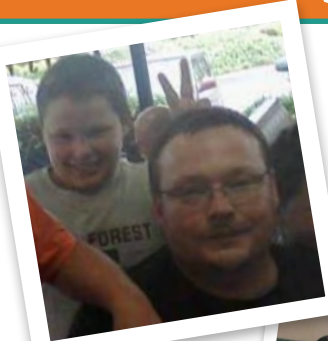


Storylines

A bi-monthly publication from AuthoraCare Collective

June/July 2021



Top: Josh and his dad smile for the camera.
Bottom: Josh walks with his dad on the beach.



Sunshine THROUGH THE Clouds



Josh Rowe is now a volunteer with AuthoraCare's Kids Path program.

Kids Path Counseling Helped Lighten the Load for Grieving Teen

By Charity Apple

At 11 years old, Josh Rowe's life was turned upside down. His father, Lewis James "Jamie" Rowe, died of a heart attack at the age of 42. The family relocated from Greenville to Burlington to be closer to his grandparents.

"I was experiencing a new school and new home," he said. "And I was still dealing with the loss of my father."

When Josh, now a senior at Williams High School, looks back on that time, he said, "every day felt like a rainy day. I don't remember sunshine – only clouds and rain."

It was Josh's step-grandmother, Carol Story, who suggested counseling from Kids Path in Burlington.

"I didn't want to go at first," he said. "But Bereavement Counselor Kathy Barrow was so nice and funny. She made me feel comfortable and got me talking. It was still kind of difficult to talk with family and friends about it – the feelings were still so raw – it was nice to be able to talk to an impartial person about all of it."

The grief counseling services, which are free to the public, "changed my life. I don't know where I would be if it weren't for Kids Path. After I went through counseling, I felt like the sunshine had come out through the clouds."

Kids Path's services, camps and the friends Josh met along the way encouraged him to become a volunteer with AuthoraCare Collective.

Last summer, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he helped assemble Kids Path Supply Kits for clients. The kit included various tools for expressive arts therapy.

"For children, they don't always have the words. Art helps them express their feelings," said Patti Gasparello, Director of Kids Path.

Josh said as he filled the bags, he considered the children and teens who would be using them.

"I'm just like them," he said. "For a child who has lost a loved one, it could serve as a way to heal."

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Charity Apple, Linda Ann Fitts, Jane Gibson, Kate Phillips, Paul Russ

CEO Reflection

Trials of the Past Year Allowed Us To Find Our Inner Strength

"Out of the hottest fire comes the strongest steel." - Chinese Proverb

In June, it was my privilege to welcome people, virtually, to the 14th Annual Corks for Kids Path. The annual fundraiser usually garners about 600 partygoers and is a festive, celebratory event. As planning takes months, the uncertainty of the pandemic forced an online alternative. It wasn't quite what we expected, but we were grateful to be together – even virtually – to support the kids.



Kristen Yntema

The past year has tested us. I was reminded recently that adversity can make us stronger, just as fire strengthens steel. Corks for Kids Path was an example of our resilience. While we couldn't yet gather in person, we found an alternative way to connect and raise needed support for one of our most cherished community programs – Kids Path.

I was proud of our volunteer committee and their success. They demonstrated that distance doesn't keep us from our mission. We are still impacting lives every day.

As we find our "new normal," we find our way of doing things is forever changed. Recently, our chaplain Hillary Irusta challenged our team to consider the concept of "post-traumatic growth" which is different than resilience. It's the idea that we have all been through something difficult and challenging together, and we have emerged stronger with new skills and an even greater resolve to serve those in need.

There have been practical skills gained like the use of virtual meetings and telehealth. And there have been life lessons gained. COVID-19 caused us all to stop, slow down, and reset our personal and professional priorities. Work-life balance has new meaning.

I want to take this moment to express my gratitude for a renewed sense of personal strength and resolve, deeper relationships, a greater appreciation for life and for discovering deeper meaning in the world around me.

We have a ways to go before the pandemic is behind us. But I am looking forward to the possibilities this shared experience has revealed. It is a new day.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Wither Yntema". The script is fluid and cursive.

Kristen Wither Yntema, MBA, MHSA

President and CEO, AuthoraCare Collective



Sunshine Through the Clouds

(cont. from cover)

Both Josh and his brother Jack volunteered with AuthoraCare, pre-COVID-19, and it's something they hope to continue once pandemic restrictions are lifted.

"It makes me feel satisfied to think that I did something that could possibly help others," he said. "In college, I hope to still be able to volunteer in some capacity."

Volunteering is something he never thought he would do – before Kids Path.

"I wasn't motivated to do much of anything," he said. "But I feel so motivated now."

He hasn't declared a major yet, but has considered environmental science, agriculture, and/or counseling in some form possibly.

Josh has remained connected to his father's memory by doing things they used to do together such as fishing, gardening and antique shopping.

"He was into comic books – I never really was interested in those – but he loved going to antique stores and finding a decent deal and I have definitely inherited that from him," he said.

"I'm fascinated with military buttons and patches," he said. He "flips" the finds and resells them.

Josh, who was 10 years old at the time, recalled accompanying his father to a church spring festival.

"At the end of the day, there were these antique toys and I ended up with a cannon and two toy military cars," he said.

Those are fond reminders of the fun times he had with his dad.

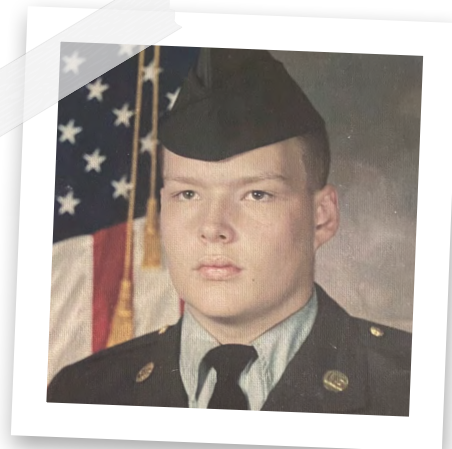
"That event gave me a little taste of antique shopping," he said. "And I'm just fascinated with the history behind items."

Josh said that he realizes there are teens who are hesitant to go to counseling following a loss and his advice is – "just go. Give it a shot. You can't keep waiting to get on the diving board to jump into the pool because there are people behind you. You need to dive in."

Josh's story was shared during the 14th annual Corks for Kids Path's virtual "Party in Place" on June 23.

[Click here to see Josh's story video.](#)

To make a contribution to Kids Path services, visit [authoracare.org/donate.](https://authoracare.org/donate)



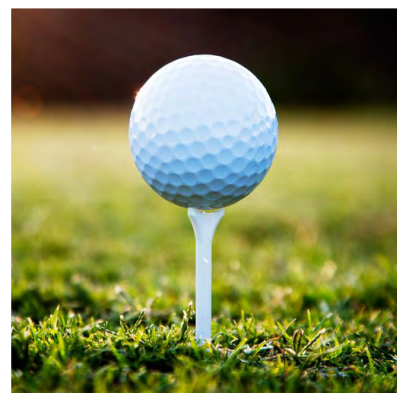
Jamie Rowe

GREENSBORO ELKS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, September 17 at 11 a.m.

Bryan Park's Player Course, Greensboro, NC

Register to play or consider being a sponsor or silent-auction donor for this great event. It begins with a pre-tournament social and auction held at the Greensboro Elks Lodge at 6 pm, Thursday, September 16. Tournament day begins with registration and a Putting Contest at 9:30. The format is Captain's Choice with an 11 am Shotgun start. There will be prizes, a box lunch and fellowship, all for a good cause!



To learn more or register to play, visit greensboroelks.org or call 336.288.5100.



We Honor Veterans



Passion for Service & Family

Veteran Known for Impressive Work Ethic

By Charity Apple

Louis West Jones Sr. (pictured above) was so passionate about serving his country that he joined the Navy at the age of 17. “He had to have someone sign for him because he was too young to go in the service,” Connie Jones Schor said of her late father, who died on May 30 at his home; he was cared for by AuthoraCare. “But that’s how badly he wanted to go into the Navy.”

Louis graduated from the Junior Order United American Mechanics (Jr. OUAM) Children’s Home in Lexington on April 20, 1943, and joined the Navy in Bainbridge, Md.

He entered the Junior Order of United American Mechanics (Jr. OUAM) in Tiffin, Ohio, at the age of 3. When the North Carolina chapters of the Jr. OUAM separated from the national chapter, all children from North Carolina were moved to Lexington, N.C. Louis moved to the children’s home there on June 1, 1940.

Louis attended the Torpedoman School in Newport, R.I. and then was stationed on the Navy ship, U.S.S. Bushnell, before being assigned the duty of working on torpedoes in the Marshall Islands.

He rode aboard the USS Indianapolis, which was the last ship sunk in World War II, from Mare Island, Calif. to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, his first duty station. The remainder of World War II was spent aboard the USS Bushnell AS15 (submarine

tender) and he achieved the rank of Petty Officer First Class.

“He didn’t see combat and thought of that time – the camaraderie with the other servicemen – as one of the happiest times of his life,” Connie said. “Dad’s role was important, though, as if the torpedoes he worked on didn’t do their job, our U.S. ships could have been sunk as a result.”

Following three years of Naval service, he had a couple of different jobs before going to Nashville, Tenn. to attend the Southern School of Printing.

Upon graduation, Louis moved to Burlington and began working at the Daily Times-News in 1949 as a Linotype operator and then ultimately became a Linotype machinist.

“He was most proud of the fact that he could fix just about any kind of printing press,” Connie said. “He would say that the rhythm of the press was the magic of the newspaper.”

Louis married Audrey Leonard in 1953 and they had three children – Pamela “Pam” Jones (her married name is also Jones) in 1955; Connie in 1957; and Louis West (he goes by West) Jones Jr. in 1966.

A Heidelberg press was set up in the family garage in Burlington and “he would do printing on the side for people – he loved it that much,” she said.

While at the Times-News, Louis would bring home copy for his wife, Audrey, and daughters Pam and Connie, to edit.

"We would sit at the kitchen table and edit the stories for the next day's paper," she said.

Connie said that her father had an impressive work ethic.

"He pretty much worked all of the time," she said. "He would sometimes come home for supper and then go back to work."

In 1977, Louis and Dan Boswell opened Boswell-Jones Printing Company. The company printed, made rubber type and rubber stamps. Textile companies were their predominant clients.

Louis (pictured below) retired and he and Dan closed Boswell-Jones in 2002.



Audrey and Louis were married for 60 years before her death in 2013. They had three grandchildren – Amanda Tillotson, Matthew Markey, and Brad Jones; and three great-grandsons – Brantley, Ethan and Garrett Tillotson, whom Connie called, "the loves of Daddy's life."

From 2013 to 2019, Connie would drive Louis to Tiffin for the Jr. OUAM Homecoming. Prior to that, he and his buddies would make the drive.

"Being at the children's home turned out to be a blessing for dad," she said. "He often said that his life would've been a lot different if that hadn't happened."

Veterans Resource Fair Held at AuthoraCare

By Linda Ann Fitts and Charity Apple

The Piedmont Community Veterans and Caregivers Coalition presented a free Drive-Thru Veterans Resource Fair May 26 at AuthoraCare Collective's Lusk Center in Greensboro.

"This event gave us an opportunity to show care and support for our veterans and their caregivers. The event was COVID-19 safe and convenient. Veterans were able to drive through and receive resources on health and wellness, education, support groups and legal services information," said April Herring, AuthoraCare Community Education/Outreach Coordinator.

Organizing partners were: AuthoraCare Collective; Senior Resources of Guilford/Family Caregiver Support Program (founding/lead partner); AARP Triad Region; Guilford County Veterans Services; and Salisbury VAMC Caregiver Support Services. Lunch was provided by Subway's Maple Avenue, Burlington, location.

"The weight of Guilford County veterans falls on our shoulders and it's a burden we don't take lightly," said Tracie Lundy, Service Officer with Guilford County Veterans Services. "Events like this educate our veterans about the agencies and services available to them."

"When a veteran showed up with a question or ongoing issue concerning benefits, claims, etc., they had access to qualified professionals there to answer their questions or guide them to the most appropriate resource - no automated systems, hold times, or long lines - it was simply beautiful!" Herring added.

The Piedmont Community Veterans and Caregivers' goal is to increase awareness and connect Piedmont community veterans and caregivers to available community resources and services.

"We want our veterans to know that there are resources out there that can help," said Rosalind Pugh-Scott, Family Caregiver Support Specialist with Senior Resources of Guilford. "They don't have to feel isolated" Events like this one, she said, offered veterans the opportunity to research services, ask questions and network.

"This event was another wonderful example of the power of partnership. An added benefit was being able to say thank you face-to-face and act as cheerleaders for our heroes as they drove through - what an honor," Herring added.



From left to right: Monica Murchison, Veterans Service Specialist with Guilford County Veterans Services; Rosalind Pugh-Scott, Family Caregiver Support Specialist with Senior Resources of Guilford; April Herring, Community Education/Outreach Coordinator at AuthoraCare Collective; and Tracie Lundy, Service Officer with Guilford County Veterans Services.
[Charity Apple]



What's Happening?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Living After the Loss of a Sibling

A virtual support group for adults who are grieving their sibling's death

Tuesdays, August 24, 31, September 7 and 14

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Living After the Loss of a Spouse, Partner or Constant Companion

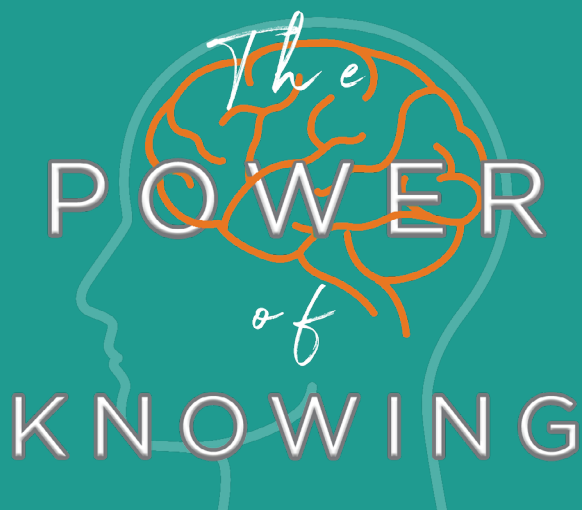
A virtual support group for adults who have lost a spouse, partner, or constant companion

Tuesdays, September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19 and 26

6 – 7:30 p.m.

To register and receive information, contact 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

Visit authoracare.org for our most current calendar.



A Free Webinar Series

Dementia Part 1

Resources, Education and Advocacy

Understanding comes from knowing. Many patients, families and caregivers have questions and concerns about how to best navigate a dementia diagnosis and ongoing care. This webinar will provide information resources, education and advocacy opportunities that are available and how to access them.

Tuesday, August 19, 12 - 1:00 p.m.

Register at authoracare.org/knowning

Now Streaming On Demand at authoracare.org/knowning

Grief and Loss During COVID-19 | Parts 1 & 2

The Benefits of Palliative Care During COVID-19

Advance Care Planning During COVID-19

Diversity & Inclusion Series

The Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Teens

Giving Thanks: An Overview of AuthoraCare's Services

Healing Hearts During COVID-19

Beyond the Casserole: Supporting Grieving Persons

COVID-19 Vaccine: Question, Answers, Concerns

CORKS FOR KIDS PATH VIRTUAL EVENT RAISED VITAL FUNDS

By AuthoraCare's Development Team

Greensboro's premier wine-tasting event, Corks for Kids Path, looked a little different this year as guests gathered on Zoom to celebrate the beloved community resource. Despite the limitations of the pandemic, the 14th Annual Corks for Kids Path raised nearly \$90,000!

"It's not quite what we expected," said Kristen Yntema, President and CEO, as she welcomed guests into the meeting, "but we are grateful to be together – even virtually – to support the kids."

Organizers of the event planned the inspiring and uplifting event as a "party in place." Speakers took time to thank sponsors, complete a raffle drawing and to share more about the impact of Kids Path. The night ended as those on the call were encouraged to "raise a glass" in celebration of the program.

"Participating, even virtually, demonstrates that distance doesn't keep us from our mission," said Yntema. "We are still impacting lives every day. And tonight, your presence is impacting the lives of children facing serious illness and loss. Thank you!"

Corks for Kids Path is produced by a volunteer committee. This year, Jessica Ketner served as event chair. "It's been an honor and privilege to chair this event," said Ketner who was introduced to the fundraiser when she first moved to Greensboro in 2018. After serving on the planning committee she sought more ways to volunteer for the program. "I've experienced the organization's impact firsthand through making memory bears with the children and their families out of sentimental items of their loved one, as well as giving the therapy garden at Kids Path a little make over so children can enjoy it when they come for their sessions as part of their healing process."

Ketner explained how each year at Corks guests gather for a really fun time, but many don't really know what Kids Path does. "I think a silver lining



Jessica Wiley, an AuthoraCare Collective volunteer, delivered thank-you gifts and Corks For Kids Path information to those who bought tickets. Other volunteers included Linda Ertel, Linda Jensen, Diana Davis and Stuart Brownlee. [Cathy Lohr]

of this year's event is that we get to share the amazing Kids Path story," she said as she introduced a testimonial video, illustrating the transformative power of the program. [Click here to see Josh's Story.](#)

"Facing a loss or illness is hard," said Ketner. "I cannot begin to imagine what facing a loss or illness during a pandemic would be like. Our current world only makes their journey through grief and illness more complex. However, even a global crisis could not keep the dedicated staff of Kids Path from meeting the needs of children who need their help."

Each year, Corks for Kids Path relies on amazing sponsors and volunteers. This year they had to pivot and creatively find a way to make the event possible. Last fall, when it

was time to begin renewing support, we were experiencing another wave of the pandemic. "We had no idea what could be possible or when, but we forged ahead and asked for help," said Paul Russ, vice president of marketing and development. "We actually said 'we don't know what Corks will look like or how we will do it, but the kids need your support, will you give?'" More than 80 companies and individuals gave nearly \$90,000 without expectation of anything in return! "That is amazing and humbling," said Russ.

Julie Tesh-Clark has been a Corks volunteer for 9 years. "We all love the event when we can be in person, but what I am most passionate about is the mission of Kids Path and what a difference they make for these children and their families. The staff and volunteers are incredible. And what they do for these kids is life-changing. That's why we come together – to help the kids."

See this year's Corks Sponsors on Page 8.



Thank You to This Year's Corks for Kids Path Sponsors!

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View our full list of sponsors and see a recording
of the live event at corksforkidspath.org >

Sixteen Extraordinary Days

Experience Taught Couple About 'Power of Love'

By Jane Gibson

When Amber learned she was pregnant with their third child, son Bryson had just turned two and Conner was only four months old. Amber hoped this unexpected news was a sign that she and Andrew were having a little girl!

Amber was right. A test administered at 10 weeks confirmed it. However, the next day, the couple learned that the test revealed something more. Their developing baby had Trisomy 18, a rare genetic disorder caused by an extra chromosome. Babies with this diagnosis are at risk of dying before birth or shortly thereafter.

Amber's obstetrician referred her to the Maternal Fetal Medicine Clinic at Cone Health where she and the baby could be more closely monitored. It was there that Amber and Andrew first learned about the Kids Path Perinatal Program. Comprised of a nurse and a social worker, the perinatal team supports families as they consider all the options available to them and their baby, before, during and after the baby's birth.

The couple welcomed the educational and emotional support available to them so early in the pregnancy. The team provided a safe space for them to talk about fears and concerns. They also guided Amber and Andrew to begin working on a birth plan.

Most birth plans include decisions such as the type of pain medicine the mother prefers or whether dad will cut the baby's umbilical cord. But a Kids Path Perinatal birth plan goes into much more detail.

If their baby were to be born alive would Amber want to postpone routine tests and hold her baby immediately? Did they want aggressive care or comfort-directed care? If possible, would they want to take their baby home?"

Leah Grant, Kids Path Social Worker, shared a few of those choices. "While Amber and Andrew were able to make some decisions, there were many others they preferred to make in the moment. But the process of exploring each question in advance armed them with information they needed. Little by little, I watched their confidence grow."

When Ava Marie was born, she weighed 3 pounds and 14 ounces. Even though the doctors felt she would not live long, her parents chose to take her home, where she was surrounded by love and supported by her Kids Path team.

Despite her tiny size, her parents bathed and changed her with ease. They quickly mastered all the technical challenges of cleaning the tubing and giving formula and medications through Ava's nasogastric (NG) tube.

"I credit the support we had from Kids Path for how comfortable I was with Ava being home," Amber said. "She was quiet and calm and very determined. We found a rhythm and soon I stopped thinking about the fact she might die any day."

When Ava began having breathing difficulties, new medications were administered, and oxygen was offered intermittently through a tiny nasal canula.

On the 16th day of Ava's life it was apparent it would be her last. She began having gaps in her breathing patterns. Kids Path nurse, Donna Schumacher, was present watching as Ava would be still for minutes at a time; then take a resilient gasp and start to breathe again.

"This pattern repeated many times," Schumacher said. "And all the while Ava's parents were there loving on her and speaking to her so sweetly."

Finally, there came a time when Ava had been quiet for a while. Schumacher listened carefully through the stethoscope. There was no heartbeat.

"Her wings are ready," Schumacher said quietly.

Amber often wondered if she would have the strength to bear Ava's diagnosis and her death. She found the answer on that last day.

"As I watched our tiny baby fight so hard to live, I thought, if she can fight this hard, then so can I!"



Reflecting on Ava's birth and death, Amber shared, "I would never have been able to do what I did without my Kids Path team. They never discouraged me about any decision I made. They had my back, and I knew they were there to support all of us from beginning to end."

It is difficult for Amber and Andrew to find the words to describe what they have experienced and the depth of the sorrow they now carry.

"I am not the same person; Ava has changed me," she said. "She taught me a lot about the power of love, as love was all she ever knew of this world. She also showed me just how precious each day really is."

Amber has stopped putting things off until the "right" or an "easier" time comes along. She is back in school, working toward a degree in business. She has also dusted off an old dream of owning her own little boutique one day.

"I have thought about this little shoppe for many many years," she said. "How I'd decorate it, and what I'd offer for sale. But I could never quite settle on a name. Nothing felt quiet right. But now I have it ... it will be Ava Marie's Boutique."



Kids Path is a distinctive program of AuthoraCare Collective that supports children coping with serious illness and loss. Programs are divided into two types: medical services for children with life-limiting illnesses and counseling and grief support services for children experiencing the serious illness or death of a loved one. Contact Kids Path at 336.621.2500 to learn more.

AuthoraCare Named 'Leader in Diversity'

By Charity Apple

The Triad Business Journal recently selected AuthoraCare Collective as a Leader in Diversity in its inaugural awards program.

AuthoraCare was among four nonprofit/community organizations selected for this honor, which also included Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Leadership Winston-Salem, and Novant Health. The 19 honorees included nonprofit organizations, private companies, and individuals.

Ivan Canada, Executive Director of NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad, received an Outstanding Voice award. Canada has worked with AuthoraCare's Inclusion and Diversity Team.

The organizations and individuals chosen for the awards program have gone above and beyond to bolster equality across all areas of diversity which included age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, and socioeconomic backgrounds, according to the Triad Business Journal.

"We have been intentional in recognizing what is missing when our leaders all look the same. Because of this, we have worked, paused, networked, and



budgeted to ensure that our applicants and talent pool include diversity," Kristen Yntema, CEO/President, said.

Following a consultation with the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of the Piedmont Triad, AuthoraCare developed the Inclusion and Diversity Team. Its goal is to increase access to hospice care for underserved populations in the community.

"We also know that our work is not done. We also know that being a leader in inclusion work will draw other diverse leaders with this mindset and heart to us and our organization," Yntema added.

AuthoraCare, as well as the other honorees, were recognized in a special print publication on July 2.

In addition to the Triad Business Journal's internal judging panel, judges also included William T. Lewis Sr., president of WillHouse Global; Taylore Woods, CEO of Ashtae Products; and Magalie Yacinthe, executive director of HUSTLE Winston-Salem.

Our Mission

AuthoraCare Collective empowers people to be active participants in their care journey, enabling them to live on their own terms through personalized support for mind, body and spirit.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

RIDGEWOOD “TRY A TRI FOR HOSPICE”

Saturday, September 4 at 8 a.m.

Ridgewood Swim & Tennis Club

808 James Doak Parkway, Greensboro, NC

Have you always wanted to try a triathlon, but not known where to start? Register now to “try a tri” for the AuthoraCare Hospice program.

This family-friendly triathlon begins with a 200-meter swim and continues with a 10-mile bike ride and a 2-mile run through the Ridgewood neighborhood. Try a triathlon and support the AuthoraCare Hospice program by participating in this fun event!



Register Now >

GEARS AND BEERS

Sunday, September 12 at 10 a.m.

The Village Beverage Company

1015 Highway 150 West,

Summerfield, NC

This year's ride has a new name and a new venue! Cyclists ride out together at 10 am and can choose a 25, 35 or 54-mile option. The post-ride party at The Village Beverage Company will include delicious food, beverages, beer and live music.

Online registration will open soon. Check AuthoraCare Collective's website for the latest information.

Getting Social

Connect with us to stay informed about the latest news, upcoming events and more!



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