

## **FFTC's Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation awards \$550,000 in grants to 31 local nonprofits for programs targeting children and youth**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The [Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation](#) recently awarded \$550,000 to 31 local nonprofits for programs supporting local Children, Youth & Young Adults. CMCF is the discretionary grantmaking arm of [Foundation For The Carolinas](#).

The grant program aligns with the recommendations of the [Leading on Opportunity](#) report. Awards went to area nonprofits such as B.E.A.M. Foundation to support a 10-week coding academy for kids; On Eagles Wings to provide care for young victims of sex trafficking; and Youth Villages to provide young adults leaving the foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems with support and guidance.

“On Eagles Wings is honored to receive a grant from CMCF to support our Fields of Hope work with young survivors of sex trafficking,” shared Lori Vaccaro, executive director and president of On Eagles Wings. “This funding will be used to purchase raw materials for the girls to make the soaps, lotions and candles sold through our Fields of Hope program, which provides stipends for the girls and gives them life skills training that empowers them to move forward.”

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation provides grants for organizations serving residents of Mecklenburg County, which align with its vision of a community where every resident is afforded the opportunity to be well-educated, safely housed, meaningfully employed and actively engaged in community decisions. Further, CMCF believes that the preservation and protection of natural resources and environmentally conscious decision-making are vital to maintaining the community's quality of life. The grantmaking program was established following a generous bequest from Lucile Puette Giles in 1995.

To date, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation has awarded more than \$35 million in grant awards.

“I want to thank the local nonprofit grant recipients whose hard work and dedication is making a vital difference in our local community,” said Federico Rios, FFTC's Senior Vice President of Robinson Center for Civic Leadership. “These grants will help support a range of programs that will assist local youth and families. From reading instruction and afterschool programs to protecting LGBTQ+ youth and children of immigrants, these grants will have a definite impact on the youth in our community. I am grateful to the CMCF board of advisors for their foresight and diligence in funding vital initiatives.”

The 2023 Children, Youth & Young Adult grant awards include:

- **\$25,000 to Ada Jenkins Center** for their LEARN Works program, an afterschool academic support and enrichment programming.
- **\$10,000 to Augustine Literacy Project-Charlotte** to provide reading instruction to over 500 children in local Title 1 schools.
- **\$15,000 to B.E.A.M. Foundation** for their 10-week Coding Academy for youth in under-served communities.

- **\$10,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas** to provide mentorship, career and college guidance, and job shadowing opportunities for students.
- **\$25,000 to Carolina Youth Coalition** for their Torch Fellows Program that ensures college readiness academically, socially, and financially.
- **\$35,000 to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool** to provide quality bilingual preschool programs for marginalized Latinx students.
- **\$25,000 to Charlotte Speech and Hearing Center** for their Community Language/Literacy Impact Program (CLIP) that ensures school readiness for low-income and at-risk children up to age 8.
- **\$30,000 to Communities in Schools** to provide pathways to success in school and life for 55 Charlotte-Mecklenburg district schools.
- **\$20,000 to Council for Children's Rights** for their Education Navigation Project to serve children in foster care and mental health facilities.
- **\$20,000 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.
- **\$20,000 to Florence Crittenton Services** to provide educational and vocational programming for adolescents and young adults.
- **\$12,500 to Freedom School Partners** to provide a summer program that offers literacy tutoring and community-building skills to local students.
- **\$10,000 to Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont** to provide training and resources to help young adults pursue careers in the construction industry.
- **\$10,000 to Hack & Hustle Social Entrepreneurship Academy** for a intensive summer program to expose underserved youth in Charlotte to STEM technology and workforce development training.
- **\$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** for their Rising Readers Summer Literacy Camp for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade CMS students from immigrant families.
- **\$15,000 to Latin American Women's Association** to host bilingual workshops and tours at colleges for local families.
- **\$10,000 to On Eagles Wings** to provide residential and community-based care for young victims of sex trafficking.
- **\$25,000 to ourBRIDGE** to provide out-of-school programs for immigrant and refugee students in K-8.
- **\$7,500 to Peoples Private Learning Center** to help students increase their current grade level performance in Math and ELA.
- **\$5,000 to S.T.A.R.S. Math & English Academy** to provide students with EOG bootcamps, Saturday Academy, and summer programming.
- **\$20,000 to She Built This City** to provide their tuition-free, state-certified pre-apprenticeship training targeting young women at Albemarle Middle School.
- **\$5,000 to The Learning Collaborative** for their Collaborative Summer Literacy Camp in the Grier Heights neighborhood.
- **\$20,000 to Theatre Gap Initiative** to provide rigorous training, mentorship and access to theatre and college-readiness for marginalized students.
- **\$5,000 to Thrive Global Project** for their Ready to Thrive program to support the transition to college for low-opportunity students.
- **\$25,000 to Time Out Youth** to create safe and welcoming spaces for LGBTQ students in Charlotte.
- **\$15,000 to Urban League of Central Carolinas** to provide college and career-ready high school students assistance navigating on their next steps.

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- **\$30,000 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.
- **\$10,000 to YWCA Central Carolinas** to provide out-of-school, literacy-based programming for students in the six Mecklenburg County Youth Learning Centers.

For a complete list of CMCF's recent grants – or for more information on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation – visit [charmecck-cf.org](http://charmecck-cf.org).

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## 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 nearly \$3 billion, FFTC's mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit [www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org).

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