

Canopy Housing Foundation

2026 HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Canopy Housing Foundation's Humanitarian Award was established in 2007 to recognize individuals, projects or groups that have greatly enhanced the quality of life in this region by making outstanding contributions through their knowledge, skills and/or services on behalf of others.

Canopy Housing Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Canopy Realtor® Association.

Recipients receive an engraved crystal award and the opportunity to designate \$5,000 to a 501(c)3 organization of his or her choice. The donation will be awarded from the foundation to the nonprofit organization chosen by the recipient.



ELIGIBILITY

Any individual, group or project in Mecklenburg, Iredell or Haywood counties is eligible to submit a nomination form to be considered. The form should thoroughly describe how the nominee has performed an outstanding service to the community. All nominees will be evaluated based on community impact, extent of service, and overall achievements and contributions. All nominees should have greatly advanced the quality of life in the region.

The nomination process is open to the entire community, including Realtors®.

NOMINATION PROCESS

An official nomination form must be completed and submitted for each nominee. Incomplete nominations will not be considered or presented to the committee.

Nomination forms and all supporting documentation must be submitted by Oct. 31 to be considered.

MAIL OR EMAIL APPLICATIONS TO:

Humanitarian Award Review Committee
1120 Pearl Park Way, Suite 200
Charlotte, NC 28204
foundation@canopyrealtors.com

NOMINATIONS DUE: 10|31|26

The award recipient will be recognized at the Association's Holiday and Awards Luncheon on December 11.



Opportunity resides here.

2026 HUMANITARIAN AWARD



PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

- 2025: Jamilah Espinosa, Esq.**, Founder and Managing Attorney, Espinosa Immigration Law Firm
- 2024: Cristina Grossu Biffle**, REALTOR and instrumental volunteer of critical Hurricane Helene relief efforts
- 2023: Charles Odell**, Founder and President/CEO of The Dilworth Center
- 2022: Hearts and Hands Food Pantry**, a non-profit dedicated to feeding families and children in need
- 2021: Patti and Gary West**, Founders of Fifth Street Ministry
- 2020: Rick Gilbert**, Founder of Home Again Foundation
- 2019: Nancy & Amy Decaron**, Founders of Hope of Mooresville (HOME)
- 2018: Erin Santos**, Executive Director of the Isabella Santos Foundation
- 2017: Shaun "Lucky" Corbett**, Founder of the "Cops & Barbers" initiative
- 2016: Don Gately**, Retired Executive Director of the CrossRoads Corporation
- 2015: John Crawford**, Community leader who established the Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship fund
- 2014: Otis Crowder**, Co-owner of Crowder Construction
- 2013: Curt Seifart**, Key volunteer, advocate and resource for the CrossRoads Corporation
- 2012: Bob Bishop**, Community leader and advocate for the local homeless community
- 2011: Ginger Dowdle**, Founder and benefactor of The Shepherd's Watch
- 2010: Kids First of the Carolinas**, A non-profit service organization providing essentials to those in need
- 2009: Rev. George Cook Jr.**, Community leader and activist
- 2008: Davidson Housing Coalition**, HAMMERS program
- 2007: David Barnhardt**, Real estate veteran and active philanthropist

Get more information or contact Foundation staff at foundation@canopyrealtors.com.

2026 Humanitarian Award

Nomination Form

Name of Nominee(s): _____

Name of Nominator (if different): _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please check appropriate box.

☐

Individual nomination

☐

Group nomination

☐

Project nomination

Please make sure your nomination narrative includes the following:

BACKGROUND: Provide a detailed description of the nominee's humanitarian work. Highlight the following:

- Organizations, projects or areas that have been positively impacted by the nominee
- Detail changes in the community as a result of the nominee's humanitarian work
- Describe how the nominee's approach to a certain humanitarian effort has been innovative and dynamic in terms of meeting a community need

IMPACT: Provide a detailed description of the nominee's humanitarian work. Highlight the following:

- How many people have been served or impacted by this nominee?
- How long has the nominee been involved in this project and/or cause?
- How many volunteer hours or financial resources have been committed by this nominee?
- Has this nominee recruited others to the project or cause? If so, how many?

SUPPORT DOCUMENTS: If available, please include copies of the following to further support this nomination:

- Newspaper or magazine articles
- Press releases
- Blogs
- Letters of support for the nominee

Nominations (including attachments) should not exceed more than five (5) pages in total.

NOMINATIONS DUE:

10/31/26

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