

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

I-77 Mobility Partners Announces Fourth-Annual 'Drive for Community' Program *The public is invited to vote for local nonprofits to be awarded grants totaling* \$20,000

Charlotte, N.C. (September 3, 2021) – I-77 Mobility Partners annual giving program, *I*-77 *Drive for Community*, begins Monday, September 13. The program recognizes the work of five local nonprofits who support their communities along the I-77 Express corridor. The I-77 Drive for Community invites the public to participate by voting to support their favorite nonprofit, with a top prize of \$10,000 being awarded to the winning organization. Each of the other organizations will receive \$2,500.

As many nonprofits work to address the community's increased needs due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some organizations continue to experience funding or other mission-critical challenges. The I-77 Drive for Community provides a simple opportunity for local nonprofits to gain crucial funding through public support.

"I-77 Mobility Partners recognizes that many local organizations are still feeling the impacts of the pandemic as the demand for aid remains elevated throughout the region." said Jean Leier, Director of Corporate Affairs for I-77 Mobility Partners. "The Drive for Community program will once again further the work of some nonprofits that are helping bring stability and assistance to individuals and families throughout our community."

Beginning Monday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m., through Friday, September 24, at 5:00 p.m., online voting will be open on the <u>www.i77express.com</u> website. Individuals can cast a vote for their favorite nonprofit one time per day per valid IP address or direct link. An ongoing tally will be maintained on the website during the voting period for everyone to see how they are doing along the way.

On September 27, I-77 Mobility Partners will certify the results and notify each nonprofit of their awards, including the grand prize of \$10,000 for the organization with the most votes.

The 2021 I-77 Drive for Community participants are as follows:

- Angels & Sparrows Soup Kitchen Huntersville, NC <u>www.angelsandsparrows.org</u>
- Bags of Hope Cornelius, NC <u>www.bagsofhopelkn.com</u>
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Foundation Charlotte, NC -www.charlottepolicefoundation.org
- Jimmie Johnson Foundation Charlotte, NC www.jimmiejohnsonfoundation.org
- La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool Davidson, NC www.escuelitasanalban.org

The nonprofit organizations participating in this year's program were selected using the following criterion: provides aid to disadvantaged groups, aids equal opportunity programs and provides infrastructure for the community. The nonprofits must also be located within the I-77 Express corridor.

About I-77 Mobility Partners:

I-77 Mobility Partners LLC is operating and maintaining the 26-mile I-77 Express corridor as part of the first-ever public-private partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

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