

JUSTICE

CONFERENCE CHARLOTTE

2016

PRESENTED BY THE



FOR CHARLOTTE

MISSION NETWORK

Friends,

In 2014, Harvard University and UC Berkeley released a nation-wide Upward Mobility Study of the 50 largest cities in America asking the question: What are the chances of a child succeeding in life, independently of family status and where they grow up? What they found is that **Charlotte ranked dead last**, 50 out of 50 in America in upward mobility. When you break down the key components of the study, it reveals deep systemic injustice plaguing our city.

The study showed that Charlotte is deeply divided by race, quality of education, poverty and economic opportunity, level of social capital, and broken families. These “Stubborn Facts of Charlotte” sent shockwaves across our community, forcing city leaders and government agencies scrambling to ask how we can change Charlotte’s last place status.

So why does this upward mobility study matter to the church? As the Church of Jesus Christ, we have a Biblical mandate to seek the full peace and prosperity of our city, and to fight injustice wherever it may be. We are the only institution set apart by Christ to be the agents of redemption and reconciliation that our city needs. The Justice Conference Charlotte exists for you to learn about the real needs and injustice plaguing Charlotte and God’s heart for the church to meet those needs. And this conference provides a table where you can connect to real relationships with those already engaging these needs.

Thank you for participating in the 2016 Justice Conference Charlotte. Our prayer is that as you listen, learn, and seek God’s heart for Charlotte, that the Holy Spirit would inspire you, equip you, and connect you with others as He unites His church for the good of the Queen City.

In Him,



Rob Kelly

Executive Director – For Charlotte Mission Network

Conference Schedule

8:00 AM – Registration Opens | Exhibitors Open

9:00 AM – Worship And Prayer | **Justin Taylor**

9:25 AM – Conference Vision: Theology Of Justice
Rob Kelly & Alex Kennedy

9:45 AM – Overview Of Upward Mobility Study: The Tale Of Two Cities
David Chadwick

10:10 AM – Divided Families | **Farrell Lemings w/ Bobbette Willis**

10:45 AM – Break Exhibitors Open

11:00 AM – Divided By Race & Trust | **Naeem Fazal**

11:20 AM – Divided By Race | **Claude Alexander**

12:00 PM – Lunch Break | Exhibitors Open

1:00 PM – Divided By Education | **Chris Payne w/ LaTazja Henry**

1:30 PM – Education Panel **RJ Caswell** (Host)
Kenny Brown, Larenda Denien, & Scott Miller

1:50 PM – Divided By Poverty & Geography | **John Parker**

2:10 PM – Table Talks, Concluding Remarks, & Prayer | **Rob Kelly**

Exhibitors Open

Speaker Bios



Claude Alexander has served as Senior Pastor of The Park Church since 1990. Under his leadership, The Park has grown to a church of three locations and thousands of members. Bishop Alexander is a sought after speaker, author, and community leader, serving on many boards, including the For Charlotte Mission Network.

Kenny Brown is the Executive Pastor of New Charlotte Church, which he co-founded with Chris Payne 6 years ago. His responsibilities include community impact, finance, and community team leadership.



RJ Caswell is co-senior pastor at Church at Charlotte. He has extensive experience as a mission strategist, counselor, and non-profit leader. RJ is also the the current Board Chair and a founding board member of the For Charlotte Mission Network.

David Chadwick has been the Senior Pastor of Forest Hill Church since 1980. He is a featured speaker, accomplished author, and hosts The David Chadwick Show, a local weekly radio program on WBT 1110AM intersecting contemporary issues from a faith and values perspective.



Larenda Denien is a Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) principal, currently serving as principal at Idlewild Elementary School.

Naeem Fazal is lead pastor of Mosaic Church, which he planted 10 years ago. He is a regular speaker at conferences such as Catalyst, Exponential, and the National Outreach Conference. He recently released his first book: Ex-Muslim.



LaTazja Henry is the Assistant Superintendent at Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). She oversees the Community Partners and Family Relations group who work with faith partners to address the needs of children and the faculty in low performing schools.

Rob Kelly is the Founder and Executive Director of the For Charlotte Mission Network – a network of churches working collaboratively to meet the physical, societal and spiritual needs of Charlotte.



Alex Kennedy is the Senior Pastor at Carmel Baptist Church. He is passionate about equipping the church to 'make disciples of those Nearest our Neighbors and the Nations'. And his passion to see the body of Christ in Charlotte united led him to be a founding board member of the For Charlotte Mission Network.

Farrell Lemings serves as the lead pastor at Grace Covenant Church, Cornelius. He has the heart of an encourager and is compelled to see individuals come to Christ, be discipled and then released into ministry. Pastor Farrell is a longtime advocate for foster and adoption ministry.



Scott Miller is the Pastor of Justice and Leadership at Watershed Church. He has made it his life's work to advocate for the marginalized in inner-city Charlotte.

John Parker is the Director of Outreach at Forest Hill Church. John is responsible for local and global outreach and was instrumental in founding South Blvd Community Partners. John has been an influential mission strategist in Charlotte for years, and is the current leader of For Charlotte's City-Strategy Team.



Chris Payne is the Senior Pastor of New Charlotte Church, which he co-founded in 2010. He is responsible for leadership, preaching and pastoral counseling.

Bobbette Willis is a social work supervisor, specializing youth and family services at the Department of Social Services.





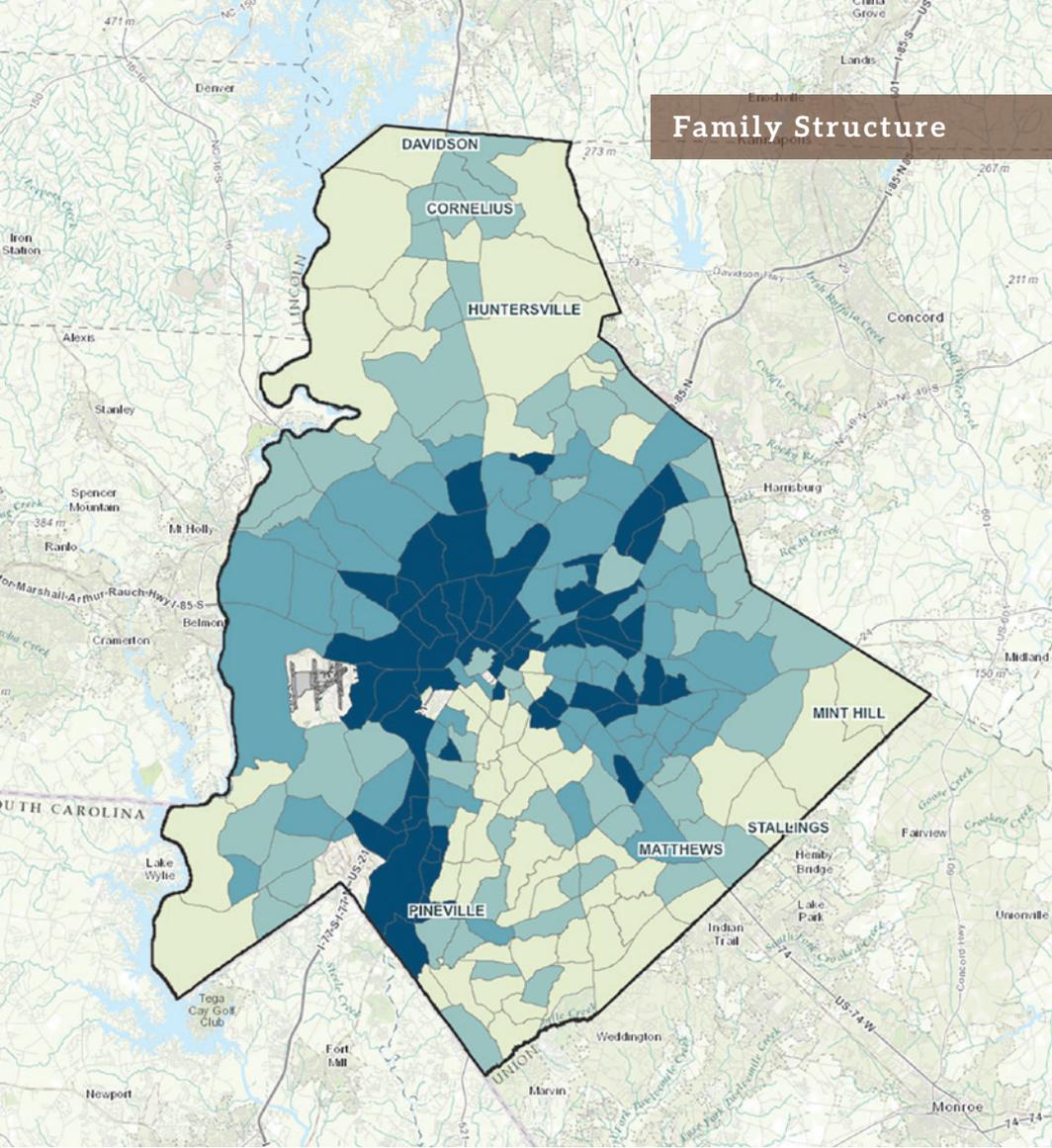
Charlotte Divided: **Family Structure**

Even with hard work and the drive to succeed, single parent households face strong economic mobility challenges that can endure over generations.

- There are 47,000 single-parent households in Mecklenburg County.
- 38% of households with children are single-parent, up from 31% in 2000.
- One-third of all single moms in Mecklenburg County (12,163) are living in poverty.
- At the end of November, 2015: 648 children are in the foster care system of Mecklenburg Country.

(Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey)

JUSTICE



Family Structure

At the end of November, 2015:

648 children are in the foster care system in Mecklenburg County.

% Single Parent Families (Census 2010)

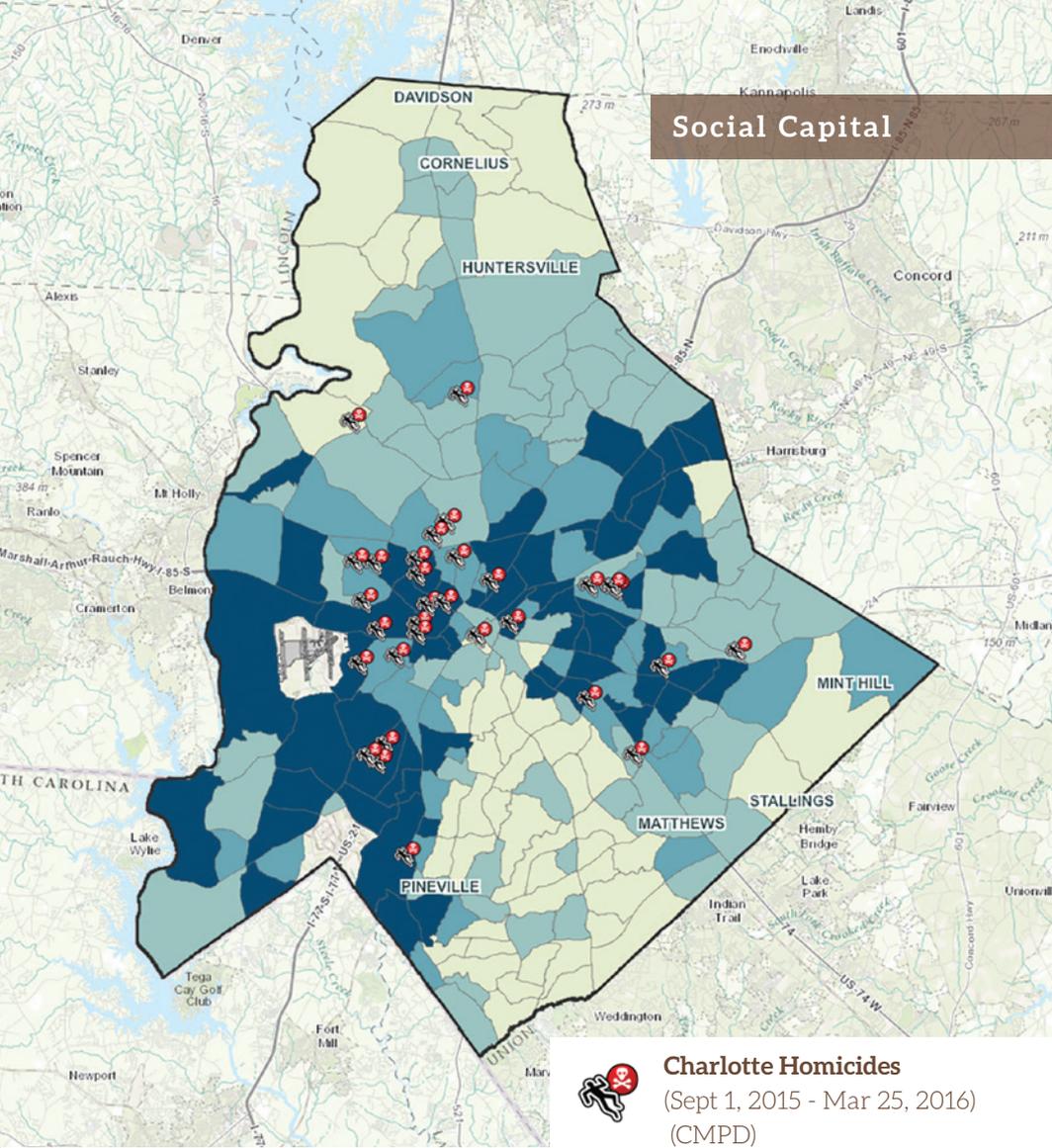
- >56% to 91%
- >38% to 56%
- >21% to 38%
- >7% to 21%



Charlotte Divided: **Social Capital**

Social Capital measures the level of trust between people, people groups, or races. Both voter participation and crime rates are key indicators of community connectedness and social capital. When communities don't turn out to vote or feel safe, they have a low level of social capital. Lower social capital is directly associated with lower economic mobility.

Social capital is not just the sum of the people, people groups, and institutions, which underpin a society – it is the glue that holds them together.



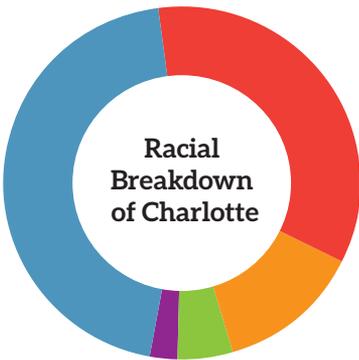
Charlotte ranked **39** out of the 40 largest cities in America in level of trust between races.



Charlotte Divided: Race

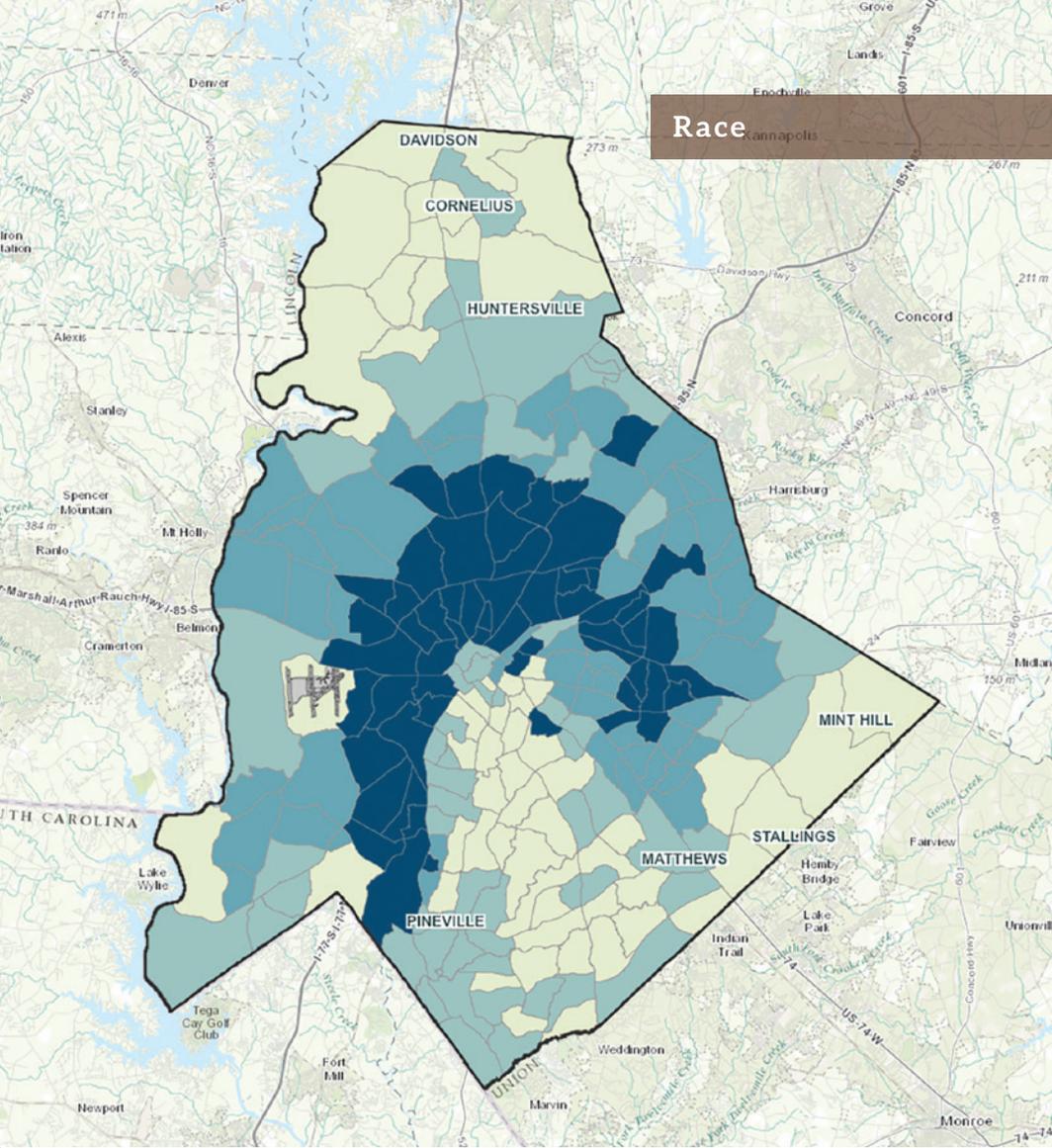
Our community is racially and ethnically segregated. High levels of segregation are connected to low levels of community economic mobility.

- There are an estimated 130,000 immigrants and refugees living in Charlotte.
- Approximately 600 refugees move to Charlotte each year.



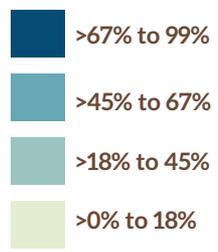
- White - 45.1%
- Black - 34.5%
- Hispanic - 13.1%
- Asian - 4.9%
- Other - 2.4%

(2010 Census)



In Charlotte, geographic divisions by ethnicity and race are directly correlated to levels of social capital, poverty, quality of schools and single parent households.

% Minority Races
(Census 2010)



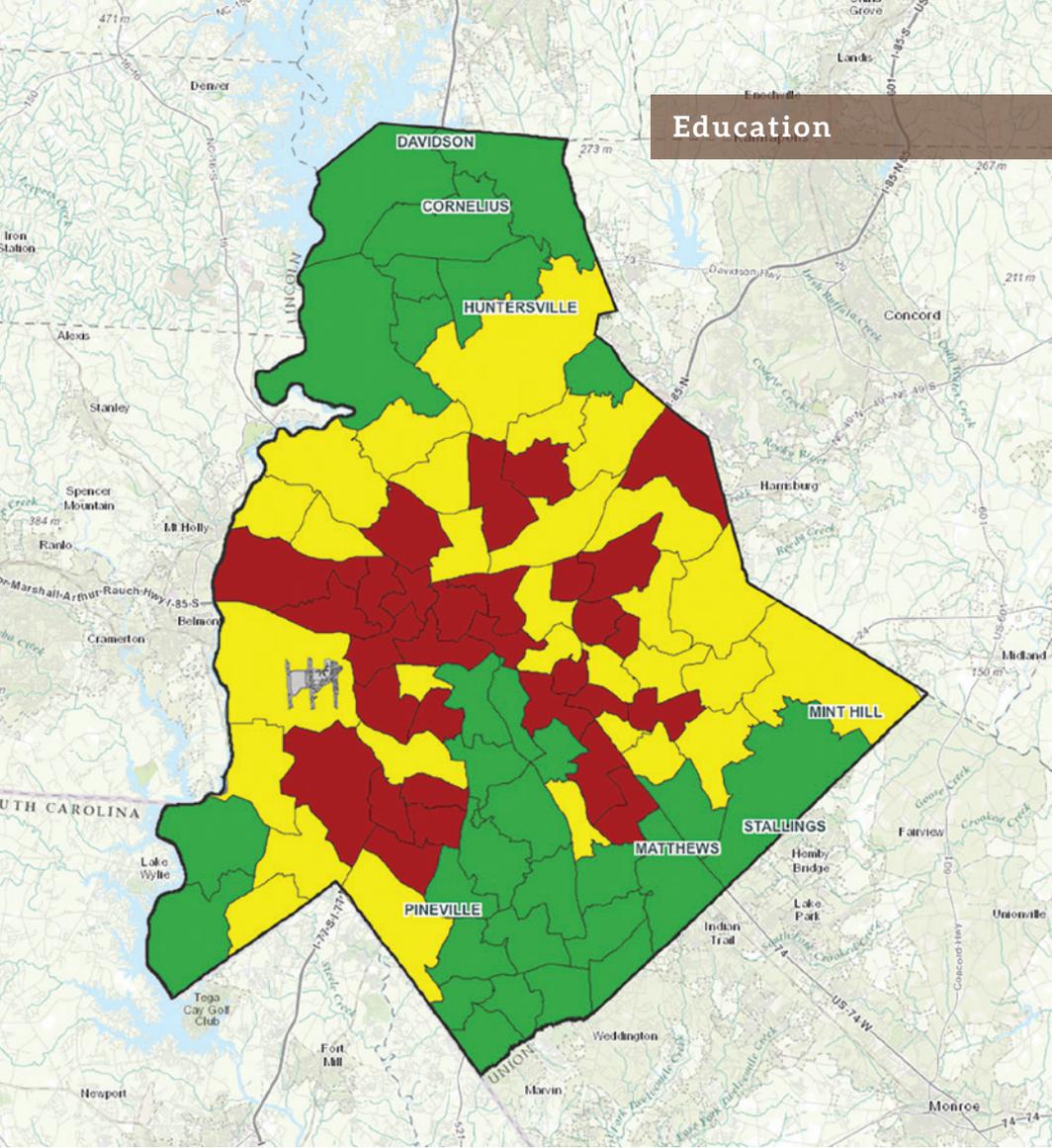


Charlotte Divided: Education

Students who read on grade level by third grade are 96% more likely to graduate high school, a key economic mobility indicator. Currently, 38% of Mecklenburg's third graders are not reading on grade level.

- 47% of CMS 3rd graders are proficient on end of grade reading tests. For economically disadvantaged students, only 29% are proficient.
- Segregation and achievement are closely linked together
 - 1 in 3 schools are segregated by poverty
 - 1 in 2 schools are segregated by race
 - 1 in 5 schools are hyper-segregated by race
- There are 175 different native languages spoken other than English by students in CMS.
- Of the 145,000 students in CMS, 17,146 have Limited English Proficiency.

(Data source: North Carolina Department of Instruction, 2012-13)



There are 4,700 **homeless children** enrolled in CMS.

Elementary School Performance
2014-15 (NC SBE)

- A or B
- C
- D or F



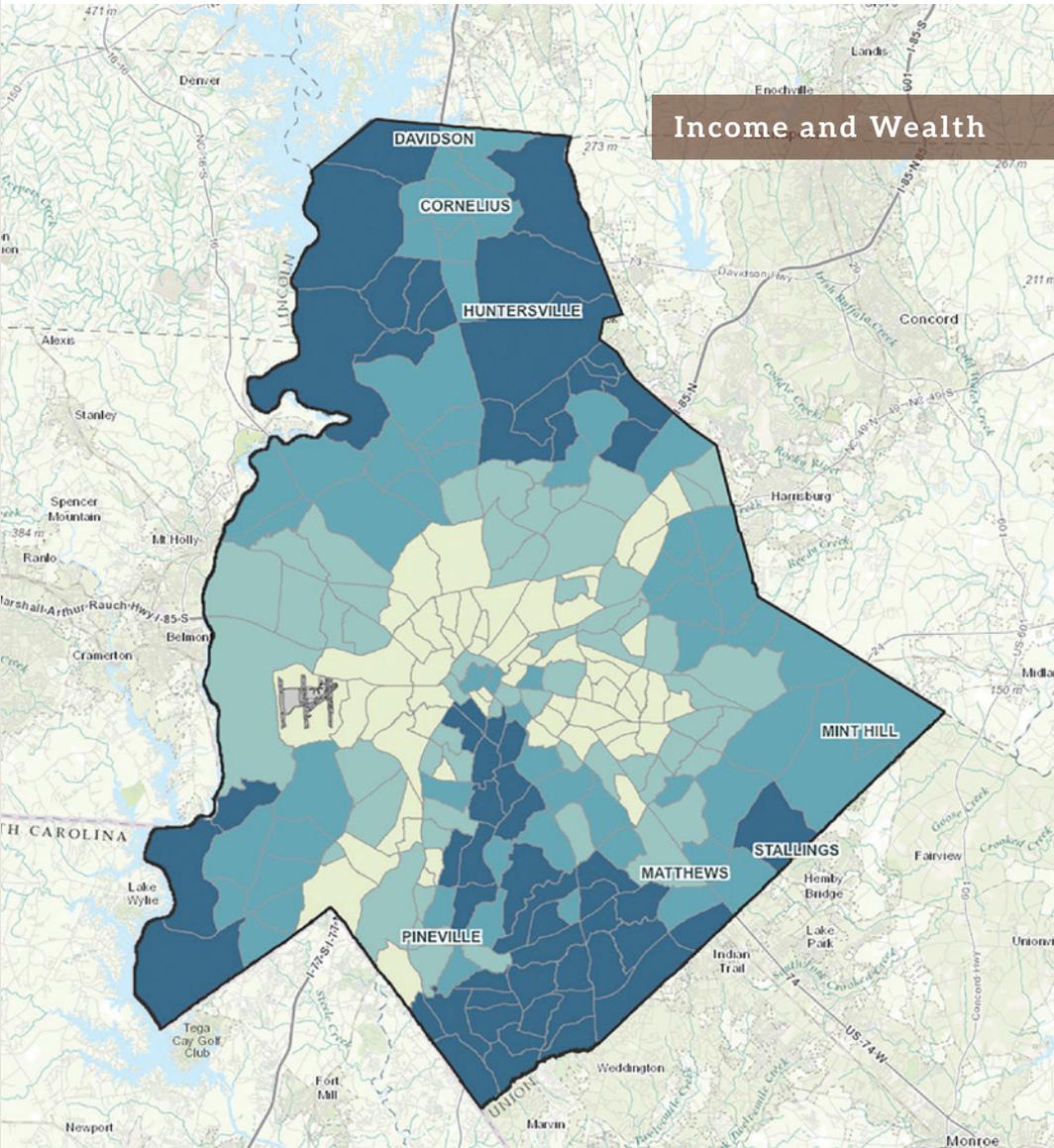
Charlotte Divided: Income and Wealth

There are concentrated areas of poverty and segregation by income level in Charlotte, which are both key indicators of low community economic mobility.

- Charlotte ranks 9th among large metro areas in segregation between the wealthy, college-educated, and the working class.
- 1 in 5 children in Mecklenburg County lives in poverty (~50,000 kids).
- Majority of kids in poverty are children of color:
 - 35.7% of all Hispanic children
 - 30.7% of all Black children
 - 19.7% of all Asian children
 - 4.7% of all White children

(Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey)

Income and Wealth



15.2% of
Charlotte
residents **live
below** the
poverty line.

2015 Medium Household Income
(esri 2015)



Exhibitors



APARTMENT LIFE empowers local churches to transform apartment residents by placing a CARES team (i.e. urban missionaries) in apartment communities to represent Christ and the local church.

Dave Hickman - davidhickman@apartmentlife.org
www.apartmentlife.org



BEDS FOR KIDS provides beds and essential furniture to children and their families in need.

Daniel Fogarty - dfogarty@bedsforkids.org
www.bedsforkids.org



CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG DREAM CENTER exists to give hope to the hopeless of Charlotte.

Bo Frowine - ed@cltdc.org | www.cltdc.org



Charlotte **Family** Housing
Working to solve family homelessness

CHARLOTTE FAMILY HOUSING empowers homeless families to achieve long-term self-sufficiency through shelter, housing, supportive services, and advocacy.

Tammy Medlock - TMedlock@Charlottefamilyhousing.org
www.CharlotteFamilyHousing.org



CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION is transforming lives in the name of Christ by serving people struggling with addiction, poverty or hopelessness with the goal of returning them to society as productive, self-sufficient citizens.

Tony Marciano - tonym@charlotterescuemission.org
www.charlotterescuemission.org



CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS (CMS) Community Partnerships & Family Engagement team engages both schools and faith houses to develop collaborative partnerships to serve the needs of local Title 1 schools.

Michael Primiani - michael.f.primiani@cms.k12.nc.us
www.cms.k12.nc.us



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SPEAKERS BUREAU & HT CHARLOTTE ROUNDTABLE (DVSB)

is a partnership of Mecklenburg County CSS and Safe Alliance working to end domestic violence in our community. The HTCharlotte Roundtable brings together area human trafficking ministries and advocates.

Michael Sexton - Michael.Sexton@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov
www.DVSB.CharMeck.org & www.HTCharlotte.com

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

offers a host of services to families and children including adoption services, foster parent services, and post adoptive services. To learn more about The Department of Social Services and adopting or about foster parenting, please contact us at 704-336-KIDS (5437).

Bobbette Willis - bobbette.willis@mecklenburgcountync.gov
www.charmeck.org/adopt



END SLAVERY IN CHARLOTTE exists to fight modern day slavery, through awareness, resources, safe houses, and individual and church engagement.

Lisa Koons - lisa.koons@charlotte24-7.com
www.endslaveryincharlotte.com



FASHION & COMPASSION empowers women overcoming poverty and injustice in Charlotte through Christ-centered employment making jewelry and other items.

Michele Dudley - michele@fashionandcompassion.com
www.fashionandcompassion.com



HANDS ON CHARLOTTE inspires, equips and mobilizes a diverse corps of volunteers to strengthen our community, meeting Charlotte's most critical needs.

Doug Macomb - info@handsoncharlotte.org
www.handsoncharlotte.org



JOBS FOR LIFE engages and equips the local Church to address the impact of joblessness through the dignity of work.

Daniel Alexander - info@jobsforlife.org
www.jobsforlife.org



JONI & FRIENDS provides a host of services to the local disabled community including 'Wheels to the World' ministry, a wheelchair and a gospel message of hope.

Jim Cashwell - jcashwell@joniandfriends.org
www.joniandfriends.org



LEARNING HELP CENTERS OF CHARLOTTE

engages the church to serve marginalized refugees and immigrants through Christ-centered programs that build healthy communities.

Brent Morris - brent@lhclt.org | www.lhclt.org



ON EAGLES WINGS seeks to prevent females from falling victim to sex trafficking, offers assistance to those still trapped, and restores those that have survived by offering hope, empowerment, and a brighter future.

Emily Fitchpatrick - info@oewm.net | www.oneagleswings.org



PROJECT 658 is a Christ-centered, holistic ministry providing services for at-risk families in Charlotte; with a key focus on the international and refugee communities.

Dustin Swinehart - info@project658.com | www.project658.com



SILENT IMAGES provides charities with professional photography and video services that educate and inspire viewers to take action.

Holly Gernatt - holly@silentimages.org | www.silentimages.org



TOGETHER WE FEED helps communities restore dignity and hope to impoverished children by working one school at a time to alleviate hunger and meet basic needs.

Christy Henderson - Christy.Henderson@togetherwefeed.org
www.togetherwefeed.org



UNITED WORLD MISSION is a missions agency focused on engaging the local church in holistic mission.

Mark Szymanski - info@go28.org | www.uwm.org



URBAN PROMISE provides Charlotte's children and youth with the spiritual, academic, and social development they need to become Christian leaders determined to restore their communities.

Jimmy McQuilkin - jimmy@urbanpromisearchlotte.org
www.urbanpromisearchlotte.org

Conference Reflection

After learning about the *Stubborn Facts of Charlotte*, below are reflection questions to help you prayerfully discern where God is asking you to engage the injustice in our city.



What Stubborn Fact of Charlotte burdens you most?

What is God asking you to do about it?

Who can you partner with moving forward to fight injustice in Charlotte?

We would like to give a special thanks to our sponsors,
who helped make the Justice Conference Charlotte possible:



A For Charlotte Mission Network Event
info@forcharlotte.org | www.forcharlotte.org