Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation awards more than $1.2 million in grants to local nonprofits for families, children, young adults and social capital programs

CHARLOTTE – The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation recently awarded more than $1.2 million to local nonprofits through three grant programs benefitting Children, Youth and Young Adult; Family and Child Stability; and Social Capital (see list below for grantees and awards). CMCF is the primary discretionary grantmaking arm of Foundation For The Carolinas.

All three grant programs align with the recommendations of the Leading on Opportunity report. Awards went to area nonprofits such as Ada Jenkins Center, Charlotte Bilingual Preschool, the Black Social Capital Initiative, Time Out Youth, Mental Health America of Central Carolinas and The Steve Smith Foundation.

Grants will help support a variety of initiatives: $15,000 to GardHouse to provide yearlong academic internships and fellowships to local students; $5,000 to Changed Choices for a mentoring program for women impacted by incarceration, among other grants; $15,000 to Theatre Gap Initiative to promote social capital for BIPOC students in arts; and $10,000 to Rebuilding Together to provide home repairs that allow families to stay in their community and avoid displacement.

CMCF has awarded more than $57 million in grants since it was established in 1995 following a $35 million bequest from Lucille Puette Giles. Since the fund is an unrestricted endowment, it provides a permanent source of grantmaking for community needs as they evolve over time.

Recent Children, Youth and Young Adult grant awards include:

- $25,000 to Ada Jenkins Center to provide students in elementary school with access to afterschool academic support and enrichment programming.
- $10,000 to Augustine Literacy Project to recruit and train volunteers who will tutor 300+ young, aspiring readers in under-resourced communities.
- $15,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas to provide mentorship, career and college guidance, and job shadowing opportunities for students.
- $30,000 to Carolina Youth Coalition to provide high school students with mentors and college-preparatory resources.
- $35,000 to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool to provide programming that will advance equity for Latinx children and families.
- $25,000 to Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center to provide programming that promotes school readiness for low-income and at-risk children up to age 8.
- $30,000 to Communities in Schools to provide intensive college-readiness mentoring program that supports first-generation college students.
- $15,000 to CrossRoads Corporation for Affordable Housing and Community Development to provide programming that supports youth in the Grier Heights Community including college preparation, access to mental health support and mentoring.
- $25,000 to E2D to provide computers for students lacking home-based computers sufficient to do their work.
- $15,000 to Florence Crittenton Services to provide educational and vocational programming for adolescents and young adults.
- $15,000 to Freedom School Partners to provide a summer program that offers literacy tutoring and community-building skills to local students.
• $15,000 to GardHouse to provide yearlong academic internships and fellowships to local students.
• $5,000 to Hack & Hustle Social Entrepreneurship Academy to provide an introductory STEM training program that exposes youth ages 16-24 to in-demand technology and entrepreneurial skills.
• $20,000 to Heart Math Tutoring to provide a math intervention program for students performing below grade level in CMS elementary schools.
• $15,000 to International House to provide English students in grade 1-5 with intensive tutoring.
• $15,000 to Latin American Women's Association to host bilingual workshops and tours at colleges for local families.
• $30,000 to Luminaria Learning Solutions to provide their signature Life Navigator School Program designed to prepare students with concrete executive functioning skills, social-emotional learning, and life management tools to low-income students.
• $25,000 to ourBRIDGE for Kids to provide out-of-school programs for immigrant and refugee students in K-8.
• $10,000 to Project BOLT to provide a summer literacy program intended to build social-emotional skills and increase the academic achievement of K-5 children.
• $10,000 to Road to Hire to provide paid summer internships and in-school college prep classes to high schoolers at five Title I schools.
• $20,000 to S.T.A.R.S. Math & English Academy to provide students with EOG bootcamps, Saturday Academy, and summer programming.
• $25,000 to She Built This City to provide their tuition-free, state-certified pre-apprenticeship training targeting young women in low-income neighborhoods.
• $25,000 to The Center for Community Transitions to provide programming that addresses the adverse impacts of the pandemic for children enrolled in CMS schools with incarcerated parents.
• $25,000 to Time Out Youth to provide programming that will ensure college readiness and career success for LGBTQ students in Charlotte.
• $40,000 to Young Black Leadership Alliance to provide college and career advising, awareness and exploration for underserved students and parents in the Charlotte community.
• $30,000 to Youth Villages to provide young adults leaving the foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems with support and guidance to successfully transition into adulthood.

Recent Social Capital grant awards include:
• $10,000 to Angels and Sparrows Soup Kitchen to support their Pathway Program for Teens.
• $15,000 to Arts+ to support Project Harmony, a community-based orchestra outreach program for Charlotte-area youth.
• $10,000 to Black Social Capital Initiative (The Lee Institute) to provide an eight-session training program for Black junior and senior-level nonprofit leaders.
• $10,000 to Bruce Irons Camp Fund (Wayfinders) to increase social capital through mentorship and enrichment for scholars in grades 4-12.
• $5,000 to Changed Choices for a mentoring program for women impacted by incarceration.
• $10,000 to Charlotte Symphony Orchestra to support the Charlotte Youth Ensemble program, which aims to build bridges through musical experiences.
• $10,000 to Charlotte is Creative for Charlotte Entrepreneur’s Initiative.
• $10,000 to Digi-Bridge to provide mentors to STEAM scholars.
Recent Family and Child Stability grant awards include:

- **$50,000 to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic** to provide health services and education in Mecklenburg County.
- **$30,000 to Care Ring** for the Nurse-Family Partnership, which promotes prenatal care and parent education and resources.
- **$30,000 to Communities in Schools** for the Safe Journey Program, which assists teen parents with completing their high school education and strengthening their connection with their children/families/communities.
- **$30,000 to Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy** to provide stabilization support for low-income families by increasing access to opportunity and employment.
- **$20,000 to Safe Alliance** to fund a Peer Support Specialist at the Domestic Violence Shelter.
$30,000 to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool to advance equity for Latinx families through its workforce development program.

$25,000 to Renaissance West Community Initiative for the Cradle to Career Success Program, which aims to remove barriers through holistic, place-based programs and services for Black and Latinx families.

$25,000 to The Steve Smith Foundation to support the Smith Family Behavioral Health Urgent Care facility.

$15,000 to Foster Village Charlotte for the Partners in Permanency program, which builds relationships between birth and foster parents by providing critical tools for healthy family foundations.

$20,000 to Freedom Communities for the Moms Moving Forward program, which aims to build healthy habits for mothers and their families.

$15,000 to The Center for Community Transitions for the expansion of its program that supports social and emotional wellness and academic achievement.

$15,000 to Crisis Assistance Ministry to support the organization’s homeless prevention services and partner agency network.

$20,000 to Mental Health America of Central Carolinas to provide parent-to-parent peer support, integrated person-centered care teams, and targeted education empowerment activities to parents and youth.

$15,000 to Thompson Child & Family for Thompson’s Child Development Center.

$15,000 to ParentChild+ for the expansion of programming that supports underserved families.

$10,000 to Families Forward to provide adult mentorship, monthly educational workshops and financial assistance through its Family Success Program.

$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity to support Habitat’s Money Matters financial literacy program.

$10,000 to Matthews HELP Center to provide short-term crisis assistance to help families avoid eviction and utility disconnection.

$10,000 to Rebuilding Together to provide home repairs that allow families to stay in their community and avoid displacement.

$5,000 to Charlotte Rescue Mission for mothers receiving addiction recovery services while living with their children at CRM’s facility.

$5,000 to Common Wealth Charlotte to provide trauma-informed financial education and counseling.

For a complete list of CMCF’s recent grants – or for more information on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation – visit charmeck-cf.org.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Founded in 1958, Foundation For The Carolinas is the fifth-largest nonprofit community foundation in the country, serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of nearly $4 billion, FFTC’s mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit www.fftc.org.

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