



## **BALLANTYNE CONTRIBUTES TO CMS FOUNDATION’S “CONNECT FOR TECH” INITIATIVE**

CHARLOTTE, NC (November 2, 2020) – Northwood Office made a significant contribution to the CMS Foundation on behalf of its tenants and customers in Ballantyne. The gift provides one year of internet service for 250 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools students and their households as part of the foundation’s “Connect for Tech” initiative to close the connectivity gap for students engaging in remote learning. It will help ensure that each CMS student can access the resources they need during COVID-19.

"CMS Foundation's ability to make a meaningful, sustainable impact on public education in our community is unmatched, and we were excited to help the organization meet its fundraising goal," said Hailey Rorie, community director at Northwood Office. "We recognize how access to education should not be a privilege, and the CMS Foundation is equipped to give every student the opportunity to connect with their class and access to the tools they need to succeed."

Sonja Gantt, executive director of the CMS Foundation, shared, “We are so grateful for this gift from Northwood Office, helping to close the connectivity gap for hundreds of CMS students who lack internet access in their homes. Its contribution removes a significant barrier to remote learning and makes it possible for these students to remain engaged with their teachers and classmates.”

The CMS Foundation launched the “Connect for Tech” fundraising campaign in August to cover the cost of internet service for CMS students in need of home connectivity support during the ongoing pandemic. While CMS distributed Chromebook laptops and iPads to students in grades K-12 at the start of the school year, sixteen thousand households were estimated to need home internet access support for CMS students to engage fully in remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year. The school district committed nearly \$1 million of state coronavirus relief funds to purchase mobile hotspot devices, but restrictions on usage prevented applying those funds toward the purchase of internet service for the devices. As the district’s nonprofit partner, the CMS Foundation established a \$3.2 million fundraising goal to cover the cost of twelve months of internet service for sixteen thousand hotspots and was able to meet the need of the district through a combination of private and public support.

### **About CMS Foundation**

The CMS Foundation works to generate financial investment to support Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and develop a community-wide culture of schoolanthropy—the support of public education. The organization collaborates with CMS leaders to understand district priorities and identify opportunities to maximize student achievement through the investment of private resources. With the help of our generous philanthropic community, the CMS Foundation seeds initiatives and develops programs that support educators as they foster the potential of nearly 150,000 students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Learn more at [cms-foundation.org](https://cms-foundation.org).

### **About Ballantyne**

Recognized internationally as one of the most successfully designed and executed mixed-use communities, Ballantyne is a 2,000-acre community in Charlotte, North Carolina. With a laser-sharp focus on providing the nation’s most desirable work-life balance community, Northwood Office owns and manages most of the 535-acre business park in Ballantyne, featuring 4.4 million square feet of high-performance office space, including a new office building expected to deliver in March 2021. View updates on Ballantyne Reimagined, the vision to create a more urban, walkable environment at Ballantyne. Visit [goBallantyne.com](https://goBallantyne.com) for the latest community happenings.

**About Northwood Office**

Charlotte-based Northwood Office was established by Northwood Investors – a privately-held, global real estate investment and management firm – to provide a complete approach to fulfilling office space needs. Offering best-in-class services in commercial development, leasing and property management, Northwood Office is committed to creating and sustaining work environments that inspire by focusing on enhancing quality of life, productivity, flexibility and community. For more information, visit [northwoodoffice.com](http://northwoodoffice.com).

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