

## History of Parkview

Parkview Community Foundation began in 1994 in the home of Gwendolyn Brown-Johnson as a means to help neighborhood children who were coming home from school to empty houses, and usually to no evening meal. Gwen opened her home to children after school to provide them a safe environment, helped them with homework and provided them supper. As the number of at-risk children served grew, Gwen moved the operation to an abandoned house nearby.

Parkview Community Foundation was incorporated as a North Carolina non-profit in 1997, and recognized by the IRS in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) organization, confirmed by the IRS in 2002.

Parkview moved into its current location at 1105 Pryor Street in August, 2004. Gwen has been the Executive Director of Parkview since its inception.

Gwendolyn has served nutritious meals with a side helping of compassion and love. Gwendolyn is the recipient of many awards, including:

- ❖ 1972-78 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools PTA Council Presidents
- ❖ 1995 CMS Outstanding Leadership Award
- ❖ 1996 Outstanding Commitment to Public Education
- ❖ 1999 Charlotte Pride Award
- ❖ 2000 Torchbearers of Excellence Ash-Shakeed Islamic Center
- ❖ 2001 Community-based Club of the Year for Right Moves for Youth
- ❖ 2002 Leadership Charlotte Unsung Hero Award
- ❖ 2002 Women of a New Tribe Celebration Afro-American Cultural Center
- ❖ 2004 Computer Access of Neighborhoods Unsung Hero Award (Charlotte Chamber/

## Supporting Organizations

### Helping Hands and Linking Arms Helps the Parkview Families

- ❖ Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
- ❖ Light of Christ UMC
- ❖ Myers Park UMC Builders Sunday School Class
- ❖ Optimist Club of Charlotte
- ❖ Charlotte Woman's Club
- ❖ Providence UMC
- ❖ Scott Clark Toyota
- ❖ Papa John's Pizza
- ❖ Starbucks
- ❖ Capital Grill
- ❖ Pizza Hut
- ❖ Food Lion
- ❖ and other local Businesses



## Parkview Board Members

- ❖ **Ralph H. Dougherty**, President and Chairman of the Board, Retired Patent Attorney
- ❖ **Tracey Y. Questell**, Board Vice President, Executive Director of Healing Vine Harbor and Adjunct Professor at CPCC
- ❖ **Grace Zelen**, Board Secretary, Director of The Children's Ministry at Christ the Light Methodist Church
- ❖ **Mary Ellen Bosch**, Board Treasurer, Retired Chief Probation & Parole Officer of Mecklenburg County
- ❖ **Von Brice**, Owner Von's Auto Body
- ❖ **Helen D. Richie**, Co-Owner ACI Design, Past President Charlotte Woman's Club
- ❖ **Robert Johnson**, Branch Manager Woodforest National Bank
- ❖ **Makena Bellamy**, Owner Food for the Soul Catering



Parkview Community Foundation



"Where Children Are Our Business"

1105 Pryor Street  
Charlotte, NC 28208  
704-391-8853

[www.parkviewcf.org](http://www.parkviewcf.org)





## Nutritious Meals/Snacks

### **Kid's Cafe'**

We feed any child FREE!  
Monday - Friday between 3PM to 5PM.

### **Backpack Program**

A backpack full of nutritious, ready-to-eat and easy to prepare foods is sent home on weekends and holidays when school and Kid's Cafe' are not available.

### **Food Distribution**

In partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and other area businesses, approximately sixty (60) needy neighborhood children are serviced daily.

Many meals are provided through food donations from local restaurants and businesses.

## How Can You Help Parkview?

- ❖ Make tax deductible donations to help with...
  - ❖ monthly utilities
  - ❖ van expenses
  - ❖ expansion of the center
- ❖ Sponsor a child for summer camp
- ❖ Host a fund raiser
- ❖ Purchase back to school clothing, necessities and school supplies

## Parkview's Mission

To help the children of the area reach their individual full potential and to be prepared for adult life and adulthood.

To provide the children and youth with a program that is neighborhood centered, places a high priority on the entire family's economic and social well being, and based on a foundation of positive core values.

To provide an environment that is (1) safe, (2) enriching, (3) supportive of good health habits, and (4) nurturing and filled with hope and encouragement.

## Parkview Community

The Parkview Community Foundation is located on the west side of Charlotte near Freedom Drive. As parents of the Parkview children face high rates of addiction and incarceration, grandparents often raise a significant number of children. Many children are unsupervised after school, well into the night and at other times when school is not in session.

Neglect is common among the children of Parkview. We are committed to the enrichment of the lives of our children. Parkview offers a structured environment that fosters respect for rules and other people. Due to space restrictions, up to thirty-five children come to the Parkview Center every day from the time they get out of school, starting at 3:00 pm, and they stay until 5:30 pm or later.

## Summer Day Camp

Parkview offers a five-week summer camping program that provides three meals a day, a reading program, two field trips a week, and a variety of enriching activities. Vacation Bible School is offered for those who want to attend.

A waiting list is not uncommon.



## Tutoring & Afterschool



Parkview offers a structured schedule that includes:

- ❖ A pro-homework atmosphere and support.
- ❖ Adult staff and volunteers who assist with tutoring, meals, activities and discipline.
- ❖ Computer assisted learning in literacy and math using donated computers and software.
- ❖ An effective program of discipline and reward that encourages good behavior.
- ❖ A computer lab is available for those who do not own a computer with qualified volunteers on duty to answer any questions.
- ❖ Children are offered the opportunity to attend a weekly Bible study.

