

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, a total of \$10,000 is awarded and provides valuable funding and recognition to organizations that are making a difference in the lives of others. The deserving organizations who received funding in 2009 and 2010 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.