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Housing Opportunity Foundation awards \$10,000 to area nonprofits

Realtors® make a difference through annual Community Grants Program

Charlotte, N.C. – The Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association [Housing Opportunity Foundation](#) announced the recipients of its annual Community Grants Program and awarded four local nonprofit agencies a total of \$10,000. The foundation awarded grants to Changed Choices, Inc., Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, Residential and Support Services, Inc., and Samaritan House.

The foundation, which serves as the charitable arm of the association, 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 seeks to support area organizations that address unmet housing needs in Mecklenburg and Iredell counties. Since 2009, the foundation has awarded \$20,000 through the Realtor®-directed and funded program. “Realtors® are acutely aware of the tremendous financial responsibility these agencies shoulder to meet the diverse critical needs in our community,” said association/Carolina Multiple Listing Services, Inc. (CMLS) President Lyn Kessie. “This program gives our members – who are on the front lines as volunteers at many agencies across the region – a way to pool resources and share in the foundation’s vision of creating a better quality of life for our community.”

The following organizations submitted applications to a review panel and were recommended by Realtors®. All were approved by the foundation board of directors to receive community grants for the 2010 fiscal year:

- [Changed Choices, Inc.](#): \$2,500 to finance the living costs of five formerly incarcerated female clients. Clients are supported for one month as they work to attain employment and their first paychecks. Recommended by Doris Horton, Realtor®.
- [Men’s Shelter of Charlotte](#): \$2,500 to assist 10 of the community’s homeless citizens with rent and utility deposits to begin the process of moving out of the shelter. Recommended by Julie Wall-Burris, Realtor®.
- [Residential and Support Services, Inc.](#): \$2,500 to assist families who need help with mortgages and are in danger of losing their homes through the “First in Families” Project. All families with this organization have the additional challenge of caring for a developmentally disabled family member. Recommended by Donna Anderson, Realtor®.

- **Samaritan House**: \$2,500 to provide a home-like environment for homeless men and women as they recuperate from a hospital or emergency room stay. Funds will also support the referral of these individuals to local social service agencies that assist in transitioning individuals to stable housing. Recommended by David Deal, Realtor®.

For more information about the Housing Opportunity Foundation, the association or CMLS, 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. (CMLS), which has approximately 8,100 Subscribers and is the private cooperative Realtors® use for access to tens of thousands of residential listings in a 10-county service area, including the high-growth Charlotte area and 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.