Below is a list of organizations who need help—mostly financial—to fight this virus.

**Char-Meck COVID-19 Response Fund** will support nonprofits helping people most affected by the pandemic. This fund will help not just those who get sick but also those who are economically impacted.

**Charlotte Service** Industry Every time you have a drink at home during social distancing, consider tipping a local service industry worker through Venmo or Cash App. Right now service industry people are severely impacted by social distancing and quarantine. Lower amounts of patrons and restaurants closing will be tough on everyone. Every little bit helps.

**Classroom Central** Needs donations to distribute homework supply kits to out-of-school CMS students.

**CMS Foundation** has begun fundraising for district students and families affected by the closure of schools. The funds will support critical needs of families and students and extend academic instruction during the closure.

**Connect Meck with Kindness** needs volunteers to help make CDC-compliant masks. Needs 100% cotton fabric remnants and 1/4 or 1/8 elastic. Contact Kristen Nardone at kristensnardone@gmail.com.

**Friendship Trays** Meals on Wheels on Char-Meck is accepting donations of nonperishable food items at its Distribution Street office as it refocuses deliveries during the pandemic on its most vulnerable recipients.

**Learning Help Centers of Charlotte** welcomes volunteers to prepare meals at its catering partner facility and/or deliver meals to children who are home-bound. Donated food items are also needed for the families the organization serves in the South Boulevard corridor.

**Letter Writing** Promising Pages Bookworm Letter and Teacher Appreciation templates attached can be used to write letters to CMS support staff, cafeteria workers, and even parents who are working hard supporting our kiddos. There are also bookmark templates if anyone wants to do some adult coloring on their own (very therapeutic)! If you choose to write letters, please get them to Kevin, who will send them to Kelly at Promising Pages to distribute among CMS personnel.

**Loaves and Fishes** has an immediate need for volunteers to pack emergency food boxes at its Charlotte warehouse. Also needs canned fruit—no sugar added or in juice—canned tuna, and canned chicken. [Click here for their schedule.](#)

**Niner Nation Student Emergency Fund** helps current students by providing support when they need assistance with unexpected, unforeseen, and unavoidable expenses, including pandemics.

**Noble Food & Pursuits Meal Effort** is a restaurant group combining to increase efforts to feed the underserved and homeless in Charlotte amid COVID-19. The group intends to give high-quality, well-balanced meals to those in need and requires an average of $7.00 per meal. To help donate through the [Char-Meck Dream Center](#).

**Samaritan House** is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They currently have sick people there (including those with cancer) who need to be protected from COVID-19. They are in desperate need of masks and help with groceries.

**Second Harvest Food Bank** We want to let you know that we are doing everything that we can to respond to the COVID-19 crisis - which means ensuring our food distribution procedures remain safe and strong in the wake of coronavirus. Our staff is committed to the health and safety of our community - to our partner agencies, our volunteers, and to those that are receiving food distributed from our warehouse... [more](#)

Our friends at [Park Road Books](#) are closed for browsing; however, they are taking online orders to be mailed and offering curbside pickup. They will be open 11:00 am—3:00 pm for curbside pickup. You can also help out by ordering gift cards. Email them at orders@parkroadbooks.com to place an order and indicate whether you want your order mailed or will pick up.

**Read Charlotte, Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Science of Reading Zoom Seminar** for those who are interested in tutoring 3rd graders and reading buddies.

**Project Surge** in need of TeleHealth volunteers. No prior experience necessary.
**Atrium Health** lists **five ways to help healthcare providers and facilities**: Donate a meal from a local restaurant, a snack, or a gift card; donate funds to meet their most pressing needs; donate medical masks and hand sanitizer; donate blood; sew masks.

**The Relatives**: At The Relatives, responding to crisis is our mission and right now, the entire community is experiencing what our kids face daily—the unknown. Our youth and young adults are amongst the most vulnerable population in Charlotte, and we know the economic impacts of COVID-19 will hit them especially hard... [more](#)

**Frontline Foods** supports healthcare workers by delivering free healthy meals from local restaurant kitchens to healthcare workers. To learn more and to help with donations, [click here](#).

**The Dilworth Soup Kitchen**, right in our backyard, is in need of your financial contributions. Their budget is small, and with the need now to purchase food to serve, their expenses have increased. To learn more and to donate, [click here](#).

**Blood Drive**: Charlotte Rotary Club and American Red Cross are teaming up to do a blood drive on May 19 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please call to signup.

**Pat’s Place**—Child Advocacy Center has coordinated the investigation and treatment of the most serious cases of child abuse throughout Mecklenburg County. The mission of Pat’s Place is to protect and heal children, unite key partners, and engage the community to end child abuse. Pat’s Place currently is not using volunteers, but child abuse never ends. [A financial donation would be welcome during this time](#).

Stone Soup for Our Souls—[Carolina Farm Trust and Something Classic Catering](#) are simmering up house-crafted soups sourced by our local farmers in the Carolinas. When you purchase a quart of soup, one quart of soup will be donated to the organization of your choice.
More Ideas to Help from Linda Rakvic

As I was researching service opportunities one word continued to show up on these links: en*cour*age*ment (the act of giving someone support, confidence, or hope)

Here’s a short list of ways to get involved through service and encourage someone from home. A couple of these are opportunities for children/families to serve together. As you’ll see most of these organizations are asking for cards/letters of encouragement. Today’s Charlotte Agenda has a link to SHARE Charlotte with hundreds of opportunities to serve from home, financially, and/or to serve as a committee or board member of a local non-profit. Here’s the link.

- Purple Heart Homes invites the community to write letters to Veterans, thanking them for their service and their sacrifice for our safety and preservation of our country and its freedom. Letters can be mailed to John Gallina, 755 Washington Ave, Statesville, NC 28677

- Charlotte Village Network helps Seniors to stay in the home and community they love, for as long as possible, by providing vital volunteer services. They are looking for Daily Callers to make 5-15 minute daily calls to one or more of our members to check in with them. The purpose of the call is to make sure the member(s) is/are ok and to find out if they are in need of any of their services. Contact John Reiter at 980-272-1426.

- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, for teens 13-17, is the official student advisory council for the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, CMPD, and CMS. Volunteer your time to meet student leaders from other schools and backgrounds, share your feedback with community leaders, and more.

- Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte wants to exchange soda tabs for money at the recycling center, they are looking for a Pop Tab Collectors. Contact Denise Cubbedge at 704-335-1191.

- Classroom Central provides free school supplies to area students in need. They are looking for help to create flash cards. Downloadable templates can be found here.

- JazzArts Charlotte is made of educators, cultural art patrons, musicians and individuals dedicated to the continued development of Charlotte’s art heritage. They have opportunities for Graphic Design, Social Media, and Newsletter Writer. Contact Lonnie Davis at 704-334-3900.

- Boys & Girls Clubs Letters of Encouragement. The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte operates eight Boys & Girls Clubs. They are looking for families and individuals to create encouraging messages (You make a difference; You ideas are worthwhile; You are kind, etc.) for their members who are unable to meet with their friends at this time. Mail to The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte, ATTN: Boys & Girls Clubs, 4015 Stuart Andrew Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28217

- Changed Choices is looking for someone to write cards to women who need hope and encouragement after prison. Mail to Diane Hunt, P.O. Box 34367, Charlotte, 28234

- Good Soles provides a pair of free steel-toed boots and non-slip shoes to people in transition so they can get the job they need and provide for themselves and their families. They always include a love/hope card inside each box distributed and can use your help signing & writing them. Mail to Jeremy Coffey, 3314 N. Alexander St., Charlotte 28205