

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

May 9, 2017

DEE O'DELL

Charlotte Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force



Three years ago, many Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents were shocked and dismayed when a Harvard University/University of California, Berkeley study revealed that of the nation's largest cities our community ranked 50th out of 50 in economic mobility among, that is, the ability of a child born in the bottom income quintile to rise to the top quintile as an adult.

On Tuesday, Dee O'Dell gave Charlotte Rotarians a high-level summary of hard-hitting recommendations to address the underlying inhibitors of economic mobility in the community. The recommendations came from an 18-month study by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force, a group of 20 community leaders convened to study the issue. O'Dell is task force co-chair.

Ours is a thriving, opportunity-rich community that continues to attract people said the senior vice president and group head at U.S. Bank here. But that's only part of our story. The so-called Chetty Study, named for the lead author, was a wake-up call. "I'm sure I wouldn't be here today if Charlotte had been 49th."

There are five factors most predictive of upward mobility. O'Dell said. They are segregation, income inequality, school quality, social capital and family structure.

The 20-member Task Force, assembled for the first time in May 2015, addressed the social and economic divide in our community and the opportunity and mobility challenges that so many children, youth and families are experiencing. O'Dell said the task was to investigate why the odds of moving out of poverty are so low for children born in our county and, based on our findings, recommend a plan of action to change this long-standing situation.

O'Dell said the task force realized that "programs" were not enough. "To change the trajectory of children born in poverty" we needed to attack "system and structures." The committee took a layered approach, looking at the individual, the family, the community and finally the system and structures.

What happens in the first 2,000 days of a child's life is "incredibly important," O'Dell said. So, the committee changed its perspective – not from cradle to career but from prenatal to career, he said. "We need to help parents look before birth, to the intentionality of birth," helping them get to a point so they are ready to support a child.

One of the starkest findings of the task force is that Charlotte-Mecklenburg is segregated

by race and that the segregation is “intentional.” The community is also increasingly segregated by income.

The task force’s report says, “the heart of the issue” is that “we don’t live, learn, work or worship together. We aren’t seeing each other. We aren’t facing what keeps us separate. We don’t see disparities.”

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force Report is available [online](#). It provides

- 2 “cross-cutting” factors
- 3 “determinants”
- 21 priority strategies
- 91 recommendations
- More than 100 implementation tactics and policy recommendations

O’Dell said the task force found that segregation (“cross-cutting” factor one) “inhibits mobility” because of its deleterious effect on early care and education, family and child stability and college and career readiness (the three “determinants”). Effective application of social capital (“cross-cutting” factor two) will “enhance mobility.”

“Everything is interconnected” the task force report emphasizes. Interventions must “focus on relationships and linkages.” Success “requires a long-term approach with honest appraisals of effectiveness.”

The report concludes: “It is our hope that with collective focus and accountability, Charlotte-Mecklenburg will transform through the experience of doing this work together, and we will earn a new reputation as a community that is ‘Leading on Opportunity.’”

Our challenge is, said O’Dell, “Are we going to take action.”

More information about “Leading on Opportunity” including the task force’s complete report can be found at www.leadingonopportunity.org.

Speaker Write-Up: *Henry Bostic*

Head Table: *Kim Brattain, Tom Bartholomy, Floyd Davis, Bill Bradley*; Invocation: *Em Syrewicze*; Visitors & Guests: *John Cantrell*; Health, Happiness & History: *David Zimmerman*; AV: *Jessica Dupree, Nikki Keith*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*; Piano: *Em Syrewicze*

CLUB NEWS

Bill Loftin introduced **Jonathan Schulz** as the club’s newest member. Jonathan is an attorney with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP and focuses on business litigation. His wife, Meredith, was on hand for the introduction and Bill pointed out part of Jonathan’s interest in joining Rotary was to make service a more frequent and regular part of his life. Reach out to Jonathan at jschulz@bradley.com and welcome to Charlotte Rotary.

Roster update for **Meg McElwain**: Mitchell’s Fund (*Pediatric, Non-Profit*), meg@mitchellsfund.org. **Michael Elder** received the 2017 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award for his service as President & CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont.

John Nicolay has scheduled the next Race and Community in Charlotte meeting for May 16 from 7:30 to 9:30 AM at the Fairfield Inn & Suites. Toussaint Romain, Assistant DA for Mecklenburg County will be on hand for the discussion.

STILL NEED A HOST FAMILY: The club will welcome 16 year-old Henrik from St. Waldens near Frankfurt Germany on August 21st. Henrik will attend Providence Day. If

you are interested in serving as a host family for his first three months, please get in touch with **Chuck Cocke**, 704-578-5478 or chuck.cocke@gmail.com.

HISTORY OF WOMEN IN ROTARY

In June 1977, the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, USA, invited three women to become members. The reaction of the Board of Rotary International was predictable: on March 27, 1978 the Duarte's charter was terminated and Duarte re-named itself the "Ex Rotary Club of Duarte" and in June, 1978 filed a suite in the California Superior Court against the RI Board decision. This was not heard by the court until 1983 when Judge Max Deutz ruled against Duarte, which in 1986 appealed that decision to the California Court of Appeal and the Deutz judgement was reversed. The RI Board appealed that decision to the California Supreme Court which refused to hear the case and the RI Board then appealed to the US Supreme Court in 1986.

On March 30, 1987, the US Supreme Court heard an appeal by the Board of RI against the California Court of Appeal decision and on May 4 handed down a 7-0 unanimous decision affirming the California Court of Appeal decision, ruling that Duarte could not discriminate against members because of gender. Duarte had the final say in the matter when on June 23, 1987 Dr. Sylvia Whitlock was inducted as the first woman Club president in the history of Rotary. In January, 1989, the Council on Legislation voted to change the Constitution and By-Laws to permit the admission of women into Rotary.

The Rotary Club of Charlotte inducted three women into the club in 1988: Ruth Shaw, president of Central Piedmont Community College; Madine Fails, director of the Urban League; and Clyda Rent, vice president for community affairs at Queens College.

Ruth was not only the first female member of the club; she went on to serve as the first female president in 1993-1994. There are currently 69 women in Charlotte Rotary.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

05/09/2017 309

Net Increase: -9

New Members: Robert Salmon, George Gabel, Jonathan Schulz

Resignations: Henry Snead, Fred Lowrance, Street Brewer, Christian Hidden

Visitors & Guests 10

Club Members 145

Total 155

Guests: Paddy Millen, Bill McMullen, Beverly Stevenson, Rebecca Simensell, Myra Johnston, Latoya Cornish, Meredith Schulz, Derek Partee, Elizabeth Harrison

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (05/18/17 – 05/24/17)

05/18 Glenn Paton

05/22 Rick Handford

05/23 Wil Bosbyshell, Bob Webb

05/24 Lynn Johnson, Helmut Deussen

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (05/18/17 – 05/24/17)

05/18 Nancy & David Auger; Mary & David Vickers-Koch, Jane & Kevin Caldwell

05/20 Shelli & Henry Batten; Carter & George MacBain; Lara & Brent Cagle

05/23 Nikki & Shawn Keith

100 SERVICE PROJECTS (84 completed; 206 participants; 2494 volunteer hours) The idea behind the commitment to complete 100 service projects is to TOUCH 100 organizations. We are starting to lap ourselves and although we can count the community service hours, we can't count the organization if we've already provided a service for them. Example: Christmas breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission, coat collection for Crisis Assistance, bell ringing. Do not read into this that we will not continue supporting these projects. Just that we need to identify new organizations that need something done....manpower, no funding, prefer minimum of 2 Rotarians (can be more) volunteering to make it count. I'm looking forward to your new ideas.

NEW PROJECTS in red

- **The Patriot Festival: May 29, 2017.** 5K Run/Walk to Go The Extra Mile for our fallen military heroes. Volunteers and runners are needed. Contact: Glenn Bouley gbouley@bouleyprinting.com. Addl: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Charlotte/PatriotFest5K>

- **2017 PGA Championship**, Quail Hollow Country Club. Volunteers needed to help in their concession areas on August 9th. Several schedule options range from 6am-1pm, 7am-2pm; 8am-4pm, 9am-4pm, 10am-close, 11am-close. Contact: Tim Newman: tnewman@levineproperties.com.

ONGOING

-**Allenbrook Elementary School:** North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: eric.davis@wellsfargo.com.

-**Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. 80 donations to date! John zumBrunnen: jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com.

-**American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):** Fall registration. Wayne Riley at wayneriley@aysoservicescorp.com or Carolyn Carlburg c.carlburg@carolyncarlburg.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

05/16 – Shelley Rigger, China's Economic and Business Climate

05/23 – John Boyer, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

05/30 – How I Got Where I'm At

06/06 – Chief Kerr Putney, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on Flickr [Click here](#)



