



CHILDREN &  
FAMILY  
SERVICES CENTER

# GROWING TOGETHER

## 2021 COLLABORATION REPORT




# TABLE OF CONTENTS

04	A YEAR IN REVIEW
05	CFSC SETS TRANSFORMATIVE GOALS
06	BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY
07	OUR PARTNER AGENCIES
09	PARTNER AGENCY COLLABORATIONS
13	COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS
22	ADDITIONAL COLLABORATIONS

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IF YOU WANT  
TO GO FAST,  
GO ALONE.  
IF YOU WANT  
TO GO FAR, GO  
TOGETHER.  
-AFRICAN PROVERB



# A YEAR IN REVIEW



Strengthening the Charlotte area's nonprofit community through access to facilities and services that leads to greater impact and efficiency.

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Spring has long been a symbol of new beginnings or a season of growth. This spring, as the Children & Family Services Center (CFSC) celebrates its 19th anniversary, this feels quite fitting. CFSC has a long history of growth and innovation – from opening a novelty center built around shared purpose, ideas and space for nonprofits, to launching Shared Services in an effort to build capacity and strengthen the infrastructure for many of Charlotte's safety-net organizations.

To continue on this path, the Center's board and leadership staff embarked on a strategic planning process to once again examine our work and how we can meet the community's changing needs. At the same time, nonprofits across the region are working to meet new and worsening challenges related to the pandemic and long-standing racial inequities – and we want to be a part of the solution.

We deemed this Collaborations Report our "Growing Together" issue. The goals outlined in our strategic plan call for significant enhancements of our space, services and internal capacity over the next five years. We are committed to expanding access to serve more grassroots and minority-led organizations, and we're exploring new and innovative partnerships to foster a system of service delivery. We even took this opportunity to reflect on our mission, vision and core values. After much deliberation, we're excited to share our new mission statement with you, included above. Learn more about our strategic goals on page 5 of this report.

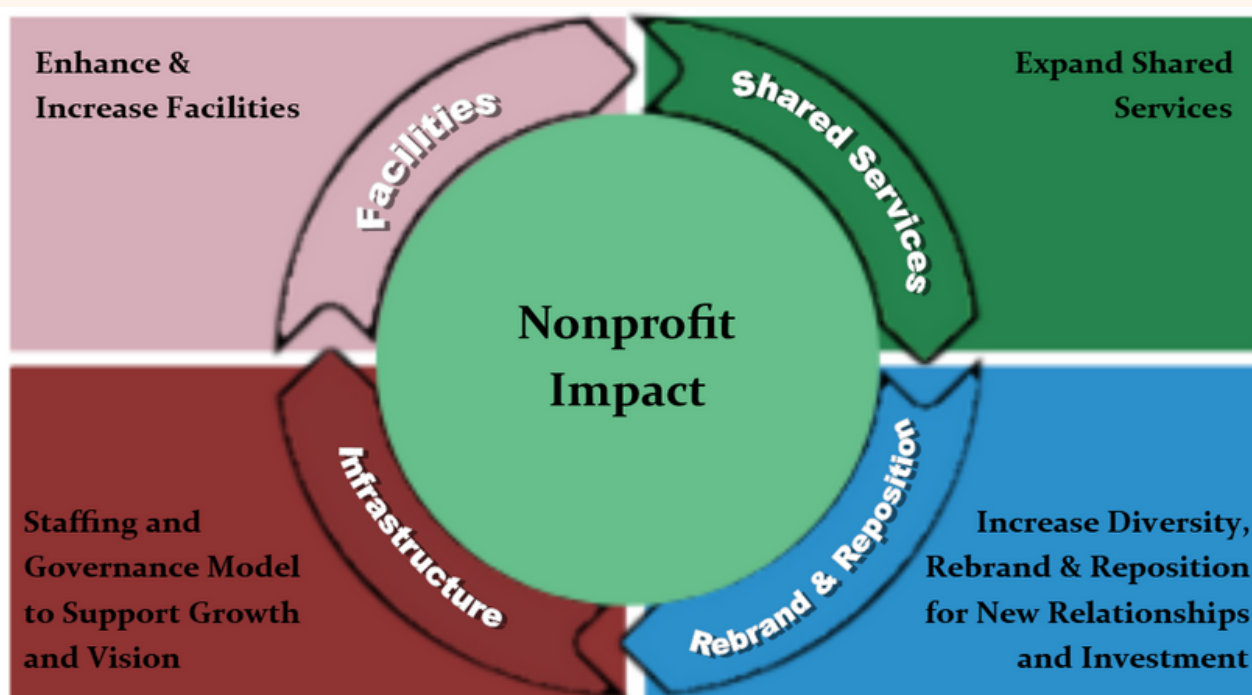
As we enter into this next chapter, we want to say thank you. Thank you for your tireless work to make our community a better place. Thank you for your collaborative spirit. And thank you for being a part of the Children & Family Services Center's 19-year journey. We look forward to continuing our work together in 2022!



# CFSC BOARD SETS TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS

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In November 2021, CFSC adopted its new strategic plan. This plan is our road map to make transformational change in how we serve the community, and the goals outlined within will lay the foundation for continued growth well into the future. As trusted partners, we want to hear from you and will provide opportunities to share your thoughts and ideas as we carry out this work. See below for more details on our four strategic priorities.



1. Augment the organization's current Center City facility, at 601 E. 5th Street, to foster a positive work environment while growing the facility footprint to include additional space(s) for use by current and new tenants.
2. Expand access to Shared Services (HR, IT and Finance) to support nonprofits of all missions while working collaboratively to solve the challenge of supporting and scaling emerging community-based organizations.
3. Rebrand and reposition the Children & Family Services Center and its Shared Services offering to drive a new value proposition that encourages new client relationships and near-term investment toward long-term goals.
4. Attract and retain the human resources necessary to realize the strategic plan to include an expanded organizational chart for staffing and a realigned structure of governance to secure volunteer leadership aligned to organizational vision.

# BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

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United Way of Central Carolinas and the Children & Family Services Center have partnered to assist Unite Charlotte nonprofits with crucial back-office support.

Originally launched in response to the civic unrest that erupted in Charlotte in the fall of 2016, Unite Charlotte is a program that provides up to three years of funding and capacity-building support to local grassroots organizations led by people of color.

At the end of 2021, Unite Charlotte had awarded \$2.2 million in funding to dozens of organizations working to advance racial equity and address economic mobility.



In 2022, some of these grassroots agencies will take part in an innovative pilot program with the Children & Family Services Center, gaining access to valuable assistance in their human resources, IT and finance functions, allowing them to focus on program delivery.

"United Way continues to focus our work on economic mobility and racial equity by bringing new partners to the table and funding innovative solutions to long-standing challenges," said United Way President and CEO Laura Yates Clark. "There is tremendous strength in grassroots and neighborhood-based organizations. We are proud to support their efforts as we work together to create opportunity for all."



# OUR PARTNER AGENCIES

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Empowers individuals with limited resources to establish and maintain good health.



Surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.\*

Enables individuals and families to obtain and sustain safe, decent and affordable housing.\*



Improves the lives and futures of Mecklenburg County children through legal representation, advocacy, and by addressing community-wide issues through research and policy.\*

Empowers persons living with HIV, and those at risk, to be healthy and stigma-free.



Coordinates the education and services continuum of the former Boulevard Homes public housing site into a vibrant village.

# OUR PARTNER AGENCIES

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Provides hope and healing to those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.\*



Facilitates the delivery of a high-quality system of care, family support, health services and education for every child beginning with birth.\*

Provides a fully staffed call center that helps landlords list, and tenants search for, properties while monitoring the availability and accuracy of listings.



Provides affordable housing to alleviate homelessness and human suffering.

Empowers children and families to achieve their goals through trauma-informed mental health, family stability and early childhood services.



Fights for the education, health, financial stability and basic needs of every person in our community.



# PARTNER AGENCY COLLABORATIONS

The Children & Family Services Center was founded to be a collaborative and dignified home for nonprofits and one less barrier for their clients by co-locating services. Today, CFSC is a consortium of partner agencies addressing economic mobility, racial equity and family stability. Serving more than 200,000 people across the region, our partner agencies are making a significant impact on our community. Detailed below are just some of the ways they worked together over the past year to improve the lives of children and families.

## CARE RING

- Co-hosted eight COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the Center with Atrium Health and Mecklenburg County to ensure clients served by Care Ring and the partner agencies within CFSC received equitable access, and to facilitate vaccination for the staff working in the building.
- Supported RAIN's "Let's Talk About Sex" community conversation at Grier Heights Community Center by providing two Nurse-Family Partnership registered nurses to answer participants' questions.



## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

- Served with Community Link on the Financial Security CLT coalition.
- Referred clients to Community Link for asset building, tax preparation and housing services.
- Worked jointly with Care Ring to connect needed health services for families, in particular providing sports physicals for students.
- Provided staff representation on Council for Children's Rights' Board of Directors and Policy Committee.



# PARTNER AGENCY COLLABORATIONS

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## COMMUNITY LINK

- Continued a partnership with Safe Alliance (SA) and Mecklenburg County to assist survivors of domestic violence. SA provided case management services, and CL provided rapid placement housing for survivors and their children. The County assisted with coordination.
- Continued to work on projects with United Way, Socialserve and Supportive Housing Communities.
- Led a collaboration with all agencies at the Center to offer the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to lower-income customers. This free tax-preparation service saved customers \$250 per tax return.



## COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- Fostered ongoing research partnerships with Communities In Schools and other local partners on the continued impact of COVID-19 on the juvenile justice, mental health and child welfare systems.
- Referred families to Community Link for housing services.
- Served on the Financial Security CLT coalition, Child Fatality Prevention and Protection Team, Children's Alliance and Race Matters for Juvenile Justice with other partner agencies including Communities In Schools and Safe Alliance.
- Worked with Thompson Child and Family Focus to serve children in the psychiatric treatment facility program.



## RAIN

- Referred clients to Community Link for assistance with mortgage payments, tax preparation and researching affordable housing options.
- Assisted Supportive Housing Communities' clients determined HIV-negative with housing, therapy, outpatient therapy, sexual health services and aid.
- Provided HIV education, sexual health education and on-site HIV testing at Renaissance West and Grier Heights.



# PARTNER AGENCY COLLABORATIONS

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## SMART START OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY

- Provided funding for Communities In Schools' Safe Journeys program which provided case management and educational support to adolescent parents.
- Provided funding for Care Ring's Nurse-Family Partnership, an intensive nurse home visiting model designed to improve birth outcomes, child development and self-sufficiency of low-income mothers.
- Provided funding for Safe Alliance's Child and Adult Relationship Enhancement initiative (CARE), a trauma-informed modification of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy skills for non-clinical adults who interact with traumatized children and their caregivers.
- Provided funding for Thompson Child and Family Focus' child-focused behavior intervention specialized therapies, training and family education services.
- Provided funding to, and participated in, United Way of Central Carolina's racial equity funder collaborative.



## SOCIALSERVE

- Secured housing for 172 households receiving Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) assistance. Along with Roof Above, Salvation Army, Community Link, Supportive Housing Communities, Catholic Charities and The Relatives, this collaborative of homeless services agencies was organized by United Way of Central Carolinas, which was also the fiscal sponsor of the initiative.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMMUNITIES

- Partnered with United Way, Socialserve, Roof Above and Shelter Plus Care to provide housing, counseling, case management services, resource management and housing for their clients.

# PARTNER AGENCY COLLABORATIONS

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## THOMPSON CHILD & FAMILY FOCUS

- Offered outpatient therapy and other supportive mental health services to Care Ring clients.
- Worked with Council for Children's Rights, which represented every child in its psychiatric residential treatment facility program.
- Partnered with Community Link to assist A Child's Place families with resources.
- Partnered with Smart Start of Mecklenburg County to provide parent education workshops and early childhood behavior intervention services.



## UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL CAROLINAS

- Mobilized a coalition of seven nonprofit partners to respond to the urgent need to provide stable housing to those at risk for, or experiencing, homelessness. Partners included: Catholic Charities, Community Link, Roof Above, Socialserve, Supportive Housing Communities, The Relatives and the Salvation Army. Using funds provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the coalition secured housing for 212 households to date.
- Awarded more than \$1.6 million to dozens of local nonprofits in the seventh and final round of grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund. Some of the agencies awarded in the final round of grants included: Eliminate the Digital Divide, RAIN, For The Struggle, Inc., Care Ring and Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy. In total, more than \$23.5 million was granted to 240 nonprofits helping those affected by the pandemic with basic needs such as childcare, education, housing, food, emergency financial assistance, legal advocacy, health and mental health and workforce development. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg COVID-19 Response Fund was launched in March 2020 to support local nonprofits experiencing increased need and demand for services due to the pandemic. The Fund was administered through a partnership between Foundation For The Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas, in close coordination with the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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In addition to collaborating with the agencies in the Center, our partner agencies work with a myriad of community nonprofits to serve those throughout the Charlotte region.

## CARE RING

- Partnered with Mecklenburg County Health Department and Johnson C. Smith University to address health literacy and COVID-19 vaccine equity. Two community health workers, funded through this project, provided community outreach and education about COVID-19 vaccination.
- Coordinated over \$25 million in donated care for 3,285 patients referred to Physicians Reach Out from MedLink partners.
- Provided comprehensive health care and care coordination for the formerly incarcerated through a partnership with Freedom Fighting Missionaries.
- Developed a new partnership with Year Up, a job training program that improves economic mobility, to provide comprehensive healthcare, care coordination and resource navigation for their uninsured students using an innovative telehealth model.
- Hosted Vision to Learn for a back-to-school event to ensure school-aged children served by the low-cost clinic had free eye exams and glasses, as needed.
- Partnered with One Charlotte Health Alliance, Atrium Health's Sanger Heart and Vascular Institute and Loaves and Fishes for an eight-week program to bring the residents of Brookwood Inn nutritious food boxes, health screenings and education and microwave cooking lessons.
- Increased presence at Grier Heights to serve residents not only with biometric health screenings by our low-cost clinic staff, but with reproductive health resources from the Nurse-Family Partnership nurses and A Guided Journey community health workers.
- Continued the yearly partnership with Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy to assist patients eligible for Affordable Care Act marketplace plans with enrollment and to understand the newly expanded subsidies available.
- Initiated a partnership with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office to provide Nurse-Family Partnership services to incarcerated pregnant women.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

- Partnered with Wayfinders to recruit fourth graders for summer camp across 11 schools. Engaged students participated in camp and leadership experiences for five years.
- Initiated conversation with Big Brothers Big Sisters about ways to increase the number of CIS students matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister.
- Signed a partnership agreement with Carolina Youth Coalition to serve students across 22 common schools, integrate service offerings and dedicate college scholarships for eligible students to promote college/career opportunities.
- Collaborated with the McCrorey Branch YMCA, West Charlotte High School and the Just Kickin Foundation to coordinate an afterschool program at West Charlotte High School.
- Was a founding member of the newly created Financial Security CLT coalition focused on income inequalities and wealth gaps. Collaborating members included Greenlight Fund, Urban League of Central Carolinas, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Latin American Coalition, Community Link, Legal Services and YMCA of Greater Charlotte.
- Worked with the Mayor's Youth Employment Program to train, orient and place more than 12 students in six-week job experiences during the summer.
- Served as an intern placement site for the Johnson C. Smith University Department of Psychology and School of Social Work, as well as the UNC Charlotte School of Social Work.
- Coordinated with Classroom Central to provide students with school supplies and book bags.
- Partnered with Sports Biz to link 30 diverse youth to experiences in the sports industry and promote economic mobility during the summer.
- Worked with Road to Hire to connect high school students with paid apprenticeships, college scholarships, training and career pathways toward sustainable employment.



## COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

- Continued engagement with key stakeholders, both public and nonprofit entities, to ensure and enforce children's rights, including: Race Matters for Juvenile Justice (RMJJ), Model Courts, Mecklenburg County Mental Health Task Force, Juvenile Justice Partnership, Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and Child Fatality Prevention and Protection Team.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CONTINUED

- Provided free trainings, at the Center, to parents, professionals and youth through a special education series called "First Wednesdays" and "Know Your Rights" to ensure youth and young adults were aware of their constitutional rights.
- Produced the annual Juvenile Justice Report in partnership with RMJJ and the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

## RAIN

- Referred clients to Carolinas Care Partnership and RAO Community Health for federally funded financial assistance through HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons living with AIDS).
- Collaborated with infectious disease clinics.
- Referred clients for infectious disease medical care and assistance in completing HIV medication program applications. Clinics referred patients to RAIN's medical case management, support groups, Early Intervention Services (EIS), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Empowering Positive Youth (EPY), mental health services, Community Resources for Empowerment and Wellness (CREW), research and testing.
- Collaborated with Urban Ministries Women's Shelter and Clinic to provide "HIV 101" training on a bi-monthly basis. We also coordinated new referrals with their staff as well as services for RAIN's medical case management clients living at the shelter.
- Worked with Time Out Youth, The Relatives and Point Source Youth to advocate for a Youth Advisory Committee to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Continuum of Care. Members of these organizations also participated in the newly formed committee.
- Partnered with Duke University Health's research project, CREW, which linked transgender people to services for substance abuse, mental health services and aftercare support. RAIN provided case management services for these clients as well as access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).
- Referred clients to Carolinas Care Partnership (CCP) for their housing partnership program and maintained a working relationship with clients throughout the process. RAIN collaborated with CCP on HIV outreach/testing. The program assisted with the first month's rent, utilities or rental deposits.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## RENAISSANCE WEST COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

- Each week, Loaves and Fishes provided snack pick-up for Pre-K and Kindergarten students at the STEAM Academy and the Bulb Market was on-site to distribute fresh produce and dairy products. At Thanksgiving, a turkey distribution was organized for residents in partnership with Charlotte Rescue Mission.
- Coordinated a Good Vibes event with Be Whole Counseling Services that educated residents on best practices for dealing with stress and the various services available to them.
- Collaborated with Bank of America to distribute personal items such as toiletries, toothpaste and deodorant to residents and teens.
- Partnered with Digi-Bridge robotics for their school club.
- Partnered with the Junior League of Charlotte to facilitate the Kids in the Kitchen program and support the PTSA at Renaissance West STEAM Academy.
- Worked with the City of Charlotte and Queens University to provide free community Wi-Fi for residents of Renaissance and Little Rock Apartments neighborhoods.
- Partnered with NC Works to provide job leads and employment referrals for residents.
- Partnered with Dr. Tamara Bowles, president/chair of BYF Consulting #1, to provide a GED prep course, informational technology programs and middle/high school enrichment for reading and math.
- Worked with Youth Development Initiatives, to provide innovative curriculum and interactive skills-based training, including individualized academic and career guidance, mentoring and information technology programming for the inaugural eighth grade cohort transitioning into high school.
- Worked with Duke Energy to distribute to residents 100 emergency kits that contained a flashlight, whistle, waterproof blanket and first aid kit, packed in a weatherproof bag.



## SAFE ALLIANCE

- Actively participated in Mecklenburg County's coordinated entry process along with Roof Above and Salvation Army Center of Hope. Safe Alliance accepted referrals from any community entity to aid in the safety of victims of domestic violence. Shelter residents were referred to coordinated entry to determine their eligibility for available housing resources.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## SAFE ALLIANCE CONTINUED

- Continued to collaborate with the Survivor Resource Center on-site partners: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS), the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services (DSS) and Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center, to provide referral-based support for highest-lethality cases of domestic violence, sexual assault and child maltreatment. Off-site partners included Atrium Health's Domestic Violence Health Care Project, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg District Attorney's Office, Mecklenburg County District Court and Mecklenburg County's Sheriff's Office. The Survivor Resource Center is a precursor to a larger family justice center, The Umbrella Center, and Safe Alliance continues to work with the community to realize this vision.
- Partnered with the Mecklenburg County DSS to provide a two-generation approach to prevention and intervention for those who had experienced, or were at risk for, domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse or neglect through the 24/7 Greater Charlotte Hope Line. Continued to serve on the Mecklenburg County Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Coalition – which coordinated sexual abuse prevention efforts – along with local medical practices, hospitals and DSS.
- Partnered with Mecklenburg County CSS to provide ongoing, co-located services, including mental health counseling, to victims of domestic violence.
- Continued collaboration with Mecklenburg County's District Court, Clerk's Office, and Sheriff's Office and the NC Administrative Office of the Courts to offer e-filing of Domestic Violence Protection Orders. Safe Alliance's Victim Assistance Court Program also partnered with the District Court judges as part of this collaboration.
- Operated a joint Domestic Violence Speakers Bureau with Mecklenburg County CSS's Prevention and Intervention Department.
- Expanded the Mecklenburg County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) by creating a shared data reporting system that protects victim confidentiality while assisting with a collaborative approach, developing universal onboard training that included available trainings by each SART discipline as well as an intro to SART, establishing a virtual training opportunity for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and partnering to create a unified training, implementing a case review process among SART partners, and creating a survivor-centered community protocol (victim-centered response guidelines) that impacted all disciplines and limited re-traumatization.

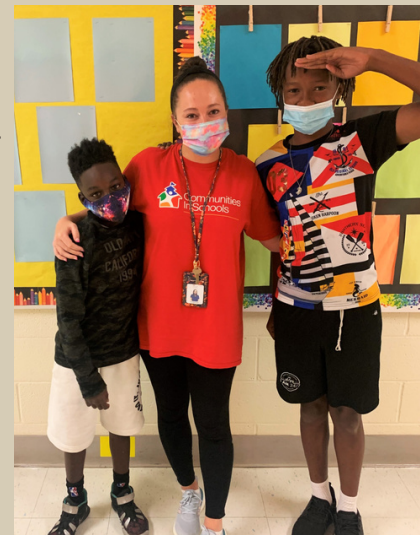


# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## SMART START OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY

- Partnered with Bright Blessings to provide diapers to moms at select clinics for participating in The Basics Mecklenburg.
- Partnered with the Center for Child and Family Health to bring a special training opportunity in Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to Mecklenburg County clinicians.
- Partnered with Read Charlotte to provide Ready4K, a free texting service to families with children ages birth to 5 in Mecklenburg County.
- Provided funding to the following community organizations:
  - YMCA Parents as Teachers, a program that provides young parents the information, support and encouragement to help their children develop optimally during their crucial early years.
  - Charlotte Speech & Hearing Center's Sound Beginnings and Apple a Day, an evidence-based, early language intervention program for preschoolers focused on building their skills in communication, emerging receptive and expressive language.
  - WAGE\$, a program that provided education-based salary supplements to qualifying teachers, directors and family child care providers working with children up to age five.
  - Charlotte Bilingual Preschool, The Learning Collaborative, a five-star program that provides high-quality preschool education to at-risk families.
  - Child Care Resources Inc., including Child Care Subsidy, Child Care Consumer Education, Quality Every Day and Raising a Reader.
  - Central Piedmont Community College Early Childhood Teacher Professional Development program to offer courses designed to prepare teachers to work in their field.
  - four dedicated, certified Child Care Health Consultants to provide training for their local early child care centers.



## SOCIALSERVE

- Recruited and managed relationships, through the HousingCLT program, with housing providers willing to offer rental units to households that experienced homelessness or housing insecurity. The homeless services providers that referred these households continued to provide stabilizing supportive services, while Socialserve determined their housing needs and barriers, worked to identify property providers' willingness to accept them as tenants and provided assistance with overcoming financial barriers to housing. Socialserve worked with its homeless services agency partners to secure housing for 317 households in 2021.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## SOCIALSERVE CONTINUED

- Partnered with Ascent Real Estate Capital to fill units made available via the Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) preservation program. Ascent acquired NOAHs, keeping them affordable and setting aside units for 30% of area median income households. Socialserve referred households to the designated units and payed their rental subsidies.
- Met monthly with three other organizations across North Carolina to share best practices and brainstorm strategies to increase landlord engagement: Housing for New Hope in Durham, Homeward Bound in Asheville and Trillium in Eastern North Carolina. The cohort, convened by NC Coalition to End Homelessness, shared strategies to facilitate streamlining access to housing.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMMUNITIES

- Coordinated with other outreach teams, as part of the broader Mecklenburg County emergency response team, to plan responses to events that impacted people living outside or in places not meant for human habitation.
- Collaborated with Cardinal Innovations to access mental health resources for clients who had neither a mental health provider nor income. SHC staff attended their appointments and encouraged them to take psychotropic medication as prescribed.
- Partnered with InnerVision, a comprehensive recovery center that provided free clinical assessments for clients, as well as Atrium Behavioral Health and Monarch, which both provided counseling and inpatient services.
- Partnered with Carolina Outreach, The Right Choice and the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center to provide mental health services for clients. The VA Medical Center was also a referral source for veterans deemed ineligible for veteran services.
- Partnered with Homeless Relief Ministry, a team of SHC volunteers from three local churches, to furnish units for clients.
- Coordinated referral processes for inpatient and outpatient services for substance use services with Atrium Behavioral Health; Anuvia Prevention & Recovery Center; Cascade (focusing on women and children); Hope Haven (a residential treatment program focused on building life skills); McLeod Addictive Disease and Roof Above Substance Abuse Education Recovery (providng housing services and psychotherapy in addition to intensive outpatient treatment).
- Collaborated with Samaritan House to allow clients to reside in their facility for surgery recovery.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COMMUNITIES CONTINUED

- Collaborated with the following agencies to provide services through their employment program: Goodwill Career Center, GoodWork Staffing of Goodwill, The Center for Community Transition, Charlotte Works, NC Works, MeckWorks, Charlotte Mecklenburg Workforce Providers Council, Charlotte Area Fund, Urban League, Department of Health and Human Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Service, Workforce Providers Council, City of Charlotte, Central Piedmont Community College and the NC Department of Commerce-Workforce Solutions.



## THOMPSON CHILD AND FAMILY FOCUS

- Partnered on a variety of operational/training/resource needs with the following agencies for their community mental health programs: Anuvia Wellness & Recovery, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Social Services, Duke University, Florence Crittenton, Novant Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center, Smith Family Wellness, UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Greensboro.
- Partnered on a variety of operational/training/resource dynamics with the following agencies for their foster care programs, providing support to foster parents: Access Family Services, Autism Society, Congregation for Kids, Foster Parent Alliance, Foster Villages, Least of These and One More, One Less which is a collaboration of churches supporting foster parents.
- Partnered on a variety of operational/training/resource dynamics with the following agencies for their early childhood/prevention services: Child Care Resources Inc., Mecklenburg County Health Department (Triple P Program), Milestone Therapy, Early Bird Development Services and Chatterbox Speech Therapy for specialized services.

## UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL CAROLINAS

- Facilitated and distributed over \$1.5 million to 24 nonprofits, including Community Shelter of Union County, Loaves and Fishes and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels, to help supplement local emergency food and shelter efforts in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Union counties as part of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.



# COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

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## UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL CAROLINAS CONTINUED

- Launched a 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge uniting nearly 17,000 individuals across the Charlotte region on a daily journey of learning and self-discovery about issues of race, power, privilege and leadership. Over 240 local businesses and organizations joined the challenge as supporters and to encourage others to participate. The 21-Day Equity Challenge was created by Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., director of the Privilege Institute in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Dr. Moore designed the Challenge to not only help people better understand the issues surrounding equity and inclusion, but to do so in a way that would build a habit of learning by stretching it over 21 days.
- Joined 21 local leaders to launch Neighbors for More Neighbors Charlotte, a coalition of individuals and organizations that support the adoption of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The plan created an unprecedented opportunity for Charlotte to build equity into its growth and development over the next 20 years.
- United more than 800 volunteers across the community to celebrate the 28th annual United Way Union County Day of Caring. With nearly three decades of neighbors helping neighbors, the event illustrated the power of uniting volunteers, organizations and resources to make a difference in our community. Ninety-four volunteer teams from companies, local government, schools, churches, civic groups and nonprofit agencies completed 91 projects.
- Built a new playground at Sterling Elementary School as part of the 17th Charlotte Playground Build. Nearly 140 volunteers from 13 different sponsoring companies helped build a dream playground for over 700 students at Sterling, located just west of South Blvd. in Pineville.
- Invested \$12.3 million in communities across the Charlotte region, awarding \$10 million in grants to 140 nonprofits building stronger neighborhoods, advancing racial equity and economic mobility, and providing a safety-net for those who need it most. The remaining \$2.3 million represents additional United Way community investments and donor-directed funding for nonprofits. Thanks to thousands of corporate and individual donors, as well as public sector support, the \$10 million in grants includes \$9 million in operating support for agencies in 2022. And \$1 million will go to assist smaller, grassroots nonprofits with capacity-building and back-office support for crucial functions such as human resources, IT and finance (more about this effort is referenced on page 6).



# ADDITIONAL COLLABORATIONS

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## ATRIUM HEALTH

- Donated thousands of masks and hand sanitizer to Care Ring for distribution to patients, community groups, individuals and private corporations at community resource fair events.
- Partnered with RWCI to provide a COVID-19 vaccination event and resources, along with education from a community nurse.
- Partnered with Supportive Housing Communities to provide nutrition and wellness classes to clients.

## CENTRAL PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Provided GED programs and annual dental assistance for Supportive Housing Community clients.
- Hosted the Technology Success Certification program and assisted RWCI students with continuing education enrollment.

## CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

- Care Ring, CFSC, Communities In Schools, Council for Children's Rights, Safe Alliance, Thompson Child and Family Focus and United Way of Central Carolinas participated in the Children's Alliance, an organization committed to the well-being of children and families in Mecklenburg County. The collective agencies worked together on shared issues and concerns.

## DREAMKEY PARTNERS

- Coordinated home ownership and financial counseling classes with RWCI.
- Partnered with Socialserve to administer COVID-related rental and utility assistance via the Rent and Mortgage Assistance Program. DreamKey reviewed applications for assistance, and Socialserve made approved payments directly to property/utility providers. In 2021, the partnership distributed over \$61 million in assistance to help over 10,600 COVID-impacted households stay in their homes.

## ELIMINATE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE (E2D)

- Provided computers to Communities In Schools' students.
- Provided laptops to over 50 RWCI households.

## MECKLENBURG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Partnered with Care Ring to launch A Guided Journey, a maternal child health program utilizing eight community health workers to serve 166 families in the six public health priority ZIP codes.
- Coordinated with RAIN to provide services and/or referrals for mutual and new clients. RAIN collaborated with the health department to implement community outreach projects for HIV testing and offer free and confidential testing on Wednesday evenings in RAIN's suite.

## NOVANT HEALTH

- Coordinated community resources and education from a community nurse for RWCI residents.
- Provided permanent supportive housing and medical care to Supportive Housing Communities.





CHILDREN &  
FAMILY  
SERVICES CENTER

## CONTACT US

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