

Stability for Young People in our Community



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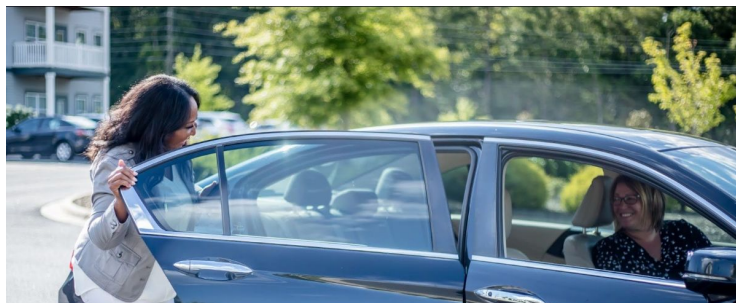
Connecting for Stability: Understanding The Relatives and the Young People They Serve

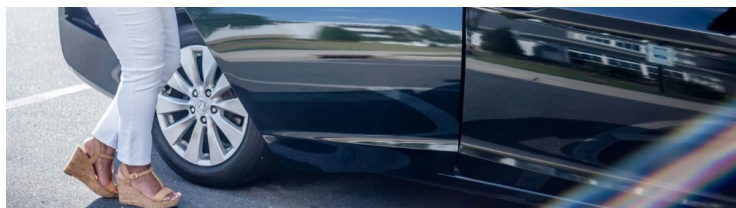
By Sydney Idzikowski and Jenny Hutchison; and Trish Hobson, The Relatives

As a community, we often talk about the young people who are the "most vulnerable" or who are at "high risk." Admittedly, we don't always know who exactly those young people are and what their experiences have been. And far too often, those labels become the only story we associate with them. We don't always know how to get them the support and care they need to thrive and we don't often recognize their strengths and capabilities.

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and the Charlotte Regional Data Trust partnered with [The Relatives](#) to better understand the young people they serve and the young people's understanding of the effective components of The Relatives programs. The Relatives has worked closely with young people who are considered vulnerable and at risk since 1974. The study and partnership with The Relatives provides a deeper understanding of young people in our community who have some of the most complex challenges and who have experienced multiple risk factors that can jeopardize their success.

It also points to the real strengths of young people who face realities many can't imagine.





Building a Rideshare company from scratch

Special Contributor: Lindsey Banks, Charlotte Ledger

Kimberly Evans grew up with the warning "stranger danger," so when rideshare services like Uber and Lyft came into the picture, Evans was hesitant to use them.

Then, on March 29, 2019, Samantha Josephson, a 21-year-old student at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, ordered an Uber and mistakenly entered the wrong car. She was [kidnapped and stabbed to death by the driver](#).

A little over a year later in June 2020, Evans launched Just Her Rideshare — a woman-founded and Black-founded for-profit rideshare organization with a mission to build a safe community for women — in Charlotte.

"That story impacted me emotionally," Evans said. "It hit home, and it kept me building this company because I wanted to be able to provide a safe place for women to at least have options to choose how they experience riding with other people."

ICYMI:

[Transit Time: Will someone pay millions for naming rights by Charlotte's bus station?](#)

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