



History

In 2002, the Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association Board of Directors examined how the Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association Charitable Foundation (as it was then known) could increase the community impact of local Realtors®. Under the direction of Tony Smith, 2003 Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association president, a presidential advisory group was appointed to evaluate methods in achieving this goal.

In spring 2003, the organizational name was changed to the Housing Opportunity Foundation (HOF). To provide a method for the funding to grow, a fund was established at the Foundation for the Carolinas (FFTC) that allowed for the investment of “endowed funds” for long-term projects. Ongoing activities are funded through HOF’s annual budget.

As the Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association’s nonprofit branch, the foundation currently serves as the umbrella organization for the association’s focus on affordable workforce housing. Current programs include the Humanitarian Award, Community Grants Program, Habitat Support Program, Realtors® Care Day project and the Workforce Housing Certificate Program (WHCP). As an extension of the certificate program, which offers free educational workshops to Realtors®, HOF also sponsors a community-wide Workforce Housing Fair. This event offers free educational information and resources to consumers and first-time homebuyers needing assistance with the buying process.

Because the foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the Charlotte Regional Realtor® Association, one of its primary goals is to establish revenue sources that contribute to the funding of housing needs in the community. The foundation has committed to this goal through its Habitat Support Program and Community Grants Program, which invest in local housing organizations whose purpose is the expansion and improvement of affordable workforce housing in the greater Charlotte region. To date, more than \$100,000 has been awarded through these programs.

For further information on HOF, please e-mail [Terri Marshall](mailto:Terri.Marshall@hof.org), executive director, or call 704-940-3148.

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