

The Housing Opportunity Foundation's Community Grants Program launched in 2009 and its purpose is to provide financial support to nonprofit organizations that address unmet housing needs in Mecklenburg and Iredell counties. Each year, grants are awarded and provide valuable funding and recognition to organizations that are making a difference in the lives of others. The deserving organizations who received funding in 2009, 2010 and 2011 are detailed below.

2009 Community Grants Program Recipients

Latin American Coalition

\$2,500 was used for the Hispanic Homeownership Initiative to assist in serving 387 families, which resulted in 66 successful house closings. Funds were also utilized in offering foreclosure prevention and budget counseling for 60 families to help prevent mortgage delinquency.

Wesley Community Development Center

\$2,500 was used to pay the pre-development costs and architect's fees for completion of a three-bedroom home to be built in Cornelius for three mentally disabled adults. In addition, the funds were used to leverage challenge grants from surrounding churches within the United Methodist Church districts and have served to assure that Realtors® are considered leaders in establishing this project.

Urban Ministry Center

\$2,000 was used to pay for 12 phone lines for use through the SABER program. The utilization of these funds allowed residents (homeless and currently undergoing drug treatment and job counseling) to achieve stability in their lives by seeking permanent employment and housing.

The Salvation Army Center of Hope

\$2,000 was used to purchase 1,777 one-ride bus passes for the 60 participants in the *Show Up for Life* job-training program. As a result, 22 women gained employment and are now on their way to the next step of transitional living and housing.

Hope House

\$1,000 was used to transform a utilitarian garage into a safe, recreational space for homeless residents of all ages while residing at Hope House. As the last space to be renovated, this funding allowed the center to open for full occupancy this past fall and will offer a home to 12 adult women and their children for up to a six month stay.

2010 Community Grants Program Recipients

Changed Choices, Inc.

\$2,500 was used to finance the living costs of five clients for one month while they worked to attain employment and their first paycheck; allowing former female inmates the opportunity to transition back into society while receiving mentoring, counseling, education and life coaching. This funding helped these women (and their children) to make positive changes in their lives and to achieve self-sufficiency by overcoming the barriers of finding a job and a safe place to live.

Men's Shelter of Charlotte

\$2,500 was used to assist with the rent and utility deposits to help 10 of the community's most fragile citizens begin the process of moving out of the shelter while still receiving supportive services from the Continuing Care Component; these support services allowed them to obtain and maintain housing.

Residential and Support Services

\$2,500 was used for the "First in Families" project that provides assistance to families that are in need of help with their mortgage payments and are in danger of losing their homes. All of these families also have the additional challenge of caring for a family member who is developmentally disabled.

Samaritan House

\$2,500 was used to provide a home-like environment for homeless men and women as they recuperated after a hospital or emergency room stay; funds were also used to support the process of referring these individuals to local social service agencies where they could obtain additional assistance to aid in transitioning them into stable housing.

2011 Community Grants Program Recipients

Builders of Hope

\$1,300 was used to provide tools for eight individuals going through the “Hope Works!” Mentoring Program; each person in the program will develop construction skills and basic workplace competencies to transition to a self-supportive environment and independent lifestyle.

Carolinas Care Partnership

\$2,500 was used to assist with the rent and utility deposits to help of five families and individuals with HIV/AIDS who need secure and stable housing; most of these clients struggle to find adequate housing due to their health situation.

Charlotte Family Housing

\$2,500 was used for housing deposits to help five Charlotte families living in shelters move into housing on their own where they will receive supportive services.

Children’s Homes of Iredell County

\$2,500 was used to provide educational training materials, college application funds, and transportation funds for employment and college visits to the young adults in the Children’s Homes’ Transitional Living Program, which houses children aging out of the foster care system.

Love In the Name of Christ

\$1,200 was used to purchase materials for eighteen handicap ramps for people of few resources, senior adults and people with disabilities in Mecklenburg County; this gives homeowners the freedom to enter and exit their homes safely and easily.

2012 Community Grants Program Recipients

Changed Choices

\$2,500 to support clients in transition from prison to the Changes Choices supervised home. This funding will contribute towards five months of support (\$500 each) for the rent and utilities for five clients.

Diakonis (Fifth Street Ministries)

\$2,500 to provide mattress covers for 154 beds in the shelter and transitional housing program to be used to combat the continuing negative health effects of transient living.

Love In The Name of Christ

\$2,500 to purchase materials to build handicap ramps for people who are poor, elderly or who have disabilities. All ramps are built with volunteer labor.

Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte

\$1,500 to purchase a one-year license for the *Kid’s College Math & Literacy Learning System* program for homeless children who are part of the Boys & Girls Clubs program.

Samaritan House, Inc.

\$2,500 to provide short-term recuperative care for homeless men and women following a hospital stay. This organization is currently the only one that offers this type of assistance in the Charlotte area.

United Family Services

\$1,000 for bus passes for the Shelter for Battered Women. These passes will be utilized to assist clients in obtaining employment and to start them on the path to a more secure future.

Urban Ministry Center

\$2,500 to provide six month of utility costs for three chronically homeless people who currently have no disability income or housing voucher. Clients typically suffer from physical or mental health disabilities, a substance abuse issue, or a combination of both.

2013 Community Grants Program Recipients

A Child's Place

Awarded \$2,250 to provide financial assistance for rent, lease deposits and utility bills to homeless families involved in their programs.

Barium Springs

Awarded \$2,500 to provide life-training skills for youth aging out of the foster care system who continue to need transitional support.

Changed Choices

Awarded \$2,250 to provide rent and utility costs for clients who are in a recovery program for offenders.

Horizon Development Properties

Awarded \$1,000 to purchase computers for a self-sufficiency program for homeless women and children.

Love in the Name of Christ

Awarded \$2,500 to purchase materials to construct handicap ramps for people who are poor, elderly and/or disabled.

Time Out Youth

Awarded \$2,000 to provide assistance for emergency transitional housing for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and Questioning homeless youth.

Urban Ministry Center

Awarded \$1,000 to purchase cleaning supplies and provide a laundry subsidy for the Housing Works Program's chronically homeless and disabled residents.

YWCA

Awarded \$1,500 to provide matching funds toward security and utility deposits for Families Together Program graduates.

Since **2009**, the Housing Opportunity Foundation's Community Grants Program has funded **\$45,000 to area nonprofit organizations** to address unmet housing needs in Mecklenburg and Iredell counties.

The mission of the Housing Opportunity Foundation is to position and educate Realtors® as leaders, promote homeownership and provide funding to create housing opportunities.