Dear Friends,

With 2020 in our review mirror, I could sum up this past year as one where there was no typical day, week, or month. At WNC Bridge Foundation, we started our year by conducting nine listening sessions across WNC to understand better the communities we serve. And then, COVID-19 changed everything. Like many organizations and non-profits, WNC Bridge pivoted to respond to the pandemic and the urgent needs that surfaced across our region.

As we faced 2020 together, your extraordinary support enabled us to be responsive and focused. As a result, WNC Bridge provided more than $6.4M in grants and community initiatives across our region.

These are challenging times, with much work to do as we look ahead. In the pages that follow, you will read more about our past year as we worked together to provide needed support to our community. On behalf of all whose lives you have already touched, thank you. With your support, we look forward to continuing our work in the months ahead.

SCOTT W. BUCHANAN
President & CEO, WNC Bridge Foundation
WNC Bridge Foundation invested $6,453,809 in grants and community initiatives in the 18 counties of WNC in 2020.

- **$3.9M** IMPACT Grant funding for 85 local non-profits in WNC
- **$482,250** in investments related to COVID-19
- **$1.4M** in additional WNC Bridge community initiatives
  - Children’s Services Fund
  - Drums & Dragons
  - Health Scholarships
  - MountainCare
  - You’re Special Fund
- **$178,177** Immediate needs for local partners as NOW Grants
- **$352,675** to sustain Rathbun House, the only hospitality house in WNC
WNC Bridge Foundation recognizes that creating an environment that values and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion for each person in the WNC region requires action and engagement in every aspect of our organization. WNC Bridge Foundation actively supports and strives to enhance the advancement of DEI through our fundraising, grantmaking, retail operations, and administrative policies.

Aligning with the Foundation’s goal of being a catalyst for positive change throughout the 18 counties of Western North Carolina, the three focus areas for 2020 IMPACT Grants included Elder Care, Wellness Support, and Youth Development. In 2020, 43% of IMPACT Grant dollars supported diverse populations. In addition, of the 85 organizations that received 2020 IMPACT Grant funding, 68% of organizations were led by women.

In 2020 WNC Bridge awarded $80,000 to assist people and places disproportionately impacted by the novel Coronavirus, including people of color and rural communities. These general operating grants were awarded to ten organizations to address disparities created or worsened by the pandemic. The ten organizations include:

- Asheville Writers in The Schools & Communities
- Bountiful Cities
- Delta House Life Development of Asheville
- East End / Valley Street Neighborhood Association
- La Esperanza Immigrant Outreach Ministry at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
- Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center
- PODER Emma Community Ownership
- Shiloh Community Association
- Vecinos
- YTL Training Programs
WNC Agencies Share Their Appreciation

“IT IS WONDERFUL for Burke and McDowell county residents to have access to palliative medicine services. Thanks to WNC Bridge Foundation, Carolina Caring can help those who are struggling with advanced illnesses and need symptom management.”

CONLEE CLARK, Director of Professional Relations, Carolina Caring

“RECEIVING FUNDING from WNC Bridge Foundation in 2020 meant the ability for The Arc of Buncombe County to provide emergency assistance to our intellectually and developmentally disabled clients and their families.”

DORINDA BENNETT, Board Chair, Arc of Buncombe County

“THE BRIDGE between children and needed services can often seem long and impossible to families who are in crisis. A 2020 IMPACT Grant awarded to HIGHTS provided by WNC Bridge Foundation has successfully created a road map to efficient, dependable, and consistent services to youth, providing hope and relief to children and families.

During this extraordinary year, this partnership has been a lifeline for many rural students and families as we identify and get them the help they need. Thank you for helping our most rural communities provide these critical services in our time of crisis.”

BETH PARRIS JAMES, North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Juvenile Justice.
Supporting the Community

WNC Bridge Foundation raises funds to support programs that connect individuals in our community with essential resources. Unlike our grants, which are funded through endowment investments, our 5 Community Initiatives rely on the generous support of individuals who donate money, use our estate sale services, shop and donate to our thrift stores, and support our fundraising efforts.

5 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
- Rathbun House
- You’re Special Fund
- WNC Greatest Needs Fund
- Health Scholarships
- Children’s Services Fund

$5.1M Grants Received

$990,806 Retail Operations From Thrift Stores & Estate Sales Services

$281,892 Private Donations

To learn more about our Community Initiatives and how you can support them, visit WNCbridge.org.

Levi

“Levi loves to ride his tricycle. It allows him to be just like every other kid, while also building strength in his legs.”
—LAURA, Levi’s mom

RIDING A BIKE seemed to be an unattainable dream for Levi. For most of his young life, Levi needed a gait or stroller to step outside due to spastic quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy.

Thanks to his physical therapist reaching out to WNC Bridge Foundation, Levi was outfitted with a specialized trike through our Children’s Services Fund program. Not only does this trike give Levi the freedom to ride along with his friends, it helps build skills like balancing while strengthening his lower limbs and trunk. Levi can even ride to visit nearby family members.

Through donors’ generosity to the Children’s Services Fund, WNC Bridge Foundation can make dreams like Levi’s a reality for children across our region. To learn more, visit WNCbridge.org.

CHILDREN’S SERVICE FUND pays for specialized equipment, medical care, or home improvements to enhance the daily lives of children with developmental or neurological disorders.
2020 Financial Information

Fiscal year 2020: January 1, 2020–December 31, 2020

2020 Annual Report

**Grants**
- $5,154,810
- $281,567

**Retail Operations**
- $1,090,907

**Investments**
- $16,678,298

**Fundraising**
- $66,657

**Adminstrative**
- $1,173,365

**Compensation & Benefits**
- $1,199,575

**Retail Operations**
- $1,018,538

**Grants**
- $6,453,809

**COVID-19 Grants**
- $482,250

**NOW Grants**
- $178,177

**Rathbun House**
- $352,675

**Community Investments**
- $1,462,789

**IMPACT GRANT**
- Elder Care
  - $851,309
- Youth Development
  - $1,169,702
- Wellness Support
  - $1,956,906

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- Youth Development
  - $1,169,702
- Elder Care
  - $851,309
- Wellness Support
  - $1,956,906

**Impact Grant**
- Rathbun House
  - $352,675
- Community Investments
  - $1,462,789

**WNC Bridge Foundation**
- Expenses
  - $9,911,945

**Revenue**
- $23,474,010

**Donations**
- $281,567

**Grants**
- $5,154,810

**Other**
- $268,428

**Expenses**
- $6,453,809

*Includes professional fees, interest, occupancy, equipment, supplies, insurance and other fees

**Foundation Dollars at Work**
- $6,453,809
WNC Bridge Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Financial information about WNC Bridge Foundation is available upon request. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us.

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