



## DID YOU KNOW?

Charlotte has seen a 57% increase in homeless families since 2009

- *The Charlotte Observer*

Approximately 1 in 5 children in Mecklenburg County are living in poverty

- *Council for Children's Rights*

The negative effects of poverty on children include anxiety and low self-esteem, nutritional inadequacies, compromised health and fitness, low literacy levels, and poor academics.

- *American Psychological Association*

Together, We Can Make a Difference for Struggling Children in our Community.



# Bright Blessings®

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# Bright Blessings®

## Community Cornerstone Network



STRONG  
SUPPORT  
BUILDS THE  
GREATEST  
IMPACT

Bright Blessings is a local, 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving the greater Charlotte region. Our programs bring joy, cultivate self-worth, support literacy and assist with critical needs for thousands of homeless children across our community each year.

## REACHING OVER 3,000 HOMELESS CHILDREN

### Bless-a-Birthday

Our Bless-a-Birthday program partners with more than 20 local agencies, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, to serve homeless children of all ages. These children may be staying at area shelters, domestic violence programs, transitional housing facilities, or living in transient situations. Regardless of circumstance, this program brings joy and positive recognition to every child we serve, while also providing them with new gifts, books and basic care essentials. Program services include:

#### SHELTER SERVICES - *Held On-Site at Housing Facilities:*

- Themed birthday parties
- Educational & enrichment activities
- Meal services
- New book distributions

#### STUDENT SERVICES - *Delivered Anonymously to Local Schools:*

- Student lap desks and books
- Care & comfort sets with blankets, pillows, stuffed animals and hygiene essentials
- Classroom party packs & "fit to celebrate" birthday backpacks
- Healthy snacks & fitness-fun supplies

### Gift of Literacy

Books do more than tell a story. Bright Blessings distributes more than 5,000 new books each year to the children we serve. Many of these kids struggle to read at grade level and may feel anxious instead of excited to pick up a book. Our Gift of Literacy program encourages children to celebrate reading! From board books and first readers to chapter series, classics and award-winning titles, Bright Blessings is committed to providing the wondrous gift of reading to kids who have few, if any, new books of their own.

### Bless-a-Baby

Our Bless-a-Baby program serves the emergent need of babies entering homelessness. Struggling mothers with no steady home and little or no belongings often feel helpless and distant from their babies, disrupting the positive effects of mother-child bonding. Unstable living situations and a lack of resources prevent homeless babies from receiving many of the care essentials they need most. Our baby program provides Blessing Baskets to homeless mothers and their little ones, ensuring that each child receives a healthy and positive start to life. Blessing Baskets are delivered by volunteers to area shelters, transitional housing facilities, domestic violence programs, or to social workers with homeless support agencies. Every basket of hope is tailored to the individual needs of each baby and includes:

- Infant healthcare kit
- Sleepers, clothing and blankets
- Diapers, wipes and ointment
- Baby care supplies, towels and wash cloths
- Bottles, bibs and burp cloths
- Rice cereal and baby food
- Baby books, gifts and parenting resources

DELIVERING JOY,  
CARE, COMFORT  
AND HOPE



BRIGHT BLESSINGS ALLOCATES **90%** OF ITS ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMS.

Connect

Bright Blessings' Community Cornerstone Network brings together service-minded individuals whose professional, civic, academic and faith networks help support local homeless children across the greater Charlotte area. Our annual Impact Breakfast offers attendees the opportunity to CONNECT with one another, learn more about family homelessness and the programs of Bright Blessings, and discover ways to get involved and make an IMPACT.

*"Our organization has found Bright Blessings to be a meaningful and fun way to support our community. Through sponsorship and team service projects, we have had a great time giving back!"*

- Joclyn Balanda  
PNC Wealth Management

*"...By sharing information about Bright Blessings, it shows my customers and colleagues that our business is more than the day to day activity; giving back to our community is an integral part of what makes up our core values."*

- David Zelch,  
Morris & Moffitt

Affect

Bright Blessings offers many ways to make an IMPACT and positively AFFECT children in our community. Consider the following service opportunities for your group, business or organization:

**Host a Group Service Event at The Giving Village:** Our events are designed to educate, engage and inspire participants.

**Adopt-a-Party at a Local Shelter:** Help bring birthday cheer to homeless children!

**Provide Joy & Support to Homeless Students:** Deliver birthday and care packages to local schools for transient students.

**Plan a Volunteer Event from Your Location:** Organize service projects at your business, club meeting location, house of worship, or school.

*"Our Girl Scout troop gets so excited when they give back, especially knowing their efforts help celebrate children. Their passion is infectious as they teach other troops about the Bright Blessings mission and more girls inherit that passion. A child's heart smiles brighter forever because of this organization and we are so blessed to be a part of it."*

- Grace Kuelz, Girl Scouts Troop Leader

*"...Having seen the joy in these children's faces when their birthday packages arrive, I can assure anyone who is considering becoming involved that this is a rewarding and worthwhile effort."*

- Tony Griffin, Griffin Masonry

Commit

Support can come in many forms. Whether your contribution is financial, product based or volunteer centered, we will work with you to develop a partnership that meets your goals and makes a difference for kids in need. When your company or organization COMMITTS to the mission of Bright Blessings, your support will not only IMPACT our community, it will benefit your business goals, philanthropic focus, or faith mission. Support opportunities include:

**Program Partnerships:** Support a program by donating in-kind goods or with your financial contribution to underwrite a program area at the Giving Village.

**Event Sponsorships:** Opportunities include our annual Giving Gala, Golf Classic, or Impact Breakfast.

**Collection Drives:** Toys, books, care & comfort supplies, baby items, or party supplies.

**Grants, Charitable Contributions and Workplace Giving:** Financial support from resources like these makes a significant impact in sustaining and growing the work of Bright Blessings.

*"Bright Blessings has made an incredible impact on The Goddard School of Concord... While we have fun events to help raise funds, our students also benefit through hands-on volunteer projects that help them better grasp the impact of giving to others."*

- Mandy and John Cash, owners,  
The Goddard School of Concord

*"Grant Thornton is committed to community service, and we are proud to partner with Bright Blessings and make a positive impact for thousands of local homeless students."*

- Russell Norris, Grant Thornton

Bright Blessings' volunteer center, The Giving Village, is central to the success of our programs and hosts corporate and community groups for service events in a comfortable and uplifting environment.