

Story lines

A bi-monthly publication from
AuthoraCare Collective

May/June 2023

'Beautiful Ugliness'

Radio Personality Shares
Father's End-of-Life Journey

By Charity Apple

Earlier this year, radio personality Jared Pike, of Jared & Katie in the Morning, shared with 107.5 KZL listeners what he referred to as the “beautiful ugliness” at the end of life.

“There are some ugly parts to it, when someone is slowly dying,” Jared said. “But there’s so much beauty to it, too, that you can be kept comfortable, and the family is there when you opt for hospice care.”

Jared’s father, Beau, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in February of 2022.

“He didn’t opt for treatment. He wanted quality over quantity of life, and he didn’t want to suffer,” he said.

AuthoraCare Collective’s team was grateful to support the family through this journey.

“Y’all made him so comfortable,” he said. “The team talked my mother and brother through every process, giving all of us information on what we could expect.”

Throughout the last year, Jared said his family was thankful for the time they were able to spend with Beau.

“We had the opportunity to have one final vacation with him, and one last Father’s Day last year,” Jared said.



Jared Pike, 107.5 KZL radio personality, is shown with his dad, Beau. [Photo submitted]



A childhood photo of Jared Pike, left, and his dad, Beau. [Photo submitted]

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Charity Apple, Desiree Beckwith, Theresa Hancock,
Paul Russ and Cindy Skinner

Grateful for Goodwill. Generosity These Gifts Make Our Work Possible

A season of fundraising is upon us.

Earlier in May, we hosted the annual Hospice Golf Classic in Burlington. The event has raised over \$1.6 million since its founding in 1991. This year, our presenting sponsor, Labcorp, and multiple businesses and individuals built on this great tradition of support for hospice services.

Our Annual Campaign launched with Mary and Art Winstead as volunteer chairs. Their personal caregiving journeys with their parents formed the foundation of their compelling testimonial and appeal for support. We are grateful for their volunteerism and for sharing their story in such a meaningful way.

The Hospice Home and Beacon Place are both benefiting from our Comfort and Care capital improvements campaign. Renovations are underway thanks to the early support from two estate gifts and several foundations and individuals. The enhancements will improve the patient experience in our in-patient hospice facilities.

In April, two community fundraising efforts were held for Kids Path. The 11th annual "King of the Ranch" Car & Bike Show took place at the Cadillac Ranch in Burlington. And Wings To Go and Robert E. Lee presented a golf tournament at Quaker Creek Golf Course in Mebane. Since its inception, the car & bike show has raised \$125,000 for Kids Path. It is organized each year by Walter "Bird Dog" Riddle and Allison Nichols. The golf tournament raised \$7,084.60. We continue to be grateful to all the grassroots partners who raised support on our behalf.

Lastly, on June 16, AuthoraCare will host the 16th Corks for Kids Path. This premier wine tasting event enjoys the ongoing partnership support from Zeto, an independently owned wine shop in downtown Greensboro. Multiple businesses and individuals also provided vital sponsorship to ensure another successful event.

While our service area has grown to 12 counties, AuthoraCare remains a community-based organization. Our programs have been able to expand in scope, responding to the needs of the community, only because of the goodwill and generosity of the community.

As I reflect on this season of fundraising, I am grateful for the many gifts that make our work possible and renew our commitment to be good stewards of the treasure we receive.



Kristen Wither Yntema, MBA, MHSA
President and CEO, AuthoraCare Collective



Kristen Yntema

‘Beautiful Ugliness’

(cont. from cover)

Legacy projects, such as videos for younger grandchildren, were made. There were many conversations, and jokes since Beau was known for his sense of humor.

“He was an over-the-top personality and a strong presence in all our lives. He had the ability to make people laugh and really lighten the mood,” he said. “He also walked the walk – and talked the talk – when it came to his faith. He honored, loved, and respected our mom. He never said anything negative to her or to us about her throughout their almost 47-year marriage.”

His No. 1 request, Jared said, was that we take care of mom, make sure she’s safe and comfortable.

Jared said the time with his father over the last year was an opportunity to hear life stories he may not have heard before and to spend quality time with family.

“It was really hard to see the last bit of his journey, and we are grateful that up until he stopped talking, we could have great conversations with him,” Jared said.

The last words Beau spoke were “see you later.”

“I believe that he really was saying goodbye, and that everything would be OK,” he said.

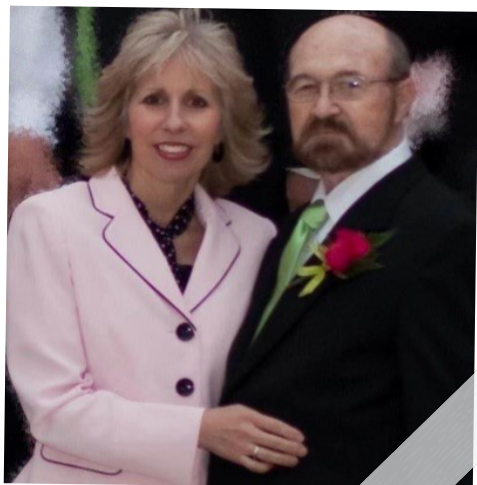
“All of the time we were able to spend with him up until that point was a tremendous blessing.”



Beau and his wife, Ellen Marie Pike, are shown during a family beach vacation. [Photo submitted]



Beau Pike [Photo submitted]



*Ellen Marie and Beau Pike
[Photo submitted]*

Having Fun & Making Friends

Kids Path Holds First-Ever Camp Cardinal

By Charity Apple

Kids Path's first-ever Camp Cardinal on May 6 was an opportunity for campers to connect with others who are coping with the illness or death of a loved one.

"Camp Cardinal is a way for kids around the same age to meet for a day of fun in nature who have shared meaning," said Lindsey Nowacki, Kids Path Counseling Supervisor. "There's a special connection between children, anyway, and in this atmosphere, they seem to feel understood and accepted by one another."

Twenty-five children ranging in age from first through fifth grade participated.

This was the first time AuthoraCare's two campuses combined for a camp and the first time in three years since camp took place in person. Held at the tranquil Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, this one-day camp included art projects, storytelling, pet therapy, s'mores, fishing, walking, nature play, and an abundance of fun and laughter.

"It was such a beautiful setting. I have driven by it so many times but had no idea it was there," said Ellis Nicholson, grandfather of one of the campers. "I showed up early and just sat on my tailgate and listened to nature - the birds and the wind in the trees."

The camp, and all the activities, had a profound effect on his granddaughter.

"She laughed and smiled the whole way home," he said. "I haven't seen her this happy in two years. It was a chance for her to 'let it all go' and just have fun and meet new friends."

For many, the appearance of a cardinal symbolizes positivity and remembrance for those experiencing loss, and it was the inspiration for the camp's name. Coloring sheets, with cardinals, were passed out to campers to color. And a small red bird was given to each camper as well during an art project to represent their connection to their loved one.



Pet therapy gave campers a chance to interact with therapy dogs. [Kids Path]



Rock painting was a fun art activity. [Kids Path]

Having Fun & Making Friends

(cont. from pg.4)



Social worker Jenny Prevatt roasts marshmallows over a bonfire in preparation for s'mores. [Charity Apple]



Coloring sheets, with cardinals, were passed out to campers to color. [Charity Apple]

Pillows, for the campers to take home, were donated by Theo Scott and the Pillow Ministry at Peace United Church of Christ. Joe Edgerton, Serve Director at the Summit Church in Oak Ridge, donated snacks; and the Tri Delta Alumnae Association gave a monetary contribution from the annual Pansy Brunch (see more information on Page 17).

For one of the art projects, campers used fabric pens to write special messages on colorful bandanas, which will serve as a keepsake to remember the day. Some of these bandanas will be auctioned off during the 16th Annual Corks for Kids Path fundraiser on June 16 at Elm & Bain, 620 B S. Elm St., Greensboro. Corks for Kids Path provides support for medically fragile and grieving children. For more information on Corks for Kids Path, (see Page 7).

"It's a full day of activities and a way for kids to be surrounded by nature while connecting with other kids who really 'get it.' They can understand what each other is going through. It's powerful yet, allows them to be kids and have a good time being together," Nowacki added.

For more information on Kids Path, visit authoracare.org.



Campers signed each other's bandanas as part of an art project. Some of these bandanas will be auctioned off during the 16th Annual Corks for Kids Path fundraiser on June 16. [Charity Apple]

Perfect Timing

Lindsay Burkart Excited to Chair Corks for Kids Path

By Theresa Hancock

An invitation from friends to participate in the Corks for Kids Path Planning Committee several years ago ignited a passion for service in Lindsay Burkart.

Burkart, a Housing Facilities Project Manager at UNC Greensboro and an owner at FEMCO Construction, LLC is the chairperson of the 16th Corks for Kids Path fundraiser.

After 16 years, the Corks for Kids Path fundraiser is “a well-oiled machine and very organized,” Burkart said. “It gives me the opportunity to focus on the fun parts to make a bigger impact.”

The timing was right for Burkart to step into the chairperson role.

“I’m getting married in December and have become more focused on starting a family. That has influenced the type of organizations I want to be involved in. Knowing that Kids Path helps families makes it a perfect fit,” she said.

Kids Path provides support for medically fragile children and grieving children. It relies on public support for nearly 70 percent of the operating budget. In 16 years, Corks for Kids Path has raised more than \$1.7 million to support Kids Path.

The first Corks for Kids Path was held at Revolution Mill in Greensboro and although the locations have differed throughout the years, the mission remains the same – generate funds and awareness for Kids Path.

Paul Russ, VP of Marketing and Development, was inspired by a wine-themed fundraising event he had attended and used it to create Corks for Kids Path.



Lindsay Burkart will serve as chairperson of the 16th annual Corks for Kids Path fundraiser. [Photo submitted]

“We were looking for an event that appeals to a supportive audience,” Russ said.

AuthoraCare’s Kids Path program has been highlighted in the Wall Street Journal and was recognized by the Duke Endowment as a model program.

There are now 12 hospice organizations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia which have Kids Path programs.

Zeto, in Greensboro, will generously donate 100 percent of profits from any of the completed wine orders. Zeto will sell cases of wine for \$250 as part of its Case the Cause program.

This year’s Corks for Kids Path is set to be in-person from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. June 16 at Elm & Bain, 620-B S. Elm St., Greensboro, site of the historic former Blue Bell Company offices and textile plant. In addition to wine tastings, it will feature hors d’oeuvres by 1618 On Location, desserts by Easy Peasy, and a silent auction.

continued on pg 7

Perfect Timing

(cont. from pg.6)

Another way to participate is the Experience Raffle. One hundred raffle tickets are being sold for \$100 each. The winner will be able to choose from three different experiences. The prizes include an outdoor adventure in Lake Tahoe, Nevada; vacation to Nashville, Tennessee, including a Grand Ole Opry House Backstage tour; and seeing LEGO come to life at LEGOLAND®. The trip selections are redeemable for 18 months after the night of the event.

“There are so many different ways to be involved,” Burkart said. “There is something for everyone”.

For more details on Corks for Kids Path, visit corksforkidspath.org

To view a video about Kids Path's impact on children and families, visit youtube.com/watch?v=LmDrD19CSTc



16th ANNUAL

Corks for Kids Path

Greensboro's Premier Wine Tasting Event

Elm & Bain

620 South Elm Street
Greensboro, NC

Friday, June 16
7-10 p.m.

Corks for Kids Path, a wine-tasting extravaganza, has raised more than \$1.6 million to support Kids Path, a program for medically fragile and grieving children in the last 16 years.

Zeto, Greensboro's premier wine and cheese shop, generously donates 100% of the proceeds to Kids Path. In addition to curating wines for the event, Zeto offers a Case for the Cause in which wine lovers can purchase a case of red, white, or mixed wines, to benefit Kids Path.

Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold for \$100 with an opportunity to win an experience to be used in the future. The winning ticket will be drawn live on Facebook on Monday, June 19, at noon and the winner will be able to choose from:

1. Outdoor adventure in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, for three days and two nights at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa and Casino for two, including an outdoor adventure experience (land only).
2. Discover the heart and soul of Nashville, Tenn., for four days and three nights at 21c Museum Hotel Nashville for two, including a Grand Ole Opry House Backstage Tour and a Discover Nashville City Tour (land only).
3. See LEGO come to life at LEGOLAND®, the adorable pandas at the zoo, or exotic animals in the Oasis of the Safari Park in San Diego, California, for three days and two nights at your choice of the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina or the San Diego Mission Bay Resort. This adventure includes one guestroom for two adults and two children, tickets to LEGOLAND® and your choice of the San Diego Zoo or Safari Park (land only).

To purchase tickets to Corks for Kids Path, a Case for the Cause, or a raffle ticket, visit one.bidpal.net/2023corks/welcome

For more details, contact Theresa Hancock, Public Support Coordinator, at 336.478.2511 or theresa.hancock@authoracare.org.

Care Ambassadors

Volunteer Opportunities Currently Available

By Charity Apple

Volunteers act as AuthoraCare Collective ambassadors throughout the communities we serve.

They represent our Core Values: Humanity, Compassion, Empowerment, and Excellence. And they provide a service to patients and families whether it's through companionship, assisting in the gardens, providing administrative duties, working in the thrift store, or pet therapy.

Volunteer options for all these services, and more, are currently available on both campuses. Training dates will be in June and July.

"Right now, companionship is our greatest need on both campuses," said Teresa Pendergraft, Director of Volunteer Services, and Integrated Personalized Support.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a lot of changes in the health care industry and unfortunately, volunteers were unable to provide companionship to patients and families for almost three years. But on May 5, the World Health Organization declared an end to the COVID-19 global health emergency.

"We are still going to be consistent in making sure to keep our patients, families, staff and volunteers safe, however," Pendergraft said.



"Right now, companionship is our greatest need on both campuses," said Teresa Pendergraft, Director of Volunteer Services, and Integrated Personalized Support. [Pexels]

Applications and background checks are also required for those wishing to volunteer. Required training takes 16 hours (four days, four consecutive hours each), along with a tuberculosis test.

"If you can't volunteer with us, communicate with others about our volunteer needs. Talk to your friends and neighbors. Recommend people that want to help others because their hearts are with those in need," Pendergraft said.

Or you can request a flyer to share with your faith organization or business. To volunteer with us or find out more information about volunteering, visit authoracare.org/volunteer or call 336.621.2500.

Volunteers, like our team members, represent our organization and Core Values.



11TH ANNUAL

Ridgewood Try a Tri

Ridgewood Swim and Tennis Club | Sept. 2
808 James Doak Parkway
Greensboro, NC

Tri for Hospice is a nonprofit organization made up of athletes from the Triad dedicated to raising awareness of and funds for nonprofit hospice organizations. Their motto is "caring to the finish." Thanks to generous sponsors, 100 percent of race entry fees go to AuthoraCare Collective.

The race begins with a 200-meter swim; athletes will then transition to a 10-mile bike ride, and finish with a 2-mile run in the Ridgewood neighborhood.

If you are new to triathlons or would like a short, fast course, this is the event for you, plus, it goes to a worthy cause. For more details, visit triforhospice.org

Investing in Comfort & Care

By Paul Russ

Support from individuals, foundations, companies, and estates have generated over \$650,000 for the AuthoraCare Foundation's effort to fund needed capital improvements at AuthoraCare's in-patient hospice facilities – (Beacon Place in Greensboro and the Hospice Home in Burlington.)

While once state-of-the-art, the in-patient hospices require more than \$873,790 in capital renovations. Thanks to these generous investments, renovations are underway to address functionality and improve the patient experience for those cared for at the Hospice Home and Beacon Place.

Two estate gifts have provided leadership support, including the Estate of Alice Madren Reavis in Burlington and the Estate of Charles L. Buddy Weill in Greensboro.

Reavis was an Alamance County native who worked in the administrative office at Kayser-Roth Hosiery before going back to school to become an Elementary teacher. She passed away in 2021 and remembered AuthoraCare in her will.



Carla Alston, CNA Team Leader at the Hospice Home, receives training on the Centrella Smart + Bed. [Charity Apple]

Weill, who passed away in 2020, left a historic \$50 million bequest which was used to create The Charles L. Buddy Weill Fund, a permanent endowment of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, to improve facilities for older adults in the Triad region. AuthoraCare was grateful to receive an inaugural grant from the Fund for the Comfort and Care project.

The campaign has received several additional leadership gifts from Cone Health, The Hillsdale Fund, Hunt Electric, and the Michel Family Foundation. Multiple individuals and families also made leadership investments, including Mike Evans, Eva Jane Gorrell in memory of Mary Hooker Taylor, and Barbara Lusk in memory of John A. Lusk III, MD. Fundraising efforts are still underway. Upon completion of the renovations, a complete listing of donors to the campaign will be on display in the lobbies of each facility.

Inpatient Units Share Rich History

In 1994, the Hospice Home opened with six beds and great fanfare. Congressman Howard Coble served as the Honorary Chair at its dedication. Subsequent campaigns raised funds to expand the facility to its current 22-bed composition. A unique feature of this hospice in-patient unit is that it preserved the original residence that sat on the property, making it a true “home.”

Beacon Place was dedicated in 1996 at the height of Greensboro's HIV/AIDS epidemic. Its initial priority was providing end-of-life care for those affected by the virus. As the epidemic evolved, fewer AIDS patients required assistance and the patient mix diversified.

Initially, patient stays at either facility were measured in months. Today, the Hospice Home and Beacon Place serve Triad residents seeking 24-hour care for acute, complex needs at the end of life.

Community Commitment

31st Annual Golf Classic Held May 8

By Cindy Skinner

For 31 years now, local golfers have participated in the annual AuthoraCare Hospice Golf Classic at Alamance Country Club in Burlington.

This year's event took place May 8.

Twenty-six teams participated in the Four-Person Captain's Choice Tournament, which as in previous years, generated funds for AuthoraCare Collective's Hospice Home. Since the tournament started, it has raised over \$1.6 million.

For the second year, Labcorp served as the tournament's premier sponsor; Biscuitville donated breakfast; and First Horizon sponsored the buffet lunch.

"As someone who has worked the tournament since 1996, it is gratifying to me to see the number of businesses and players who commit to continuing to play with us every year," David Scott said. "This year, we had many teams that also played last year. The commitment of our community to the Hospice Home is amazing, thank you!"

Planning began in January and Scott worked closely with the committee and AuthoraCare team members. The committee included: Peter Barcus, former CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell; Cindy Skinner, who served as the tournament's Administrator; Paul Russ, Vice President of Marketing and Development; and Alanna Cousin, Finance Coordinator/Executive Assistant.

The event featured cash prizes for closest to the hole on par 3's and longest drive on the 12th hole. A cash prize for a hole in one was won this year by Mike Chisholm.

Thank you to everyone involved! This event would not have been possible without support from the golf teams, sponsors, AuthoraCare staff, and the Alamance Country Club - especially Drake Woodside, Golf Pro.

Those interested in serving on the 2024 committee can contact Cindy Skinner at 336.329.0313, ext. 7166.



Each golfer received an AuthoraCare goody bag.
[All photos by Charity Apple]



Diane Marks, Resource Development Manager,
awards a door prize.



Alanna Cousin, Finance Coordinator/Executive Assistant,
and Cindy Skinner, Public Support Coordinator
in Burlington, pose for a photo.

Living After the Loss of Parents

How to Honor Their Memory

By Charity Apple

Whether the loss of a parent was recent or years ago, Mother's and Father's Day can be an emotional time for many.

"Losing a parent often feels like losing our compass or losing the person who always had your back or were keepers of your childhood memories," said Kimberly Grove, Bereavement Counselor at AuthoraCare Collective. "When I talk to clients about how to navigate these days, I often suggest they think about making a plan that helps take care of them."

This plan, Grove added, may include spending some time alone thinking about their parent(s), writing them a letter, or just taking some time to rest.

"For others, it may be helpful to plan something fun with their friends or family members to honor the person who has passed. And if we are a parent, it is important to let our families honor us on these days," she said.

Honoring parents can include making their favorite recipes, going to their favorite fishing spot, or spending time at a place they loved.

"I know people who have asked others to share memories on social media, and that has helped, while others may find it helpful to stay off social media due to too many triggers," she said.

After the initial loss of a parent, it is common to spend a lot of time processing how they left us.

"It is important to know that this does get easier, and then we often move to a place of remembering them as a mother or father, but also as a son or daughter, a sister or brother, or as a young adult or someone who was courageous and brave," Grove said. "Our lens widens, and we can remember them, but this takes time.

A mark of our healing is when we are remembering more of how they lived rather than how they left us."

AuthoraCare offers support groups/workshops for those who are grieving, including a Living After the Loss series, which includes Living After the Loss of a Parent.



Mother's and Father's Day can be an emotional time for many. AuthoraCare Collective offers support groups and workshops throughout the year. [Stock Photos]

"Group provides a safe place to remember their loved one as they knew them growing up and also the relationship they had with them as an adult," she said. "Interwoven is an education about grief and coping with grief." Unfortunately, she said, society often expects people to get to functioning quickly after a loss.

"Group definitely validates that many people may also be struggling with missing

their parent," she said. "I often say it doesn't matter how old you are, we all have the child in us that just wants our Mommy or Daddy, and it can feel affirming that others are struggling in the same way."

On holidays such as Mother's and Father's Day, there are also those who have lost their own children, grandparents (who acted as parents), or extended family members who were like parents to them.

"It's OK to say, 'I don't have the right words, but I want you to know I am here to sit with you and listen,'" she said. "It's important to let people talk and to be present with them. Sometimes a hug can help, too."

To find out about grief counseling, workshops, and more, visit authoracare.org.

CAP/C Services Now Available *in 12 Counties*

By Charity Apple

AuthoraCare is excited to announce that they have extended their Community Alternatives Program for Children (CAP/C) to all counties within AuthoraCare's service area.

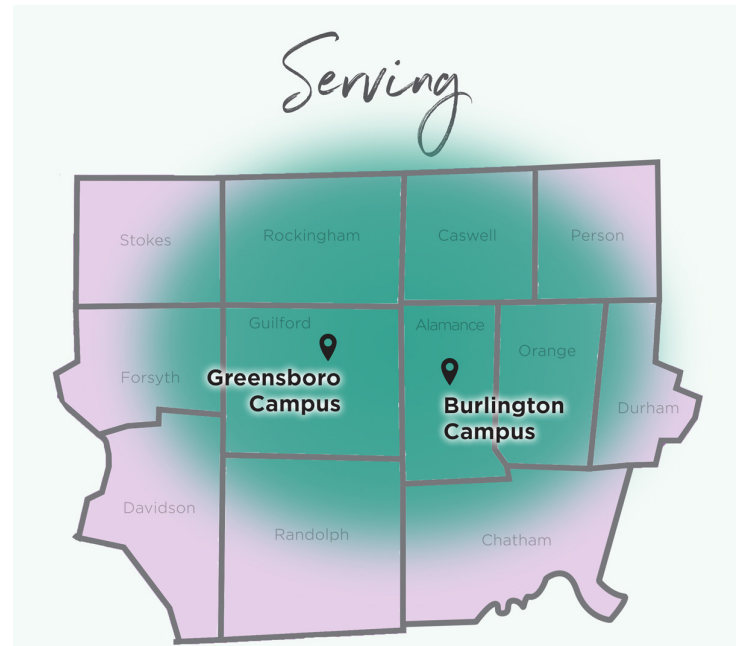
Counties include Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, and Stokes, according to Dr. Stephanie Wolfe, Kids Path Director and Kids Path Physician.

CAP/C is a Medicaid waiver program that provides home and community-based services and support to medically fragile children from birth up to age 21. These services include options such as in-home aide, caregiver respite, care coordination, home and vehicle modifications, specialized equipment, and training and education services. Clients who qualify for CAP/C also qualify for Medicaid insurance coverage, even if they do not otherwise qualify financially.

Many times, however, caregivers don't know what CAP/C is or if it's available for their child. That's where CAP/C Case Managers such as Donna Schumacher, RN, and Jennifer Petty, BSW, come in.

Petty understands the questions parents may have concerning CAP/C because she's been there, too.

"I understand that feeling of being overwhelmed with your child's care needs. My daughter was 7 years old at the time when she got her first Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube). I was terrified. I remember thinking, 'I am not a nurse. I don't have expertise in the medical field. How in the world am I going to do this?' But a CAP/C Case Manager helped us navigate the care system," she said.



Petty's daughter has utilized CAP/C services for 10 years now.

"It really helped me become an advocate for my daughter," she said.

And now, Petty can use her experience to assist other families through the process of obtaining CAP/C services and navigating the medical system.

CAP/C referrals can come from multiple sources, including but not limited to medical providers, therapists, school systems, or even self-referrals. If you know of a medically fragile child who may benefit from CAP/C services, please contact the Kids Path office at 336.544.5437.



We Honor Veterans



Never Too Late to Say 'Thank You'

Veterans Appreciation Breakfasts Held in March

By Paul Russ

Nearly 100 veterans attended Veterans Appreciation Breakfasts this past March hosted by AuthoraCare Collective and HealthTeam Advantage. The breakfasts were in recognition of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, which is celebrated nationally on March 29.

The recognition day, established when the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was signed into law in 2017, was created to honor Vietnam War veterans and their families 50 years after the war ended.



AuthoraCare Collective volunteer Hank Williams, who facilitates the Burlington Vet Connect, shakes hands with Kristen Yntema, President/CEO of AuthoraCare. [All photos by Charity Apple]



Gayle Scott, Director of Social Work, and April Herring Community Education/Outreach Coordinator, pose for a photo on March 29.

Veterans and their guests enjoyed a hot, catered breakfast and fellowship on March 29 at The Lusk Center in Greensboro and on March 30 at the Hospice Thrift Store in Burlington. Additionally, each site featured a display by Tree of Valor, commemorating those from our area that served in Vietnam.

AuthoraCare Collective remains committed to providing veteran-centric care by following best practices outlined in the We Honor Veterans program. As a five-star We Honor Veterans partner, AuthoraCare has reached the highest level of accomplishment in the program and seeks opportunities to support veterans in the community at large.

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Never Too Late to Say 'Thank You'

(cont. from pg.13)

"Veterans carry unique experiences that shape who they are," said Gayle Scott, Director of Social Work at AuthoraCare. "Our Core Promises describe our belief that each story is unique, and we are committed to discovering each client's distinctive story. The We Honor Veterans' initiative is a perfect example of this commitment."

While the events were open to all area veterans, they were inspired by the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. "We often think of ticker-tape parades when we envision post-war homecoming events," Scott said. "However, many of our Vietnam veterans didn't receive the hero's welcome they deserved. It is never too late to say, 'Thank you for your service.'"



Shelby Kline, Community Outreach Supervisor with HealthTeam Advantage, and Lori Egerter, founder of Tree of Valor, view the Tree of Valor at the Hospice Thrift Store.



Culinary Visions Catering in Greensboro catered the Veterans Appreciation Breakfast events on March 29-30.



Fill the Truck

Fill the truck! Community groups and faith organizations are invited to host a collection drive. Donations will go to AuthoraCare's Hospice Thrift Store. All proceeds from the thrift store support hospice services. For more details, contact 336.229.0490 or 336.478.2502 or visit us on Facebook and Instagram.

Rod Flinchum Joins Board of Trustees

By Charity Apple

Rod Flinchum recently joined AuthoraCare Collective's Foundation Board of Trustees.

Flinchum, owner and CEO of Colonial Marketing Group, is interested in becoming more active in his hometown of Greensboro. He currently lives in Wilmington.

"I like seeing organizations grow and I thought being a part of the AuthoraCare Foundation Board would be a wonderful way to become involved in the community. I believe in hospice's mission and services," he said.

He has previously served as a board member of the Lower Cape Fear Hospice Foundation; the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Foundation; Historic Wilmington Foundation; and Elderhaus in Wilmington.

"From early on in my career, I've gotten involved in area organizations because I feel that these groups better our communities, and our lives," he said. "I am looking forward to meeting more people and becoming more involved with what this wonderful organization does for patients, families, and the community."



Rod Flinchum was recently named a Director of AuthoraCare Collective's Foundation Board of Trustees. [Photo submitted]

AuthoraCare Nurses Receive AHHC Awards

By Charity Apple

Two AuthoraCare Collective nurses were honored with awards from the Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina (AHHC) on April 24.

The awards were presented by the AHHC's Public Relations Committee during its annual HOME (Honoring Outstanding Merit & Excellence) awards ceremony at the 2023 Home Care & Hospice Convention & Expo at The Westin in Charlotte.

Patty Beard, RN, BSN, MBA, MHA, Home Care RN, was presented with the Carolyn Cusic Professional of the Year award. And Dee Curry, LPN, Hospital Nurse Liaison, received the Paraprofessional of the Year award.

"Both Patty Beard and Dee Curry exemplify AuthoraCare's Core Values – Compassion, Empowerment, Excellence, and Humanity. They demonstrate tremendous passion, expertise, and commitment to the patients and families we serve.



The Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina (AHHC) presented Dee Curry, LPN, Hospital Nurse Liaison, with the Paraprofessional of the Year award on April 24. [AHHC]

continued on pg 16

AuthoraCare Nurses Receive AHHC Awards

(cont. from pg.15)

Our organization, and our community, are fortunate to benefit from their talents and skills,” said Devin Griffith, Chief Operating Officer at AuthoraCare Collective.

Beard joined AuthoraCare in 2014 and prior to that, had 11 years of home health experience. She actively serves as a preceptor for student nurses from area schools and has precepted/onboarded more than 20 nurses in the last six years. She has served as a Case Manager since 2014 and is currently serving as Chair of Interdisciplinary Shared Governance Committee since 2022. She also has served as a Patient Care Manager and Director of Disease Management at Advanced Home Care.

“I am so humbled to be given this honor for doing a job I am so passionate about and happy to do every day,” Beard said. “Helping people have the best life possible – connecting with the patient and finding out what he/she/they want to do. It’s that quality-of-life piece that really appeals to me.”

“I love working for AuthoraCare,” she said. “I feel heard. I’m able to be my authentic self. And I’ve got great teammates.”

Curry began working at AuthoraCare in 2018 as a Long-Term Care Flex Nurse and Home Health Nurse. She also worked as a long-term care nurse, Certified Nursing Assistant instructor, and a travel nurse. She recently transferred from a Business Development/Community Liaison role to a newly created position as Palliative Care Nurse Liaison, focusing on hospital settings.

“When I was going to nursing school, I realized that I had to do something more with the dash between my birth date and death date,” she said. “I am so honored to receive this award and I feel motivated to do more to serve our patients, families, and communities. This award means I am working on my ‘dash’ and for that, I’m grateful.”



Patty Beard, RN, BSN, MBA, MHA, received the Carolyn Cusic Professional of the Year Award. [AHHC]

“I am so humbled to be given this honor for doing a job I am so passionate about and happy to do every day.”

Two Area Groups Beautify Gardens

By Theresa Hancock

The Women's Professional Forum and Volunteers in Action from Syngenta volunteered in the gardens on AuthoraCare's Greensboro campus recently.

"On May 6, Ronnie Grabon and Polly Sizemore greatly improved the landscape by pruning and weeding," said Sally Cobb, Horticultural Therapist.

"They also filled the bird feeders hanging near the patients' rooms at Beacon Place. Watching the antics of the birds that flock to the feeders is a favorite pastime for patients and their family members," Cobb added. "Thank you, Ronnie and Polly, for the gifts of your time and energy!"

The Volunteers in Action from Syngenta worked in the gardens on May 12.

After a quick bagged lunch in the Kids Path Garden, they weeded, pruned, spread mulch around the grounds, power washed, and hand wiped all the seating areas.

"Syngenta has been helping in our gardens for about 20 years. Their contributions are immeasurable!" Cobb noted.



Volunteers in Action from Syngenta volunteered on AuthoraCare's Greensboro campus on May 12. From left to right: Tramell Zachery; Jake Becker; Sally Cobb, Horticultural Therapist; Tim Oakes; Mark Grunenwald; Caleb Lord; Shanique Grant; and Sue Henshall.
[Theresa Hancock]

Sisterhood & Service

Greensboro's Tri Delta Sorority Supports Kids Path

By Theresa Hancock

For 24 years, members of the Greensboro Alumnae Chapter of Delta Delta Delta have gathered each spring to social and support AuthoraCare Collective's Kids Path program.

On April 1, the group gathered at Gia: Drink. Eat. Listen for their annual Pansy Brunch; the pansy is the symbol of alumnae membership. In addition to lunch, they raised money through donations and an auction of a pansy painting donated by a local artist.

"We were a small, but mighty, group this year," said Sandi Banner, a member of the local chapter. "It means so much to us to help children in our own community."

The Alumnae chapter has raised over \$11,000 since 1999. The funds raised this year were used to purchase arts and crafts supplies for Camp Cardinal – a camp for elementary school age children. (See page 4) The chapter also supports the Holiday Cheer program each December.



The Greensboro Alumnae Chapter of Delta Delta Delta gathered at Gia: Drink. Eat. Listen for its annual Pansy Brunch. Front row (left to right): Blanche Stevens, Ann Jones, Donna Dixon, and Karen Linnane. Back row (left to right): Karil Kaylor, Nelda Brooks, Rebecca Pow, Sandi Banner, Bonnie Nolan, and Karen Rolandelli.
[Photo submitted]

Golf Tournament Supports Kids Path

By Cindy Skinner

Wings To Go and Robert E. Lee “The General” presented AuthoraCare Collective’s Kids Path program with a donation for \$7,084.60 on April 19.

Funds were generated during the first-ever Wings To Go & Robert E. Lee golf tournament on April 1 at Quaker Creek Golf Course in Mebane.

“For years, I’ve wanted to have a golf tournament to support a local nonprofit,” said Jim Upchurch, co-owner of Wings To Go with Carla Cobb.

Lee, who is called “The General” by friends, discovered Kids Path, and AuthoraCare Collective, when his mother was cared for at Beacon Place.

“We just felt like this was the right fit,” Upchurch said.

Kids Path provides support for medically fragile and grieving children. For more information, see pages 6 and 7. Thirty local sponsors helped fund the event, which included door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, food, and music.



From left to right: Cathy Lohr, Kids Path Stewardship Coordinator; Dr. Stephanie Wolfe, Kids Path Director & Physician; Jim Upchurch, co-owner of Wings To Go in Burlington; Robert E. Lee; and Carla Cobb, co-owner of Wings To Go. [Charity Apple]

‘King of the Ranch’ Event Held April 23

By Cindy Skinner

Classic cars, trucks and bikes could be seen making their way around the roads leading up to the Cadillac Ranch throughout the day on April 23.

The 11th annual “King of the Ranch” Car & Bike Show was rescheduled from its original date of April 22, due to inclement weather. The rescheduled date was not only warm and sunny, but those in attendance were able to hear more about Kids Path and the programs and services offered to medically fragile and grieving children through AuthoraCare Collective.

Ronnie Stallings, owner of the Cadillac Ranch, and his daughter, Leah Dodson, venue manager, said they were thrilled to hold the event for the second time.

“It’s such a good feeling to be able to give back to somebody who really needs it,” Stallings said. “We do it all for the kids.”

The event featured 62 local sponsors, which included area businesses and individuals. Cash prizes were awarded to winners of the car and bike categories, a raffle for various prizes, and a 50/50 raffle was held. Toyz and Red Dirt Revival performed.

Since its inception, the car and bike show has raised \$125,000 for Kids Path. Planning for the event, he said, begins in January each year.

A big thank-you goes out to Walter “Bird Dog” Riddle and Allison Nichols for organizing such a successful event!



The 11th annual “King of the Ranch” Car & Bike Show took place April 23 at the Cadillac Ranch in Burlington. The annual event raises funds for AuthoraCare Collective’s Kids Path program. [Charity Apple]

Gift of Music

Keyboard Donated to Volunteer Services

By Charity Apple

While trying to locate a new home for a keyboard, Kathleen McNally immediately thought of AuthoraCare Collective.

The donation was inspired by the memory of her brother, David, who died in hospice care in California.

"A hospice volunteer played the guitar and sang 'Over the Rainbow' as her final song for him," McNally said.

Whenever McNally, who performs at area assisted living centers, plays that song, "I think of him and I'm grateful for her volunteer service."

The keyboard, McNally said, "is a nice, light piano that you can stand and play or put on a table or lap."

It was donated to AuthoraCare's Volunteer Services earlier this year.

"It's quite mobile and I thought that volunteers could play it for patients, like the volunteer played for my brother," she said. "I have heard that the last of our five senses to go is hearing, so music and words are incredibly important."

Teresa Pendergraft, Director of Volunteer Services and Integrated Personalized Support, was thrilled to accept the donation.

"We have two or three volunteers who play piano, and it would be amazing for them to be able to take a keyboard if there was not a piano in the home," Pendergraft said.

Music has always been a part of McNally's life. A professionally trained accordionist and trombonist, she joked, "I play a pretty good piano, too."

McNally uses that talent to entertain residents at area assisted living facilities.

"I find it very rewarding," she said. "But it's not about me."

She quoted Leo Rosten – "I think that the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be compassionate. It is, above all to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you have lived at all."

McNally, a former marketing/development employee at Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro, said she is grateful for her time at what is now AuthoraCare Collective. She remembers fondly working with Pam Barrett, founding Executive Director; the late Dr. Eloise Lewis, founding Board Member, Dean of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Nursing; the late John Lusk, founding Medical Director; and Marion Taylor, Kids Path Director.

"I will be very grateful if my small contribution to your program will bring peace to a hospice patient and/or to his/her/their family members," she added.



Kathleen McNally, a former Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro employee, donated a keyboard to AuthoraCare's Volunteer Services in memory of her brother.

[Photo submitted]



What's Happening?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Journaling Through Grief: An Expressive Arts Workshop

Zoom | **6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 6**

Deadline to register is June 2.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

Living After the Loss of a Spouse/Partner

AuthoraCare Collective | 914 Chapel Hill Rd. Burlington, NC

2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 6, 13, 20, and 27; July 11, 18, and 25

Deadline to register is June 2.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

Yoga for Managing Grief Stress

AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. Greensboro, NC

6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 20

Deadline to register is June 15.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

Expressive Arts for Healing

AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. Greensboro, NC

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 27

Deadline to register is June 20.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.



What's Happening?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED

Living After the Loss of a Spouse/Partner

AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. Greensboro, NC

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. July 13, 20, 27; Aug. 3, 10, 17, and 24

Deadline to register is July 6.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

Grief: What to Expect and What Can Help

Zoom | **6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, July 24**

Deadline to register is July 20.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

Grief: What to Expect and What Can Help

AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. Greensboro, NC

Noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 25

Deadline to register is July 20.

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email griefsupport@authoracare.org.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS

Homicide Loss:

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Facilitated by Lynley SanGeorge. If interested in participating, call 336.579.3799.

Overdose Loss:

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. second Tuesdays of each month.

Facilitated by Kimberly Grove. If interested in participating, call 336.478.2565.

Suicide Loss:

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. second Mondays of each month.

Facilitated by Jennifer Moore. If interested in participating, call 336.532.0112.



Your Story. Our Expert Care.

Palliative | Hospice | Grief Support | Kids Path

914 Chapel Hill Rd, Burlington, NC 27215
2500 Summit Ave, Greensboro, NC 27405
authoracare.org 800.588.8879

Formerly Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell
& Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro

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.

The POWER of KNOWING

A Free Webinar Series

Dementia:

What to Expect and How to Prepare

Understanding comes from knowing. Those providing care for someone with dementia have questions about how the illness might progress and how to provide the best care possible. This webinar will discuss different types of dementia, decisions that often need to be made, common medical concerns and available resources.

Friday, June 23, 2023 | Noon - 1 p.m.

Register at authoracare.zoom.us

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

Transitions & Life Changes

The Death Experience | Parts 1 & 2

Staying Socially Connected: Avoiding Social Isolation

Life Tools for People Living with Dementia and
Their Care Partners

Caring for Veterans: Serving Those Who Have Served

Celebrating Diversity in Hospice & Palliative Care

Healing at the Holidays: Practical Guidance for
Grieving Adults & Families During the Holiday Season

Women's Heart Health

Practical Resources for Aging Well

The Role of Faith in End-of-Life Decisions

An Honest Conversation About Mental Health **NEW!**

Getting Social



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