



## **LAURA CLARK**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

Laura was named the sixth leader in the 86-year history of United Way of Central Carolinas in August.

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 the economic mobility challenges across the Charlotte region.

With a focus on building stronger neighborhoods, increasing racial equity and improving the systems that serve our children and families, United Way launched two major community initiatives under Clark's leadership -- *United Neighborhoods* to drive neighborhood transformation and revitalization and *Unite Charlotte* to improve racial equity and increase social capital. She also led the development of a new grants funding process that supports more than 110 local nonprofit partners and program

A proven leader and longtime advocate for children and families, Clark previously served as CEO of the Renaissance West Community Initiative. The \$90 million comprehensive revitalization of the Renaissance neighborhood in west Charlotte includes mixed-income housing, a cradle-to-career education continuum, and wraparound services such as financial education, job training, health and mental health services, and after-school programming.

Clark also was formerly director of The Larry King Center at Charlotte's Council for Children's Rights, where she led the center's research, community planning and public policy advocacy to improve community-level outcomes for children. Prior to that, she was United Way's director of evaluation and community impact from 2004-2008.

Clark currently serves as chair of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Charlotte Branch, and is a member of the UNC Charlotte Cato College of Education Advisory Board. She was named one of Charlotte's 50 Most Influential Women by *The Mecklenburg Times* in 2013 and received the 40 Under 40 award from the *Charlotte Business Journal* in 2015.

Clark has been engaged with a variety of other civic committees and nonprofit boards, including the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Advisory Board. She also previously served as an adjunct faculty member at Queens University.

Clark earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Appalachian State University and a Master's degree in clinical/community psychology from UNC Charlotte. She is married and has two rescue dogs.