



# Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

## ANNUAL REPORT 2010



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

While this past year certainly brought its challenges your Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department provided outstanding service to you and all of our residents. We actually saw the department have its highest customer satisfaction results, highest attendance and record revenue ever!

We also received the Barbara King Environmental Stewardship Award which is the highest honor given for natural resources protection by the National Park and Recreation Association. We have also been nominated for the National Gold Medal Award which is the “Academy Award” for overall park and recreation management among the largest cities in the country.



As you read through this report you’ll see the accomplishments of our staff, volunteers and partners who brought you these programs and opportunities.

Our collective challenge for the future as a department and community will be to meet the increasing needs for park s, recreation programs and protection of our natural environment with limited funding. We must understand the essential nature of park and recreation services and find ways to not just maintain what we have but grow the system to meet current citizen’s demands and those in the future.

There are no great cities without great park and recreation systems.

Sincerely,

James R. Garges, CPRP



### Mecklenburg County Commissioners

(Front row L to R): Vilma Leake, Harold Cogdell, Jennifer Roberts, Dan Murrey, Karen Bentley, (Back row L to R): George Dunlap, Dumont Clark, Bill James, Neil Cooksey



### Park and Recreation commission

Front Row L to R: Elaine Powell, Kendel Bryant, Brenda McMoore, Beverly Cotton-Lawston (Vice-Chair), Rob Brisley (Chair), Back Row L to R: Norman Mitchell, Jeff Tarte, Phil Carvey, Ed Barnhart, Paul Bailey, Charlie McRee, (Exec. Secretary) Not Pictured: Joe pata

## **NEW FACILITIES**

### **REVOLUTION PARK SPORTS ACADEMY**

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation opened Revolution Park Sports Academy on May 8, 2010 to an excited crowd of youth boxers, wrestlers and families that were invited to the ceremony and to tour the facility at 1225 Remount Road, beside Revolution Park Golf Course.

The \$10 million, 30,000 square foot Revolution Park Sports Academy is Park and Recreation's first L.E.E.D. certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) facility. It serves as a place to teach life skills to youth and adults, especially through sports. The facility houses many programs

offered by or in partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department: Charlotte Boxing Academy, Police Activities League (PAL), karate and wrestling, plus Charlotte Flights Track and Field Club. The academy host summer enrichment camps, PAL after-school enrichment programs, and fitness programs for all ages.



### **BEREWICK RECREATION CENTER**

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools opened their fourth joint-use facility in January 2010.

Berewick Recreation Center, located within Berewick Elementary School, has 15,000 square feet of recreation space that includes Ray's Playhouse area for children, full size gymnasium with wooden floors and multi-purpose rooms.

Park and Recreation's investment of 1.6 million in conjunction with the new elementary school construction allows the community to use the recreation space after school hours, on weekends, and during the summer months while school is out.





## LARGE HISTORIC TRACT IN NORTH MECKLENBURG PURCHASED FOR NATURE PRESERVE AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

Mecklenburg County purchased more than 211 acres in northern Mecklenburg for watershed protection along Mountain Island Lake, the main source of drinking water in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Known as the “Eakes property,” it expanded Cowan’s Ford Wildlife Refuge to 867 acres and now connects it to the 487 acre Rural Hill Nature Preserve. The property has long been considered the top desired land acquisition for the department. It was the highest ranked prospective acquisition identified in the "Greenprinting" process of the 2008 Park and Recreation 10-Year Master Plan, as well as the 2006 Mountain Island Lake Region Land Prioritization.

The property protects another .9 miles of shoreline at Mountain Island Lake, and includes the historic Holly Bend house (circa 1795) built by Robert Davidson, son of John Davidson of Revolutionary War fame. The house was once center of a 2800 acre plantation. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



## REEDY CREEK NATURE EXPLORER ZONE

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department celebrated the grand opening of the county’s first “nature play area” at Reedy Creek Nature Center on Saturday, May 22, 2010

The new play area, called Nature Explorer Zone, is a special playground designed to encourage longer and richer play experiences in a natural setting. The playground is built in the woods near the nature center and features a custom-made play structure resembling bird houses (in picture), plus many other features to capture the imagination of children—stump jumps, log balance beams, a grapevine crawl and arbors, sand play area, fort building area, “messy materials” area, and a stage for dramatic play.

Nature playgrounds are a hot new concept to encourage children to spend more time in nature. Studies find that time in nature is essential to a child’s development – intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.

Research shows that connecting children to nature improves their creativity, strengthens problem-solving skills, and supports healthy childhood development, including positive impacts to childhood obesity, stress, and attention deficit disorders.



The following is an article about the Nature Explorer Zone featured in the August-September 2010 edition of *Kiwi Magazine*.

## naturally fun

The surprising thrills of a swing-set-less playground

by Jody Mace

One afternoon last spring, I took my kids to the new playground near us. We'd been anticipating this for some time, because we, along with other families in our area, had given input into what would be built. When we arrived, we found a small boy leaning bamboo poles against a wooden post to make a fort. Another child was standing at a low table spread with yarn and art materials, tying pinecones and twigs together to make a necklace, and a few kids were taking turns swinging from a grapevine.

My own son, who's 12, might be on the verge of abandoning playgrounds, but he got busy creating an elaborate, impressive hammock system between two of the many trees that dot the play area. If this doesn't sound like a typical playground, that's because it isn't.

### a new, old-fashioned kind of play space

The Nature Explorer Zone at the Reedy Creek Nature Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, is a natural play area, which means it makes use of items like logs, sand, hills, and boulders in its design. There isn't much plastic, and you might think kids would miss those nifty fake steering wheels. But from what I've seen, they don't. They're too busy to.

Kids play differently in a natural playground. On a traditional play structure, they climb up a ladder and slide down a pole. There are only one or two things to do with any particular element. But the activity in natural areas is more open-



ended. "They'll come out to the fort-building area, and there'll be posts in the ground but no instructions," says Bridget Strong, northeast district nature preserve manager in Mecklenburg County, where the Nature Explorer Zone is. "You're encouraging them to be creative by not making the connections so easy."

### from brainstorming to building

Concerned that too many kids don't have enough contact with nature these days, parents and community leaders are building natural playgrounds not just in Charlotte, but all over the country, in



### your turn

#### How can you bring a natural playground to your community?

- 1 Look for a location.** Is there an empty lot or an existing playground that's seen better days? Find out who owns it by calling your parks department or town hall.
- 2 Resch out.** Gather other parents in your area and share what you know about the importance of kids playing in nature. (For resources, check out No Child Left Inside at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's website: [cbf.org](http://cbf.org).) Use these benefits to pitch the school, city, or landowner on your idea. Then, find out what it would take to get a new playground in place (money, zoning clearance, builders).
- 3 Find people who can help.** You might be surprised at how many people are willing to pitch in. The local parks department or schools might have a staff member with experience applying for grants. A neighborhood homeowner's association might have access to great carpenters. The Boy Scouts might be looking for a new project.
- 4 Make a plan.** The Arbor Day Foundation can be a great resource for creating a design and a time line. Check out their Natural Play Area Sourcebook ([arborday.org/shopping/sourcebook](http://arborday.org/shopping/sourcebook)).

Photographs by Jody Mace





A breath of fresh air: At the Nature Explorer Zone in Charlotte, North Carolina, children get to climb, swing, and play in their own creative ways.

dozens of other cities and towns.

For our play area, the staff at Reedy Creek gathered children and parents for a focus group. While the adults talked about what

we wanted our kids to get out of the new playground, kids got to draw the play areas of their dreams. Next, consultants from the Arbor Day Foundation and the Dimensions Education Research Foundation (groups dedicated to connecting kids with nature) created a working design that could be used to actually get the play area built. It incorporated kid requests, like a whimsical child-size birdhouse system connected by a wooden bridge.

Local landscape and construction businesses built the play area, offering steep discounts and often waiving labor charges. Volunteers also helped with tedious work like weeding. Thanks to a local nonprofit group, Partners for Parks, as well as grants and donations, the project was completed, in about a year, with no public funding.

### the ever-evolving natural playground

The play area we're now able visit is full of enticing elements: Logs to turn over to examine what's underneath, blocks made from pieces of tree trunk sections, a tun-



nel made from grapevines, and a sandpit. There's yarn to combine with whatever else kids can find (like feathers, leaves, or sticks), and musical instruments made of natural or recycled materials.

The Nature Explorer Zone has already become a popular field trip destination for schools as well as a spot for family outings. It's also shaping up to be a great spot for homeschoolers (like my family) on weekdays, possibly because it appeals to so many age groups. I've seen teenage girls make a section of the grapevine tunnel into their own personal chat room; other teens venture out from the play area to hike on trails in the woods; 7- and 8-year-old kids create a song and dance routine using the xylophones and a wooden stage; and the tiniest of children follow a giant beetle that crawled out from under a leaf. The kids even spotted a massive black snake (which seemed to delight them more than it did their parents). Our visits have left no doubt that dirt, and all of nature, doesn't need a fancy structure on it to be fun. It just needs kids. ●

## MECKLENBURG PARK AND RECREATION NAMED A FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS 2010 NRPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD!



Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department has been named one of three finalist agencies in competition for a 2010 NRPA Gold Medal Award. The award is presented annually by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to honor excellence in management and planning of parks and recreation agencies.

Recreation professionals consider the Gold Medal Award as the top national recognition of excellence in their profession.

"I'm very proud of the work and professional dedication of our staff and volunteers to earn this recognition," said Jim Garges, Director of Mecklenburg County Park

and Recreation Department. A panel of leading experts chose the Mecklenburg department as a finalist for the Gold Medal in the category for communities with a population of more than 250,000. The choice was based on extensive written submissions about the department, both statistical and narrative, in response to a series of specific questions posed by NRPA.

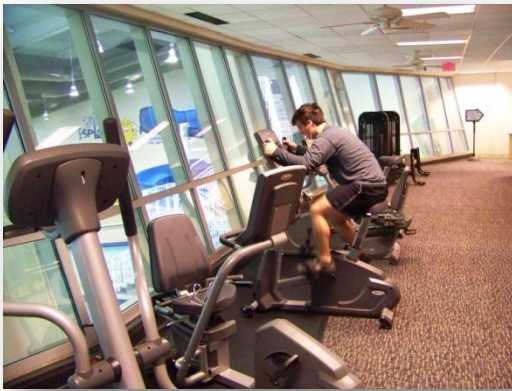
This award honors the top communities in the United States which demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.

[Watch the Gold Medal video](#)

### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2010

- NACO Award for Community Garden Partnerships
- Expanded Reedy Creek community garden, Thomas Winget community garden, and developed Winterfield/Sheffield community garden with the assistance of the City of Charlotte Neighborhood Development grant
- General Manager James D. Worsley received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Leadership from North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University on May 8, 2010.
- Soft opening of the Metropolitan Section of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Took on operations with no additional staff or operational dollars.
- Saved \$10,000 by using volunteers to help spread 500 cubic yards of mulch in Freedom Park. This past year was the first time a contractor was not used. Staff worked with volunteers to accomplish the task in three days.
- Shuffletown Park grand opening on June 12, 2010; includes new dog park, playground and, two volleyball courts.
- Expanded T. M. Winget Park (ball field and restroom)
- Worked with ASC and landscape architect Laurel Holtzhapple to develop Twelve Garden at Valerie Woodard Center.
- Worked with functional artist Daniel McCormick and ASC to develop erosion control functional art along LSCG.
- Identified and collected a new plant species unknown to Mecklenburg County, *Ranunculus sceleratus*, a native buttercup species commonly found in the coastal plain.
- Through grants and donations, staff was able to offer 53 program scholarships which served 250 county residents.





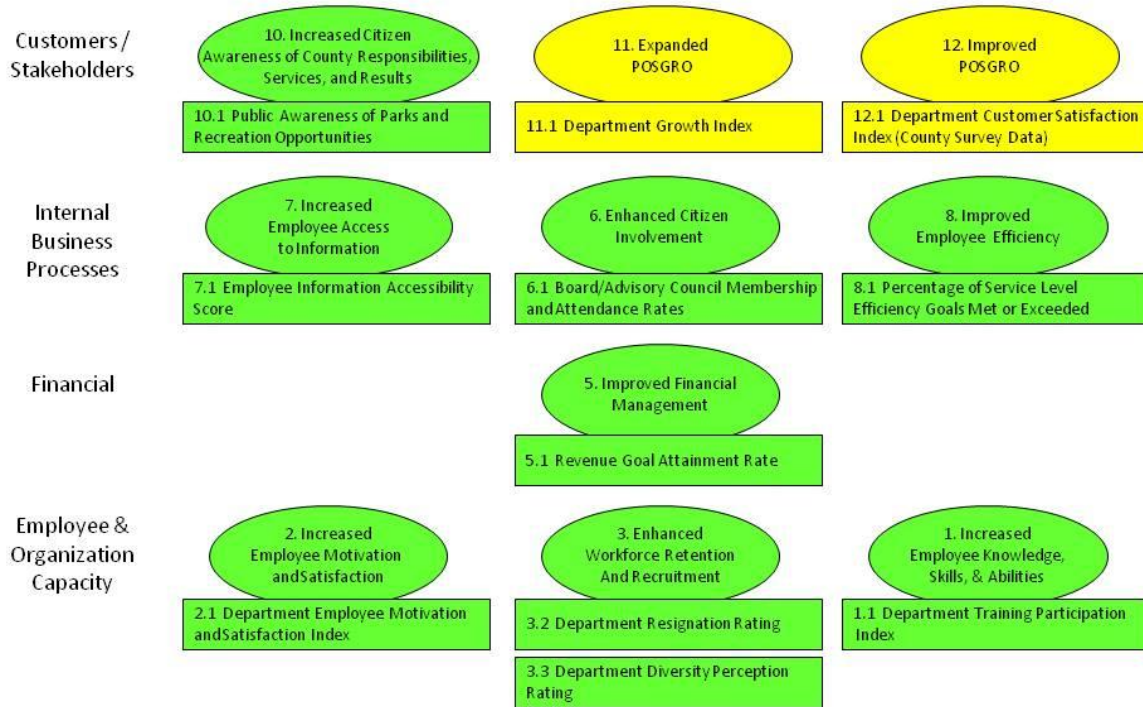
- Hosted the NC Association of Environmental Professionals for their annual meeting at the Dr. James F. Matthews Center for Biodiversity Studies.
- Public wifi was installed for computer labs and also for the general public at Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center, West Charlotte Recreation Center, and Southview recreation center.
- We set up cameras for the banding process and were able to stream it live to three locations at the Hummingbird Festival. This allowed the public to be able to view the process even if they were not able to be at the banding station.
- Development of a partnership with the US Olympic Committee for a Paralympic Sport Club. This program focuses on the development of programs for youth who have physical disabilities and on returning veterans through the Wounded Warriors program.

- New programs initiated for senior citizens: MeckSenior Dance program began at Wallace Pruitt Recreation Center encouraging dance as a form of exercise. Implemented three new senior programs at West Charlotte Recreation Center: Amara African Dance and Drumming, Techie Computer classes, and Water colors. “Leisure and Learn” for seniors was introduced at Mallard Creek Recreation Center and Davie Park with over 95 participants per session for the winter and the summer series at both locations. Partnered with the Department of Social Services to add a new Senior Nutrition program at Southview Recreation Center that serves over 30 seniors every week day during the year with a free meals, nutrition and fitness programs, social activities, trips and cultural art programs.
- Implemented various new fitness programs including boot camps in the recreation centers and parks for adults, senior citizen fitness programs at multiple recreation centers, teen fitness programs at four recreation centers, and partnered with agencies to offer additional health fairs in the community.
- Thomasboro School Recreation Site, Wallace Pruitt, Ivory Baker and Mallard Creek Recreation Centers joined together to offer traditional summer day camps for over 130 elementary aged youth for eight weeks with the theme “360 Degrees of Play”. The camps focused on play activities that promoted physical activity, outdoor play and nature themed activities. The campers also took part in the Learn to Swim program at Double Oaks Pool.
- Conducted over 34 Special Events including nine new events throughout the county that served over 94,000 participants
- Hosted 14 ceremonial events, an increase of seven events from last year. Events included: opening of Revolution Park Sports Academy, Berewick Recreation Center, greenways, facility renamings, groundbreakings, and new park/facility openings that highlighted the department’s commitment to growth and recreation program opportunities for our citizens.
- The Community and Recreation Center Services Division served 996,399 participants in recreation programs for all ages and program areas, TR programs, special events, 4-H programs, and recreation center visitors. This is an increase of over 106,000.

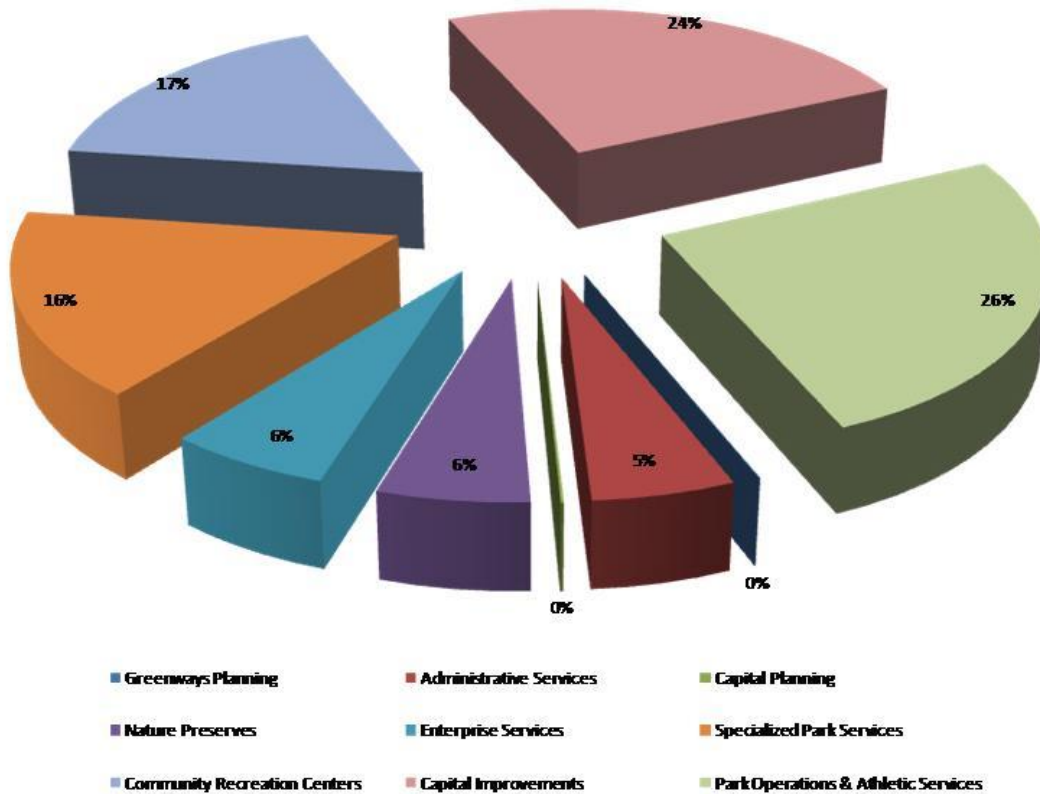




## FY-10 Department Desired Outcomes and Performance Measures



### FY-2010 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS TOTAL EXPENSES \$53,137,084



## VOLUNTEERS SERVICES

Over the past year, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation's Volunteer Services Department increased its involvement in all areas of service including coaching youth sports, helping coordinate special events, landscaping parks, conducting general park and facility maintenance, working with seniors, helping with Therapeutic Recreation programs, adopting parks and greenways, and much more!



More than 16,000 volunteers helped Park and Recreation during FY-10, logging close to 100,000 hours of service! The value of their service is over 2 million dollars.

As a result of the contributions Volunteer Services provided to the community over the past year, Volunteer Coordinator Lori Saylor was named a recipient of the Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service. A copy of the official news release is below.



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### PARK AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR WINS STATEWIDE HONOR

The volunteer services coordinator for the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department is a recipient of the Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service for 2010. Lori Saylor was one of only 20 people in the state recognized with this honor.

In announcing the award, Faye Stone of the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service said, "With so many deserving volunteers in competition for this award, the process for selecting the top 20 volunteers in the state was challenging." Selection is based on the nominee's volunteer efforts, accomplishments, and impact in the community, and reflects a meaningful commitment of time and service.

Saylor began the Park and Recreation volunteer effort in 2004 with just 100 residents who were willing to pick up trash in local parks. The volunteer program has now grown to more than 16,000 people doing work ranging from planting flowers to serving at special Park and Rec events to being recreation center ambassadors. The volunteer work is meant to supplement the efforts of full-time Park and Recreation employees. Volunteers spent 100,000 hours doing County projects. That time is valued at over \$2 million according to the Points of Light Foundation. The newest programs are:

- **Rec Buddies:** Support Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing quality recreation and leisure services to the community including afterschool programs, grounds maintenance and special events.
- **Park Partners:** Support staff with the implementation of a broad range of beautification and maintenance projects in our Parks and Greenways.
- **Park Ambassadors:** Volunteers act as hosts to park patrons providing the highest level of customer service park

"With the significant budget and staff reductions Park and Recreation is facing this year, our volunteers are more important than ever," says Park and Recreation Director Jim Garges. "Lori has brought our volunteer program to a level that is the envy of other park and recreation organizations around the country."

# MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIPS

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation partners with many groups, organizations, businesses, schools and agencies to present recreation programs and facilities. We especially want to acknowledge the assistance and support of Partners for Parks, the nonprofit group that raises funds and contributes to enhance our parks, greenways, open space and recreation all over Mecklenburg County. Other partners we'd like to acknowledge:

107.9 The Link	Carolina Youth Rugby	Cooloak Athletic Assoc.
21st Century Comm. Learning Ctr.	Carolinas Asian Chamber Of Commerce	Coke Bottling Co/ Red Moon Marketing
AARP	Carolinas Healthcare System	Communities in Schools
Abandoned Romania	Carolinas Rehabilitation	Country Time Carriages
Accuquest	Carolina Raptor Center	County IST
Action Plus	Catawba Lands Conservatory	Central Piedmont Community College
Adaptive Sports/Adventure Program	Catawba Riverkeeper	Crop Walk
All in Play	Catawba Valley Scottish Society	CVAN
Allegro Foundation	Catholic Social Services – Refugee Relocation Program	Dell Curry Foundation
American Diabetes	CATS-Charlotte Transit	Dick's Sporting Goods
American Heart	Charlotte Area Lacrosse Club	Dilworth Little League
American Marching Association	Char. Badminton/Table Tennis Club	Do the Right Thing
American Red Cross	Charlotte Bobcats	Dr. Leland McLaughlin
American Youth Soccer Association	Charlotte Boxing Academy	Drug & Alcohol Prevention Services
American Youth Soccer Organization	Charlotte Bridge Association	Dept. of Social Services (Mecklenburg Co.)
AMF Bowling	Charlotte Catholic/Holy Trinity	East Meck Lacrosse Club
Animal Fund	Charlotte Center City Partners	Eastfield Christian Church
Anitagood Design	Charlotte Country Day School	Election Central
Armin's Catering	Charlotte Disc Golf Club	Elizabeth Neighborhood Assoc.
Arts & Science Council	Charlotte Emergency Housing	First Ward Community Fund
ASA Charlotte	Charlotte Flights	Food Lion/Pedigree
ASA Softball	Charlotte Hornets Beepball	Friends of Fourth Ward Neighborhood Association
Asian Chamber of Commerce	Charlotte Jewish Preschool	Friendship Baptist Church
Autism Foundation of NC	Charlotte Junior Soccer	Gaston Christian
Autism Society	Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools	Girl Scouts of America
Avon Walk for Breast Cancer	Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Dept.	Greater Enrichment Program
Awards Express	Charlotte Montessori	Harris Teeter
Balfour Beatty	Charlotte Optimist Club	H.A.W.K
Bank of America	Charlotte Regional Ctr. for Deaf/HH	Hilton
Beacon Partners	Charlotte Soccer Academy	Historic Latta Plantation
BEGINNINGS, Inc.	Charlotte Sports Connection	Hands on Charlotte
Best Buy	Charlotte Sports Cycling	Hornet's Nest BMX
Bloom	Charlotte Stream Water	Hotel Tourism Alliance
Blumenthal Performing Arts Center	Charlotte Symphony	International Facility Mgmt Assn
Blythe Development	Charlotte United Futbol Club	Inter-American Soccer Org.
BMX Racing	Charlotte Women Soccer League	Interlink
Bojangles'	Charlotte Woodcarvers Club	IRI Golf Group
Bookin' It Mobile Bookstore	Charlotte Youth Lacrosse	Irwin Ave. Open School
Boy Scouts of America	Chesterbrook Academy	Irwin Ave. Parents Night
Breakfast Club	Childcare Resources	Irwin BED
Brixx Pizza	Chirp and Chatter	Jazzercise
Broomers Carwash and Tan	Christ Church School	Johnson C. Smith University
Bruegger Bagels	Christ Episcopal Church	Johnson-Wales University
Budokan Charlotte	Christ Lutheran Church	Kidz Biz
Burke Soil & Water Conservation	City of Matthews	Kofi Mawougbe Tennis
Cadillac Golf Ranch LLC	City Tavern Restaurant	Lake Norman Marine Commission
California Pizza Kitchen	City/County Golf Tourney	Lakewood Community
Camel Back	Citizen Schools	Latin Soccer League
Caribou Coffee	Clark Nexsen	Legends Summer Camp
Carolina Clowns	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Dept.	Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Carolina Crash Quad Rugby Team	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	Little Sugar Creek Westfield
Carolina Panthers		LUESA/Solid Waste (Mecklenburg Co.)
Carolina Thread Trail		M.A.D.E. Cheer and Dance



Mallard Creek Optimist Club  
 Mallard Creek Presby.  
 Preschool.  
 Marie G. Davis Middle School  
 Master Gardner Volunteer  
 Program  
 MatchMaker Tennis  
 Matthews Athletic & Rec Assoc  
 Matthews Soccer Club  
 Mecklenburg Union Futbol Club  
 Mecklenburg Audubon Society  
 McKinney Care  
 Mecklenburg Youth Lacrosse  
 Metro School  
 Midwood Neighbors  
 Midwood Tennis Academy  
 Mt. Gallant Elementary  
 Myers Park Baptist  
 Myers Park Trinity Little  
 League  
 National Softball Association  
 Nations Baseball  
 Nations Ford Community  
 Church  
 Nat. Resources Conservation  
 Service  
 NC Dance Outreach Program  
 NC Wildlife Federation  
 NC Wildlife Reserves  
 Commission  
 Nevins Inc  
 New Second Ward Park  
 North Carolina Amateur Sports  
 Nothing But Noodles  
 Old Providence Recreation  
 Association  
 Open Door School  
 Our Children's Memorial  
 Walkway  
 Outdoor Nation  
 Ovens Auditorium  
 Panera Bread  
 Park Sharon Athletic  
 Association  
 Partners for Parks  
 Philharmonic's Masquerade Ball  
 Physical Disabled Adults Inc.

Piedmont Charter School  
 Piedmont Open Middle  
 Plaza Youth Athletic  
 Association  
 Police Activities League  
 Pondscapes of Charlotte  
 Premier Group  
 Progressive Baptist Church  
 Public Defender's Office  
 Queen City Dolphins Minority  
 Swim Team  
 Queen City Prep  
 Queens University  
 Ramblewood Soccer Inc.  
 Ranson Middle  
 Ratcliffe Golf Services  
 REI  
 Right Moves For Youth  
 River Hills Community Church  
 Rural Hill Inc.  
 Safe Halloween  
 Safe Kids Campaign  
 Salvation Army Boys and Girls  
 Club of Charlotte  
 Schiele Museum  
 Second Harvest Bank  
 Senior Games  
 Shad's Landing  
 Shamrock Neighbors  
 Shiloh Elementary  
 Show Pros Inc.  
 South Charlotte Soccer  
 Association  
 South Park Youth Association  
 Special Olympics  
 St. Mary's Chapel  
 St. Matthews Catholic  
 Starbucks, Inc.  
 Steele Creek Athletic  
 Association  
 Sticks with US  
 Swim Mac  
 Target  
 Tarheel Trailblazers  
 Team Heidi Costume Contest  
 Tennis Academy of N.C.  
 Tennis Education Endowment

Texas Land & Cattle  
 The First Tee of Charlotte  
 Thompson Orphanage Alumni  
 Association  
 Time Warner Cable  
 Tora Kempa Academy  
 Town of Cornelius  
 Town of Davidson  
 Town of Huntersville  
 Turkey Trot Road Race  
 UCP Easter Seals  
 Univ. City United Methodist  
 Church  
 UNC-Charlotte  
 UNCC Circle K  
 UNCC Sigma Gamma Rho  
 Sorority  
 UNC-Greensboro  
 United Methodist Church  
 United Way  
 Unlimited Engraving  
 Uptown Men's Shelter  
 Urban Ministry Center  
 Urban Restoration Ministries  
 U.S. Olympic Comm.-US  
 Paralympics  
 U.S. Specialty Sports  
 Association  
 U.S. Tennis  
 Association/Charlotte  
 Visit Charlotte  
 Wachovia  
 Wal-Mart  
 Watershed  
 WedShops.com  
 Wendy's  
 West Enterprises  
 Wing Haven Gardens  
 WJZY- CW46  
 World Crown Gymnastics  
 WPEG/CBS Radio  
 Winston-Salem State University  
 Youth Family Services  
 YMCA of Greater Charlotte  
 YWCA