

When looking for ways you and your family can get involved with volunteering and helping those in need, the opportunities in Charlotte are vast. There is one organization, Bright Blessings, that offers meaningful volunteer service for people of *all* ages. Bright Blessings has fused the mission of lifting the spirits of our city's homeless children with the mission of teaching compassion and the value of giving to our more fortunate children. The result is an amazing organization that delivers birthday parties and feelings of joy, care, comfort and hope to more than 3,000 homeless children each year.

*Mission:*

*"Bright Blessings is a volunteer-led 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving the greater Charlotte community. The goal of Bright Blessings is to bring joy, recognition and support to homeless children and families during difficult and sad times in their lives. Every year, Bright Blessings makes a positive impact in the lives of thousands of needy youth and families across multiple counties around Charlotte."*

Bright Blessings (formerly Birthday Blessings) was founded in 2005 by Amy and John Cervantes of Mint Hill, North Carolina. Their family service project was born from a desire to help needy children while instilling a love and commitment for community service in their own young children. What began as a monthly birthday party at one homeless shelter, has now grown into a thriving non-profit that operates numerous programs and supporting projects for thousands of homeless children and families across the greater Charlotte region.

The goal of Bright Blessings is to bring joy, recognition and support to children and families during difficult and sad times in their lives. Their two core programs, Bless-A-Birthday and Bless-A-Baby, raise spirits and boost confidence for homeless children ages tots to teens, as well as offering help and hope for babies beginning life amidst the struggles of homelessness. Each program incorporates education, enrichment and critical-care needs for the children they serve – their commitment is to supporting the whole child.

Every year Bright Blessings makes a positive impact in the lives of thousands of needy youth and families across our greater Charlotte community. As a volunteer-led organization, their dedicated group of volunteers, is truly the heart in all that they do.

In addition to local expansion, Bright Blessings began developing a national network in 2009, with pilot affiliate chapters now organizing and under way in multiple cities across the nation.

Bright Blessings has dozens of fun ways individuals, families and organizations can get involved. Every contribution, big or small, is valued and makes the mission as a whole possible.

Visit Bright Blessings' "Get Involved" page on their website for details on service opportunities, or view their current "Wish List" for their most critical donation needs.

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