

## Quarterly Community Engagement Newsletter



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 CITY OF  
CHARLOTTE

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Quarterly Community Engagement Newsletter - March 2021



Child exploring the Winterfield Community and  
Children's Garden

### Service Area Spotlight:

#### Northeast Charlotte

Did you know that over 200 neighborhood organizations including Hidden Valley, University City, NoDa, and Plaza Midwood operate in Charlotte's Northeast Service Area? In the last five years, the City has awarded over \$350,000 to neighborhoods in the northeast for improvement and beautification projects through the Neighborhood Matching Grants program. Winterfield Neighborhood Association created its Children's Garden using these funds in 2009, and programming has been happening ever since. "The garden was truly a haven for them this past year [during COVID-19]- a safe place to work and relax...like therapy," one volunteer explained. Learn more about the resilience of the Winterfield Children's Garden during the pandemic and other [community projects](#) happening in the Northeast Service Area.

### Student Starts Her Own Business After Experience with Mayor's Youth Employment Program

Kendall Rhue has always been interested in arts, but when she participated in an entrepreneurship workshop as part of her virtual experience with the Mayor's Youth Employment Program last summer, it piqued her interest in a different way, so she decided to take a closer look at the details and what it would require to start one of her own. She turned to other professional at-home chefs for guidance and made a plan to start a virtual business. Learn more about [Kendall's MYEP experience](#) and how it broadened her perspective.

MYEP seeks to build partnerships with host employers in the private, public, and non-profit sectors of Charlotte's economy who are able to provide one-of-a-kind career experiences for participants. Over 600 students have applied for the 2021 program, and businesses are needed to support these youth and to match them with work opportunities. Employers can learn more about how to get involved with the program at [charlottenc.gov/myep](http://charlottenc.gov/myep).

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## Community Grants Bring Neighbors Together Outside at Carmel Village

Carmel Village Homeowners Association, located in southeast Charlotte, has taken full advantage of the various programs offered by the City of Charlotte's Housing & Neighborhood Services for the improvement of their community. Since 2015, Carmel Village has been awarded over \$50,000 for community enhancement projects, including a pool area improvement, landscaping, a community dog park, and a picnic pavilion. "Being awarded these grants has brought the community together..." Patricia Johanson, Carmel Village HOA President, explains. Read on to learn how Carmel Village used City-funded matching grants to enhance and [bring their community together](#).



Drone shot of Carmel Village from above

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## Neighborhood Board Retreats Offer Residents New Opportunities to Learn

The Neighborhood Board Retreat was created to help neighborhood and merchant organizations engage in meaningful conversations about what's working within their communities and opportunities for improvement. Through facilitated discussions, participants establish and prioritize goals, develop strategies and discover resources to assist them as they work to implement their plans. The purpose of the retreat is to support neighborhood organizations in their pursuit of a better quality of life.

This program is conducted twice a year. The retreats are free and open to all neighborhood and business organizations within the city.

Previously, half-day retreats were held in person. In response to the pandemic, HNS has developed a virtual retreat experience. Participating neighborhoods receive a customized, interactive retreat delivered via Zoom. The next Neighborhood Board Retreat will be held in July. If you would like to be notified when applications open, please complete this [interest form](#).

Check out our [Neighborhood Board Retreat](#) webpage to see highlights from the last in-person retreat, and view neighborhood retreat summaries from past participants, and more. If you have questions, contact Nichelle Wilson at [nichelle.wilson@charlottenc.gov](mailto:nichelle.wilson@charlottenc.gov).

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