



2020  
Annual  
Report

- 01 Our Team
- 02 What We Raised
- 03 By the Numbers
- 04 Favorite Moments
- 06 Donation Dollars at Work
- 08 All in the Family
- 09 Get Involved
- 10 Sponsors

Dear Good Friends,

Your support in 2020 was nothing short of phenomenal. Our call to action this year was, "The need is now, the need is great!" and you answered the call. Thank you!

*Ours is a story of the power of four women asking their good friends to gather and give help to our neighbors in need and then year by year watching the growth of a luncheon become a movement of improving lives in our community.*

In 2021, we will continue to focus on the unmet needs that bring fragility to Charlotte's struggling, working families. We are proud to be part of a generous community and look forward to increasing our network of Good Friends and leveraging the GOOD that we can do for Charlotte.

In the following pages you will see the good work of Good Friends in 2020, and we can't wait to continue to spread the good into 2021 and beyond.

Warmest regards,



**Anne McPhail**  
President



In 2020, board meetings looked different but the hard work didn't stop.

Board of Directors

- Judy Allison
- Marinn Bengel
- Elizabeth Bivens
- Tina Bonner-Henry
- Sabrina Brathwaite
- Katharine Cowan
- Angela Cureton
- Katherine Daly
- Lucy Dean
- Yolanda Johnson
- Carole Joyner
- Beverly Lassiter
- Barbara Maida-Stolle
- Anne McPhail
- Sonja Nichols
- Amy Pack
- Marty Pizzo
- Ellen Rankin
- David Rivens
- Lauren Robinson
- Cary Sherck
- Mary Tinkey
- Sally Van Allen
- Mary Sherrill Ware

Trustees

- Mary Lou Babb
- Joanne Beam
- Crandall Bowles
- Janet Bradshaw
- Betsy Brand
- Catherine Browning \*
- Ruth Castleberry
- Katherine Belk-Cook
- Alice Folger \*
- Sherrard Georgius
- Betty Hunter
- Patty Norman \*
- Nancy Norelli
- Sally Saussy \*
- Matty Silverman
- Jenks Trotter
- Betsy White
- Velva Woollen
- Joan Zimmerman

\* Founder

With your support in 2020, we raised a total of

**\$650,000**

which includes

**\$232,500**

Sponsorships

**\$417,500**

Community gifts

*Here we grow*

**\$56,745**

raised from new donors in 2020

**245**

new donors in 2020

**14**

new sponsors in 2020

**\$6,000,000**

raised since our first luncheon in 1987

**30,000**

women have attended a Good Friends luncheon

**3,000**

families and children helped in 2020

**1,000**

families assisted with basic needs

**500**

Thanksgiving meals provided through Charlotte Rescue Mission

**\$500**

average needed to help a family

**330**

families given needed infant supplies

**160**

families provided internet access for remote learning

**100**

calls received daily for assistance

**100**

adults and children helped with medical bills

**100**

families assisted with utilities

**80**

referral partners

**223**

Lifetime Members

**DID YOU KNOW**

100% of every dollar raised during **Gather & Give** is invested in the community

**885**

Annual Members





**Remaining Open During the Pandemic**

Good Friends is proud to be one of the few local agencies that remained open and working in the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic. By design, our mission is nimble, allowing us to fill the gaps in our community quickly and efficiently. **The Board identified three critical areas of focus where our dollars could have the biggest impact: food insecurity, infant safety and safe shelter.**

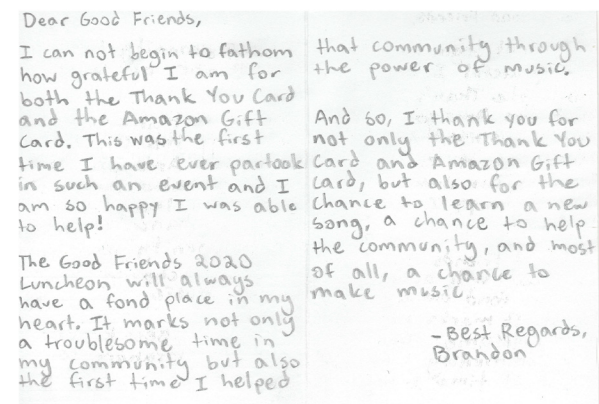


This year has been a year of firsts but not a year of lasts... Good Friends receives nearly 100 calls a day for assistance and yet this year small needs doubled. The outpouring of calls and referrals from our 80 partners came in and suddenly we were the organization standing in the storm of a pandemic.”

—  
**Good Friend,  
GiGi Dixon,  
2020 Gather & Give**

**Empowering Our Community Through Partnerships**

We distributed facemasks and yard signs to share the good news of Good Friends throughout our community. When we decided to promote the joy of Good Friends through facemasks, we sought local partnership with Fashion & Compassion and Project 658. Thank you for partnering with Good Friends to spread joy in our community.



A thank you note from Gather & Give piano soloist, Brandon.

**Highlighting Talent in Our Community**

The musical talent provided at the Gather & Give Event was in partnership with Arts+, a local non-profit that works to make outstanding arts education accessible to everyone.

Arts+ Music Director, Wes Smith, worked with his young students to provide Good Friends with a beautiful virtual concert, each child performing remotely from their own home, a true testament to the times.

**The Power of One Good Friend**

As schools remained closed this fall, it was reported that nearly 10,000 local children did not have internet access and therefore no ability to continue their learning remotely.

Upon hearing this news, one Good Friend reached out to her friends and asked for their help. Quickly, a fund was formed to raise money, specifically addressing the need for internet hotspots.

Good Friends partnered with CMS Procurement Services and donated funds to provide internet connectivity to 160 families. The power of one Good Friend spreading the word.

Our mission is nimble, by design, allowing Good Friends to respond quickly and effectively in times like these that matter the most.



## Food Insecurity

Food insecurities are at a record high.

### In 2020:

**Good Friends** extended our long standing commitment to **help Veterans with meals**.

**Good Friends** partnered with FoodCo Services to provide **two balanced hot meals to 30 families** displaced in hotels due to COVID-19 throughout the summer months.

**Good Friends** sponsored **500 meals** with the Charlotte Rescue Mission.

*We are Good Friends  
all year long*

## Infant Safety

Good Friends continued to partner with Mecklenburg County Public Health to provide funding for infant safety items for families in need.

### In 2020:

**330 children** received car seats, formula and diapers from Good Friends.

“I was able to connect with Good Friends who made a generous donation to our clinic to purchase baby supplies for our patients. Good Friends’ generosity will give us the chance to have these basic things on hand to distribute. I bow my masked head to you in gratitude.”

— Dr. Shivani Mehta, Myers Park Pediatric Clinic

## Addressing Safe Shelter

Clean, running water was a critical need for families when washing hands became the number one recommendation to stay healthy in the height of the pandemic. **We linked arms with 3,000 adults and youth who needed a hand up in 2020.**

“Good Friends adapted quickly to serve our neighbors and extended help to those experiencing difficulties of all shapes and sizes. Good Friends expanded from providing rent and utilities, to also supporting those living in motels during the pandemic. Partnering with Legal Aid, we helped families stay in safe shelter and then connected as many as possible to long term housing through other community partners. This year, Good Friends has spent \$130,000 on keeping families in safe shelter. Additionally, providing hot meals twice a day as some of these families were literally hotel bound.”

— Good Friend, Vicky Mitchener,  
2020 Gather & Give event

## Sponsoring Safe Summer Activities for Youth

Although summertime looked different in 2020, Good Friends kept our commitment to provide summer camp grants. Good Friends awarded \$35,000 to seven local summer camp programs who serve hundreds of local children.

- **Above and Students**
- **Bell Xcel**
- **Wayfinders**
- **Girls Scouts Hornets Nest**
- **Mecklenburg First in Families - In Reach**
- **The Exceptional Foundation of Charlotte**
- **SOAR, Inc.**





## Good Friends runs in the family

We have been blessed with a legacy of families who have passed the Good Friends torch from one generation to the next.

*Good Friends make Great Families*

*Great Families make Good Friends*

## Be a part of the Good Friends movement

- 1 Be a life member**  
For a payment of \$1,500, be a Good Friend for life. An installment option is also available.
- 2 Be an annual member**  
For \$75 annually, become a Good Friend.

Visit [goodfriendscharlotte.org](http://goodfriendscharlotte.org) to learn more

- 3 Be a sponsor**  
Share the good news of Good Friends with your employer and suggest they become a sponsor. If you would like to honor the legacy of Good Friends in your family, check out our new “Founding Friend” sponsorship option.
- 4 Donate to help our Good Friends**  
Your Good Friends donation goes directly to support a neighbor in need.



## 2020 Sponsors

### Presenting Sponsor

Wells Fargo

### Founding Friends Sponsors

The Dowd Foundation

LendingTree Foundation

Margaret Bissell

O H Rankin Family Foundation

The Woollen Family

### Phenomenal Friend Sponsors

Atrium Health

### Extraordinary Friends Sponsors

Bank of America

BrightHouse Financial

Corning

Duke Energy

Novant Health

Novare Capital Management

Rodgers Builders

Truist

### Fantastic Friends Sponsors

Coca-Cola Consolidated

Extended Stay America

PNC Wealth Management

Queens Oak Advisors

SB&J Enterprises

### Terrific Friend Sponsors

Accrue Partners

AT&T North Carolina

Belle Properties

Bragg Financial Advisors

Carin Ross-Johnson

Carolina Legal Staffing

Central Piedmont Community College

Christine Hotham

Cyndi & Gary Kersey

Dickens Mitchener

Joyner Benfield

Kevin & Tina Bonner Henry

Liz Shea Designs

Moore & Van Allen

MyWorkChoice

Rachel & Dennis Heneghan

Rankin Wealth Management

Rebecca Carter

Serena Cockrell

Shanon & Michael Jones

Sonja Nichols

South State Bank

Truiliant Federal Credit Union



(L to R) Sally Saussy, Alice Folger,  
Patty Norman and Catherine Browning

## Introducing Founding Friends Sponsorship

**One theme of this year's Gather & Give was "Great Families make Good Friends, Good Friends make Great Families."**

This year we introduced a new family sponsorship opportunity, aptly named "Founding Friends", after the four visionaries who founded our organization 34 years ago.

### *Thank you to the 2020 Founding Friends:*

Dowd Family Foundation  
LendingTree Foundation  
Margaret Bissell  
O H Rankin Family Foundation  
Woollen Family Foundation





*We are  
Good Friends*







JOIN US FOR THE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# GATHER *and* GIVE

DECEMBER 9, 2021

GOOD FRIENDS  
*Charlotte*

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