

LAURA YATES CLARK

President & Chief Executive Officer

As president and CEO of United Way of Central Carolinas, Laura leads the effort to build stronger neighborhoods, increase racial equity and improve the systems that serve our children and families across a five-county region.

A Charlotte native, in August 2018 Laura was named the sixth leader in the nearly 90-year history of United Way of Central Carolinas. Prior to this role, she joined the United Way team in 2016 as executive vice president and chief impact officer and led the transformation of the organization’s community impact strategy to more directly address economic mobility challenges across the Charlotte region.

Under Laura’s leadership, United Way has increased its investment to expand two major community initiatives—*United Neighborhoods* to drive neighborhood transformation and revitalization and *Unite Charlotte* to improve racial equity and increase social capital. Laura also led the development of a new grants funding process that supports more than 100 local nonprofit partners and programs.

A proven leader and longtime advocate for children and families, Laura previously served as CEO of the Renaissance West Community Initiative. She also was formerly director of The Larry King Center at Charlotte’s Council for Children’s Rights, and was United Way’s director of evaluation and community impact earlier in her career.

Laura previously served as the chair of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Charlotte Branch, and as a member of the board for NC Child. She currently serves as a member of the UNC Charlotte Cato College of Education Advisory Board and is on the board of United Way of North Carolina.

Laura earned a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Appalachian State University and a Master’s degree in clinical/community psychology from UNC Charlotte.

Laura is proud to call Charlotte home. In her downtime, she enjoys reading novels, cooking, traveling to the beach and relaxing with her two rescue dogs.

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