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# Press Release



*Pictured above: The Relatives' Board Member Tamika Eubanks Spurlock, The Relatives' Board Chair John Charles Kernodle, Jenny Ward Bank of America Senior Vice President, Community Relations Manager, The Relatives' Past Board Member John Burtis, The Relatives' Board Member Lajay Myrick, and The Relatives' Executive Director Trish Hobson*

## **The Relatives wins Bank of America's 2019 Neighborhood Builder Award**

*The Relatives will receive a \$200,000 grant to focus on empowering more youth and young adults in Charlotte.*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C., Oct. 7, 2019** — Several Bank of America leaders surprised staff at The Relatives Monday afternoon by announcing The Relatives won its 2019 Neighborhood Builder Award. The nonprofit was one of two local charities who won the prestigious award for its commitment to helping Charlotte's most vulnerable youth.

The Bank of America 2019 Neighborhood Builder award will provide \$200,000 in flexible funding to support The Relatives over the next two years. In addition, the award includes leadership training for the CEO and an emerging leader within their staff. These leadership programs are national and connect other Neighborhood Builder winners from additional U.S. markets, resulting in a network of contacts for each participating non-profit.

"We recognize the critical role that local nonprofits play to build pathways to economic mobility in the Charlotte community. Through Neighborhood Builders, we connect nonprofits like The Relatives to the funding and leadership development resources they need to further scale their impact," said Charles Bowman, Bank of

America's Market President in North Carolina. "The Relatives does extraordinary work empowering youth and young adults, so I am very pleased that we're able to bring forward this support at a particularly strategic time in our community."

Since its inception in 1974, The Relatives has provided refuge and support to thousands of youth in the Greater Charlotte area. The Charlotte-based nonprofit provides a system of resources for youth ages 7 to 24 in need of shelter and support. Through a continuum of services that include counseling, employment resources, GED tutoring, financial and health workshops, and housing, The Relatives helps young people in crisis become thriving adults and contributing members of our community.

"We are beyond thrilled that Bank of America chose The Relatives for this award," said Trish Hobson, Executive Director of The Relatives. "With this generous investment, The Relatives can reach more young people in our community ensuring an empowered future."

Hobson cited they are focused on advancing their data collection methods to capture long-term metrics for the youth served by The Relatives. Funding from this grant would provide The Relatives with the resources for this vital work.

"We are truly "The Relatives" to youth in crisis, the stable family that most of them don't have. Bank of America's generous support will allow us, amongst many things, the ability to research, refine and improve our services," says Hobson. "With this funding, more youth will be accepted and lifted up; more will move from crisis to stability and independence."

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