



Press Release for Women's Impact Fund Annual Meeting

[Women's Impact Fund](#), a Charlotte-based, collective-giving organization with approximately 475 female members, granted six local nonprofits a combined \$421,000. This brings the collective total over the past 16 years to nearly \$5.9 million supporting 76 programs addressing critical needs in the community.

Clayworks, The ROC of Charlotte, Inc., Gaston College Foundation, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, Youth Villages and Cops & Barbers were recognized as this year's grant recipients during the organization's annual meeting on May 13, 2019. Wells Fargo was again the presenting sponsor for the event held at UNC Charlotte Center City.

The organization's grant committee reviewed the more than 120 applications received last fall in a competitive process, and then evaluated the potential grantees in an extensive process to narrow down to ten finalists. The five grant recipients were selected from the finalists through ballot voting by the full membership.

Women's Impact Fund also announced Cops & Barbers as the recipient of its second Spark Grant. The Spark Grant was created last year as a more flexible way for the organization to become involved through collaboration with other funders and nonprofits at the early stages of efforts to address critical community needs and emerging issues in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

"We congratulate our newest grantees and are thrilled that our funding will enable these organizations to expand their impact in numerous ways across our community," said Arrington Mixon, Women's Impact Fund Board Chair.

Together with its grant recipients, Women's Impact Fund has created powerful change in Mecklenburg County and has emerged as one of the largest women's collective giving organizations in the country.

2019 Women's Impact Fund Grant Recipients

- **Arts & Culture grant recipient:** [Clayworks](#), a prior Women's Impact Fund grant recipient (2013), received \$70,000 to expand its ceramic arts mobile studio program through the purchase of a second van, art equipment, and support of its programming. The expanded program focuses on bringing hands-on art experiences to diverse adult groups in high need areas of our community including seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and veterans.
- **Education grant recipient:** [The ROC Charlotte, Inc.](#) received \$75,000 to support its High School Construction Youth Apprenticeship program. The program supports its mission to recruit, educate, and mentor at-risk high school juniors and seniors for career and technical postsecondary education (CTE) and dynamic careers in the construction industry. ROC also provides social and upward mobility opportunities for the students participating in the program.
- **Environment grant recipient:** [Gaston College Foundation](#), received \$76,000 to support its Microbial Populations and Water Quality program, an undergraduate research opportunity for female students and other traditionally underrepresented populations in STEM. The women-led, hands-on program focuses on the critical environmental issue of antibiotic resistant microbial populations throughout the Catawba River Watershed, which feeds our community's water supply.
- **Health grant recipient:** [Planned Parenthood South Atlantic](#), received \$80,000 to launch its new Contraceptive Choice Program providing long acting reversible contraception (LARC) for those in

need in our community. The program focuses on educating uninsured, low income women on various birth control methods and provides the method itself at reduced costs.

- **Human Services grant recipient:** [Youth Villages](#), received \$100,000 to expand its Youth Villages LifeSet Program which provides young adults, aged 17-22 years old, intensive support to help them as they age out of foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems and transition to independence. The Women's Impact Fund grant will be matched by the State of North Carolina on a 2:1 basis thereby providing a total of \$300,000 to the Youth Villages LifeSet Program.
- **Spark Grant recipient:** [Cops & Barbers](#), received \$20,000 for capacity building activities. Cops & Barbers received \$20,000 for organizational planning and capacity building. Cops & Barbers works to create understanding and reduce racial tensions with job training opportunities for African-American youth and relationship-building programming with CMPD officers and cadets.

About Women's Impact Fund

Since 2003, Women's Impact Fund has amplified the significant role women play in philanthropy. Its mission is to strengthen communities by maximizing women's leadership in philanthropy through collective giving, education, and member engagement. For more information, visit www.womensimpactfund.org, and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), Instagram and [Linkedin](#).