

EVENT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Relatives

May 25, 2022



The Relatives Celebrate the Grand Opening of their New On Ramp Resource Center Location *Expansion will double the number of homeless youth served*

CHARLOTTE – On Wednesday, May 25, at 5:00 p.m., [The Relatives](#), will kick-off the Grand Opening of their new On Ramp Resource Center expansion on [2219 Freedom Drive](#). The event is open to the public but [registration is required](#). **Media is encouraged to attend.**

The On Ramp Resource Center is the **only resource of its kind in the Mecklenburg County** area to address the needs of young adults through housing, case management, education, job placement, and mental and physical health.

Ten years ago the On Ramp Resource Center opened as a drop-in facility for young adults ages 16-24, to help with the successful transition from youth to independent adulthood.

Since 2010, usage of the On Ramp Resource Center has grown steadily with a 500% increase in demand over the last decade.

According to the recent Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report, 45,500 young people ages 16 to 24 in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area are considered disconnected (youth who are neither working nor in school) and need this resource.

Young people in need can “drop-in” the center to get support with employment services, independent living skills workshops, GED tutoring, and have access to intensive case management support for a successful transition to adulthood and independence.

With the new facility, The Relatives anticipates doubling the number of youth they will serve in the first two years.

The new On Ramp Resource Center is possible through transformational gifts from many donors and partners, in addition to investments from both Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte. The Relatives also received a gift from the Howard R. Levine Foundation, which will help name the new On Ramp Resource Center campus.

“There are many young adults struggling with countless issues in our Charlotte community. I am honored to partner with The Relatives, who serve this often-forgotten population, to advance their mission of providing support for our most vulnerable youth,” said Mr. Howard Levine.

The expansion of On Ramp Resource Center allows The Relatives to provide additional support to Charlotte’s most vulnerable youth. The new space features expanded intake spaces with confidential counseling spaces, dedicated classrooms for GED, tutoring and college prep, a working and teaching kitchen for healthy meals and life skills, art and music rooms, showers, and more.

“We are so excited about the expansion of On Ramp Resource Center and are grateful to the community for recognizing the importance of these services for our youth. We’ve did so much in our previous space on East 8th St., but I know we’ll be able to serve many more kids with our new space on Freedom Drive,” said Trish Hobson, Executive Director.

The Relatives launched their capital campaign, Ramp It Up, in 2020 with an \$8 million goal. The success of the capital campaign will allow The Relatives to provide more resources through the On Ramp Resource Center and the Housing program that supports youth, ages 18-24, who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, aging out of foster care, or fleeing domestic violence situations.

The Grand Opening will be attended by Charlotte Mayor Pro Tem Julie Eiselt, Mecklenburg County Commissioner, Mark Jerrell, Howard Levine of the Howard R. Levine Foundation, The Relatives Executive Director, Trish Hobson, and others.

For more information about the new On Ramp Resource Center, call Spencer Guthery at 704.501.8253, sguthery@therelatives.org.

The Relatives was founded in 1974 for young people in crisis. In its 48-year history, The Relatives has helped countless youth and young adults find safety and shelter through our system of resources that helps children and youth find shelter and support. Our Youth Crisis Center, On Ramp Resource Center, and housing programs keep kids safe and families together. The Relatives serves as the Safe Place agency for Mecklenburg County and the surrounding area, partnering with local businesses to ensure young people in need have access to immediate help and supportive resources.

The goal of each program The Relatives offers is to keep kids safe and families together. We believe every child deserves a safe place to sleep and a fighting chance to make it.

The Relatives joined Alexander Youth Network in 2003. The Relatives and Alexander Youth Network are both 501(c)(3) North Carolina nonprofit corporations and are accredited by the Joint Commission.

###

