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# Celebrating 80 Years, Charlotte Nonprofit Addresses Upward Mobility & Launches New Brand

*Bethlehem Center of Charlotte changes its name to Alliance Center for Education*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. – August 20, 2020** – After 80 years of improving economic mobility for thousands of Mecklenburg County children, Bethlehem Center of Charlotte is changing its name to Alliance Center for Education.

Founded by United Methodist Women in 1940 in Charlotte’s Brooklyn neighborhood, the Center has empowered thousands of children and families to succeed by providing the only Charlotte-area continuum of high-quality education and support services, including early childhood development and K-12 year-round programming.

“Our new brand builds on our 80 years of success, and more accurately represents our mission and values,” says Executive Director William McDonald. “It’s important that our community understands our ties to education, upward mobility and equity, and we are excited that our new name and brand better reflect those priorities.”

A few quick facts about the impact of the Center:

- Over the past five years, 96% of the Center’s Out of School Time students have graduated from high school on time, compared to CMS’ 85%.
- The founders of the Alliance Center for Education celebrated their first graduating pre-K class with fewer than 20 children ready to start kindergarten. Today, the Center serves almost 800 children daily, from birth through the 12th grade.
- The Center has provided Mecklenburg County children and their families with 800,000 hours of education and 300,000 meals in 2019.

- more -

- The Center partners with community resources to provide health screenings for enrolled children, and in 2019 more than 600 children received dental, hearing and/or vision screenings.
- The Center serves children and their families - in 2019, more than 100 Center families acquired affordable housing, earned a diploma or degree, participated in job training and/or received emergency crisis intervention.



## Alliance Center for Education

### **About Alliance Center for Education**

Alliance Center for Education, formerly Bethlehem Center of Charlotte, has been improving economic mobility for thousands of Mecklenburg County children since 1940. AC4Ed's mission is to provide high-quality education and support for children in need through partnership with their families. With its 5-star licensed Early Childhood centers serving children from birth through age five, and its Out of School Time programming for kindergarten through 12th grade, AC4Ed serves more than 800 families daily. For more information, visit [AC4Ed.org](http://AC4Ed.org).

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