

**“The Flag May be Down, but the Work Is Not Done ”**

***OFN President and CEO Mark Pinsky pens letter to CDFI Community: “The Confederate flag’s removal is emblematic of the commitment we make every day to pursue justice and opportunity for all.”***

*As the Confederate Flag was lowered from the South Carolina State Capital on Friday, the South Carolina Community Capital Alliance (the Alliance) urged lawmakers to go beyond the flag and address structural and systemic changes that respond to the root causes of inequities in the state. In a letter to Opportunity Finance Network Members today, Mark Pinsky, OFN president and CEO, expressed support of the Alliance and encouraged continued work and dialogue to build stronger communities.*

Dear Opportunity Finance Community,

I am writing to share a [statement](#) that the South Carolina Community Capital Alliance delivered Friday morning marking the moment South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from the statehouse.

The Alliance, which includes OFN Members and other allies in our work, is pursuing an important and innovative policy agenda to increase opportunities for people of color and low-income residents of the state. Last year, I had the honor of keynoting the first Alliance Conference, and I came away believing that South Carolina could well become a national leader in state CDFI policy innovation. With bipartisan support and deep need, the Alliance’s agenda may be a model for other states.

The tragic, racially motivated murders in Charleston last month should be a catalyst for action, and I know that everyone in the OFN membership stands with the people of South Carolina and in support of the Alliance’s agenda.

As the Alliance promised, the flag is down but the work is not done.

This is an important turning point in our nation’s history. For more than 50 years, the flag waved above the South Carolina statehouse as a menacing representation of our nation’s struggle for equality. The flag’s removal is emblematic of the commitment we make every day to pursue justice and opportunity for all.

We have an unprecedented opportunity in South Carolina to break important new ground on public policy, and OFN is proud to support them in their efforts. The nation is watching South Carolina, and so its meaning for national policy is greater now than ever.

I look forward to our continued work to move the conversation forward and continue building stronger, more just communities.

Sincerely,  
Mark Pinsky, President and CEO, Opportunity Finance Network



*If you would like to support the South Carolina Community Capital Alliance, or South Carolinians affected by the tragedy at Mother Emanuel Church, please see below:*

**South Carolina Community Capital Alliance**

To support the South Carolina Community Capital Alliance, visit [sccommunitycapital.org](http://sccommunitycapital.org) to become a [member or ally](#).

**Mother Emanuel Hope Fund**

This fund will provide direct financial support for the funeral and burial expenses of the nine victims of the senseless tragedy. Any funds remaining after the funeral and burial expenses are paid will be donated directly to the Emanuel AME Church in ways best determined to benefit the surviving families and the Church. *These donations are not tax deductible.*

1. Send a check to  
Mother Emanuel Hope Fund  
c/o City of Charleston  
Post Office Box 304  
Charleston, SC 29402
2. Stop by any Wells Fargo Bank nationwide and make a donation to the Fund.
3. Text 'prayforcharleston' to 843-606-5995 or visit [www.bidr.co/prayforcharleston](http://www.bidr.co/prayforcharleston).

For questions regarding this fund, please email [bedards@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:bedards@charleston-sc.gov)

**Lowcountry Ministries – Reverend Pinckney Fund**

This Fund will be administered by the Palmetto Project (a South Carolina non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of South Carolinians). 100% of the funds donated will be used in this community to support local initiatives serving his home church, vulnerable populations and youth projects that Reverend Pinckney was so passionate about. Decisions on the use of these funds will be made a task force of stakeholders made up of a member or members of Reverend Pinckney's family, colleagues, representatives from Emanuel AME Church and other members of our community selected for their specific expertise. *These donations are tax deductible.*

1. Send a check to  
Lowcountry Ministries – Reverend Pinckney Fund  
c/o The Palmetto Project  
6296 Rivers Avenue #100  
North Charleston, SC 29406
2. Donate online at [www.palmettoproject.org](http://www.palmettoproject.org)

For questions regarding this fund, please email [sskardon@palmettoproject.org](mailto:sskardon@palmettoproject.org)"