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WOMEN'S IMPACT FUND GRANTS MORE THAN \$377,000 TO CHARLOTTE NONPROFITS

400 Philanthropic Women Unite to Address Critical Community Issues

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (May 14, 2014) . The [Womens Impact Fund](http://womensimpactfund.org), a Charlotte-based, collective-giving organization with 400 female community leaders, granted five local nonprofits a combined **\$377,500** to address critical community needs.

Charlotte Children's Choir, Child Care Resources Inc., TreesCharlotte, Barium Springs Home for Children and The Salvation Army were recognized as this year's grant recipients during the organization's annual meeting May 13 presented by Wells Fargo.

Through a competitive application process, which generated more than 100 entries, grant recipients were evaluated in an extensive member-led review process followed by a general membership vote.

Funding these worthy organizations is a testament to the nonprofits' mission as well as the Womens Impact Fund's commitment to strengthen our community through collective giving, said Jeanette Sims, outgoing Chairwoman of the Board. Since 2003, these dynamic women have provided 49 grants totaling more than \$3.7 million. That's a significant contribution to Charlotte.

During the annual meeting, members also participated in the sWIFt gift, a flash philanthropy award of \$5,000 to a finalist for a 2014 Womens Impact Fund grant. Members took part in a text message vote that selected Community Culinary School of Charlotte as the recipient of the sWIFt gift. Funds were designated to general operating support.

For more than 10 years, the Womens Impact Fund has been a force for positive change in Mecklenburg County and also has emerged as one of the largest women's collective giving groups in the country.

2014 Women's Impact Fund Grant Recipients

- Arts & Culture funding will support [Charlotte Children's Choir](http://charlottechildrenschoir.org)'s SingOut! program, an afterschool choral at the Bette Rae Thomas Center. SingOut! serves at-risk youth from the surrounding neighborhood. Grant dollars will purchase a piano, teaching supplies and curriculum as well as pay for a part-time education and outreach coordinator and accompanist.
- Education funding was awarded to [Child Care Resources Inc.](http://childcareresources.org) for Raising a Reader, an early reading program serving low-income children in local child-care centers. Grant dollars will purchase books, bags and materials, pay for personnel and other program costs.
- The environment grant recipient was [TreesCharlotte](http://treescharlotte.org) for NeighborWoods, a program to replenish and sustain Charlotte's tree canopy in deforested and underserved areas. Grant dollars will purchase 1,800 trees and partially pay for six tree-planting events.
- [Barium Springs Home for Children](http://bariumspringshome.org) earned the health-focused grant for its Court Psychologist Program, which provides on-site comprehensive psychological assessments and consultation services for children referred through Mecklenburg County's Juvenile Court. The grant will support staff salary and benefits.

- Human services funding will benefit [The Salvation Army](#) for its Rapid Rehousing Program, a best-practices model to rapidly re-house homeless families within 60 days of admission to the Center of Hope Shelter. Grant dollars will provide salary and benefits for one full-time social worker.

Also at the meeting, Carolyn Meade, an attorney with Moore and Van Allen, was elected to chair the board of directors for the 2014-2015 year.

About Women's Impact Fund

Since 2003, the Women's Impact Fund has amplified the significant role women play in philanthropy. The mission is to maximize women's leadership in philanthropy by engaging and educating members, increasing charitable contributions and strengthening communities through the impact of collective giving. The organization has emerged as one of the largest women's collective giving groups in the country and continues to create powerful change in Mecklenburg County. To date, the Women's Impact Fund has made 49 grants totaling more than \$3.7 million. For more information, visit www.womensimpactfund.org.

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