

# Story lines

A bi-monthly publication from  
AuthoraCare Collective

July/August 2023

## 'Kids Path Saved My Life'

### Counseling Helped Navigate Grief

By Charity Apple

**K**atie Bayless was 17 years old when she experienced a life-changing loss.

Her best friend, Dylan Price, died at the age of 16 due to complications related to leukemia.

"Days and weeks following his death, everything was a blur," Katie said. "I felt like I was floating through life. I honestly had checked out – I didn't feel motivated to do anything."

While in the throes of grief, she Googled "What to do when you've lost a loved one" and found AuthoraCare Collective's Kids Path program.

Katie was a Kids Path counseling client from 2013-14.

"I was lucky to discover Kids Path. I owe my life to this program," she said.

At first, Katie was so filled with emotion that at the counseling sessions, she would sit and cry.

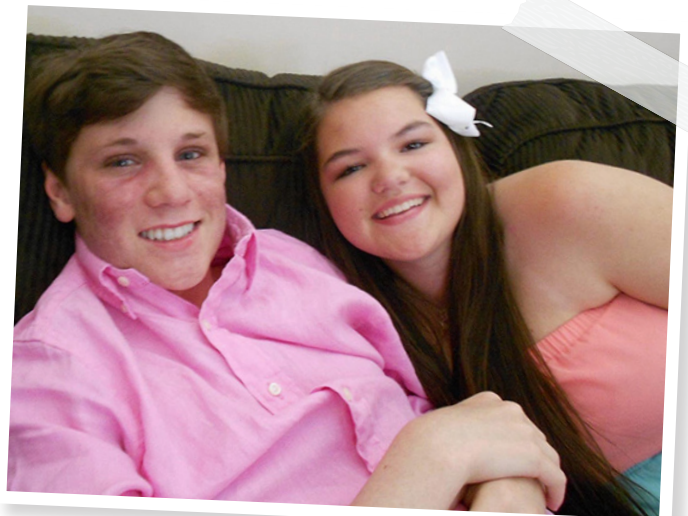
"But the more I went to counseling, the less I would cry. And it was good to be able to talk about Dylan – to keep his memory alive," she said.

As it began to get warmer outside, Katie requested that counseling sessions take place in the gardens.

"My mom loves to garden, and I love to be outside," she said. "I could feel a cool breeze blowing and it was just so peaceful."



*Katie Bayless, left, created an inspiration basket in memory of her friend, Dylan Price. Proceeds benefitted AuthoraCare's Kids Path program. [Photo submitted]*



*Dylan Price and Katie Bayless enjoyed hobbies such as art, music, and baking. [Photo submitted]*

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

# We are Honored to Serve

## Evolving and Changing for Those in Our Care

As I sit to write this, the sun is shining, and the summer heat is present.

I just opened an email that reported we are serving 684 hospice patients today. Additionally, there are more than 1,400 palliative patients under our care.

These numbers take my breath away. Not for their sheer size, but because each number represents someone's life – an individual and unique story. It is humbling.

A chronic disease or serious diagnosis can be paralyzing. Navigating the health care system is challenging. And there are many paths and providers to pick from. That is why it is such an honor when individuals choose us as their care partner. I never take that selection for granted.

Our donors, volunteers, and communities provide strength and resources, enabling us to meet our mission to empower people to take an active role in their care journey.

Now the second largest nonprofit provider of hospice care in North Carolina, AuthoraCare is fulfilling its legacy of community-based care. More than four decades of experience form our foundation to expand programming to address many facets of advanced illness.

Each day, our incredible team is coordinating the unique care journeys of those we are honored to serve. We are driven to provide a high-quality patient experience. We take our lead from the patient, and our services are designed to enhance and support their unique care journey.

We are proud to continue to be a part of the fabric of our community for 40 years. We evolve and change with what our community requires in supporting the sacred needs of those in our care.



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



*Kristen Yntema*

# 'Kids Path Saved My Life'

(cont. from cover)

Art and music therapies helped her cope with the loss. Both were hobbies Dylan enjoyed, so she felt closer to him.

During cancer treatments, Dylan started a project – Art A Day – to help him clear his mind for at least 30 minutes a day. The drawings were posted on Instagram.

“We always looked forward to what he was going to draw next and watched him get better and better with each piece,” she said. “You could tell how much this helped him because he did it every day until he passed. He made it to 281 days in a row, and it was done the day before he died.”

His motto was “breathe in, breathe out, move on” – lines plucked from a Jimmy Buffett song.

“He held on to those words and used them as motivation to get through grueling clinic days,” she said.

Dylan also loved the Dave Matthews Band and would play their music often.

“Now, they’re my all-time favorite band, and I’ve seen them in concert nine times,” she said. “When I go to the shows, I feel like Dylan is there with me.”

In addition to music, Katie and Dylan shared a love of cooking and baking.

“We spent a lot of time together in the kitchen coming up with amazing desserts and treats, something I still love to do today,” she said.

The friends had talked about attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill one day, so it seemed only fitting that he was treated at UNC Hospitals.

“He really was an old soul,” Katie added.

Katie kept all their common interests in mind when creating an inspiration basket for the



*Music and art were hobbies Dylan Price enjoyed. They helped him get through the grueling clinic days, said his friend, Katie Bayless. [Photo submitted]*

16th annual Corks for Kids Path fundraising event, presented by Bee Safe Storage & Wine Cellar, on June 16 at Elm & Bain, 620 S. Elm St., Greensboro. Zeto, in Greensboro, has generously supported Corks for Kids Path for the past 16 years, by donating 100% of all wine profits to Kids Path. See more about Corks for Kids Path on Page 4.

The basket, which was auctioned off, contained a Carolina baseball cap; Dave Matthews Band vinyl record; guitar strap; silicone baking mats; sketchbook and Prismacolor pencils.

“Kids Path counseling really gave me the tools I needed to make better decisions,” she said. “It provided me with insight and coping mechanisms. I was so young, and I didn’t know how to handle all the sadness I felt. I truly believe Kids Path saved my life.”

October 9 will mark 10 years since Dylan’s death, and Katie said she still thinks about him every day.

“He impacted me in ways that still ripple through my life to this day,” she said.



*Katie Bayless and Dylan Price are shown in a photo at the beach. Following Dylan’s death, Katie sought and received counseling from AuthoraCare’s Kids Path program. [Photo submitted]*



# Cheers to Corks for Kids Path

## 16th Annual Event Raises \$185,000

By Theresa Hancock

We are thrilled to announce the resounding success of our recent fundraising event, the 16th annual Corks for Kids Path! Thanks to an unwavering support of our generous sponsors, donors, attendees, and dedicated volunteers, we were able to set a new fundraising record, generating \$185,000 to support Kids Path, a cause close to our hearts.

The 16th Annual Corks for Kids Path took place on Friday, June 16, at Elm and Bain, 620 S. Elm St., Greensboro, transforming the evening into an enchanting celebration of philanthropy and community. The circus-themed event saw an incredible turnout, with supporters coming together for a common cause. The event committee, chaired by Lindsay Burkart, did a magnificent job bringing the event together.

The atmosphere was electric as guests were greeted by the mesmerizing sights and sounds of the evening. Stilt walkers gracefully glided through the crowds,

their towering presence captivating the imagination of everyone. Street musicians filled the air with their melodic tunes, creating an ambience that was as vibrant as it was inviting. But perhaps stealing the show was the ever-popular mirrored lady, who dazzled attendees with her graceful movement and mystifying reflections.

A truly memorable event would not be complete without delectable cuisine, and we were fortunate to have the talented team from 1618 On Location as our caterers. Their culinary expertise delighted guests, providing a fusion of flavors that perfectly complemented the evening's festivities.



Su Peterson and Penny Demetriades, co-owners of Zeto, have generously donated 100% of wine profits to AuthoraCare Collective's Kids Path program for the last 16 years. [Desiree Beckwith]



Kristen Yntema, President/CEO of AuthoraCare Collective; and Pat Soenksen, retired President/CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro. [Charity Apple]



From left to right: Michael Garrett, N.C. State Senator; Allie Garrett; and Kelly and Josh Rotenstreich. [Charity Apple]



A quartet performed as guests arrived at Elm & Bain, 620 S. Elm St., Greensboro. [Desiree Beckwith]



The mirrored lady dazzled attendees with her graceful movement and mystifying reflections. [Desiree Beckwith]



# Cheers to Corks for Kids Path

(cont. from pg. 4)



Lindsay Burkart, Chairperson of Corks for Kids Path, and Brittany Carroll. [Desiree Beckwith]



From left to right: Debbie McIndoo, Casey Crossan, Bryan Crossan, and Jim McIndoo. The McIndoos are Casey Crossan's parents. She is a Trustee on the Foundation Board. [Charity Apple]



Brittney Isphording, stiltwalker, amazed the crowd. [Desiree Beckwith]



Food was provided by 1618 On Location. [Desiree Beckwith]

Additionally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Easy Peasy Decadent Desserts for their generous donation of mouthwatering treats, adding a sweet touch to the evening's culinary offerings.

The silent auction raised over \$20,000 to support the cause.

Attendees and online bidders had the opportunity to bid on an array of items generously donated by local businesses and community members. The enthusiastic participation and competitive spirit demonstrated throughout the auction were truly inspiring.

The funds raised during the Corks for Kids Path will go directly toward supporting Kids Path, providing compassionate care for children and families facing life-limiting illnesses and grief counseling. Through their comprehensive services, Kids Path offers a lifeline of support, ensuring that families have the resources they need during challenging times.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Su Peterson and Penny Demetriades from Zeto for their continuous partnership and commitment to Kids Path. Since the inception of this fundraiser, they have been instrumental in its success by donating 100% of the wine profits to Kids Path. The knowledgeable wine representatives helped boost our wine sales to the highest levels ever.

As we reflect on the overwhelming success of Corks for Kids Path, we are reminded of the power of unity and the extraordinary impact that can be achieved when community comes together. The funds raised will undoubtedly bring comfort, support, and hope to countless families navigating difficult journeys.



Debbie Garrett, owner of Easy Peasy Decadent Desserts, graciously donated sweet treats for the event. [Desiree Beckwith]



Veronica Foster, venue manager of Elm & Bain, 620 S. Elm St., Greensboro. [Desiree Beckwith]

# Cheers to Corks for Kids Path

(cont. from pg. 5)

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Corks for Kids Path Sponsors

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# Heartfelt Messages & Creativity

## Gardening Workshop Provides Healing

By Charity Apple

**D**igging in the dirt, planting something, and watching it grow, can provide healing.

Kids Path tapped into that feeling with four gardening workshops for children and teens June 13-14 in Burlington and June 20-21 in Greensboro.

A myriad of flowering plants in vibrant colors - yellow, orange, red, and purple - lined the tables. Participants could choose three plants and decorate the pots to take home.

"This could begin a tradition to keep planting flowers in this particular pot," said Lindsey Nowacki, Kids Path Counseling Supervisor.

In some instances, the pot represented either their loved one or themselves.

And the flowers selected were as unique as the pots.

"There's often meaning behind the plants," Nowacki said. "Maybe their special person liked the color yellow, or they would have these plants in their garden each year."

Stones also were decorated.

"You get to decide how you use it, decorate it, and its significance to you. You can use it however you like - as encouragement or to memorialize that special someone,"



Various flowering plants are lined up for the gardening workshop on June 14. [Charity Apple]



Candace King, Kids Path Counselor/Pediatric Social Worker, assists a gardening workshop participant in assembling her flowers on June 13. [Lindsey Nowacki]



Participants were given markers to decorate the pots. [Lindsey Nowacki]

Gardening can be therapeutic.

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# Heartfelt Messages & Creativity

(cont. from pg. 7)

said Candace King, Kids Path Counselor/Pediatric Social Worker. “You can put it on top of the plant or put it in the garden or just take it home – you decide.”

At the end of the June 14 workshop, King glanced around the table.

“Take a look around the table at the heartfelt messages and creativity,” she said. “I always learn so much from these workshops as well. You all did such unique work. We can learn from one another.”



Kathy Barrow, Grief Counselor, and a teen work together to pot the plants.  
[Charity Apple]



A teen poses with his finished project.  
[Charity Apple]



Participants draw messages/artwork on their pots.  
[Lindsey Nowacki]



Finished products from the gardening workshop on June 13.  
[Lindsey Nowacki]



# Supporting Caregivers in Their Journey

Together, We Can Do This

By Paul Russ

A family caregiver has a challenging journey. Being thrust into unfamiliar territory can be unsettling. And at the same time, they must navigate their own feelings around the changes affecting their loved one.

“Some embrace this role with an eager, nurturing spirit,” said Merrill Seyler, RN, BSN, MHA, VP of Quality and Compliance. “Some, intimidated and overwhelmed, take on the duty out of necessity. And some experience all these feelings at different stages of the care journey. No approach is wrong or right. Each person’s journey is unique and valid. Regardless of the individual caregiver’s perspective, there is help available.”

AuthoraCare Collective team members offer a host of supportive services for the caregiver.

With a mission to empower others to be active participants in their care journey, our team has a responsibility to discover the unique needs of each situation and to offer solutions.

Our support may include a listening ear: a safe place for patients and caregivers to share their fears and doubts. Sometimes being heard and receiving words of encouragement are all that is needed. “You can do this.”

The struggles may be of a spiritual nature. If so, a chaplain can help navigate the complex feelings people have as they seek greater understanding.

Caregivers also benefit from the personal care services provided by our Certified Nursing Assistants such as bathing their loved one.

“At AuthoraCare, we believe in the power of knowing,” said Seyler. “Education and training

are a key part of the support our team can provide to a caregiver. Each stage of disease progression can bring new challenges. There may be new symptoms to address, new medications to take, or new pieces of equipment to use. Each of these changes can be intimidating.”

Our team will be there to train and build the caregiver’s confidence. “You can do this.”

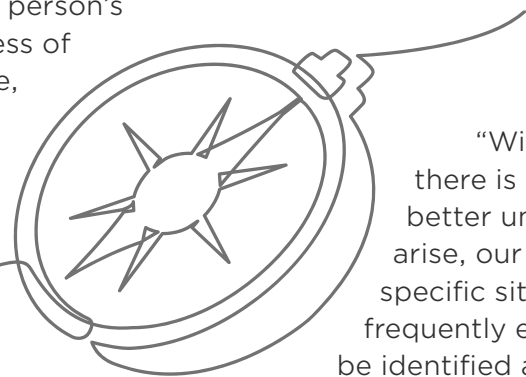
Training and guidance may not eliminate the anxiety a caregiver feels. But they will feel supported.

“We offer training broadly,” Seyler continued.

“With each visit, we will ask if there is anything we can help them better understand. And as needs arise, our training will address those specific situations.” For example, a more frequently experienced symptom could be identified as difficulty with anxiety. If so, our nurse can train the caregiver to address and minimize their loved one’s anxiety. The caregiver can also be trained on what anxiety may look like when it needs more professional attention.

“Ultimately, our goal is to partner with the family caregiver to empower them in their role,” said Seyler. “Together, we can ensure the patient has a positive experience. And, when we provide the right support, the caregiver can better focus on their role as spouse, parent, child, or friend.”

“When we provide the right support, the caregiver can better focus on their role as spouse, parent, child, or friend.” — Merrill Seyler



# Role of Faith in End-of-Life Decisions

## Importance of an 'Ethical Will'

By Charity Apple

When end-of-life decisions are being made, faith can provide support and resources.

AuthoraCare Collective's Power of Knowing webinar series recently discussed The Role of Faith in End-of-Life Decisions.

Panelists included: Gail LeBauer, a retired psychiatric nurse who currently serves on the Board of Trustees at the AuthoraCare Foundation; The Rev. Holly Lux-Sullivan, a board-certified chaplain at AuthoraCare; and The Rev. Ray L. Watlington, Staff Chaplain at Cone Health on the Moses Cone Campus. Risa Hanau, Clinical & Community Educator at AuthoraCare, served as moderator.

"So much of what chaplains do is listen – they listen to what matters to patients and families," Lux-Sullivan said. "Faith comes in to shore us up as we begin that grieving process. There's such a rich connection in our traditions as we may feel adrift. Faith can mean different things to different people. We talk about what the patients' and families' needs are in this process."

The panel discussed that it's more than just planning who will officiate at the funeral or memorial service or what music to play. It's a matter of composing an ethical will – what traditions or rituals are desired during the end-of-life journey.

"It comes down to being able to know your loved ones and know what's important to them," Watlington said.

Having these conversations, the panelists explained, can honor loved ones as well as ensuring that their wishes are followed.



The Rev. Holly Lux-Sullivan



The Rev. Ray L. Watlington

Faith, for many, is a part of life.

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# Role of Faith in End-of-Life Decisions

(cont. from pg. 10)

"Faith shows up in a myriad of ways," LeBauer said. "I think it's important to offer support where that faith is."

Chaplains, Lux-Sullivan and Watlington explained, develop relationships with clients.

"We work to maintain a sense of dignity, worth, comfort, and security during the end-of-life process," Watlington said.

Some of that work involves providing familiar rituals.

Lux-Sullivan recalled a patient who wished to have baptism. She was unable to attend church and so a baptism took place in her kitchen sink.

"We provide rituals that are familiar/unique to patients. And in turn, these rituals provide a sense of release and relief," Lux-Sullivan said.

The end-of-life process can challenge us - emotionally and mentally.

"As loved ones and caregivers, it is important to know that it's all going to be all right. But it's not all going to be a bed of roses. Sometimes there are thorns in roses and you can get hurt, you can get poked, but you also can smell the fragrance and observe the beauty," LeBauer said.

**For more details on Power of Knowing webinars, including the upcoming event in August, see back cover.**



Gail LeBauer



Risa Hanau



A recording of the  
**The Role of Faith in  
End-of-Life Decisions**  
webinar is available at  
[authoracare.org/knowing](http://authoracare.org/knowing)

## Greensboro Elks Charity Golf Tournament

Register to play or consider being a sponsor or silent-auction donor for this great event.

We will start with a pre-tournament social and auction at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 14, at the Greensboro Elks Lodge, 2201 W. Cornwallis Dr. Greensboro, NC.

Tournament Day begins with registration and Putting Contest at 7 a.m. Friday, September 15, at Bryan Park's Players Course, 6275 Bryan Park Rd. Brown Summit, NC

The format is Captain's Choice with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes, a box lunch, and fellowship, for a great cause!



To learn more or register to play, please call 336.288.5100



# Warm, Inviting Space

## Counseling Center Gets a Refresh

By Charity Apple

Last summer, AuthoraCare Collective began a “refresh” at its campuses.

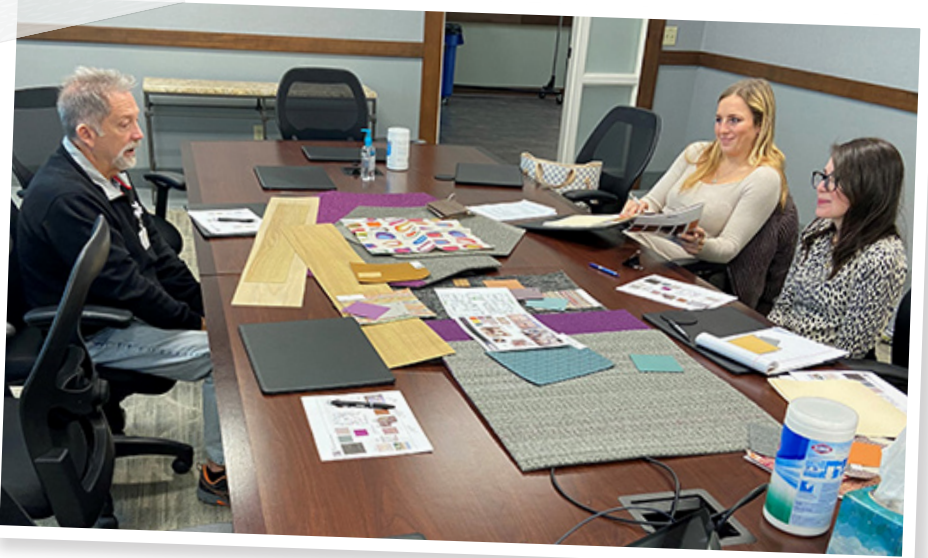
“We hired designers and started collaborating and making artistic decisions,” said Leigh Williams, Chief Financial Officer.

Following a year of planning, remodeling, and rebranding, the Welcome and Counseling Center, 2504 Summit Ave., Greensboro, is now the site of counseling services for both children and adults. Kids Path is still housed in the building.

“It’s a better space to do what we do,” said Ryan Mahler, Director of Counseling and Wellbeing.

The grief and chaos clients feel can often be exacerbated by clutter and disorganization, Mahler said, so this update has resulted in a warm, inviting space.

Workshops and support groups, which were held at The Lusk Center in the past, can now take place here. In addition to the updated rooms, the gardens outside the building serve as the site of counseling sessions.



*Design Meeting: From left to right: Bob Cox, Director of Facilities, meets with Emily Surmons and Erin Peters with Design Environments. [Leigh Williams]*

“Our gardens are so beautiful and inviting,” Mahler said. “I have often walked outside with clients and sat on the patio to talk.”

The design and feel of the building put the clients’ needs at the forefront.

“We wanted to create a nice flow with more of a family feel,” said Devin Griffith, Chief Operating Officer. “Parents and children can now come in together and receive services in the center at the same time.”

*Following a year of planning, remodeling, and rebranding, the Welcome and Counseling Center, 2504 Summit Ave., Greensboro, is now the site of counseling services for both children and adults. [Desiree Beckwith]*





# Warm, Inviting Space

(cont. from pg. 12)



Receptionist Doyle Berryman greets visitors as they enter the Welcome and Counseling Center.  
[Desiree Beckwith]

AuthoraCare has a long history of serving the needs of the community and this update is in tune with our mission to empower people to be the authors of their life stories.

“Coming out of COVID-19 has amplified those feelings of grief and loss for a lot of people,” Griffith said. “This is just another way of meeting clients where they are and serving their needs.”

A grand opening will be announced later.

“This update is really something for the community to be proud of,” Williams said. “It’s a continuation of our commitment to stewardship and dedication to those we serve daily.”



The second floor work area has also gotten a refresh with our updated branding and core beliefs.  
[Desiree Beckwith]



The inviting colors of the updated mural add a comforting, nature-inspired feel to the conference room. [Desiree Beckwith]

A cozy corner bookshelf with an abundance of resources.  
[Desiree Beckwith]



“ It’s a continuation of our commitment to stewardship and dedication to those we serve daily. ” — Leigh Williams

**12:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 12**  
**Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center**  
**921 Eastchester Dr. #1230**  
**High Point**

**Open to all VETERANS 50 and over  
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**Must RSVP at the Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center  
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## 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# Ridgewood Try a Tri

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

It will take place **Sept. 2** at the **Ridgewood Swim and Tennis Club, 808 James Doak Parkway, Greensboro.**

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.

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.



Scan the QR code  
for more details





# Sunflowers for the Cause

## Union Grove Farm and Vineyard

6900 Rocky Ridge Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278

*Union Grove Farm  
and neighboring  
Maple View Ice Cream  
have teamed up for  
the second annual  
Sunflowers  
for the Cause.*

*The five acres of  
sunflowers are open to  
the public for photos  
and picking - with one  
request - donations be  
made to **Sam's Wish Fund**  
at AuthoraCare Collective.*

*The sunflowers are available  
for a limited time.*



**Look for this  
signage at our  
locations.**

Scan the QR Code  
to make for an easy  
donation process.

**Thank You!**

## Director of Learning and Education Selected as AAN Fellow

By Charity Apple

**J**ulie O'Neal, MSN, RN, NPD-C, and CEN, Director of Learning and Education at AuthoraCare Collective, will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing's (AAN) 2023 Class of Fellows Oct. 5-7 in Washington, D.C.

O'Neal will be recognized at the academy's Health Policy Conference, "Celebrating 50 Years of Leadership, Policy, and Partnership."

"Each fellow of the academy is changing the future of health and health care through their support to advance equity, promote inclusion, and lift up the next generation of nurses, advancing the academy's vision of healthy lives for all people," said Kenneth R. White, PhD, RN, AGACNP, ACHPN, FACHE, FAAN, and President of the American Academy of Nursing.

O'Neal is among the 253 nurse leaders set to be inducted. It is the largest class of fellows, representing 40 states, the District of Columbia, and 13 countries. She is one of 12 chosen from North Carolina.

"I am honored to have been selected knowing the contributions of so many nurses," she said.

The academy reviewed nearly 400 applications and selected fellows based on their contributions to advance public health.

O'Neal's mentor, Dr. Ernest Grant, a former American Nurses Association past president, encouraged her to apply.

Her selection is based on participation in a nursing collaborative with the Republic of Moldova, which began in 2012. O'Neal was working at Cone Health at the time. She has been with AuthoraCare for two years.

"This collaborative led to having a nurse on the Ministry of Health to oversee nursing practice. Previously, this oversight was led by physicians," she said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, O'Neal also presented a live webinar available to nurses across Moldova - "A Response to the COVID-19 Crisis."

Additional educational programs, translated into Romanian, were recorded, and are still utilized by nurses in Moldova today.



*Julie O'Neal, MSN, RN, NPD-C, CEN, and Director of Learning and Education at AuthoraCare Collective, will be inducted into the **American Academy of Nursing's** 2023 Class of Fellows Oct. 5-7 in Washington, D.C.*



cont. from pg. 16

April Herring, Community Education/Outreach Coordinator at AuthoraCare Collective, and Alexis Williams, Executive Director of Caregiver Connect, pose for a photo on June 19 at the WGHP-Fox8 Studio in High Point. Herring and Williams were promoting the **Cruising into Summer ... with a Family Caregiver Getaway** event at AuthoraCare's Lusk Center on June 24. AuthoraCare and Caregiver Connect partnered for the event which was exclusively for caregivers.

[Photo submitted]



Brad Jones, WGHP-FOX8 Morning News Anchor, and Risa Hanau, Clinical and Community Educator, discuss the **Power of Knowing webinar: Dementia, What to Expect and How to Prepare**, on May 15. The free webinar was held on June 23 via Zoom. [Photo submitted]

# Contestant Donates Winnings to Kids Path

## *Sixth Grader Received Second Place in Leadership Challenge*

By Charity Apple

Nolan Dixon is familiar with the importance of good medical care.

His mother, Leigh Ann, is a nurse. And throughout his young life, he has heard the story of his uncles, who died of Trisomy 13, in utero.

As a contestant in the McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge, Nolan was required to seek a solution to a problem in his local community through research, public speaking, and community action. The contest was presented by the North Carolina Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and the North Carolina Bar Association,

Nolan discovered that the lack of specialty pediatric medical care was a problem in rural areas. Through Internet research, he found AuthoraCare Collective's Kids Path program. He used it as the model for how a specialty health care program is getting it right and others could follow suit.

"AuthoraCare Collective's Kids Path program provides support to not only children who are experiencing life-threatening illnesses, but grief, and those who are expecting babies with life-threatening conditions and illnesses," he said. "If AuthoraCare's Kids Path program can do it, others can as well."

Nolan, a rising sixth grader at Uwharrie Charter Academy, addressed three Supreme Court judges on May 5 in downtown Raleigh.

"They treated him like an adult," Leigh Ann said. "He was the youngest contestant out of the four finalists in the state. But Nolan was steadfast in his delivery. And they were impressed. So was I. He did the research, and the judges acknowledged that."

Nolan won second place and donated his \$500 prize to Kids Path.



*Nolan Dixon, a rising sixth grader at Uwharrie Charter Academy, won second place in the McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge. [Photo submitted]*



*Nolan and Mike McIntyre: Former congressman Mike McIntyre poses for a photo with Nolan Dixon, second-place winner in the McIntyre Youth Leadership Challenge. The event was presented by the North Carolina Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and the North Carolina Bar Foundation. [Photo submitted]*

"I am so honored to be able to donate and I hope that the money can help the kids supported by this organization," he said.

This isn't the first time Nolan has served as a health care advocate. He appeared in a commercial, "Kids Show Love to N.C. Health Care Workers" during the pandemic.

"I am super proud of him. He is smart and empathetic," Leigh Ann said. "And we both are grateful for all that AuthoraCare does for the community – your care spans generations."

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## Summer Solstice Ultra Relay Raises \$1,325 for AuthoraCare

By Charity Apple

At first, Pete Barusic wasn't sure if the Summer Solstice Ultra Relay would occur.

"It's amazing what happens when you 'walk by faith and not by sight,'" Barusic said.

The weather, leading up to the event, wasn't promising, either. The first part of the week was rainy and Barusic worried that the trails in and around Doggettville Farm in Summerfield would be soggy.

But on June 24, both the attendance and the weather were a pleasant surprise. It was sunny, and warm, "but a brief afternoon shower cooled things off," he said.

From 6:03 a.m. to 8:39 p.m., 37 participants completed a collective 580 miles.

"At the peak, we had 23 people on course at one time," Barusic said.

Participants were encouraged to donate to AuthoraCare Collective, an organization dear to Barusic's heart.

The event raised \$1,325 for AuthoraCare.

This is the fifth Summer Solstice Ultra Relay Barusic has helped organize. The first took place in 2019 and was a fundraiser for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. Barusic, along with his friends, Joe Matthews, and Walt Maxwell, organized that event. It benefitted that foundation until last year when Barusic, a physical therapist, became familiar with AuthoraCare through a client. Matthews and Maxwell were there for this year's event as well.

"I enjoy doing it," Barusic said. "And it benefits such a worthy organization. What you all do in people's lives is so empowering and special."



Alan Warren and his dog, Louie, ran four miles. His wife, Beth, and their dog, Kona, ran six miles. [Charity Apple]



Married couple Darian and Nicole Smith participated in the Summer Solstice Ultra Relay on June 24 at Doggettville Farm. Darian, Nicole, and their two young children, logged 104 miles. [Charity Apple]



Walt Maxwell, Pete Barusic, and Joe Matthews pose for a photo on June 24 at Doggettville Farm in Summerfield. The three friends started the Summer Solstice Ultra Relay in 2019. Barusic has continued to organize the event, which for the last two years has benefitted AuthoraCare Collective. [Charity Apple]

## Sources of Solace & Comfort

### *Pillows Make Profound Impact on Campers*

By Theresa Hancock and Cathy Lohr

**P**illows are much more than just cushions; they are sources of solace and comfort for patients in various health care settings.

Pillow ministries from Osceola Baptist Church in Browns Summit; Peace United Church of Christ; and Stitch-N-Time from Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, both in Greensboro, have been providing pillows to AuthoraCare Collective for many years.

From adults receiving care in Home Care and Long-Term Care facilities to those seeking support at Beacon Place, Hospice Home, and Kids Path, these pillows provide not only physical comfort but also a vibrant touch that brightens up the rooms. Moreover, they represent the compassion and extra effort made by someone who truly cares.

At AuthoraCare, Kids Path stands as the beacon of hope for two groups of children - those who face terminal or life-threatening illnesses and those who have experienced the loss of a family member and require counseling.

*A Camp Cardinal camper poses with her pillow.  
[Cathy Lohr]*



May witnessed the special usage of these pillows, donated by Peace United Church of Christ, during the first-ever Camp Cardinal, an event designed for children participating in Kids Path's grief counseling program. On Saturday, May 6, the Environmental Education Center at Haw River State Park, situated just north of Greensboro near Browns Summit, became a hub of sunshine, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

Approximately 25 children, ranging from grades 1 to 5, were joined by an equal number of dedicated staff and volunteers. Engaging in a variety of activities such as fishing, crafts, pet therapy dog sessions, nature walks, insightful presentations, and s'mores indulgence, the campers reveled in a day filled with joy and camaraderie.

Importantly, they had the opportunity to gather in small groups, where they shared cherished

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## Alamance County Service League Volunteers at Thrift Store

By Charity Apple

**F**our members of the Alamance County Service League volunteered at AuthoraCare's Hospice Thrift Store, 2134 Hanford Rd., Burlington, on May 20.

Several bags of packing paper were recently donated to the store to help insulate valuable purchases from breakage.

"When customers purchase dishes and other breakable items, our cashiers wrap them up to protect them," said Karen Clark, Thrift Store Manager. "In the past, newspapers were used but it's getting harder and harder to find newspapers, so we are thankful for these donations."

League members were tasked with flattening, cutting, and stacking the papers for future use.



*Ellen Bowen, a member of the Alamance County Service League, sorts through and flattens packing paper. [Charity Apple]*

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## COMMUNITY CORNER

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memories and paid tribute to the loved ones they had lost. Bonds were formed, and new friendships flourished throughout the day. As a memento of their experience, each child received a special pillow to call their own.

The profound impact of these pillows became evident when a little girl, feeling unwell in the afternoon, clung to her pillow as if it were a beloved stuffed animal. Every camper cherished their vibrant and comforting pillows, expressing their gratitude for having a colorful keepsake to take home.

Mindy Lepard, a dedicated volunteer at Kids Path, took on the responsibility of sorting the pillows for distribution among the campers. Each pillow was carefully placed in the campers' bags, ready to be picked up at the end of the day. Witnessing the sheer joy that

*Mindy Lepard, a Kids Path volunteer, sorted the pillows for distribution among the campers. [Cathy Lohr]*



these pillows brought to the campers, it was evident that the campers, held a special affection for their newfound companions. Their radiant smiles reflected the happiness and contentment experienced by all the children who received these pillows at Camp Cardinal.

In the realm of health care and counseling, sometimes it is the simplest gestures that make the most profound impact. Special thanks to Theo Scott, of the Pillow Ministry at Peace United Church of Christ and Linda Rapp, of Stitch-N-Time at Friendly Avenue Baptist Church. Through the provision of these pillows, we extend a gentle touch of comfort and care to those in need, reminding them that they are not alone in their journey.

*Peace United Church of Christ in Greensboro has provided pillows to AuthoraCare Collective for many years. This year, they provided pillows for the first-ever Camp Cardinal on May 6. [Cathy Lohr]*



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The league, which has been giving back to the community since 1929, strives to uplift the disadvantaged members of Alamance County through community partnerships and service.

The concept for the thrift store morphed out of the Hospice Flea Market, which was first organized in 1990. Previous locations have been in Burlington and Haw River. The current location opened on Jan. 3, 2019.

Proceeds from the thrift store benefit AuthoraCare's hospice services – so it's a purchase (and a donation) you can feel good about making. Thrift store hours

are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and donations can be dropped off at the loading dock between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Large donations, such as furniture and appliances, can be picked up by calling 336.532.0164.

If you are interested in volunteering for AuthoraCare Collective in any capacity (including the thrift store), call 336.621.2500 or visit [authoracare.org/volunteer](http://authoracare.org/volunteer).



*From left to right: Alamance County Service League members Kandy Thomas and Jennifer Turner listen as Karen Clark, Thrift Store Manager, talks about the importance of donations to the thrift store. [Charity Apple]*



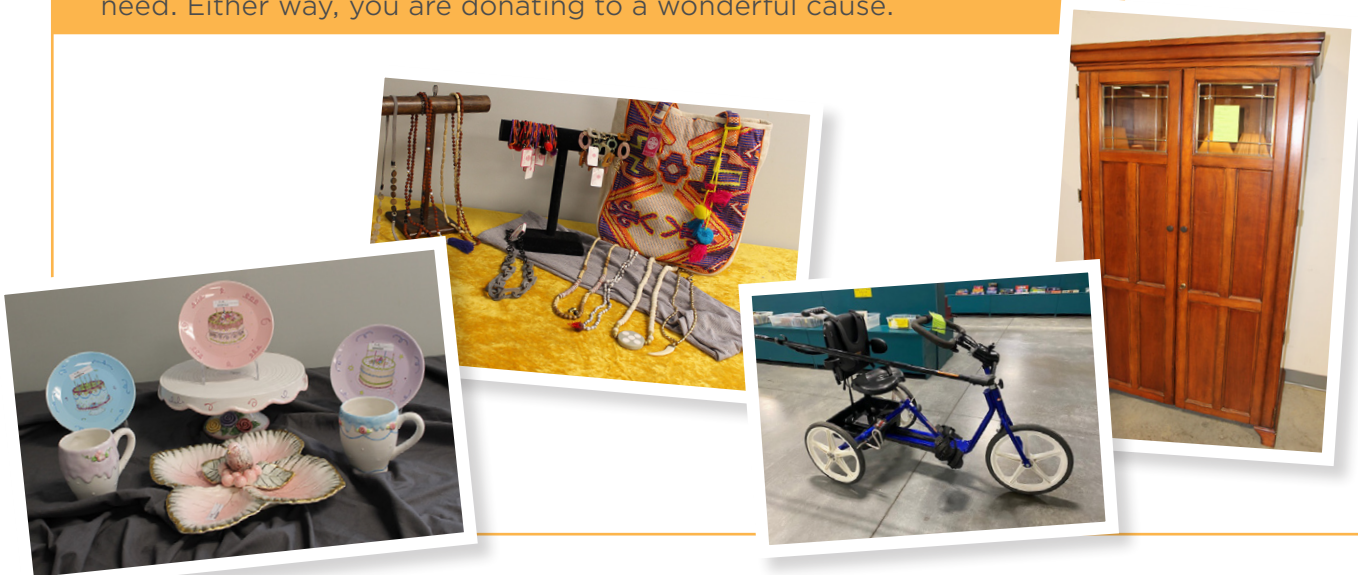
# Fill the Truck

**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 336.532.0164 or 336.478.2502 or visit us on Facebook and Instagram.**

## Visit AuthoraCare's Hospice Thrift Store!

Shop for unique items at great prices or drop off items you no longer need. Either way, you are donating to a wonderful cause.







# What's Happening?

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Living After the Loss of a Parent

*AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. | Greensboro, N.C.*

**6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 15, 22, 29; Sept. 5, 12, and 19**

**Deadline to register is Aug. 8.**

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email [griefsupport@authoracare.org](mailto:griefsupport@authoracare.org)

### Living After the Loss of an Adult Child

*AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. | Greensboro, N.C.*

**6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, and 26**

**Deadline to register is Aug. 31.**

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email [griefsupport@authoracare.org](mailto:griefsupport@authoracare.org)

### Living After the Loss of a Spouse/Partner

*AuthoraCare Collective | 2500 Summit Ave. | Greensboro, N.C.*

**2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 13, 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, and 25**

**Deadline to register is Sept. 7.**

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email [griefsupport@authoracare.org](mailto:griefsupport@authoracare.org)

### Living After the Loss of a Spouse/Partner

*AuthoraCare Collective | 914 Chapel Hill Rd. | Burlington, N.C.*

**6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, and 26**

**Deadline to register is Sept. 7**

To register, call 336.621.5565 or email [griefsupport@authoracare.org](mailto:griefsupport@authoracare.org)

### Veterans Appreciation Cookout

*Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center | 921 Eastchester Dr. #1230 | High Point, N.C.*

**12:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 12**

**Open to all veterans 50 years old and up plus one guest.**

*Sponsored by AuthoraCare Collective's We Honor Veterans program;  
City of High Point; Griswold Home Care; and HealthTeam Advantage.*

*To register, call 336.883.3584*

## 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.

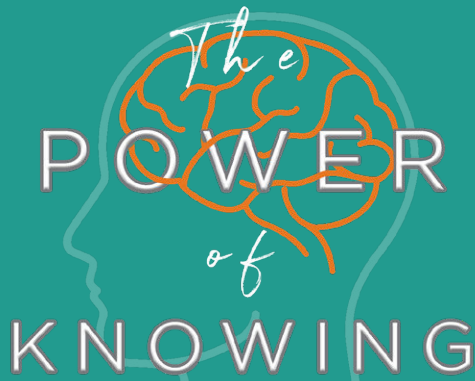
Palliative | Hospice | Grief Support | Kids Path

914 Chapel Hill Rd, Burlington, NC 27215  
2500 Summit Ave, Greensboro, NC 27405  
[authoracare.org](http://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.



*A Free Webinar Series*

### ***Loving and Understanding Someone with Addiction***

Understanding comes from knowing. Many people love or know someone living with addiction. It is a complicated and difficult disease to understand. This webinar will discuss what addiction is, options for care, and support available to all who are touched by addiction.

**Tuesday, August 15, 2023 | Noon - 1 p.m.**

Register at [authoracare.zoom.us](https://authoracare.zoom.us)

## **Now Streaming On Demand at [authoracare.org/knowning](https://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

**Dementia: What to Expect and How to Prepare NEW!**

Getting Social



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