

CFCR's Mission Moments Newsletter



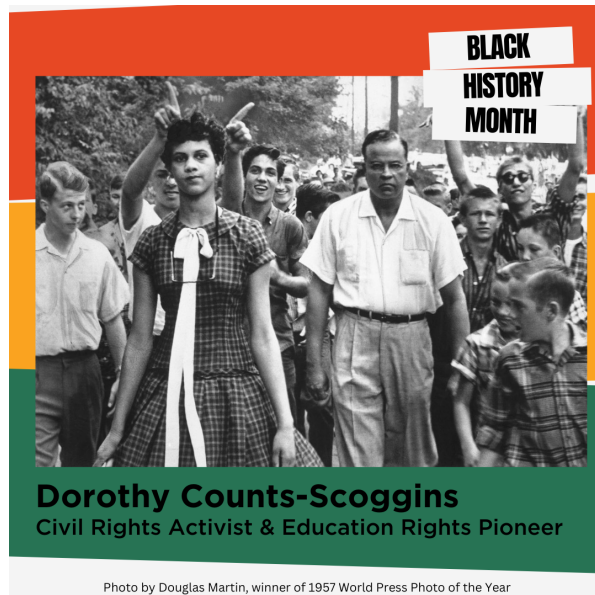
From Caitlin Forrest <advancement@cfcrights.org>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <advancement@cfcrights.org>
Date 2023-02-28 18:30



Every child has the right to be safe, healthy, and well-educated. Too often, children of color disproportionately face barriers to resources and opportunities due to discriminatory practices perpetuated by implicit biases embedded in our legal, criminal, and education systems. **Our vision at Council is to ensure that all children, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or background, experience equitable opportunity and are treated with fairness, compassion, and respect— a vision shaped by those who tirelessly fought for civil rights in decades past.** To that end, our work at Council is built on the foundation of the four pillars of social justice: Access, Equity, Participation, and Rights. These pillars guide our efforts to create a more just and equitable world for all children.

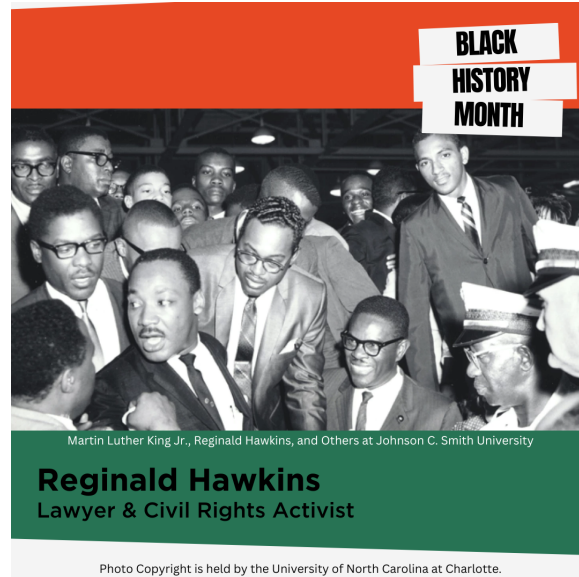
Community Changemakers

The work of so many in our past allows us to ensure the rights of children are protected today and tomorrow. At the end of this Black History Month, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible accomplishments and contributions of Black Americans throughout our community's history that have helped to pave the way for our work advancing children's access, equity, participation, and rights.



ACCESS

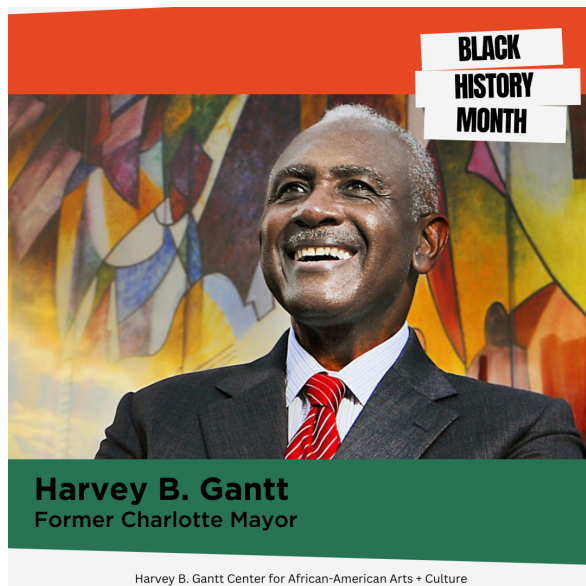
On September 4, 1957, 15-year old Dorothy Counts-Scoggins challenged the status quo in Charlotte Schools by leading the desegregation of Harding High in West Charlotte. Her courageous act paved the way for Black children across the city to gain **access** to schools alongside their white peers. Counts-Scoggins' strength and perseverance changed Charlotte schools forever, but there is still much work to be done. Our Education Law team works hard to provide expert legal representation to young people and their families, as well as free training about education rights throughout the community.



EQUITY

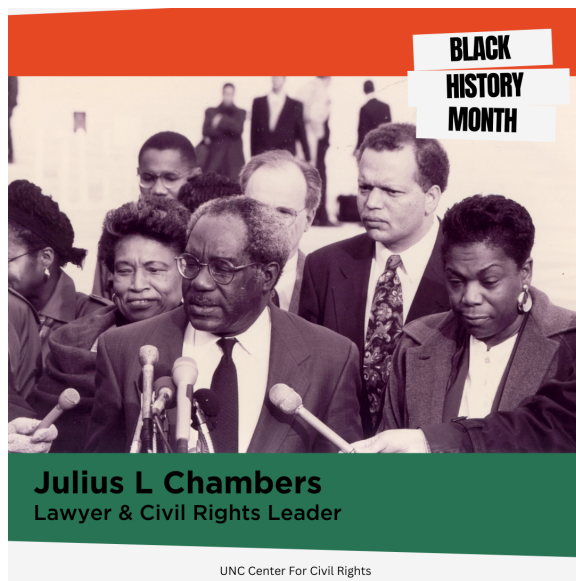
When Dorothy Counts-Scoggins walked bravely through the doors of Harding High in 1957, she didn't have to do so alone. North Carolina native Reginald Hawkins, a dentist and captain in the US Army, stood by her side in a show of solidarity — a move that motivated future protests throughout Mecklenburg County and cemented Hawkins' place in Charlotte civil rights history.

Founder of the Mecklenburg Organization for Political Affairs (MOPA), Hawkins' work helped successfully integrate a number of establishments in Uptown as well as mandate the desegregation of Charlotte Memorial Hospital. His determination to achieve **equity** for all residents of Mecklenburg County from lunch counters to healthcare systems continues to inspire our work today. In particular, his influence in the medical field helped pave the way for our Mental Health program, which ensures fair and equitable service for children admitted to psychiatric hospitals and treatment facilities.



PARTICIPATION

Prior to being elected Charlotte's first Black mayor, Harvey Gantt fought and won to integrate Clemson University as the school's first Black student. Lucinda Brawley, Gantt's future wife, became the first Black female student at Clemson, enrolling a few months later. During his two terms as Mayor, Gantt for his efforts to encourage voting among the Black community. His work reminds us all how to affect change through **participation**. Gantt's courage in the face of adversity at Clemson and his commitment to serving all members of the Charlotte community continues to inspire the work we do. Our Research and Policy team supports our community's work by being catalysts for policy change and advocating for system reform.



RIGHTS

Julius Chambers' desire to become an attorney began at age 12 when his father, a local business owner in rural North Carolina, had a dispute with a white customer but was unable to find a lawyer to file suit on his behalf. After graduating first in his class at UNC School of Law, Chambers moved to Charlotte where he founded the first integrated law firm in North Carolina history.

Chambers' firm went on to litigate a number of high-profile cases before the Supreme Court that altered the course of civil rights in America. His decision to take on these controversial cases was not without risk— his car, home and business offices in Uptown Charlotte were firebombed amidst various hearings. Nevertheless, Chambers' relentless pursuit of **rights** for his clients paved the way for the work of our Children's Defense Team, supporting minors who have entered the legal system without proper representation.

We are grateful for the important work of the civil rights activists that came before us. The foundations they set inspire us to relentlessly pursue our vision to ensure every child experiences equitable opportunity in our community and beyond. There is still much work to be done to make our vision a reality, and we thank you for your support along the way.

How You Can Support

Volunteer: We have [multiple opportunities to volunteer](#), most notably with our Custody Advocacy Program (CAP). We are also looking for community members and philanthropists to help accelerate our fundraising efforts. If you're interested in learning how you can get involved, email advancement@cfcrights.org.

Spread the Word: We need your help to grow our network and let more people in Charlotte know about us and our work. You can support us by forwarding this email to your friends and family who may not have heard about us yet!

Give: You can [donate online](#) or by sending a check to: ATTN: Council for Children's Rights, 601 East 5th Street, Suite 510, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Please contact our Advancement Director Amy Vavra at amyv@cfcrights.org for more information on ways to donate and to get involved.

Donate to Council



Council for Children's Rights | 601 East 5th Street, Suite 510, Charlotte, NC 28202
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