



# Bright Blessings®



**JOY** | **CARE** | **HOPE**  
for homeless & impoverished children

Bright Blessings is a 501c3 non-profit organization serving the greater Charlotte region. Thanks to the helping hands and hearts of our volunteers and supporters, the programs of Bright Blessings will bring joy, care, and hope to more than 10,000 homeless and impoverished children this year.

# About Us

Bright Blessings first began in 2005 as a monthly birthday program for children staying at the Salvation Army Center of Hope in Charlotte, North Carolina. The organization's founders, John and Amy Cervantes, wanted to help brighten the lives of needy children while also instilling a love and commitment for community service in their own young children. For nearly three years, the Cervantes family threw birthday celebrations every month for hundreds of homeless children at the Center, adding educational and enrichment activities to their program and also providing the kids with gifts, new books and basic care essentials.

In March of 2008, the family decided to incorporate their program as a not-for-profit charity with a twofold mission of engaging volunteers of all ages to help brighten the lives of needy children across the greater Charlotte metro area. Today, Bright Blessings remains a volunteer-led organization that will impact more than 10,000 homeless and impoverished children this year through its core programs, Bless-A-Birthday, Bless-A-Baby, Gift of Literacy and Gift of Care.



Photograph by: Jason Wallace Photography



# Our Programs



## Bless-a-Birthday

- Birthday celebrations at homeless shelters, transitional housing facilities and domestic violence programs.
- Birthday packages for transient homeless students
- Gifts, cake kits & party packs for disadvantaged families

# Our Programs



## Bless-a-Baby

Blessing Baskets for homeless & impoverished babies:

- Clothing, blankets, care supplies, diapers and wipes
- Feeding supplies and healthcare kits
- Parenting and baby care informational resources

# Our Programs



## Gift of Literacy

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Books and learning supplies to support academic success:

- Age-appropriate book sets for disadvantaged students
- Book distributions for children at homeless shelters
- Student lap desks and school supplies for transient children and low-income students



# Our Programs



## Gift of Care

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Basic essentials to support health, care and comfort needs for homeless and impoverished children of all ages:

- Complete hygiene sets
- Blankets and stuffed animals
- Healthy snack bags

# Agency Partners

## JOY | CARE | HOPE

Bright Blessings partners with dozens of agencies across a four-county area. Our programs serve babies and children living in homeless shelters, transitional housing facilities, domestic violence programs, and those receiving supportive services through qualified community agencies. Our programs also serve transient homeless and low-income students across Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Union County Public Schools.

All of our services are provided on a referral basis through qualified social workers, housing/shelter staff, designated agency personnel, or school faculty members.



**20.5% OF  
CHILDREN IN  
MECKLENBURG  
COUNTY LIVES  
BELOW  
POVERTY.**

- U.S. Census Bureau  
Report, 2016



**IN  
MECKLENBURG  
COUNTY, 35%  
OF ALL  
HOUSEHOLDS  
WITH CHILDREN  
ARE  
FOOD  
INSECURE.  
(NEARLY DOUBLE  
THE NATIONAL  
AVERAGE)**

Mecklenburg County  
Hunger Research,  
2016



**POOR CHILDREN  
IN CHARLOTTE  
ARE LESS  
LIKELY TO  
ESCAPE  
POVERTY  
COMPARED TO  
THEIR PEERS IN  
AMERICA'S 50  
LARGEST  
CITIES.**

- Harvard Univ. &  
UC Berkeley Study,  
2014



**NORTH  
CAROLINA  
RANKS AS ONE  
OF THE 15  
WORST STATES  
NATIONWIDE  
IN ADDRESSING  
THE ISSUES OF  
CHILD  
HOMELESSNESS.**

- National Center on  
Family  
Homelessness, 2015



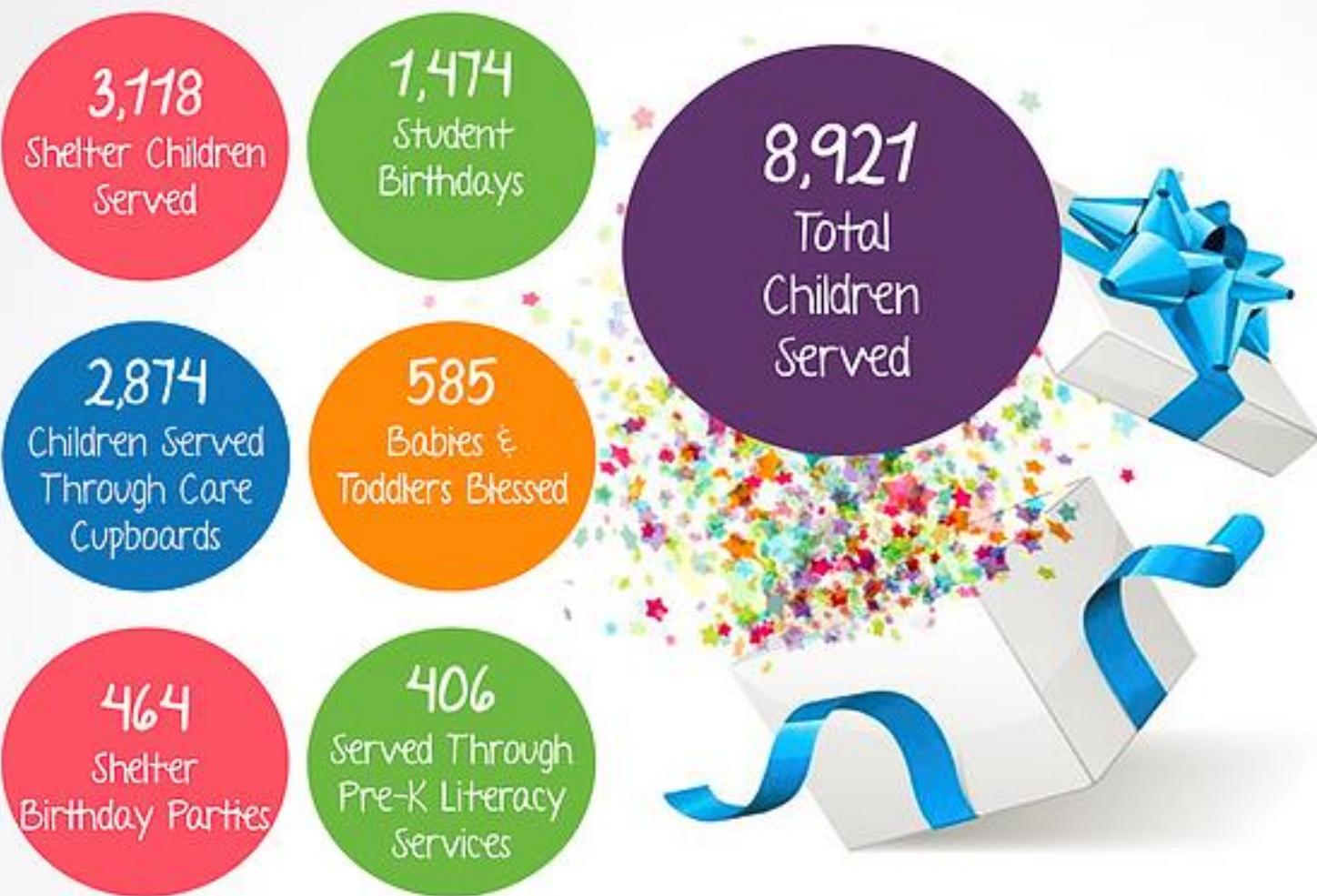
**IN UNION  
COUNTY,  
APPROXIMATELY  
14.5% OF ALL  
CHILDREN ARE  
LIVING IN  
POVERTY.**

- NC Justice Center  
Report, 2016





## 2017 Service Totals:



# How to Get Involved

- Volunteer at the Giving Village
- Volunteer at Local Shelters
- Deliver Joy, Care & Hope
- Volunteer From Your Location
- Donate on our website
- Donate from our Amazon Wish List
- Follow us on Social Media





To learn more about Bright  
Blessings visit us at:  
[www.brightblessingsusa.org](http://www.brightblessingsusa.org)

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## Contact Us

### Visit Us:

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