

Storylines

A bi-monthly publication from AuthoraCare Collective

March / April 2022

Practicing Resiliency



Wintry Weather Doesn't Hamper Our Mission

By Charity Apple

After-Hours Nurse Elizabeth Preyer could be seen walking through a Greensboro neighborhood on Martin Luther King Jr. Day – laptop under her arm and stethoscope draped around her neck.

The snow/ice storm had rendered secondary roads hazardous, but Preyer realized that she could walk to the patient's house from her own home.

And so she did.

A neighbor, who happened to be a home health physical therapist, saw Preyer walking and gave her a ride to the home.

That same day, Preyer also parked her car at the main entrance at a long-term care facility and walked to the memory care unit to refill a patient's medication.

"I had my cell phone out the entire time, updating the Triage Nurse as to my location, just in case I slipped," Preyer said.

"After-Hours Nurses have to be 'fixers.' We have to be flexible," she said. "We just work it out and figure it out because that's what we have to do for our patients and families."

Kari Ward, Home Care Nurse, realized that she couldn't drive to patients' homes, so she parked at a nearby gas station, and walked.

Ward, an Idaho native, said she felt prepared with ski bibs, a jacket and snowshoes on her feet.

"The family needed extra support so I thought, 'If I gotta walk, I'm gonna walk.'"

She admitted that the family was surprised to see her at first.

"One of the patients' daughters was more worried about me trying to come out, but I assured her it would be fine," she said. "It was rewarding, for me, that I was able to get out there, get the job done, and do it safely."

In This Issue

Practicing Resiliency	1-3
CEO Reflection	2
We Honor Veterans	4-5
Notable Retirements	6-7
Supporter Spotlight	8
Calendar Highlights.....	9
Flight of Honor	10
AuthoraCare in the News	11
Hospice League Golf Classic..	12
Health Care Decisions Month....	13

Board of Directors

Officers

Chair: Mary Copeland
Vice Chair: David Kibbe
Secretary/Treasurer: Becky Loy
President/CEO: Kristen Yntema
Asst. Treasurer: Tab Haigler (Interim)
Asst. Secretary: Lori Shaw

Directors

Chan Chandler
Kathy Colville
Lisa Duck
Eddie Gant (Foundation representative)
Dr. Vanessa Haygood
Ronald P. "Ron" Johnson
Paul Klever
Dr. Sendil Krishnan
Anne Macner
Dr. Laura Murray
Becky Neiduski
Ellen Pancoast
John Peterson
The Rev. Milton C. Williams, Jr.

Board of Trustees

Officers

Eddie Gant, Chair and Foundation Representative
Ryan A. Newkirk, Vice-Chair
Chris Bryan, Treasurer
Mark Watson, Secretary
Kristen Yntema, President and CEO
Tab Haigler, Assistant Treasurer and CFO
Paul J. Russ, VP of Marketing and Development
Alanna Cousin, Assistant Secretary

Directors

Elizabeth Brantley Bostian
Erin Cockman
Tiffany Derby Crenshaw
Bob Kernodle
Gail M. LeBauer
Matt Logan
Bonnie McAlister
Charles Morgan

The Storylines Production Team

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

CEO Reflection

Proud to Serve Our Community

In early March, several AuthoraCare Collective team members joined me in National Harbor, Md. to attend the 2022 Leadership and Advocacy Conference presented by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO.)

It was an informative time to gather with peers from around the country and to learn from other leaders in our field. I was also proud that team members, Devin Griffith, Chief Operating Officer, and April Herring, Community Education/Outreach Coordinator, presented a session called "Building Bridges: Transforming Strategic Partnerships" to a standing-room-only crowd.



Kristen Yntema

Each year in the United States, more than 1.7 million people use hospice services. It is an honor to be part of the more than 5,058 hospice programs around the country providing care. Our community should take pride in what AuthoraCare has become and how it continues to find new ways to serve the needs of our friends and neighbors. Our innovative programs and services are recognized nationally.

As a nonprofit, it is our privilege and duty to use community support to fund our innovation to meet the needs of underserved populations like those in more rural environments. Each day we seek new ways to improve access to care. For example, on March 16, we opened a new clinic-based palliative care service in partnership with the Caswell Family Medical Center in Yanceyville. This partnership will provide compassionate, comforting palliative care services to a mostly rural community.

While hospice care is our core service, more palliative programming can meet the evolving and growing needs of an aging population. As disease, illness, or age advances, we can provide professional care to help lighten the load.

AuthoraCare is always seeking ways to empower individuals to be active participants in their care journey. We are proud to be a part of the fabric of this community for over 40 years and we want to be sure that we serve all of our community.



Kristen Wither Yntema, MBA, MHSA

President and CEO, AuthoraCare Collective



Practicing Resiliency

(cont. from cover)

Realizing that the walkway in front of her house was covered with ice, Maura Barber, Home Care RN, began to chip away at it until it was passable.

In order to visit the patient, she had to park about a block away from the house, however, and navigate what she called a “mini stream” that had frozen over.

“It was quite an adventure,” she said. “I don’t consider this heroism – we just do what we need to do at the moment.”

Rokisha Rover, LPN, spent over an hour cleaning off the driveway at her home to make three patient visits.

“These were patients with immediate needs,” Rover said. “I didn’t risk parking in the driveway. I parked on the side of streets, turned my flashers on and walked to the houses from there. I was glad to be able to be there for the patients and their families.”

Kisha Scott, Home Care Nurse, gave a ride to her coworker Rosemary Tatum, Hospice Aide, was having trouble leaving her neighborhood due to road conditions. The two drove together to a patient’s home to provide care.



“I love working with Rosemary and wanted to do whatever I could to help,” Scott said. “I love what I do. I love the patients, the people I work with, and our mission.”

Following a patient’s death, After Hours LPN Koisay Morlu contacted the funeral home but never heard back. She drove to the business to retrieve the on-call number, which was posted on the door. She handled arrangements with the funeral home. And returned to the patient’s home to support the family.

“Additionally, we completed numerous virtual visits in a sincere effort to reassure our patients and families of our continued commitment to provide care and to be right there when they needed us,”

said Kameka Totten, Vice President of Nursing on the Greensboro campus.

“These are just a few examples of how our team members serve our mission and practice resiliency throughout any challenges we’ve faced as well as work to preserve our trusting relationships with the patients and families of the communities that we serve.”

15TH ANNUAL

Corks for Kids Path

**Greensboro’s Premier
Wine Tasting Event**

#corks2022

**FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022
5:00 P.M.**

**Elm & Bain
620 South Elm Street
Greensboro, NC**

Learn More >

TICKETS & RAFFLE ON SALE NOW AT [CORKSFORKIDSPATH.ORG](https://corksforkidspath.org)



We Honor Veterans



A Brotherhood

Veterans Have Shared Experiences

By Charity Apple

Prior to the pandemic, veterans Lynn Rachel and David Moore would meet at either McDonald's at Westridge Square or Jay's Deli, both in Greensboro, weekly to swap stories.

Rachel, 100, has made it a point of getting together with his veteran buddies for about 45 years, and it's how he and Moore met.

"I had stopped at the McDonald's on Cone Boulevard and Lynn was there with his World War II buddies. He noticed my 101st Airborne Division cap, and I saw his World War II cap, and we just started talking," Moore said.

Their friendship has continued for six years.

The pair attended AuthoraCare Collective's Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Breakfast from on Wednesday, March 30, at The Lusk Center in Greensboro. A drive-thru breakfast will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 31, at the Hospice Thrift Store, 2134 Hanford Rd., Burlington.

Both events are being presented by HealthTeam Advantage in conjunction with AuthoraCare's We Honor Veterans program. The Greensboro Elks Club also contributed to the event.

The thrift store will open early for shoppers, at 8 a.m., and a 10 percent off coupon will be given to veterans. While the event is in honor of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, on March 29, it is open to all veterans.

Originally from Chatham County, Rachel's family were tenant farmers. He worked at Proximity Mill before being drafted.



David Moore, left, and Lynn Rachel, right, pose for a photo at Rachel's home. Moore is a Vietnam War veteran and Rachel is a veteran of World War II. [Charity Apple]

Rachel served in the U.S. Army, 99th Infantry Division, as part of World War II's European Theater. His commanding officer, Major Gen. Walter E. Lauer, wrote "Battle Babies," which chronicles the division's role in the Battle of the Bulge.

A copy of the book can be found in Rachel's home and through the years, fellow veterans have signed it. Photos of the collapsed Ludendorff Bridge in Remagen, Germany, dot one wall. His division was the first to cross the bridge over the Rhine River from March 10-11, 1945. The bridge is no longer standing, but a marker honoring the 99th Infantry Division can now be found on the bridge tower.

At first, Rachel "hailed ammunition to the guys at the front lines."

"I remember one time asking, 'where's the enemy?' and the Colonel said, 'all around us.'"

continued on pg 5

A Brotherhood

(cont. from pg. 4)

Rachel was later assigned to the motor pool with seven jeeps to maintain.

"I drove, top down, no matter if it was raining or snowing because that's what I was told to do," he said.

Rachel recounted how cold it was in Europe and oftentimes being hungry, with only Irish potatoes or pieces of bread to eat.

The division was on its way to Austria when Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) was announced.

Rachel married Ruth Manuel in 1946 and they had one daughter, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ruth died in 2002.

David Moore was born in High Point but grew up in Greensboro and Archdale. He joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17. He was stationed at Fort Dix, N.J. before volunteering to serve in the Vietnam War.

"I felt I had an obligation to my country," he said.

He served as a mechanic, making sure the generators were operational since communication to the front line was imperative.

"Those generators had to keep going 24/7 so they could have communication," he said. "Without the radio, they would be lost puppies."

Moore had two uncles who served in World War II, several cousins who also fought in the Vietnam War, and ancestors who fought in the Civil War.

He knows, firsthand, how it felt to return from Vietnam.

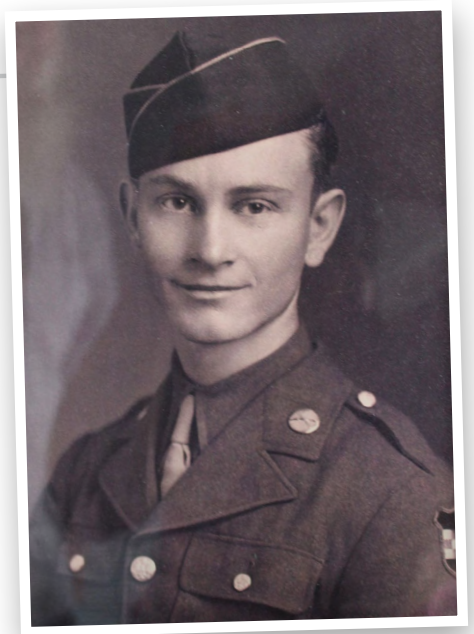
"It took our troops going into Kuwait for Vietnam veterans to be recognized. It was like those kids caused America to wake up," he said. "My first welcome home event was in Branson, Mo., in 2005."

Moore participated in the Flight of Honor on May 11, 2019. His wife, Myra, is Front Desk Receptionist at AuthoraCare in Burlington and she had friends and family members write letters of appreciation that he read on the flight. **SEE STORY ON FLIGHT OF HONOR ON PAGE 10.**

"Children, in a brass ensemble, performed patriotic music for us," he said. "It was just like we were getting home from the war. It was very meaningful."

Moore said he considers it an honor to connect with other veterans, like Rachel.

"We're a brotherhood," he added.



Lynn Rachel served in the U.S. Army, 99th Infantry Division, as part of World War II's European Theater. [Photo submitted]



The Vietnam War lasted for 11 years. Due to domestic resistance to the war, returning troops did not receive the same "welcome home" as did troops from other U.S. wars.

AuthoraCare Celebrates the Retirement and Legacy of Two Longtime, Influential Hospice Team Members

By Charity Apple

PATTI GASPARELLO Director of Kids Path | Started in 1993

A note in Patti Gasparello's junior high newspaper could've foretold her future.

"When asked what my future aspirations were, I wrote that I either wanted to be a social worker or live on a deserted island," she said with a laugh. "Well, the island part didn't happen."

Gasparello, who is retiring as Director of Kids Path, witnessed not only the start of a Kids Path program on the Burlington campus in 2003, but the formation of a hospice organization in Alamance County.

It was 1979 when Gasparello, a social worker at Memorial Hospital in Burlington, noticed a sign at Holly Hill Mall. It inquired about interest in bringing hospice services to Alamance County.

"In my work at the hospital, I had come into contact with patients who could've benefitted from hospice, so I was eager to learn more," she said.

The first meeting was held inside the library at Holy Comforter Church in downtown Burlington and included doctors, nurses, lawyers, and businesspeople.

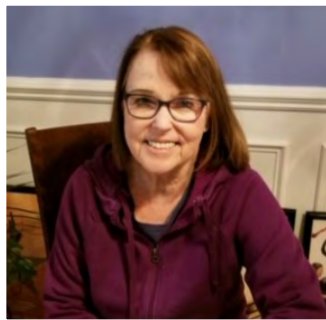
Gasparello served on the steering committee from 1979 to 1982 and recalled how "this community really stepped up."

The Holt family, as well as other influential families in Alamance County, contributed funding.

Gasparello recalled the formation of the Hospice League of Alamance-Caswell and how the Flea Market was established and has morphed into what is now known as the Hospice Thrift Store.

"I was on board when Faye (Boswell) came on with her fundraising ideas which included the flea market and annual hot air balloon festival," she said.

She described Peter Barcus, former CEO of Hospice and



Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell, as "such a visionary when it came to the future of the hospice organization here. It was as if he could see what it would become and how it would grow."

Prior to working with Kids Path, Gasparello worked in all areas of adult hospice – home care, Hospice Home, Long-Term Care facilities and also working with groups for kids at schools.

"At Kids Path, there is never a time when 'there is nothing more than can be done. When cure is no longer possible, care is always possible!'" she said.

"I am in awe of how families invite us in at this most precious, intimate time during the serious illness and impending death of their loved one. It is quite humbling," Gasparello said. "Each family has taught us so much. It's amazing how resilient families can be. They come together to care for a family member, knowing the loss that is ahead."

There are so many stories, so many moments ingrained in her mind and on her heart through the years, but she shared a few:

"A mother of a 9-year-old who really wasn't sure if she could take care of her son but with the support of our team and other three children in the home, she did a remarkable job. The day he became unresponsive and death was thought to be hours away, she laid beside him most of the day, whispering in his ear and reassuring him," Gasparello said. "The mother said, 'I didn't think I could do it. I brought him into the world and I helped him move onto the next place.'"

"To watch a parent carry their deceased child out to the funeral home car – that last kiss, a hat because it's cold out; parents continue to parent even in death," Gasparello said. "Or a young father with a deep faith, secure in knowing where he would be after his death, telling me that with two young children, he just didn't feel like his work here on earth was done."

"I don't know how you can do this work and not be changed forever," she added. "This journey has been remarkable. Oh my gosh, how fortunate have I been to call this my career? How blessed that this has been my line of work? I am looking forward to what my next chapter will be," she said.



Patti Gasparello reads messages left by Kids Path clients on a "peace pole" at the Burlington Kids Path office.

continued on pg. 7

Notable Retirements

(cont. from pg. 6)

JANE GIBSON Public Support Coordinator | Started in 1990

No one is more surprised by Jane Gibson's 31-year career with AuthoraCare Collective than she is. Gibson (pictured right) described it as "a job that found her."

While working at AuthoraCare (formerly Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro), she witnessed the formation of Kids Path, the establishment of Beacon Place and its care of AIDS patients, and the construction of the Lusk Center.

Gibson will retire on April 1. "Looking back, it was the death of my younger sister, Nancy, that reframed everything in my life," Gibson said. Nancy died of cancer in 1987, four months after being diagnosed. She was 32.

"We didn't have hospice care," Gibson said. "It has caused me such great sorrow through the years that our family wasn't open to using hospice for my sister."

Nancy left behind a husband and three young children. "I was so worried about her children, as well as my own two. None of us knew what normal behavior was for grieving children. Those worries, on top of our family's grief, made it such a difficult time," she said.

In the late 1980s, Hospice of Greensboro formed a task force to explore the needs and resources for grieving children in our community. The task force was comprised of community and civic organizations, including the Junior League, of which Gibson was a member.

Gibson approached the Junior League of Greensboro for a grant to fund the project. This grant seeded the program now known as Kids Path.

To meet the volunteer requirement of the grant, Hospice created a puppet show titled "Aarvy Aardvark Finds Hope," based on a book by the same name. The show teaches about loss, change, and friendship. Over the past 28 years, the show has been performed for more than 5,000 third graders. Gibson was a puppeteer for two years.

In 1990, she was offered a part-time job as a Volunteer Coordinator. While she has held many different roles over the years, the aspect of her work she has loved the most is listening to the stories shared by patients, volunteers, and donors.

"To see the resilience that people find in the worst of times is both amazing and inspirational," Gibson said.

Gibson recalled the Kids Path patient who was visited by his



favorite superhero, Spider-Man. "He said, 'This was the best day ever ... even better than the roller coasters at Disney World!'" Gibson said. "It took a team to make it happen, but that visit reframed that little boy's last week of life."

Then there was a patient who was visited by volunteer, Mike Gaspeny, every Saturday. Riding around in Mike's car, the two would reminisce, tell stories, and listen to jazz. The patient often joked that "Mike can't play an instrument, but he can play a pretty mean radio!"

Gibson has lasting friendships with the donors and volunteers she's worked with through the years. "For many of our donors and volunteers, the investments they make in us are personal, and they serve as advocates for our services," she said.

Karen Buxton, a local triathlete, was inspired to give back after the death of her brother. "For 11 years, she and a team of volunteers have organized triathlons and cycling events, raising over \$130,000. Karen is a powerful example of what one person can make happen," Gibson said.

Another organization close to Gibson's heart is the Greensboro Elks Lodge, which has raised more than \$215,000 for AuthoraCare through the annual Elks Charity Golf Classic. "This is a group of people who not only invest in their community, but are so supportive of each other," she said.

While Gibson has witnessed countless ways individuals and organizations have enriched AuthoraCare's services, one of the most unique is Friends With Flowers. Created in 2007 by Randy McManus of Randy McManus Designs, Friends With Flowers volunteers meet weekly to assemble small vases filled with fresh flowers.

"In the past 15 years, more than 25,000 bedside bouquets have been shared, each offering beauty and encouragement to patients," Gibson said.

The work, at times, has been personal. Her youngest niece attended the first grief camp offered by Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro. Both her parents and in-laws received hospice care.

"I've loved so many things about this job," she said. "There can be a lot of sadness, but there can also be a lot of rising up and finding ways to carry the heavy things."

"While I know I will have a hole in my heart when I leave, I will treasure the memories of the people I have been privileged to meet," she added. "Pondering this upcoming change, I find myself remembering the advice Ralphie Rabbit had for Aarvy Aardvark when he was feeling uncertain about the future. 'This is not the end ... it is the beginning.'"



Jane Gibson (middle) with her niece (right) and another camper (left) at the first Kids Path Grief Camp.

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM RECEIVES GREENSBORO ELKS LODGE'S SPOTLIGHT GRANT

By Jane Gibson

AuthoraCare Collective received a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant from the Greensboro Elks Lodge #602. These funds will be used to enhance the spiritual care AuthoraCare chaplains offer to families and patients.

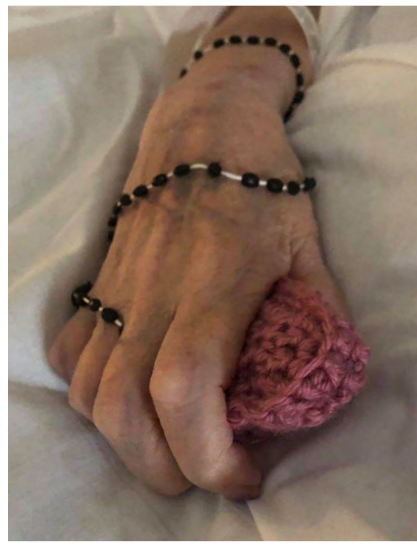
AuthoraCare chaplains are integral to the delivery of expert care and play a significant role in helping patients and families be the author of their own story. Chaplains stand ready to support people of

all religious faiths, as well as those who describe themselves as agnostic, atheist, or no particular identifier at all.

Chaplains meet people where they are by providing an open, nonjudgmental space for beliefs, wishes and concerns to unfold. Offering personalized, respectful support, chaplains listen and respond to people as they talk about their needs, beliefs, anxieties, questions and wishes. This reflective process also allows families and patients to better understand the way their beliefs shape their health care decisions and their end-of-life hopes and dreams.

"Our chaplaincy team is so pleased to be the recipient of the Greensboro Elks Spotlight Grant. These funds will help to enhance and expand chaplaincy and spiritual care through the purchase of much-needed interfaith resources," said Heidi Dechow, Director of Chaplaincy at AuthoraCare.

Some of the resources Dechow will purchase include books that can be used by chaplains during their patient visits. These books will feature meditations, reflections, poetry, inspirational messages, and spiritual texts from a variety of religious traditions. Audio resources will also be purchased as a way of providing relaxation and enhanced spiritual care opportunities to those who may be visually impaired or have limited access to technology. Large-print sacred texts



Some of the grant funding will be used to purchase prayer beads as well as centering stones, finger labyrinths, handheld hearts and blessing cards. [Photo submitted]

and audio books will be made available for lending.

Grant funds will also address another need identified by chaplains - to have a supply of inexpensive items that can be left with a patient after a visit. These will include items such as prayer beads, centering stones, finger labyrinths, handheld hearts and blessing cards. Each will offer encouragement to patients, as well as reinforcement of the patient's preferred way to increase feelings of comfort, joy, connectedness and peace.

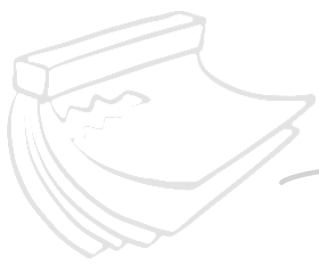
"I was so proud to put this Elks Spotlight Grant request forward for AuthoraCare's chaplaincy program," shared Kimberly Fuquay- Black, the Community Projects Chair for the Greensboro Elks Lodge. This \$2,000 grant opportunity was made available to every Lodge in America by the Elks National Foundation, as a way of shining a light on community needs, especially those heightened by COVID-19.

Fuquay-Black recognized the pandemic's impact on medically fragile patients, like those served

by AuthoraCare. She learned that impact was even greater for patients in skilled care facilities where visitors were heavily restricted. And those families who experienced the death of a loved one, often had to cancel or alter funeral service plans.

"AuthoraCare is an organization that the Greensboro Elks Lodge has supported for the past 10 years," Fuquay-Black said. "We are proud to have raised \$215,000 for them and to be a part of lifting people up who are facing some of the hardest times of their lives."

"Some of those people have been our own Lodge members. That's made partnering with them a perfect fit for our mission - Elks Care ... Elks Share," she added.



What's Happening?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Remembering Our Mothers

An expressive arts workshop for those who have lost their mothers

Thursday, April 28 | 6 - 7:30 p.m.

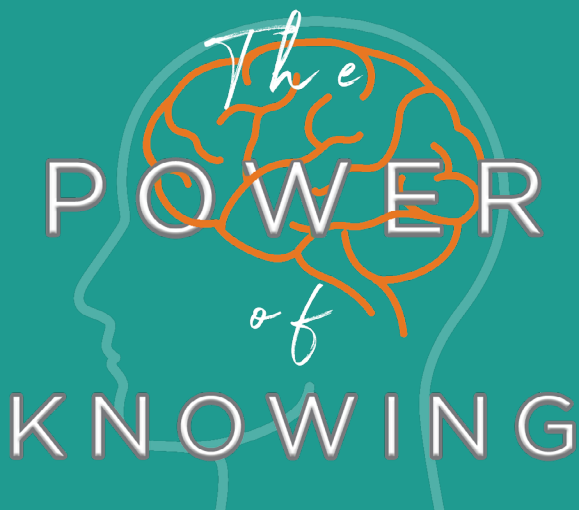
Corks for Kids Path

Greensboro's Premier Wine Tasting Event

Friday, June 3 | 5:00 p.m.

To register and receive information, contact 336.621.2500 or email contact@authoracare.org.

Visit authoracare.org for our most current calendar.



A Free Webinar Series

Making Your Story Known

Advance Directives

Telling our story includes sharing it with others so it can be known and respected, especially at times of illness and death. While many people know the kinds of care they want or how their estate should be handled, far fewer people complete the needed conversations and documents to ensure that wishes are respected. Underserved or disenfranchised members of the community are even less likely to complete this planning.

[Watch On-Demand >](#)

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

Dementia | Parts 1 & 2

Finding Joy During A Long Journey of Illness

The Patient and Caregiver Experience

Whole-Person Care

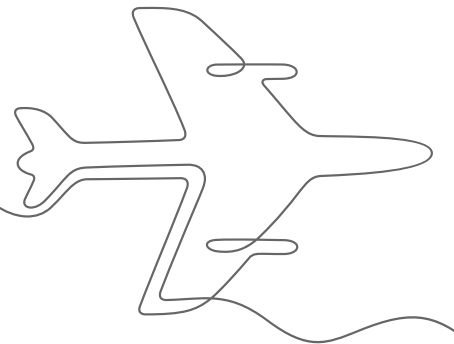
Aging in LGBTQ+ Communities | Parts 1 & 2

Leaving a Legacy *New!*



Flight of Honor

AuthoraCare RN to Accompany Veteran on Trip



By Charity Apple

Dona George, Admissions RN at AuthoraCare Collective (pictured above), will serve as a guardian for the Triad Honor Flight on April 27.

The program (formerly known as National Honor Flight) gives World War II, Korean, Cold War, and Vietnam veterans an opportunity to visit the memorials in Washington, D.C.

"As a hospice nurse at AuthoraCare, I was touched beyond words to learn that terminally ill veterans are moved to the top of the list for the next flight. As they near the end of their life, nothing is more important than showing their sacrifices were worth it to all of us," she said.

AuthoraCare is a proud partner with the We Honor Veterans program. This event is a way for veterans to write more chapters in their life stories.

George will travel alongside a veteran as he experiences these historical sites for the first time.

It was something that her late "bonus" father, George Raymond Oakley, had the chance to do on April 17, 2010.

"Mr. Raymond' talked very little about his World War II service, but he spoke fondly of the Triad Honor Flight," George said.

George's mother, Wanda Rigsbee, said that the trip meant so much to him that "we spent the next three years going to Washington, D.C. He could spend the entire day at the World War II memorial."

Oakley served in the Third Army Division under George S. Patton. He drove the shop truck onto Utah Beach during D-Day (June 6, 1944).

"It was an unspoken rule that he just didn't talk about his service," Rigsbee said. "He told me once that he was 'glad that he did it but didn't want to do it again.'" Oakley

went on to serve as the driver for military officers.

George's father, Leroy Rigsbee, served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He was in the Signal Corps for 105 days.

Her father-in-law, Raymond "Rocky" Rochford, served in the U.S. Marines in World War II. "I never had the pleasure of meeting him," George said.

And her best friend's father, Nick Stakias, was a Marine in the Korean War.

Neither Rigsbee, Rochford nor Stakias had the opportunity to attend an Honor Flight, so George plans to carry something from each one of these men on the trip so that "they will be there with me."

"I'm going to carry Mr. Raymond's dog tags, wear my father's Masonic ring, along with Nick's military pin," she said. "My mother-in-law provided a photo of Rocky for me to carry."

Rigsbee said she is thrilled that her daughter gets to experience this flight and represent loved ones who served in the military.

"To me, what I can offer is so small in relationship to the sacrifices and achievements our veterans have made for this country. I am so honored to be a part of this mission," George added.

If you would like to make a gift to AuthoraCare's We Honor Veterans in honor of Dona George, checks can be made payable to AuthoraCare with WHV and Dona George's name in the memo line.



George Raymond Oakley, Dona George's late "bonus dad" had the chance to participate in the Flight of Honor on April 17, 2010. [Triad Honor Flight]



Raymond Oakley is shown, third from left, standing. Oakley, along with other veterans, were given the opportunity to tour war memorials. [Triad Honor Flight]

AuthoraCare Represented at NHPCO Conference

By Charity Apple

AuthoraCare Collective's Devin Griffith, Chief Operating Officer, along with April Herring, Community Education/Outreach Coordinator, and Stan Massey, partner and Lead Consultant with Transcend Strategy Group, served as co-presenters during the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's (NHPCO) Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC).

The session, "Building Bridges: Transforming Strategic Partnerships," was held March 7 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Md. One hundred and twenty people attended the 50-minute session, Griffith said.

In their presentation, Griffith and Massey discussed how "our landscape and needs when it comes to hospice and palliative care are changing. We have to assess how to impact consumers, especially those in diverse communities." When discussing strategic partnerships, Griffith referenced the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras.

"This bridge was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s to withstand severe hurricanes," he said. "Hurricane Mitch, in 1998, was the most severe hurricane it encountered. The storm didn't damage the bridge, but it caused a permanent change in the river. It now wound around, not under the bridge. This incredible structure was built, but those who constructed it weren't mindful that the environment around it is changing. The bridge was rendered useless."

"This story shows that we can build these strong partnerships, but we have to address our communities, we have to remain versatile while serving consumers' needs," Griffith said.

Griffith and Massey's discussion led into Herring's presentation, which featured two 3-minute clips from Episode 1: Introduction to Palliative Care. It is one of three 25-minute episodes created through the partnership between AuthoraCare Collective and Gdavis Productions. The other two episodes are about hospice and the stress of caregiving.

"It showed Renee talking with her best friend, Tammy, about palliative care," Herring said. "It humbled me a great deal. This is the first time I've presented to a group like that and just to hear the comments afterward. A home health care social worker, with a hospice provider, came up to me and said, 'I have sat on those same sofas and had those same conversations with people every day!'"

Griffith said that "everyone was so quiet and engaged during April's presentation. It was powerful and innovative. I really do believe that other organizations want to get in on this outreach tool. Infotainment is the way to engage our communities."

"This was truly a proud moment for our organization," he added.



Devin Griffith



April Herring

Ryan Mahler Appointed to NHPCO's Next Generation Leadership Council

By Charity Apple



Ryan Mahler (left), AuthoraCare's Director of Adult Grief Support & Counseling, has been accepted to serve on the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's (NHPCO) Next Generation Leadership Council.

"I applied because I wanted to advance my leadership skills," Mahler said. "I thought I had something to offer to the

conversation - to encourage the next generation to be part of this work."

The council is made up of about 75 people who serve in various roles in Hospice and Palliative Care organizations. Members serve a two-year term and bi-monthly meetings are held. "There's a good mix of experiences and backgrounds," she said.

Mahler, who serves on the Mentorship subcommittee, is working on a mentoring toolkit for all hospices to use.

"We're off to a really good start. We are still getting to know each other," Mahler said of the subcommittee, which meets every two weeks.

The toolkit will provide hospices with "what they need to launch mentorship programs in their organizations," she added.

Mahler said it is an honor to be the third team member from AuthoraCare to be a part of the NHPCO. Kristen Yntema, President/CEO, was recently named to the Board of Directors and Mary Manley, was selected for the Diversity Advisory Council in 2021.

Being a part of this council has given Mahler a chance "to continue to grow, develop, and give back."

Hospice League Golf Classic Turns 30

Tournament has raised \$1.6 million for AuthoraCare

By Charity Apple

Since it began in 1991, the Hospice League Golf Classic at Alamance Country Club has raised \$1.6 million for AuthoraCare Collective (formerly Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell).

"We are, of course, deeply grateful for the generosity of so many golfers who supported the tourney for not just years, but literally decades," said Peter Barcus, former CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell. "But what has really struck me over the years is how many of those golfers had loved ones who received hospice care. And so, it came full-circle."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the golf tournament has been canceled over the last two years. But it will resume, in celebration of the 30th anniversary, on May 2 at the Alamance Country Club.

The concept for the golf tournament was inspired by a conversation that Faye Boswell, founder of the former Hospice League of Alamance-Caswell, had with volunteers during the summer of 1990.

Boswell recalled how that first meeting was held in George and Mary Lou Baer's living room in Burlington. The Baers were league members.

"None of us had ever organized a golf tournament before, but we knew, as with other events, that people would support hospice and its efforts," Boswell said.

The first tournament was held on July 29, 1991, at Alamance Country Club. It was called the Hospice League of Alamance-Caswell's First Annual Celebrity Golf Classic. Sports celebrities, known both locally and nationally, were recruited to be a part of the event.



A team plays during the 2014 Hospice League Golf Classic. [Jack Sink]

Marvin H. Comer served as honorary chairmen and S. Carlysle Isley was chairman.

That first tournament raised \$45,000, according to a July 30, 1991, article in the Times-News. Those funds were allocated to build what is now known as The Hospice Home, 913 Chapel Hill Rd., Burlington.

The first tournament sold out for sponsorships and team participation before the day of the event. That tradition has continued for 30 years.

David Scott, chairman for this year's tournament, has served as a volunteer for 25 years and as chairman for four years. Scott described how the committee dropped the "celebrity" aspect of the event around 2003, but that the participation of the sponsors and teams has never wavered.

Thirty-two teams typically participate and of those, "some don't even play. They just want to support what AuthoraCare does."

When asked why he volunteers his time and recruits volunteers each year, Scott teared up. "This is good work," he said. "Our community has been very good about supporting the AuthoraCare mission. We have been blessed."



Left to right: Golf Pro Adam McLaughlin addresses players at the 25th annual Golf Classic; An ice sculpture commissioned for the 25th anniversary event; Golfers prepare to head to the course during the 2014 event; Faye Boswell (left) with Adam McLaughlin at the 2013 event. [Jack Sink]

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.

APRIL IS NATIONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS MONTH

By Kate Clancy Phillips

No matter what your current age or health circumstances, it is never too early to make your health care wishes known.

According to AARP, more than one-third of adults have not completed their advance directives. Although we all hope to lead long and healthy lives, preparing for unforeseen health circumstances is crucial for adults of all ages.

April is National Health Care Decisions Month, which is a great reminder to complete your advance directives or update them as needed. AuthoraCare's "Leaving a Legacy" webinar, which aired on March 24, discussed the particulars of completing these documents and additional advice for crafting a legacy that is meaningful to you. You can view an on-demand recording of the webinar at authoracare.org/knowning.

Why are Advance Directives so important? In the event of an accident or sudden illness that renders you unable to speak for yourself, these documents outline your health care preferences. Advance Directives generally include two important pieces: a living will and a durable health care power of attorney.

Living wills are documents that outline your preferences for medical treatment and life-sustaining measures (such as feeding tubes) should you be unable to advocate for yourself.

A **health care power of attorney** empowers you to decide who will make medical decisions on your behalf should you become unable to do so. In the absence of this document, the power of attorney is automatically assigned to next of kin.

AuthoraCare Collective recommends that all adults, regardless of age, complete these two important documents as soon as possible. Both documents can be updated at any time as you age and if your preferences change.

To learn more about advance directives and leaving a legacy, and to download copies of advance care planning documents, visit authoracare.org/knowning.



Getting Social

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



facebook.com/authoracarecollective



linkedin.com/company/authoracare



twitter.com/authoracare



instagram.com/authoracare



authoracare.org