



April 21, 2025

News Release

Iredell County Community Foundation and United Way of Iredell County Partner to Award \$100,000 to Initiative Serving Children and Families

STATESVILLE, N.C. – The Iredell County Community Foundation and the United Way of Iredell County, in partnership with the Iredell Health Foundation, recently announced a joint investment of \$100,000 to support the Whole Child, Whole Family, Whole Community Collaborative (WCFWCC) – a bold and unified initiative aimed at improving outcomes for Iredell County’s most vulnerable children and families.

This joint funding marks the first-ever collaborative grant cycle between the Iredell County Community Foundation and United Way of Iredell County. A check presentation ceremony was held on April 17 at the Iredell Health Foundation to celebrate this unprecedented partnership and the launch of this countywide planning initiative.

“This collaboration is a powerful example of how funders can work together to drive meaningful change,” said John Green, president and CEO of Iredell Health System. “We are honored to join forces with the United Way and the Iredell County Community Foundation to support a community-led effort that will help children and families access the services they need to thrive.”

“When we align our missions, our resources and our vision, we can create real, lasting impact,” said Brett Eckerman executive director of United Way of Iredell County. “This investment is about more than funding—it’s about changing the way our community works together for families.”

The WCFWCC is designed to address the deep-rooted economic, educational and health disparities faced by children and families, particularly those attending Title I schools, where 92% of students live below the USDA poverty level. The collaborative brings together partners from across the county to develop a coordinated, holistic service model that moves beyond cross-referrals and into true systems integration.

As the lead agency and fiscal steward, the Iredell Health Foundation will oversee implementation of the planning phase, which includes the launch of a Family Navigator Program at the Boys & Girls Club of the Piedmont and the development of a long-term business plan rooted in evidence-based practices such as the Two-Generation approach and the Colorado Family Support Assessment.

“This collaboration between funders and nonprofits reflects the power of unity and shared purpose,” said Lisa McBane, board chair of the Iredell County Community Foundation, which is a regional affiliate of Foundation For The Carolinas. “By combining resources and expertise, we’re better equipped to meet

community needs, deliver vital services and create lasting, positive change. Together, we empower individuals, uplift families and strengthen the bonds that build a brighter future for all.”

The collaborative already includes committed partners such as Mitchell Community College, Iredell-Statesville Schools, Partners Health Management, Pharos Parenting and the Iredell County Partnership for Young Children, with plans to engage additional agencies in future phases.

About Iredell Health Foundation

The Iredell Health Foundation is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization responsible for philanthropy for Iredell Health System. It supports the system’s programs and services through donor-centered fundraising. The Foundation focuses on raising community awareness of specific programs that need funding and provides individuals and organizations hoping to make a difference and leave a legacy the opportunity to support local healthcare needs of their choice. To learn more, or to make a donation, visit www.iredellhealthfoundation.org or call 704-878-4547.

About United Way of Iredell County

United Way of Iredell County is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to improving lives and strengthening communities across Iredell County through strategic partnerships and impactful investments in health, education, and financial stability. By mobilizing resources, engaging volunteers, and supporting a network of community partners, United Way works to create long-term sustainable change and ensure every person has the opportunity to thrive. To learn more about United Way of Iredell County, get involved, or support the mission, visit ww.uwiredell.org.

About the Iredell County Community Foundation:

Established in 1989 as a permanent endowment, the Iredell County Community Foundation benefits a range of charitable purposes. As an affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas, the Iredell County Community Foundation inspires philanthropy, increases charitable giving, and strengthens the community. For more information, visit iredellcounty-cf.org.

###

Media Contacts:

Meagan Kowalski, Director of Marketing, Iredell Health Foundation, 704.878.7447 or at Meagan.kowalski@iredellheath.org.

Jody Taylor, Director of Marketing & Corporate Engagement, United Way of Iredell County, 704-832-8247 or at jtaylor@uwiredell.org.