

# Season of gathering and giving

Author, philanthropists share their passions

The upcoming holidays are all about time with family and friends. Charlotte's African-American community counts its blessings and gives back in thankful praise.

Helen Hope Kimbrough's new book honors the history of African-American spirituals, which have been a universal message of strength, faith, perseverance, endurance, despair and hope. It celebrates Black history and makes for a wonderful gift.

Women's Impact Fund is a diverse group of women throughout the Queen City who are learning about and leading philanthropic efforts in the community. Co-founder Mary Lou Babb says, "Providing education about philanthropy is important. We wanted to connect ... women from a broad range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds."

## 'My Soul'

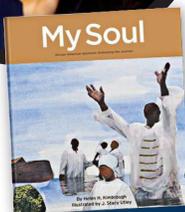
This new title is gracing more and more coffee tables throughout the Queen City and eliciting dialog among adults and children. "My Soul/African American Spirituals: Embracing the Journey" (AK Classic Stories, \$16) is a family-oriented book and features songs like "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," "There is a Balm in Gilead," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "Wade in the Water" and "Go Down Moses." The lyrics of these powerful spirituals are combined with powerful quotes and breathtaking artwork.

Author Helen H. Kimbrough hails from Athens, Ga., and is a graduate of Hampton University. She lives in Charlotte with her husband and sons, and is an interactive storyteller. Kimbrough's previously released books include multicultural children's titles "Ocean Waves and Other Tales" and "Play Dates and Other Tales."

Illustrator J. Stacy Utley is a self taught artist. A native of Raleigh, he is a graduate of N.S. State University. Utley's passion for combining his architectural background with



Kimbrough



his love of collage and painting is evident in the book. His art has been collected nationally, and he has commissioned pieces for DJ Dream Fund, the Chris Canty Foundation, and the Gray Classic Golf Tournament. He lives in Charlotte with his wife and twins.

To order any of Kimbrough's books, visit [AKClassicStories.com](http://AKClassicStories.com).

## Women making an impact

Women are making things happen in the Queen City. What started with 158 women in 2003 now comprises 400 ladies who have a heart for giving back. Women's Impact Fund is a group of motivated, dedicated and diverse women, who join together to form a strong and lasting bond that graces the Charlotte community.

The organization celebrates 10 years of commitment, dedication, service, achievement



and philanthropy. Women's Impact Fund continues to maximize women's leadership in giving, increase charitable contributions and impact Charlotte.

Founding members Claire Tate and Mary Lou Babb got together in 2003 to look at giving circles, and they decided to approach women who were eager to learn more about Charlotte and offer financial support to organizations that were making great strides, but lacked the funding to make an impact. In using the strategy of "each one reach one," professional women, stay-at-home mothers, and women of diverse and socioeconomic backgrounds joined forces to revolutionize community philanthropy.

Today, Women's Impact Fund helps organizations that service five key areas: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health and Human Services. In its tenure, the Women's Impact Fund has substantially contributed more than \$3.3 million to 44 organizations.

To learn more and become a part of the organization, visit [WomensImpactFund.org](http://WomensImpactFund.org).