



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Housing Opportunity Foundation awards \$33,500 to area nonprofits

Realtors® continue to address needs through annual Community Grants and Habitat Support Program

Charlotte, N.C. – The [Housing Opportunity Foundation](#) awarded ten local nonprofits and nine-area Habitat for Humanity agencies a total of \$33,500 through the annual Realtor®-directed Habitat Support and Community Grants Programs. The foundation serves as the charitable arm of the [Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association](#) and is dedicated to making a difference in the community by creating housing opportunities, promoting homeownership, and positioning and educating Realtors® as leaders.

The Community Grants Program supports area organizations that address unmet housing needs in Mecklenburg and Iredell counties, while the Habitat Support Program is a way to assist area Habitats that are meeting crucial housing needs for low-to-moderate income families. Since the formal inception of the Habitat Support Program eight years ago and the Community Grants Program six years ago, Realtor® members have distributed a total of \$200,000 to area organizations.

“These two grants programs are just one of the many ways our Realtor® members are able to recognize and celebrate the work being done in our community by local nonprofits, who are helping to achieve the Housing Opportunity Foundation’s vision of affecting a better quality of life in the region,” said Association/Carolina Multiple Listings Services, Inc. (CarolinaMLS) President Joe Rempson.

Funds for both grants programs are restricted and must be used by the agencies by Dec. 31, 2014. Funds cannot be used for capital costs, staff/administrative expenses or debt reduction.

The following organizations were awarded Community Grants by the foundation:

1) Beds for Kids, Inc.

Received \$2,500 to purchase 30 new Sealy twin mattresses for children in need. Realtor® reference was provided by Jennifer Mildenberger, RE/MAX Executive Realty; Shannon Hildreth, Giving Tree Realty; and Cullen McNulty, CHAR Realty Group.

2) Bradley-Reid Corporation

Received \$1,650 to provide for one veteran two months of rent, food, nutrition and toiletries. Realtor® reference was provided by Valerie Lewis, TradeStreet Realty.

3) Changed Choices

Received \$2,000 to provide four scholarships for women in re-entry from jail or prison who need help covering the cost of housing. Realtor® reference was provided by Jonathan Roberts, Allen Tate Co.

4) Diakonos Inc. (Fifth Street Ministries)

Received \$2,500 to provide for the purchase of plates, cups, utensils and small appliances to assist with the preparation of over 85,000 meals to the homeless. Realtor® reference was provided by Edwin Hunter, Coldwell Banker United.

5) Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC)

Received \$2,000 to provide for building materials to construct handicap ramps for people who are poor, elderly and have disabilities. Realtor® reference was provided by Vivian Munson, HM Properties.

6) Men's Shelter of Charlotte

Received \$2,000 to provide rental assistance to house eligible men experiencing homelessness through 'Rapid Re-Housing Program'. Realtor® reference was provided by Robert Dulin, Keller Williams SouthPark.

7) The Salvation Army Center of Hope

Received \$2,000 to provide assistance for a shelter diversion pilot program, which would reroute families from potentially being homeless back into housing. Realtor® reference was provided by Nancy Braun, Showcase Realty.

8) The Harvest Center of Charlotte

Received \$1,700 to provide funds to complete work on one house for three men who will be part of the transitional housing program. Realtor® reference was provided by Dan Cottingham Sr., Cottingham Chalk Hayes, Realtors®.

9) Time Out Youth Center

Received \$2,000 to provide funds for the Host Home and Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) program providing transitional housing for ten lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning (LGBTQ) homeless youth and provide case management to obtain permanent housing. Realtor® reference was provided by David Deal, Allen Tate Co.

10) YWCA Central Carolinas

Received \$1,650 to provide for the aftercare for graduates of the Families Together (FT) program, a residential program for families with children who have experienced homelessness. Realtor® reference was provided by Joan Goode, Dickens Mitchener & Associates.

The following Habitat for Humanity organizations were awarded grants from the foundation:

1) Habitat for Humanity of Cabarrus County

Received \$1,500 to provide matching dollars being raised by a local Boy Scout. These funds will be used for the construction costs of a specific house build in the Logan community within Cabarrus County. The funds raised through this special project will be matched by the City of Concord.

2) Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte

Received \$2,500 to cover critical repair costs facing low-income homeowners whose homes have fallen into serious disrepair and who are often unable to afford such improvements. In 2014, Habitat Charlotte expects to provide critical repairs for 120 families.

3) Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County

Received \$1,000 toward replacing the siding for a renovation located on Parkdale Avenue in Gastonia. The siding will be replaced using all volunteer labor. Habitat Gaston has made a commitment to renovate multiple homes within this former mill village.

4) Habitat for Humanity of Iredell County

Received \$2,000 toward the building of a new home for one of the pre-approved homeowner clients who is scheduled for a home build within the next nine months.

5) Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County

Received \$1,000 to be used for repairs (specifically new windows) for a home repair project resulting from a foreclosed property that was donated to Habitat. The house is a five-bedroom, two-bath home that was abandoned for over six months and needs necessary updates to make it habitable for another family.

6) Habitat for Humanity of Matthews

Received \$1,000 to purchase a BodyGuard WB 150 Wall Bracket System utilized to provide advanced safety measures on home roofing projects conducted by Habitat Matthews. Once in place, the system protects workers who perform stacking, fascia, sheathing, nailing and other roof edge operations.

7) Habitat for Humanity of Stanly County

Received \$1,000 to purchase framing materials (floor system/wall panels) for one of two home builds that began July 1 in the northern end of the city limits of Albemarle. The total cost for the materials is \$13,000 for both houses.

8) Habitat for Humanity of Union County

Received \$1,000 to purchase windows and exterior doors for a three-bedroom, two-bath Habitat house being built for the Misty Covington family on South Rocky River Road in Monroe. The windows and doors will be scheduled for installation in September 2014. The Covington family has a special needs child, so being able to have a home close to the child's school and medical facilities is very important.

9) Our Towns Habitat for Humanity

Received \$2,500 to assist in expanding the Critical Repairs Program in the community. Specifically, this funding will be used to provide repairs to existing low-income homeowners whose homes present issues impacting health, safety or accessibility.

The organizations were formally recognized by the Housing Opportunity Foundation, association and community leadership, and supporting donors at the first annual Opening Hearts, Opening Doors luncheon to celebrate and shine a light on the great work these organizations are doing within the region.

For more information about the Housing Opportunity Foundation, the association or CarolinaMLS, visit www.CarolinaHome.com.

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The Charlotte Regional Realtor[®] Association is a trade association that provides its more than 7,000 Realtor[®] members with the resources and services they need to conduct ethical, professional, successful and profitable businesses. The association is dedicated to being the region's primary resource for residential real estate information. The association operates the Carolina Multiple Listing Services, Inc. (CarolinaMLS), which has approximately 8,000 Subscribers and is the private cooperative Realtors[®] use for access to tens of thousands of residential listings in a multi-county service area, including the high-growth Charlotte area and counties outside this service area.

The Housing Opportunity Foundation is the charitable arm of the Charlotte Regional Realtor[®] Association and is dedicated to funding, education, advocacy and leadership programs that are focused on fair and affordable housing and workforce-housing initiatives. The foundation serves to position and educate Realtors[®] as leaders, promote homeownership and provide funding to create housing opportunities.