



**CharMeck Family Justice Center receives a Donation of
\$1M to support the development of The Umbrella Center**
*The gift recognizes the career of Bank of America executive Andrea B. Smith and
her commitment to the Charlotte community*

Charlotte, NC, March 29, 2022 – The Jamie Kimble Foundation For Courage, Pat’s Place Child Advocacy Center and Safe Alliance are pleased to announce a \$1 million donation from Bank of America to the CharMeck Family Justice Center to spearhead the creation of The Umbrella Center. The donation was made in honor of longtime Bank of America executive Andrea B. Smith and her thirty-four year career with the company.

“The development of The Umbrella Center represents transformational change for victims of abuse in Charlotte,” said Smith. “I am grateful to Bank of America for making this gift in my honor, which will accelerate this important work. My family and I have been longtime supporters of the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage and are honored to continue our work to help victims of abuse on their path to recovery.”

The Umbrella Center is an innovative public-private collaboration to provide holistic services at a single location for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, human trafficking and child abuse. The Center is designed to change each step of a victim’s experience to help people recover their lives – from police response, to medical care, advocacy and counseling, to legal and court procedures. When opened, The Umbrella Center will co-locate 15 partners to streamline case investigations, mitigate access barriers to effective care, and support survivors’ healing after experiencing abuse.

“We are honored that Bank of America, Andrea Smith and her family have chosen to invest in and stand in support of the women and families who will be cared for and empowered when The Umbrella Center opens its doors,” said Karen Parker, President and CEO of Safe Alliance and Chair of The Umbrella Center Steering Committee.

Throughout her career, Smith has been a passionate advocate for women and children. While at Bank of America she championed efforts for greater employee education to help identify domestic violence and human trafficking, as well as developing mentorship programs to help low-to-moderate income women entrepreneurs thrive. Smith was the inaugural co-chair of the

Leading on Opportunity Council and was named the 2021 Citizen of the Carolinas by the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance.

Since 2017, public and private partners have been working to establish a family justice center in our community, known as the Umbrella Center. The Center will work with victims of sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking and elder abuse. [Safe Alliance](#), [Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center](#), and the [Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage](#) have committed to lead a capital campaign to raise private dollars with public investment contributions requests from both Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte.

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