

COOPER FOUNDATION  
Impact Report  
2024-2025



**COOPER**  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Kindness That Opens Doors  
*Your Donations Help Secure Safe, Stable Housing*

# Our Story



The Cooper Charitable Foundation officially announced its formation on April 2, 2024, offering a **Housing Stability Grant program** to help people secure housing or stay in their homes. Working with other non-profit organizations, we identify those in need and the ways we can assist.

The Foundation was created by **John Cooper, the founder and CEO of Cooper Tacia General Contracting**, in honor of his grandmother, Mozelle Cooper, who provided him with love and stability during a chaotic and sometimes violent childhood. Mozelle passed away on December 29, 2018 and while writing her eulogy, he came up with the idea of starting the Foundation in her memory.

*“Grandma taught me my fundamentals: to read, to ride a bike, to do basic math. She was my center, providing me with a safe place and home. Her unconditional love is the cornerstone on which all my achievements are built. It is my mission through the Foundation to continue her legacy of love and dedication, with the goal of making other people’s lives better – just as Grandma did.” – John Cooper, Founder*

Originally from Hampton, Virginia, John moved to Raleigh in 1999 to attend North Carolina State University and study civil engineering. He founded Cooper Tacia General Contracting while in college, working primarily on bathroom and kitchen remodels and eventually building homes. Since then, the company has evolved into a multimillion dollar firm, working on industrial, commercial, municipal, school and airport projects. The Foundation was started with funds generated from the company. Additionally, John pays all salaries and expenses related to the Foundation, **so all money raised goes directly to those in need.**

Recognizing the magnitude of the housing crisis and the growth in homelessness, the Foundation decided not to duplicate the efforts of non-profits addressing these issues but rather, collaborate and partner with them. They play a critical role in helping us assist those in need.

## Our Partners Include:



Working together we have helped house **193 people** in the past year  
None of us can do this work alone and we are grateful to our partners and donors for helping us make a difference.

# What We Do

The Cooper Charitable Foundation provides Housing Stability Grants to help working people secure housing or stay in their homes. About 90% of our grants have gone to help people pay move-in fees such as security deposits and first and last month's rent – the biggest obstacle to those trying to access housing. About 10% of our grants have gone to pay people's rent when they've hit hard times, preventing them from being evicted.

## Our Mission

To improve people's lives by helping them secure stable housing.

## Our Vision

To ensure that everyone has a chance at a better future. We believe safe and stable housing is key.

## Our Values

Empowerment | Honoring Hard Work | Opportunity for All | Empathy and Understanding | Changing Lives

JUNE 2024 - JUNE 2025

## Your Kindness, Our Impact



193

People housed from our grants, demonstrating a great need in our community.



106

Children and teens who now have a stable home to grow in.



\$181K

Given to support hardworking individuals and families find or maintain stable housing.



88

Grants given to individuals and families in our community.

**Raised Funds and Awarded Grants** – In 2024, we raised just shy of \$180,000. At our first fundraiser of 2025, we raised \$206,800. So far, we have awarded 88 grants totaling \$181,000 to house people, plus a \$10,000 grant to The Green Chair Project to help people furnish their homes and provide beds and bedding for children.

**Other Achievements** – In 2025, we assembled an Advisory Board to help us innovate, plan fundraisers, raise money for our cause and serve as brand ambassadors. We thank them for their service.

Members include:

- **Aolani Donegan** – Senior Marketing Manager, SECU
- **Ashton Fisher** – Director of Corporate and Community Engagement, Capitol Broadcasting Company
- **Bearta Alchacar** – Special Events Manager / Director, NC Vibes
- **Brett Johnson** – Senior Project Manager, Cushman & Wakefield
- **Chris Moutos** – Head of Real Estate and Risk Management, LM Restaurants
- **Dan Clinton** – Senior Deal Desk Analyst, Vonage
- **Hannah Parker** – Director of Volunteers and Community Engagement, United Way of the Greater Triangle
- **Linda Shields** – Founder, Speaking with Authority
- **Sean Maroney** – Marketing Strategist, Town of Cary
- **Suzanne Epps** – Director of Marketing & Growth, Optima Engineering

## THOSE WE HELP

*Sharing stories brings to life the work we do. We are honored to share these two women's stories as we demonstrate how your donation and support makes a difference.*

### Tristan and Laci's Story

In April 2019, Tristan's service dog, Laci, woke her up in the middle of the night. Her apartment was on fire and they literally had one minute to escape. As Tristan says, "my little guardian angel saved my life." But that wasn't the end of her trauma.

Another unfortunate incident happened in 2024. Tristan started suffering from migraine headaches. One attack happened when she was driving on the Beltline. She blacked out and ran off the road. She lost her \$80,000 a year job and her apartment. And Laci was also taken from her.

With three packed suitcases, she went to The Women's Center of Wake County, seeking assistance. Scared and alone, she got help with bus passes, food stamps and other services. But what she wanted more than anything was to be reunited with Laci.

"Homelessness can happen to any of us," says Tristan. "And it is humiliating to be homeless. People see you coming with three suitcases. They label you. They point at you. They judge you."

Tristan and Laci are now safely housed at Capital Towers, a senior living community. The Women's Center helped her navigate the system and secure housing; the Cooper Charitable Foundation covered her move-in expenses; and the Green Chair Project provided a queen-size bed for them to sleep in.

"I finally have a place to call home. Me and Laci. We're home now thanks to the Women's Center and the Cooper Foundation," she says with a huge smile on her face. "They changed my life."



### Olivia's Story

Olivia is a single mom with three beautiful, young daughters. She can best be described as resilient because, as she says, "I've had a rough life."

Olivia, a survivor of domestic violence, was shot at six times by the man she was involved with. He threatened to kill her. "The trauma of it all caused me to lose my job. I got kicked out of my apartment. And I had my children to take care of."

Olivia found the assistance she needed at Oak City Cares, a multi-service center that supports our unsheltered community. They helped her get back on her feet. She is once again employed full time and can pay her rent moving forward and support her children.

OCC also reached out to us at the Cooper Charitable Foundation, sharing Olivia's story and asking for assistance. We provided a housing stability grant of \$2,500 to pay her security deposit and other move-in fees. She and her daughters are now living in an affordable housing community in Raleigh that offers such amenities as a community room and gathering space, a computer room, a covered picnic area, gazebo and playground. Having this sense of community is a game changer for them.

"I am blessed to have this assistance, being able to encounter people in real life and not just hear stories about foundations helping people," Olivia says, tears flowing from her eyes. "It really has restored my faith in humans because I was starting to lose faith. Cooper Foundation, please don't ever stop what you're doing. It's priceless."

