County public defender Toussaint Romain, for their work during the 2016 Keith Lamont Scott protests.
- Riley Howell and Reed Parlier, two promising UNC Charlotte students who died when a gunman opened fire in a classroom on April 30, 2019.
- Sil Ganzó, founder and executive director of ourBRIDGE for KIDS, who transitioned her organization when the pandemic hit from its after-school mission to helping distribute thousands of meals per week to the community.

For more information on Nish Jamgotch and the award, please contact Brian Collier at Foundation For The Carolinas, 704.973.4556 or bcollier@fftc.org. For more information on Hope Vibes visit hopevibes.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 \$3.1 billion, FFTC's mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit www.fftc.org.

Media Contact: Timothy Hager, thager@fftc.org/704.973.4587