


**MECKLENBURG
COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

PSA
For Immediate Release

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**Mecklenburg Council of Elder's Receives \$15,000 Grant
from United Way's Unite Charlotte to Support Expungement**

Mecklenburg Council of Elder's (MCOE) is thrilled to announce that we are the recipients of a \$15,000 grant from the United Way's Unite Charlotte. This marks the first year that the organization has received funding for their community work that is being done in the area of criminal justice. And, we extend our deep gratitude to Unite Charlotte for generously supporting criminal record expungement activism at this critical time in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County – Thus – forging forward with the history making collaboration of the clerk of courts through the District Attorney's office with the support of the public defenders, assistant public defender's and the entire court system.

This grant will partially support one of the core components of our current strategic plan: *to serve as a liaison between the community, CMPD and government: thus, creating a sense of safety, trust and job security by exploring new ways to break through systems of oppression and existing barriers to access.* The grant has been earmarked to support Criminal record expungement of over 3,000 people currently on our waiting list.

While we need greater financial support to help develop and actualize this initiative to the fullest benefit for the people that need it most, we are grateful for the vision and fortitude of Unite Charlotte's grant panel to grasp the ideas for which we actively serve.

Mecklenburg Council of Elder's (MCOE)' intergenerational and intercultural board of directors are the lifeblood of our organization. We are always striving to grow to be ever more inclusive and representative of our great city and county; living out our goal of creating a permanent self-sufficient expungement clinic until the system that perpetuates such practice is no longer needed. Employing the words of Thomas Jefferson "*Justice is the fundamental law of society*" each generation must reaffirm a commitment to justice.

Thank you, once again, to Unite Charlotte for bolstering us along this path.