When residents have a coach who serves as a support system, point of accountability, and cheerleader, they are more likely to succeed. In 2017, RWCI began the Life Navigator Program funded by the BUILD Health Challenge Grant and One Charlotte Health Alliance. Over the last 2 years, this incredible service has become very popular and highly sought after by residents. Based on these type of results we need many more Life Navigators to help our residents accomplish their goals.

**On-site access to employment opportunities**

On-site Job Fairs, Workforce Development coaches and partnerships with employers make it easier for residents to see a pathway towards economic mobility at RWCI.

- **Served nearly 350 residents** in programming for Workforce Development and Educational opportunities
- **Offered nearly 50 programs** in the areas of opportunity, job fairs, financial literacy and skill enhancement classes

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**Angela**, single mother of two daughters, was living paycheck to paycheck and sought a brighter future for herself and her girls. Deciding to work with one of RWCI’s Life Navigators helped her create a plan for her future and follow the plan. Since working with her support team, Angela has acquired a full-time job with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and was approved to participate in an economic mobility program that teaches how to become a homeowner. “My Life Navigator has helped me in multiple ways in my life to help me push to [exceed] my goals for me and my two daughters. They have helped me. They have a great daycare and afterschool programs you can’t resist. This program has great opportunities and wonderful people to assist you.”

**Zavina** never had a job before. She moved into the Renaissance neighborhood with her son because she said it looked nice. Little did she know how her life was about to change. After participating in RWCI program offerings, she was noticed for her determination, her smile, and her ability to connect with others. RWCI hired Zavina as a Community Advocate Navigator for the RWCI Life Navigation team. She started off strong and continues to shine in this role. While maintaining employment, Zavina is working on earning her high school diploma, too!

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Thank you JETSTREAM and other employers for providing Job Fairs each month in the neighborhood.
A Thriving Community

Resident Leadership in Food Security!

The Food Security Committee is one example of residents developing into community leaders at RWCI. Food Security was identified by residents as a top priority. And they are leading efforts in the neighborhood in developing a culture of healthy choices. RWCI continues to assist residents in overcoming barriers to healthy lifestyles, including access to healthy foods and learning how to prepare healthy meals. Thank you United Way of Central Carolinas, TIAA, Wells Fargo, Junior League of Charlotte, and Basket Case Farms for investing in food security efforts at RWCI.

Residents Step Forward to Lead Parent Engagement at their child’s school

RWCI has seen the success that other Purpose Built Communities have had across the United States as they develop residents into community leaders. 2019 was rich in opportunity for residents to gain leadership skills and find their place on neighborhood committees. RWCI is proud to have started the first PTSA at Renaissance West STEAM Academy (photo right), as well as a Residents Advisory Board and a Food Security Committee. These resident-led groups are indicators of a Thriving Community!

The first Resident Advisory Board in the neighborhood is a group of volunteers who all live in Renaissance or Little Rock and have risen as natural leaders. Meeting monthly, this group has started by learning leadership skills and electing officers. In the way that they show up and volunteer, Residents have proven their leadership and dedication to the community.

The PTSA takes a moment during the Holiday Concert to introduce themselves to a crowd full of parents. The PTSA president asked other parents to join the PTSA and support their children.

In 2019, the number of actively engaged resident leaders doubled from 9 in 2018 to 18.
A Thriving Community

Out-of-School Activities
Strengthen Educational Outcomes

An important part of our mission at RWCI is to expose children to programs and experiences that they would otherwise not have access or resources. 2019 was RWCI’s third year of providing robust offerings after school and during the summer.

Together with 11 of our partners, RWCI served over 250 children during out-of-school time programs in 2019. Creating access to new experiences for children of all ages, out-of-school time activity is a key part of what your dollars support.

Over time, RWCI staff and partners have built strong relationships with parents and children, resulting in higher trust in the quality of our offerings and increased attendance rates. For the first time, RWCI is engaging with teens (shown below) who are learning professional skills, digital literacy, and career readiness. Created through teen feedback, RWCI and the West Blvd Library hosted the first digital literacy class for teens called, “Digi-Lit, Jr.”

Our relationship with Digi-Bridge led to a more engaging Robotics experience during the summer for children than ever before! Children learned how to build robots and code on computers and made presentations of their work for parents and supporters (shown left). The work of Digi-Bridge and Discovery Place, both great partners in our community, was made possible by a grant from Duke Energy.

Thank you to our partner,

Duke Energy®

(Left Corner) LifeSports, also known as LifeHoops, is a new program at RWSA making a huge impact on middle school students. This incredible program is funded by Red Ventures. Teens (shown left) participate in Digi-Lit, Jr. and make presentations on their learnings.
A Thriving Community

Annual Resource Fair

The Resource Fair, hosted by RWCI, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank, and made possible with growing participation each year, brings the community together each summer. 30+ partners and over 300 children and adults attended.

Music, games, and hotdogs are not the only reason the community enjoys this annual event. Each partner sets up tables to showcase their offerings for residents. Whether a family needs afterschool programs, health screenings, or to learn more about available resources, they can all find benefit to visiting the tables.

Thanks to great partners at One Charlotte Health Alliance, nurses were available to answer questions or provide referrals for health concerns. RWCI Life Navigators were on-hand to tell others about the benefits of having a life coach.

Not only are our partners and supporters helping RWCI create opportunities for building a strong community, but they are providing access to resources that are not easy to find along West Boulevard.

Thank you to Charlotte Fire Department, Medic, CMPD, the YMCA of Greater Charlotte and Charlotte Water for helping to make this year’s event a success!
Volunteerism

465+ Volunteers and 3,100+ Hours

We witnessed record high numbers of volunteers in the neighborhood this year. Thanks to companies, like PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), activities like a fun Field Day (pictured middle left) and Cooking Class (below) were provided for our children. More than 120 energized PwC employees came to RWCI for a day of service. The time and care invested in our community was greatly appreciated. Thank you PwC!

PNC Bank spent many hours throughout the year reading to children at the Howard Levine Child Development Center (HLCDC), tending to the garden and building shelving needed at the HLCDC. Volunteers bring positive energy into children and families’ lives who need it most.

RWCI helps make giving back to the community easy with flexible scheduling. Consider getting your family or office together for a rewarding experience.

Contact us at volunteer@rwci.org.

The children and families at Renaissance West enjoy spending time with volunteers. PwC, PNC Bank and the Junior League of Charlotte impacted many lives through their volunteerism.
One Corporate Partner’s Huge Impact

The Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is doing something that is gaining attention from other airports across the U.S. The airport is convening its business partners to give back to airport neighbors in the surrounding community. The Airport Community Partnerships (ACP) is off to a strong start!

The airport has a unique relationship with RWCI. It provides volunteers. Employees live in the neighborhood. And several companies target the community for job fairs.

After several years of planning, the ACP held its first Annual Golf Tournament at Ballantyne Country Club sponsored by American Airlines. It picked RWCI as the first beneficiary, solidifying a unique relationship with our organization.

Over $100,000 Raised for RWCI and over 130 participants were introduced to RWCI who had not known about their airport neighbors prior to the ACP.

Thank you to the Presenting Sponsor, American Airlines!

Ann B. Clark, with her teammates, before the start of the golf tournament. (left)

“We have a caring group of employees in our airport community, employees who are eager to make a difference in their community. The ACP provides an opportunity for employees to create a personal connection through volunteerism in organizations like RWCI in the West end of Charlotte, the front & back yard of the airport. The success of our first fundraiser, the golf tournament, is just the beginning of what this amazing airport community can do to help improve the economic mobility in the West end of our great city.”

—Terri Pope, ACP Founder