RENAISSANCE WEST COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

CHANGING LIVES
To End Intergenerational Poverty in Charlotte

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
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Learn more about our Staff on our website! For a list of Board Members, see page 23.

Want a refresher on what Renaissance West Community Initiative does? Visit our website and watch our video on the homepage! www.RWCI.org
2019 was a Year of Growth, Change and Challenge for Renaissance West Community Initiative (RWCI).

And still, our holistic community building approach remains intact and on track. While our journey is just beginning, we are seeing real results. Our accomplishments over the year include:

- 663 residents served with our wraparound services
- 317 programs delivered onsite
- 52 children received scholarships to the Howard Levine Child Development Center
- Successful completion of the two-year, nationwide, Build Health Challenge Grant in partnership with One Charlotte Health Alliance
- Nearly 2,000 volunteer hours logged in the community

2019 was the first full year of implementation for the organization’s new strategic plan. Strategic outcomes included the Howard Levine Child Development Center (HLCDC) graduating its first full cohort of students, with 17 graduating to attend the Renaissance West STEAM Academy (RWSA). This primes the educational pipeline which is so critical to our work.

As the lack of affordable housing grows to crisis levels in the Charlotte region, RWCI expanded its partnerships to collaborate on issues that stabilize housing for families in our service area. Indicators of health are improving, as well. And community leadership is growing with the launch of our Resident Leadership Council, RWCI Food Security Committee and Youth Advisory Board.

Despite all of our accomplishments, the year was not without its challenges. We have more work to do to strengthen our educational offerings. However, the work starts with reducing the impact of trauma. We have expanded our partnerships to focus on social and emotional wellbeing for adults and children in the community. In a difficult early learning environment nation-wide, we spent much of the year working with the YMCA of Greater Charlotte to stabilize operations of the HLCDC. And with those challenges, still, over 80% of our pre-K students are meeting or exceeding age appropriate standards.

Continuing to change lives requires many types of resources—from financial to volunteer time. RWCI successfully completed our second Annual Campaign, whose goal doubled from the previous year. And in the coming year, we will need your support at even greater levels, as we go deeper into the much-needed implementation of our educational offerings and family strengthening and capacity building programs. The pace at which we are able to change lives is dependent on the pace at which these valuable financial and human capital resources grow.

We could also not do what we are doing without the dedication and hard work of the RWCI staff. Thank you for your daily commitment to our mission and our residents. Thank you for reading our annual report. We are grateful to have partners like you as we continue our efforts to change peoples’ lives for the good.

William H. “Mack” McDonald,  
Chief Executive Officer

William “Bill” Currens,  
Board Chair
**A Path to Outcomes**

**2019 - 2021 Strategic Plan Update**

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

RWCI’s Strategic Plan focusing on achieving the following outcomes:

- Families Experience Housing Stability
- Household Income Increases
- Children Enter School Ready to Learn
- Children Thrive in the Pre-K to 8 School
- Community Indicators of Health Improve
- Maintain Low Crime Rates
- Residents Develop Into Community Leaders

Priority Goals:
- Thriving Community
- Organizational Financial Stability and Sustainability
- Organizational Excellence

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**Steps to Lasting Change**

In 2018, the Renaissance West Community Initiative (RWCI) Board of Directors doubled the size of RWCI’s geographic footprint. This was done, without a comparable increase in resources, because it was the right thing to do for our children and families.

RWCI uses a nationally recognized model for neighborhood revitalization developed by **Purpose Built Communities**. Purpose Built’s best practice model has been executed and developed over the last 25 years.

In 2019 our investments in the larger geographic footprint revealed to us several issues that need to be addressed which will be critical to our overall success. Trauma from toxic stress is more prevalent in our communities, affecting outcomes at the Howard Levine Child Development Center, Renaissance West STEAM Academy and across most of our efforts in the community.

And the work to end intergenerational poverty takes just that, generations. Improvement may take years to show up in many of the statistics we are monitoring in our communities along the West Boulevard Corridor. But lives are already changing for our families, old and new. Our **2019-2021 Strategic Plan** is how RWCI is tracking data and focusing efforts right now to build a Thriving Community.