



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we steadily approach the end of 2021, I'd like to personally take a moment to thank every single person that comprises our dedicated collective of donors, supporters, volunteers, and all those who have even simply followed or shared our stories. The work of HB1 is truly a team effort; as we constantly invest so much of ourselves into every aspect of what we do. And yet - somehow - we always end up being just as fulfilled (if not more) as those we serve.

At the Hearts Beat as One Foundation, we aim to build a community that inspires, encourages and supports each other, and during this challenging year, YOU have inspired, encouraged and supported us. Because of you, HB1 has continued to stay strong and to grow, even in the midst of a global pandemic. We are all stronger together, and this commitment to better the lives of those in need carries an impact that is beyond words.

Our 2022 goals are numerous and endless, with the following initiatives at the forefront of our focus:

1. **DEVELOPING NEW PROGRAMS** - We look forward to continuing our efforts to identify and address the glaring gaps in service and assistance that persistently plague the members of our community on a daily basis; mobilizing with structure and intent to create programs and resource assistance that specifically address these disparities - facilitating not only change - but progress.
2. **WELCOMING NEW VOLUNTEERS** - As we consistently seek to provide unwavering support to every citizen of Mecklenburg County regardless of age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, etc; We are also eager to add more kind-hearted, service-oriented, and like-minded individuals to our amazing (and rapidly growing) HB1 team, founded and centered on the premise of diversity and inclusion. Our volunteers are the literal heart and soul of our organization, and it's only through this altruistic synergy that we are able to continually leave indelible marks on all of those whose souls we touch and lives we forever strive to improve.
3. **EXPANDING OUR REACH AND IMPACT** - The arrival of the new year - combined with the transition of our HB1 leadership - brings with it not only a fresh perspective and unabated eagerness, but also the endless possibilities to dig deeper, reach further, and broaden our abilities to affect the change necessary to deliver both a greater impact *and* expanded coverage to those that constantly fall through the cracks of assistance and are too often overlooked.
4. **CREATE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS** - 2022 carries the potential for so many incredible things, and one of our core goals is to pursue and cultivate partnerships and collaborations with as many groups, businesses, and organizations focused on a humanity-based approach to both service and the creation of initiatives intended to address the ever-evolving needs of our Charlotte community.
5. **GOING THE EXTRA MILE** - We are resolutely concentrated on both empowering AND equipping our clients with the tools and opportunities that will lead them to the paths of self-sustaining support and unlimited growth. In 2022, HB1 will adopt a strong focus on being more than just a temporary solution; instead becoming a dedicated conduit to provide the access needed for long-term success.

We know that even with all the hard work and dedication that we vow to invest in an effort to grow and expand our support - with a goal of making 2022 our best and most driven, productive year yet - there are still challenges to come. Challenges we are now both eager *and* prepared to face head on.

Our response is simple: we will face every obstacle and hurdle with full hearts, strong minds, pure intentions, and unwavering devotion.

It's a mission we believe in, and a journey we are prepared to embark upon - together.

Bethany McDonald

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bethany McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director

Hearts Beat as One Foundation