

# FOUNDATION FOR THE CAROLINAS

*Our mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community.*

FOUNDATION FOR  
THE CAROLINAS

## What is Foundation For The Carolinas?

- ▶ Foundation For The Carolinas is a [community foundation](#) serving a 13-county region in North and South Carolina.
- ▶ The Foundation was established in 1958 with a \$3,000 grant from the United Way.
- ▶ FFTC is now made up of nearly 3,000 corporate, individual and nonprofit fundholders.
  - ▶ Many fundholders give through [donor advised funds](#) they establish with FFTC, along with scholarship funds, charitable trusts and other giving vehicles.
- ▶ With assets, owned and represented, at nearly \$5 billion, FFTC is the fifth-largest community foundation in the country (out of nearly 800).
- ▶ The Foundation is led by an experienced Leadership Team of philanthropic experts, headed by CEO Cathy Bessant.

## Organizations Under Our Umbrella

- ▶ Our [13-county region](#) includes:  
Cabarrus County, Charlotte Mecklenburg, Cherokee County (S.C.), Cleveland County, Iredell County, Lancaster County (S.C.), Lexington Area Community Foundation, Lincoln County, Richmond (The Cole Foundation), Salisbury-Rowan, Stanly County, Union County and York County (S.C.).
- ▶ Prominent affiliate and [supporting organizations](#)/initiatives:  
The Arts & Science Council, The Carolina Theatre, Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, E4E Relief, Foundation For Black Philanthropy, Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community, Greater Steps Scholars, Leading on Opportunity, Read Charlotte.

## Robinson Center for Civic Leadership

The Foundation's flagship program is the [Robinson Center for Civic Leadership](#):

- ▶ The Robinson Center convenes community members, partners and funders to address our region's greatest needs and opportunities.
- ▶ Nearly \$10 million in civic leadership funding has been leveraged to generate a charitable impact of nearly \$400 million since the Center's launch.
- ▶ The center is named for Sally and Russell Robinson, honoring two of our community's most-respected civic and philanthropic leaders.
- ▶ Some major recent [civic initiatives](#) include:  
A Way Home (rental subsidy program for families), Carolina Thread Trail, the Infusion Fund (arts funding initiative), Leading on Opportunity, the Mayor's Racial Equity Initiative, Read Charlotte and Veterans Bridge Home.

## 2024 by the Numbers



**\$903 million**

record total in grantmaking  
from FFTC/fundholders.

- ▶ The vast majority of grants (98%) are recommended by fundholders from their FFTC-held funds to benefit the nonprofits and causes of their choosing.
- ▶ Conversely, discretionary grants are recommended by FFTC's local volunteer boards and committees and represent 3.4% of total grantmaking.



**\$738 million**

total contributions to FFTC-held  
funds by fundholders.

- ▶ \$110,127 – median size of the 3,000 FFTC funds held by families, companies and nonprofits



**\$1 billion**

FFTC's planned giving pipeline,  
representing potential future gifts  
to be realized after donors'  
lifetimes (not counted in the  
Foundation's current assets total).

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## Get to know us

### ► Correct name:

- Foundation For The Carolinas – capital F in “For,” capital T in “The.” The word “the” should never precede the full name; i.e. *Foundation For The Carolinas is a community foundation located in Charlotte, NC.*
- On second reference, refer to “the Foundation” or “FFTC.”
- The word “the” is acceptable to precede the names of each affiliate foundation; i.e. *The Cabarrus County Community Foundation was established in 1989 by local leaders to encourage philanthropy and secure resources to address local issues.*

## FFTC Websites & Social Media

- [www.ffmpeg.org](http://www.ffmpeg.org) – main website
- [www.philanthropyFOCUS.org](http://www.philanthropyFOCUS.org) – stories of donors and partners making a difference
- Facebook: [@FoundationForTheCarolinas](https://www.facebook.com/FoundationForTheCarolinas)
- Instagram: [@fftc Carolinas](https://www.instagram.com/fftc Carolinas)
- LinkedIn: [@Foundation-For-The-Carolinas](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Foundation-For-The-Carolinas)
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@fftc Carolinas](https://www.youtube.com/@fftc Carolinas)

## FFTC Affiliate and Initiative Social Media

### ► Facebook

[@220NorthTryon](https://www.facebook.com/@220NorthTryon)  
[@CarolinaTheatreCLT](https://www.facebook.com/@CarolinaTheatreCLT)  
[@FoundationForBlackPhilanthropy](https://www.facebook.com/@FoundationForBlackPhilanthropy)  
[@FoundationForTheCharlotteJewishCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/@FoundationForTheCharlotteJewishCommunity)

### ► Instagram:

[@220northtryon](https://www.instagram.com/@220northtryon)  
[@CarolinaTheatreCLT](https://www.instagram.com/@CarolinaTheatreCLT)  
[@ffbpcharlotte](https://www.instagram.com/@ffbpcharlotte)

### ► LinkedIn:

[@220NorthTryon](https://www.linkedin.com/company/@220NorthTryon)  
[@FoundationForBlackPhilanthropy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/@FoundationForBlackPhilanthropy)

## 2025 Foundation For The Carolinas Governing Board

**Arrington Mixon, Chair**  
*Civic Leader*

**Marian Steele Clark**  
*JC Steele and Sons*

**Kieth Cockrell**  
*Bank of America*

**Malcomb Coley**  
*EY*

**Sharyn Ellison**  
*Ellison Family Foundation*

**Betsy Fleming, Ph.D.**  
*Cressence*

**Lynn Good**  
*Duke Energy*

**Todd Gorelick**  
*Bridge Single-Family Rental*

**Jada Grandy-Mock**  
*Fifth Third Bank*

**Kelly Katterhagen**  
*Founder at BlackArch*

**Susan Kluttz**  
*Civic Leader*

**Bill Martin**  
*Civic Leader*

**Ralph Lopez Massas**  
*American Airlines – Charlotte hub*

**Tropzie McCluney**  
*Community Math Academy*

**Gene McLaurin**  
*Quality Oil Company*

**Tom Nelson**  
*National Gypsum*

**Dr. Edward Serna**  
*Winthrop University*

**Asha Rodriguez**  
*Atrium Health Cabarrus*

**Fred Whitfield**  
*Civic Leader*