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### **Charlotte High School and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce: An Outstanding Partnership**

Over the last year, the partnership between Charlotte High School and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce has continued to grow, strengthening the community and providing opportunities for students to engage with local businesses in authentic ways. Always looking for new ways to team up, CHS and the Chamber have provided Charlotte with numerous reasons to be proud to be Orioles.



A perfect example of this partnership is last year's Eaton County Home and Business Expo, which was held in the gym at Charlotte High School. The event brought businesses and citizens from throughout the county together within the school, and it was widely considered as a wonderful success. In the true spirit of generosity and collaboration, the Chamber of Commerce donated a large portion of the proceeds from the event to Charlotte High School's business department, thereby providing resources used to create the next generation of Charlotte business leaders.

The partnership continued this past fall, as for the third year in a row, the Chamber sponsored the CHS homecoming downtown decorating contest. Students decorated local businesses in black and orange for homecoming week, and residents voted for the blocks they liked best by donating money to charities chosen by the students. The event was capped by homecoming parade downtown and a check presentation ceremony to the charities at the homecoming football game. Not only did this event highlight the generosity of our citizens and help out some very deserving charities, but it also brought residents downtown to highlight the great work of CHS staff and students in an atmosphere created by our downtown business community.

These events, while perhaps the most public and visible displays of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and Charlotte High School's partnership, only scratch the surface of the work that these two organizations do together. From ribbon cutting ceremonies, to donations to CHS's Oriole PRIDE

initiative, to guest speakers in classrooms, the day to day work of preparing students to be college and career ready could not happen in the same authentic way without the Chamber's assistance, input, and support. Strong communities come from strong partnerships between organizations, and with the great working relationship between the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and Charlotte High School strengthening every year, Oriole Pride in Charlotte is alive and well.