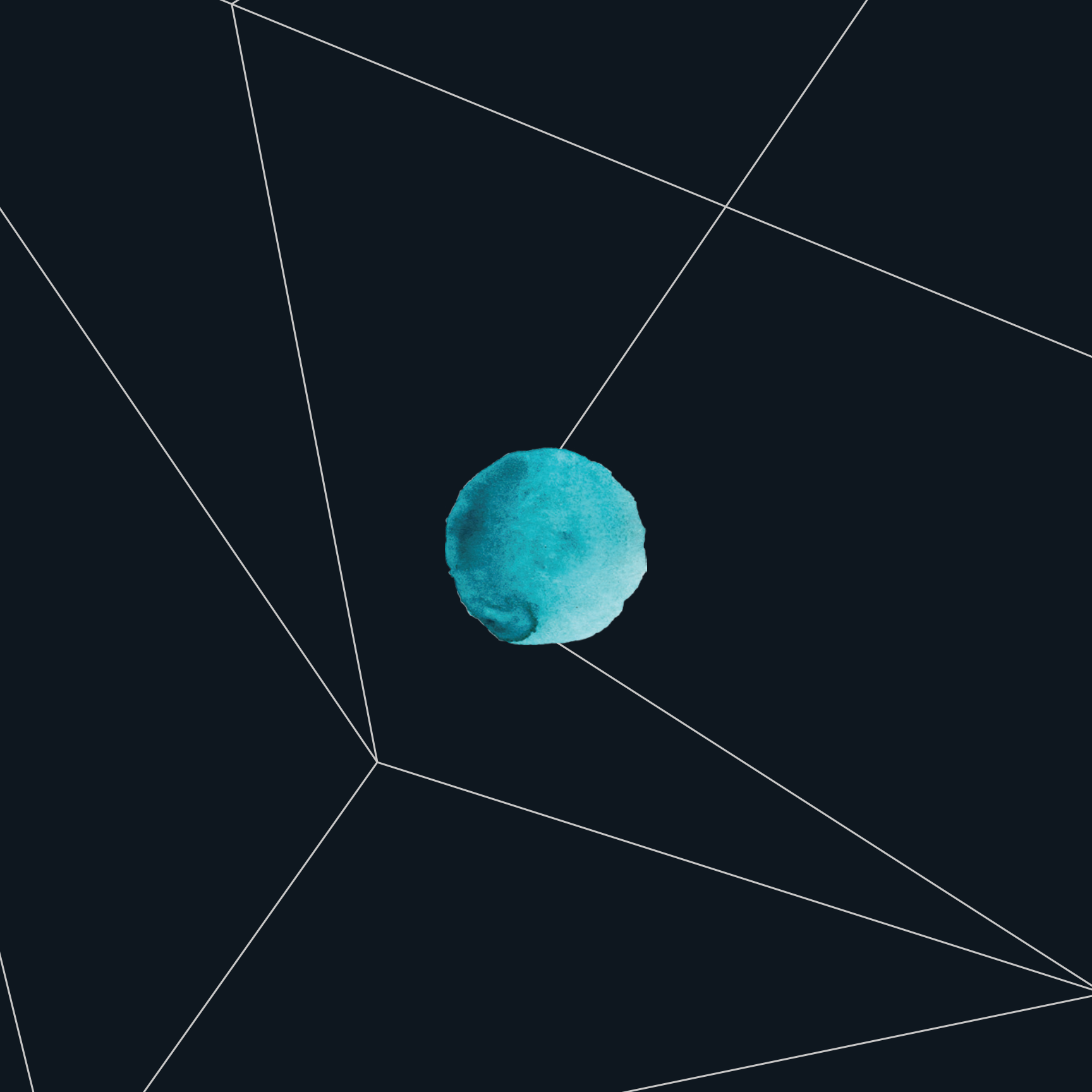


2019



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

GAMBRELLFOUNDATION.ORG



20
19

DEAR FRIENDS,

2019 marked a significant year of community impact for The Gambrell Foundation. We continued to explore innovative new ideas as well as deliver on our past commitments. As part of our mission to address inequity, we brought two groups of diverse community leaders to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. to experience and discuss the lessons highlighted in this national treasure. Each of these leaders were charged with bringing their personal experience back to Charlotte and continuing the discussion within the community.

A few of our exciting partnerships this year ranged from working with the UNC Charlotte Faculty Fellow Program, enhancing the influence of philanthropy through the Southeastern Council of Foundations, supporting Brookings Institution research that enables the Opportunity Insights work to bridge Charlotte's economic mobility divide, to a new year of partnership with Communities In Schools. These organizations, and many others, are true change-makers in our community.

During 2019, we watched as the Sarah Belk Gambrell Center for the Arts and Civic Engagement began to transform the Queens University campus and we look forward to the impactful programming this center will provide when it opens in early 2020.



Our annual report will provide greater detail of our activities in 2019. We are excited to share our year with you and are thankful for the many organizations we work with that are making a difference in Charlotte. Learn more about our work at www.gambrellfoundation.org.

As we publish our 2019 Annual Report, the entire world is grappling with the impacts of COVID-19. The Gambrell Foundation wishes to acknowledge the loss of so many and the heroic work of our frontlines helping to beat this virus.

HANNAH RANKIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 GIVING





**“MIGRATION IS NOT
ABOUT GEOGRAPHY,
IT IS ABOUT
SEEKING FREEDOM.
PEOPLE ONLY GO
AS FAR AS THEY
NEED TO ACHIEVE
FREEDOM.”**

ISABEL WILKERSON



THE GAMBRELL FOUNDATION WAS HONORED TO SERVE

as the Legacy Sponsor for the 50th Anniversary of the Southeast Council of Foundations (SECF). We believe in continuous learning, and the SECF inspires us and other foundations in our region to understand more.

Isabel Wilkerson, author of [The Warmth of Other Suns](#), opened the conference by discussing the Great Migration of African Americans from the South to escape Jim Crow, only to find other forms of racism upon arrival in the North.

Bryan Stevenson, author of [Just Mercy](#) and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, shared powerful words about inmates on death row.

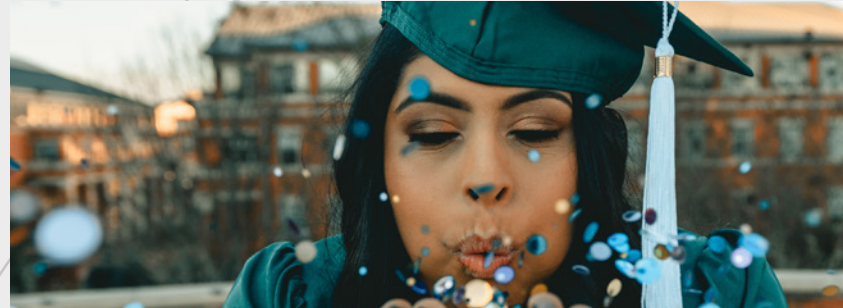
During the meeting, SECF released its new Equity Framework to strengthen learning, leadership, and actions within Southern philanthropy. The framework is dedicated to the advancement of equity in our field and region. Now that is something The Gambrell Foundation can get behind!

**“EMBRACING OUR
BROKENNESS CREATES
A NEED AND DESIRE
FOR MERCY.”**

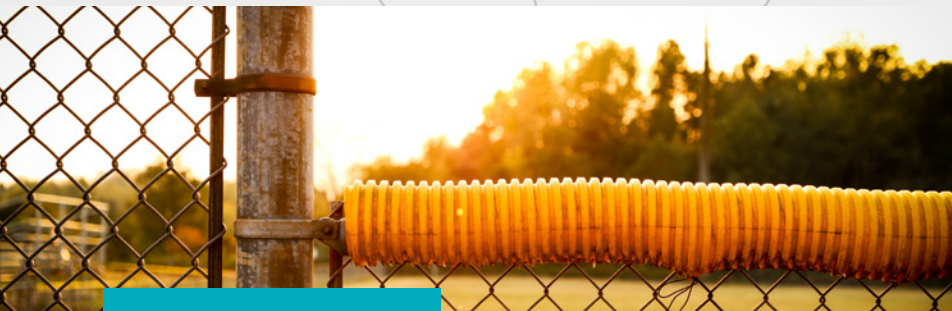
BRYAN STEVENSON

2019 GRANT SPOTLIGHTS

01 EDUCATION



The Gambrell Foundation's three main areas of focus are education, at-risk youth and vibrant communities.



02 AT-RISK YOUTH

In 2019 our grants were given to efforts that demonstrated all three focus areas.



03 VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



01

EDUCATION

**“I CAN’T WAIT TO
MAKE MY MARK
ON CHARLOTTE’S
CULINARY SCENE
AND I’M HOPEFUL
ABOUT WHAT’S
STILL TO COME.”**

KAVYN CORDON,
2019 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLAR



Gambrell Foundation Opportunity Scholar Kavyn Cordon has had a passion for creating food and cooking for as long as he can remember. The North Mecklenburg High School graduate took a number of culinary classes in high school, knowing it was a career path he wanted to pursue after graduation.

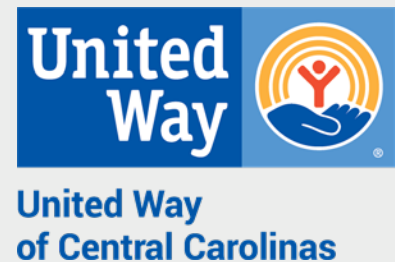
As commencement drew closer, Kavyn turned his attention to Central Piedmont and its nationally-accredited culinary arts program. He began to discuss his options with his high school guidance counselor. The guidance counselor recommended he apply for the college's Opportunity Scholars program. With this in mind, Kavyn gathered the required letters of recommendation, worked to maintain his GPA and preserved his school performance. Kavyn's hard work paid off and he was named a Gambrell Foundation Opportunity Scholar in spring 2019.

The recognition meant there would be no down time for Kavyn after high school graduation. In mid-June he began Central Piedmont's Summer Bridge Program, an initiative that strives to increase awareness among high school graduates of college expectations before the start of the semester. Participation in this program is a component of the scholarship. Walking around Central Campus during Summer Bridge, Kavyn soaked in the horizons of uptown Charlotte, enjoyed the campus's vibrant atmosphere, and reveled in spending time with the many friends he was making as a result of being named a Gambrell Foundation Opportunity Scholar.

Kavyn is currently exploring apprenticeship opportunities that are available through the college's culinary arts program. Kavyn will join the workforce after earning his associate degree in culinary arts from Central Piedmont in spring 2021. We're excited for Kavyn's future and all that will unfold for him.

02

AT-RISK YOUTH



UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS IS A COMPREHENSIVE, MULTI-YEAR INITIATIVE

that will lay the foundation for greater economic mobility for residents of Charlotte's most under-resourced neighborhoods. Three core beliefs drive the efforts: First, neighborhood residents are best equipped to lead revitalization in their communities. Residents can identify existing community assets, discern the most pressing community needs, and serve as ambassadors to their neighbors. Secondly, an identified "quarterback" from a local, embedded organization must dedicate themselves to neighborhood revitalization, engaging residents, developing the necessary infrastructure, and coordinating partners and services. Finally, the program will support organizations – philanthropic funders and technical assistance providers – while offering flexible, multi-year support to the residents and community quarterbacks in the form of funding, information, connections and influence.



DIFFERENCE MAKERS CLT SEEKS TO EMPOWER YOUTH VOICES

and create opportunities for economic mobility. This program will develop an intergenerational network of support, connections and influence, in order to break down barriers and build bridges across differences. Funds will be used to establish and promote youth leadership, advocacy, and mobilization annually to equip a diverse cohort of rising student and current community leaders with the opportunity to expand their public awareness, understanding, and knowledge of historical and current systemic inequalities. With an eye towards community well-being, the program will include new voices in local planning and decision making in Charlotte. Through leadership development programming, participants will then utilize their social capital to build bridges and increase economic mobility for residents of Charlotte, NC.

03

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES





THE GAMBRELL FOUNDATION IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH FOUNDATION FOR THE CAROLINAS AND A RESEARCH TEAM



from Opportunity Insights, under the leadership of Harvard University Professor Raj Chetty. Chetty was the key architect of the 2013 study revealing Charlotte's 50th out of 50 national ranking in upward mobility for children born in poverty. Opportunity Insights is using its rich research and data to inform policy changes that increase economic mobility. Through a Gates Foundation grant, the Harvard team selected Charlotte as its inaugural city in which to conduct further research.

At the local level, The Gambrell Foundation is supporting the complementary work of UNC Charlotte's Institute of Social Capital/Urban Institute serving as Opportunity Insights' local data and research partner. Through this partnership, we are helping to build the capacity of the Institutes' integrated community database, which is critical to sustaining the work after Opportunity Insights completes its work in Charlotte.

Opportunity Insights, in partnership with UNCC, has centered its Charlotte policy work on housing and education beyond high school. Research includes understanding the impact on families with young children who have rental vouchers and move to higher

opportunity neighborhoods to determine if the long-term economic outcomes for the children in these families will improve. They are also working with the Charlotte Housing Authority, City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and A Way Home to identify ways to use the study to create more favorable outcomes for children.

The team is also focused on ways to increase low-income students' access to and retention in local postsecondary institutions. CMS, CPCC and UNC Charlotte are partnering with Opportunity Insights on this effort. Opportunity Insights produced a series of analyses for UNC Charlotte on the outcomes of their students' post-graduation and have executed a data sharing agreement with CPCC to enable similar analysis for the community college. This important work continues to unfold.

In addition to supporting UNCC's opportunity work and helping to build the capacity of the Institute for Social Capital's integrated community database, we are supporting pilot projects that emerge from the Opportunity Insight work in Charlotte. These pilot projects will be identified and pursued in 2020.

UNCC OPPORTUNITY FACULTY FELLOWS PROJECTS



The Gambrell Foundation is also supporting the research of twelve faculty fellows on various aspects of economic opportunity.

**JOBS, TRANSIT, GENTRIFICATION AND
CHANGING NEIGHBORHOODS**

**HOUSING INSECURITY AMONG
COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**HOW ARTS AND DESIGN CONTRIBUTE
TO ECONOMIC MOBILITY**

**LANGUAGE SKILLS AS A PATHWAY UP
THE ECONOMIC LADDER**

**BREAKING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM REVOLVING DOOR WITH
DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING**

**FINDING A PATH TO PROSPERITY IN
THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

**RENTAL HOUSING AVAILABILITY
AS AN INCENTIVE TO RELOCATE IN
SEARCH OF BETTER SCHOOLS**

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY

FOUNDATION

A great city needs a vital library system that provides access to evolving informational tools and resources while serving as a welcoming community hub. Our \$3 million grant starting in 2020 will fund the new Innovation Lab — a next-generation makerspace, equipped with the technology, tools and resources of tomorrow for individuals and groups to engage in design for learning, economic opportunity and problem-solving.



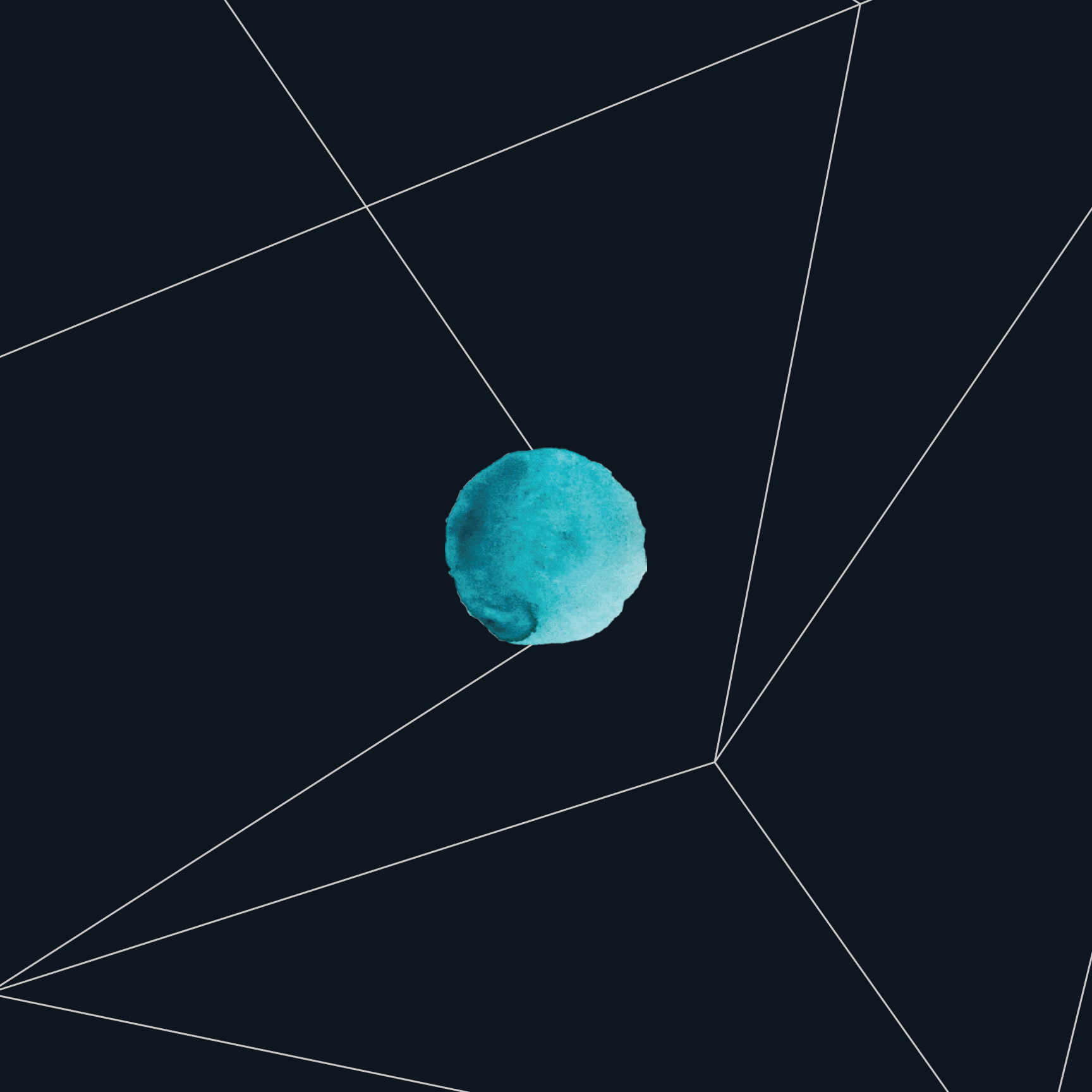
LEVEL UP is an out of school time program that offers teens ages 13-18 free access to four neighborhood YMCAs on

weekend nights. Giving youth positive outlets for their time and energy, LEVEL UP is designed to build trust between teens and police officers, prevent crime, promote health and improve social capital in youth. Trained staff and volunteer leaders create a safe and structured environment that allows teens to socialize with friends in activities like basketball, swimming, fitness, and art. Participating youth also receive a free, nutritious meal.



Ridge Road Middle School is a CMS middle school located in northeastern Mecklenburg County. The school serves approximately 1,300 students from neighborhoods surrounding the school, as well as communities throughout the University City area. Ridge Road Middle is what is commonly known as a “bubble” school. A “bubble” school results when the school has a high percentage of students from low-income families, but the percentage is not quite high enough for the school to qualify for Title I Funding. Title I Funding is provided by the federal government to support schools with high percentages of low-income students who are behind academically or at risk of not meeting academic standards. The grant will be used to hire more teachers, reduce class size, provide tutoring, purchase instructional materials and supplies, support parental involvement activities, and provide professional development for staff.







704.553.8296
HANNAH RANKIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GAMBRELLFOUNDATION.ORG