

# A virtually amazing wish granted

Hospice care is about hope and choice as we near the end of our journey though life. It is about being cared for in the place we call home, surrounded by family and loved ones, and free of pain. It is about being treated with the compassion and dignity we deserve at life's end. In essence, it is about making the most of every day. Sometimes, it even includes making a long-time wish come true.

Imagine attending an Asheville teacher's college in the 1920's. Out of your dormitory window, you can see the beautiful Biltmore

Estate. Now, fast forward to 2009. You are 103 years old and living in a Charlotte-area skilled nursing facility. On the wall in your room hangs a picturesque poster of that same magnificent mansion. You gaze at it every day, yet you have never been inside ... not even once! This was the case for Mrs. Alta Howie, a Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region (HPCCR) patient and resident at Mecklenburg Health Care Center.

Knowing that Mrs. Howie had never visited the Biltmore House when she lived in Asheville, her HPCCR care team asked her if

You gaze  
 at it every day,  
 yet you have  
 never been inside ...  
 not even once!

she would like to take a tour. Without hesitation, she answered with a resounding, yes! The team knew, however, that making the trip would be physically exhausting for the elderly patient, so they put their heads together and came up with an alternative method of seeing the house; Mrs. Howie could take a *virtual* tour from the comfort of her own living room at Mecklenburg Health Care Center.

Soon after contacting the Biltmore House, a package arrived containing a 45-minute DVD with a narrated tour of the palatial estate. Also included were picture brochures and other literature describing America's largest home, its winery, gardens, and the rich history of the Vanderbilt family who built it and lived there. Mrs. Howie's family, friends, and HPCCR staff were invited to join this special tour, shown on a large-screen television. Her daughter, Sara Howie Haymond, provided gourmet snacks and beverages to top off a wonderful and most memorable occasion.

Mrs. Howie is one of nearly 180 patients cared for each day by our specialized Hospice Alternative Residence Teams. Doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, medical social workers, chaplains, grief counselors, and trained volunteers make visits to more than 80 long-term care communities in our eight-county service area. They provide our full range of hospice and palliative care services to the residents and their families, while also offering consultation and education to the staff at each community.

At these communities, the teams provide specialized care to patients who have a diagnosis of dementia. Sensory kits, which include sounds, sights, smells, tastes, and tactile stimuli, improve quality of life and help patients connect with their past while enjoying the present.

Our staff truly goes the extra mile to provide compassionate and creative care to meet the needs of our patients and their families. And you never know—your Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region team might even take you to places you have only dreamed of visiting!

*For more information about the comprehensive services provided by Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region, visit our website at [www.hpccr.org](http://www.hpccr.org)*



**Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region team members, Allison Rizk, chaplain, Lucy Dale, companion volunteer, and Mrs. Alta Howie, 103-year-old patient, plus Nanette Norman, nurse, and Janet Frederick, medical social worker, all participated in the virtual tour of Biltmore House in the comfort of the community room at Mecklenburg Health Care Center in Charlotte.**

## How we care for you ...

- HOSPICE CARE
- PALLIATIVE MEDICINE CONSULTANTS
- PEDIATRIC CARE - KIDS PATH®
- GRIEF CARE
- INPATIENT & RESIDENTIAL HOSPICE CARE
- PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Would you like  
 to read this  
 newsletter  
 online?



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# Having our say in health care reform

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*President Obama requested our ideas for improving America's health care system. As part of the Obama-Biden Transition Project, Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region hosted a community health care discussion group with emphasis on end-of-life care. This well-attended forum engendered lively discussion and suggestions for change from community citizens and health care professionals alike. Among the participants was Dr. John Barkley, our Chief Medical Officer, who described his experience as eye-opening. John's comments, and his call to action to the health care community at large, are below.*



**A Message from Janet Fortner, President & CEO, and John E. Barkley, MD, FCCP, Chief Medical Officer.**

On December 30, I attended a "Health Care Community Discussion" as part of the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Like many other volunteer groups around the country, our task was to outline concerns facing our health care system and to suggest how possible policy initiatives could assist in the health care reform that has been promised by the new administration. There are many pressing issues facing the American health care system including uninsured and underinsured citizens, a fragmented delivery system, and health outcomes that are well below other western countries that spend far less. However, at the risk of sounding mushy,

the most striking aspect of this gathering was the stories regarding end-of-life care.

I cannot adequately convey the emotion that was expressed that day by the 37 people representing health care professionals, clergy, community members, and family members of patients who have died. Person after person told their own version of the same story - namely that they and their loved one learned of hospice too late or not at all; that they did not learn about hospice from their treating physician; that if they were referred it was often with reluctance; that pain and other symptoms were poorly or completely uncontrolled; and that there was little to no regard for the family. To be sure, there were some positive stories of compassionate care, but the general mood was one of, "Why are doctors that way?"

I imagine most, if not all of us, would immediately dismiss this type of report as applying to someone else. Having been formerly on the private practice side, and now on the hospice side of things, I would humbly submit that all of us can, and should, do better. Based on recommendations from multiple medical societies including the American Medical Association, the American College of Chest Physicians, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American College of Cardiology, the Society for Critical Care Medicine, and many others, and factoring in the stories that were shared during the Obama-Biden Health Care Community Discussion groups, as health care professionals, I urge all of us to adopt the following practices:

1. Discuss palliative care and hospice as options when advanced

and/or incurable illness is diagnosed.

2. Ask patients and families what their goals are beyond curing or controlling the underlying disease.
3. When disease progression occurs, re-visit the issue of hospice care and how it pertains to patient and family goals.
4. Encourage and assist our patients to complete advance care planning documents such as Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST), Living Wills, and Health Care Powers of Attorney.

Finally, let's not forget the overwhelming fear and frustration that patients and families experience when coping with a life-threatening illness. By adopting the above practices, we will make great strides toward achieving our primary obligation as physicians to relieve suffering for all those in our charge.

– John E. Barkley, MD, FCCP

*We have collected the comments from our healthcare community discussion and submitted them to the Obama-Biden Transition Project. We will be holding additional health care-related discussions in the future (details forthcoming). Together, we can all work to help our country deal successfully with the challenges at hand.*

## STAFF PHYSICIANS & NURSE PRACTITIONERS

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\* Board Certified in Hospice & Palliative Medicine

*The mission of Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region is to relieve suffering and improve the quality and dignity of life through compassionate hospice care for those at the end of life, palliative care for those with advanced illness, and through community education.*

# Health Care Decisions Day

Every day, we make decisions that impact our relationships, our work life, and how we spend our time and money. Some of these decisions have little or no long-term consequences in our lives, while others do. One of the most important decisions we can make for ourselves is how we want to spend our last days or months, should we be faced with a life-threatening illness or a condition where we are unable to communicate on our own terms. Unfortunately, too few of us have taken the necessary steps to ensure that those wishes are honored.

**"Advance care planning is a gift you give to your loved ones and yourself."**

Today, we are living longer, many of us with chronic diseases, and talking about end-of-life choices must become an important part of any comprehensive health care plan. Our inaction leaves loved ones without guidance and at a painful loss if unfortunate circumstances befall us. It can also often lead to unwanted, futile, and expensive medical treatments. Ultimately, it brings us face-to-face with why we need to be clear about what we want at life's end.

This kind of planning and decision-making calls for *understanding* our future

healthcare choices, *thinking* about those choices in light of our values, beliefs, and priorities, and *talking* about our decisions with health care providers and loved ones. The final step is *documenting* our plans in the form of Living Wills, Health Care Powers of Attorney, and the new Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (M.O.S.T.), a set of physician orders designed to encourage conversations about treatment choices between seriously ill patients, their family members or surrogates, and healthcare providers. These documents are called advance directives, and completing them is one of the best gifts that we can give a loved one.

In April 2008, the federal government designated the first National Health Care Decisions Day, designed to increase awareness about the importance of having an end-of-life care plan and to promote sharing these decisions with loved ones. This year it will be held on April 16.

Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region has resources and staff to help foster these meaningful conversations and to assist in completing the necessary documents. We can facilitate group discussions or workshops on the topic. For more information, or to schedule a presentation, please contact Marilyn Morenz at 704.335.3579 or [morenz@hpccr.org](mailto:morenzm@hpccr.org).

## Say it with flowers

Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region welcomes volunteers with varied interests and talents who want to help improve the quality of life for our patients and their families. Please contact Jaelyn Wachtel at 704.335.3578 or [wachtelj@hpccr.org](mailto:wachtelj@hpccr.org), if you would like information about the many volunteer opportunities that are available. Training is also provided.



**Mr. LeRoy Maxwell a patient at Levine & Dickson Hospice House (LDHH), is just one of several who enjoyed receiving arrangements made by volunteer Angelica Casaletto. Beautiful, fresh flowers are donated by Charlotte Friends with Flowers, a program started by Brian Doolittle, a local florist whose mother passed away at LDHH.**

**Have you had an extraordinary experience with hospice?**

Would you like to include **Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region** in your estate plans?

If so, please contact Penelope Wilson, MBA, CFRE, Development Officer at **704.335.4325** or [wilsonp@hpccr.org](mailto:wilsonp@hpccr.org).

## Mark your calendar

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit [www.hpccr.org](http://www.hpccr.org) for detailed information about each event, or contact Nancy Cole, Manager of Special Events, at 704.335.4312 or [colen@hpccr.org](mailto:colen@hpccr.org).

#### Dash & Dine 5K

Saturday, May 16, 8 - 11am  
Mama Ricotta's Italian Restaurant  
601 South Kings Drive, Charlotte  
Hosted by: Mama Ricotta's, Big Daddy's Burger Bar, and Cantina 1511  
For runners/walkers of all ages

#### Lake Norman Hospice Regatta Party

Friday, May 15, 7 - 10pm  
The Peninsula Club, Cornelius  
Featuring a silent and live auction, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment

#### 9th Annual Lake Norman Hospice Regatta

Saturday - Sunday, May 16 - 17, 8am  
Sails from Lake Norman Yacht Club Mooresville  
For competitive and non-competitive sailors

#### Taste of Birkdale

June 20, 4 - 7pm  
Birkdale Village Shopping Center Huntersville

#### Burger for a Buck

Date and time pending  
Earth Fare Market & Café  
1-485 & Johnston Road, Charlotte

#### 2nd Annual Pedal the Park

15, 30, and 60-mile bicycle ride  
Monday, September 7, 8am  
The Park Huntersville - Benefits Levine & Dickson Hospice House  
Hosted by Spirited Cyclist Bike Shop and Charlotte Sports Cycling  
Open to all cyclists

#### Hit the Brixx 10K Run/5K Run-Walk

Saturday, September 26, 8am  
Brixx Wood Fired Pizza Uptown  
225 East Sixth Street, Charlotte  
Supports our Kids Path® program  
For runners/walkers of all ages

#### 6th annual Historic Plaza Midwood/Chantilly Chili Cook-off

October 10, Noon - 6pm  
1318-D Central Avenue  
Central & Pecan Avenues, Charlotte

#### 6th Annual Dennis D. Lowery Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, October 12, 10am (Tee - off)  
Rocky River Golf Club, Concord  
All golfers welcome!

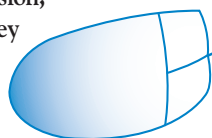
#### Empty Bowl

Tuesday, October 13, 5 - 7pm  
Rising Sun Pottery, Lincolnton

**Continued on page 4**

## Would you like to read this newsletter online?

We are trying to conserve our resources and the environment by sending our organizational newsletter electronically. If you are interested in receiving an electronic version, please send your e-mail address to Ashley Morrison at [morrisona@hpccr.org](mailto:morrisona@hpccr.org).



## OTHER EVENTS

**Health Care Decisions Conference**  
Friday, April 17, all day, UNC - Charlotte  
For information contact:  
Marilyn Morenz at 704.335.3579  
or morenm@hpccr.org

**Chameleon's Journey™ Grief Camps**  
**Spring Mini Camp**  
Saturday, March 28, 9am - 1pm  
St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, Charlotte  
**Fall Weekend Camp**  
Saturday - Sunday, October 17 - 18  
Camp Thunderbird, Lake Wylie, SC

**Annual Memorial Service**  
Sunday, April 19, 2:30pm  
St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING**  
Please contact Jaclyn Wachtel at  
704.335.3578 or wachtelj@hpccr.org  
for information and registration.

**Levine & Dickson Hospice House**  
March 3, 5, 10, & 12, 5:30 - 9pm  
11900 Vanstory Drive, Huntersville

**Lincoln County Office**  
Spring (dates to be determined)  
107 North Cedar Street, Lincolnnton

**Uptown Charlotte Office**  
June 15 & 16, 8:30am - 5pm  
1420 East Seventh Street, Charlotte

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS**  
Please contact Gerri Cummings at  
704.335.4334 or cummingsg@hpccr.org  
for registration or visit us at  
www.hpccr.org.

**Grief: The Reluctant Journey**  
**An eight-week support group**

**Lake Norman Office and**  
**Levine & Dickson Hospice House**  
Mondays, February 2 - March 23,  
3 - 4:30pm  
11900 Vanstory Drive, Huntersville

**South Charlotte Office**  
Tuesdays, February 10 - March 31  
1 - 2:30pm and 6 - 7:30pm  
7845 Little Avenue, Charlotte

**Lincoln County Office**  
Tuesdays, February 17 - March 31  
6:30 - 8pm  
107 North Cedar Street, Lincolnnton

**Uptown Charlotte Office**  
Tuesdays, April 7 - May 26  
6 - 7:30pm  
1420 East Seventh Street, Charlotte

*Pre-registration is required for all support groups. Please call Gerri Cummings at 704.335.4334.*

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# Happenings ...

## Empty Bowl

Was the potato leek or the hearty vegetable soup your favorite? It was a tough decision for those who attended the annual Empty Bowl event on October 14. Hosted by Gary Lee and friends at Rising Sun Pottery, Empty Bowl is a favorite happening in the Lincoln County community. It raised \$2,100 for Hospice & Palliative Care Lincoln County.



**Attendees enjoy looking at the unique, hand-made bowls, trying to decide which to purchase at the annual Empty Bowl event.**

## "Souper-Bowl" Sunday



**Long-time HPCCR supporters and Soup on Sunday enthusiasts, Dan and Helen Faris, look forward to this event each January.**

Bowls made by local potters and friends of Jinny Hargrave, owner of Carolina Clay Connection, were available for purchase. This year, Jinny teamed up with Natalie Bork from Charlotte Country Day School, Coral Helms from Providence Day School, and Lawrence Cann from the Urban Ministry Center, to make over 400 beautiful bowls for the soup event. Jinny also hosted two "pottery play days" at her studio for HPCCR employees interested in creating soup bowls for the event.

Soup and hospice go hand-in-hand; both provide comfort by warming the body and soul. We extend special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Bank of America, event host, Central Piedmont Community College, and media sponsors WSOC-TV9, WAXN-TV64, Time Warner Cable, KISS 95.1 FM, and K104.7 FM. Other sponsors were Edifice, Inc., U.S. Airways, Carroll Financial, Berkeley Capital Advisors, Bojangles' Restaurants, Inc., Piedmont Natural Gas, Rodgers Builders, Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Great Harvest Bread Co., Dilworth Coffee House, Carolina Clay Connection, Jolly Rogers Printing, and U.S. Foodservice.

"Did you try the lobster bisque?" was a question frequently overheard on January 25 at the 9th annual Soup on Sunday event. Scrumptious soups, along with freshly baked breads, an assortment of beverages, and delicious desserts were all on the menu. Besides the crowd, the challenge was deciding which soup you liked best! With the help of the entire Central Piedmont Community College Hospitality Department, chefs, and volunteers, we served more than 700 people and raised over \$45,000!

## Folk, Round, Square Dance Association

Over 125 Western-style dance clubs throughout North Carolina have been "promenading" while raising funds for hospice organizations statewide. Over \$41,300 was raised this year, and will be distributed to 31 hospices in North Carolina through The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care in Cary. Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region received \$7,178 from local dance clubs participating in this endeavor. We are especially grateful to Curtis and Braxton Buchanan for their faithful and tireless involvement in this yearly fundraising effort.

# Pedal the Park

A cool October morning offered colorful cycling weather for our first Pedal the Park event which began at The Park Huntersville. We had 75 participants for the 30 and 60 mile rides through Mecklenburg, Cabarrus,



**Judy Osborn, left, and her dear friend Elizabeth Keating cycled in memory of Judy's mother-in-law, Jane, cared for by HPCCR. They are anxious to recruit more of their friends to participate in the 2009 Pedal the Park event on September 7.**

## Keys for Kids Music-thon

The Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum presented the first Keys for Kids Music-thon on December 13 at Concord Mills Outlet Mall. Students provided holiday shoppers with "grand" performances. They collected sponsorships and raised \$1,731 to support our Kids Path® pediatric care program.

## US Foodservice ProAm

Golfers enjoyed a "rough" day on the golf course on October 20 during the annual U.S. Foodservice Pro/Am Golf Tournament at Cedarwood Country Club. Before teeing-off, players presented Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region a gift of \$2,000. Thank you golfers!

## Memorial brick dedication set for May 3

Twice each year, Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region holds a special Memorial Brick Dedication ceremony at Levine & Dickson Hospice House. At that time, we dedicate our newest memorial bricks and offer family and friends the opportunity to see their engraved brick in the walkway leading to the labyrinth courtyard. We are looking forward to our spring ceremony, which will take place on Sunday, May 3 at 2:30pm. If you wish to have a brick dedicated in memory of your loved ones, please visit [www.hpccr.org/donate-other-ways-to-give.cfm](http://www.hpccr.org/donate-other-ways-to-give.cfm) and click "Purchase a Memorial Brick" to print an order form. Please complete and return your order form by March 31 for your brick to be included in the spring 2009 installation. For more information, contact Caroline Clark at [clarkca@hpccr.org](mailto:clarkca@hpccr.org) or 704.335.3536.

## Dennis D. Lowery Memorial Golf Tournament

Many new and old friends, as well as business associates of Brandon Lowery, gathered at the Rocky River Golf Club on October 13 for the annual memorial golf tournament which honors his father. "Some of you here today didn't even know my dad, but you came to play a good game of golf and support the mission of Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region," said Brandon. The tournament raised \$11,075.

and Rowan counties. Pedal the Park raised \$8,061 for Levine & Dickson Hospice House. During the event, cyclist Perry Cashion explained about why he participated in this event. "My Mom passed away one year ago this past June, and she was a hospice patient during the last couple of months. I have a very, very high regard for the folks who are a part of this wonderful organization. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do."

## Anne Belk Memorial Tennis Tournament

The November rains did not stop the players and guests of the Charlotte Country Club during a tennis tournament and auction held in memory of Anne Belk. The tournament raised \$11,515 for charity care.

## BI-LO Charities

Our thanks to BI-LO Charities for their gift of \$2,335, generated by the BI-LO Charity Golf Classic event, the Golf Ball Scan Program, and hot dog sales held at the Paw Creek BI-LO Store #721. This gift benefits our Kids Path® pediatric care program.

## Chili Cook-off

It was all in good fun when the "chili-chefs" lined up to win the title of "Tasters Choice" at the 5th annual Historic Plaza Midwood/Chantilly Chili Cook-off on October 11. Twelve chefs offered their chili specialty, and eight bands lined up to provide the best chili-eatin' tunes! The event raised \$10,053 for HPCCR. Now that's a lot of chili!



**Goose McElhattan, left, proprietor of McElhattan's Machine and Rod and organizer/host of the chili cook-off, is thanked by Nancy Cole, HPCCR Manager of Special Events, for his tireless efforts and commitment to our mission.**

## Light Up A Life

In December, four Celebration of Life memorial services captured the hearts of many families and provided a time to remember loved ones during the holiday season. All services offered special readings, gifts of music, and thoughtful messages of prayer. Thank you to our friends and donors who attended the memorial services and purchased Remembrance Tree Lights, Angels, and Commemorative Bells. For a complete list of our Light Up A Life 2008 sponsors, visit [www.hpccr.org](http://www.hpccr.org).

### Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region: Serving our community

January 1 – December 31, 2008

Average daily number of patients under hospice care	<b>478</b>
Average daily number of patients under Palliative Medicine Consultants' care	<b>456</b>
Number of patients admitted to receive care from Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region	<b>4,044</b>
Number of palliative medicine consultations	<b>2,636</b>
Number of active volunteers	<b>387</b>
Number of volunteer hours of service	<b>26,346</b>
Number of families designating memorial gifts to Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region	<b>651</b>
Number of presentations to community	<b>247</b>

# Grants help support our mission

We thank the following organizations for their generous grants to support the mission of Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region:

- Akers Foundation**, for their support of our *Spiritual & Grief Care Program*
- Allied Waste**, for their support of *Hospice & Palliative Care Lincoln County*
- The ALS Association**, for their support of the *Family Fund for patient expenses unrelated to hospice care*
- Eleanor & James Barnhardt Foundation**
- The Wayland H. Cato, Jr. Foundation**, for their support of the *Wayland H. Cato, Jr. Nursing Education Program Endowed Fund*
- Foundation For The Carolinas**
- The Karl and Anna Ginter Foundation**, for their support of *Kids Path® Pediatric Care*
- The Grace and Hope Foundation**, for their support of *Chameleon's Journey™ Grief Camps*
- Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte**
- The Junior League of Charlotte**, for their support of *Chameleon's Journey™ Grief Camps*
- Lincoln County Community Foundation**, for their support of *specialized hospice care for patients with dementia*
- Mecklenburg Medical Alliance & Endowment**, for their support of *specialized hospice care for patients with dementia*
- The Merancas Foundation**, for their support of *Kids Path® Pediatric Care*
- Peninsula Community Foundation**, for their support of *Hospice & Palliative Care Lake Norman*
- Philip Morris Employee Community Fund**, for their support of *specialized hospice care for patients with dementia*
- Raymond E. & Ellen F. Crane Foundation**
- Rotary Club of Charlotte South**, for their support of *Chameleon's Journey™ Grief Camps*
- The Selders Foundation**, for their support of *Kids Path® Pediatric Care*
- St. Peter's Hospital Foundation**
- Susan G. Komen for the Cure Charlotte**, for their support of *patients with late-stage breast cancer*
- US Airways**
- Wal-Mart Foundation**, for their support of *Chameleon's Journey™ Grief Camps, Hospice & Palliative Care Lincoln County, and Hospice & Palliative Care Lake Norman*

## A new and convenient way to give!

Some of our most faithful supporters have expressed a wish to demonstrate their commitment with regular, ongoing gifts. In response, we have launched a convenient "monthly giving" program. This program is very simple. When you sign up, you give HPCCR permission to charge a set amount to your credit card every month.

Our monthly giving program is convenient for you, the donor, and is especially helpful for us, the beneficiary. By participating, you will no longer have to write and mail us a check for your annual donation. Instead, we charge your credit card each month, which you will see on your statement. At the end of the year, we will provide you with a consolidated receipt. Donors have the ability to discontinue their gifts at any time.

Donors prefer monthly giving because it is possible to spread an annual gift over the course of a whole year. Once you sign up to become a monthly contributor to Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region, the number of mailings you receive from HPCCR in a typical year will be reduced. As an added benefit, fewer mailings results in lower administrative costs, meaning a greater portion of your gifts will support our mission.

It is easy to start participating at any time! Just fill out this form and send it to us in the envelope provided in the center of the newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Benston at [benstonk@hpccr.org](mailto:benstonk@hpccr.org) or 704.335.4324. Thank you!

**Yes! I would like to support Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region each month with a gift of:**

\$25    \$35    \$50    \$100    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my account on the 5th day of the month.**

MasterCard    Visa    American Express    Discover (choose one)

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*This authorization is to remain in effect until Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region has received notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford us a reasonable opportunity to act on it.*



# Memorial designations

October 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009

A memorial gift is a wonderful way to remember someone close to you and to ensure that compassionate hospice and palliative care will be provided to all those who need it. We are honored that families of the following individuals chose our organization as the beneficiary of memorial gifts. The thousands of gifts received as a result of memorial designations allow us to provide care for the uninsured and underinsured, care for children, grief support for children and adults, and community education programs. *Thank you!*

Thomas Jefferson Adkins, Jr.  
Eliza Mitchell Arnold  
Edgar Thomas Atkins, Jr.  
Howard Martin Auton  
Steven O. Baker  
Bertha Barry  
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David D. Scoggins, Jr.  
Charley Hoover Seagle  
Myrtle Elizabeth Barringer Seamone  
Shirley Howe Shives

## Summer Grief Workshops

**Lake Norman Office and  
Levine & Dickson Hospice House**  
Monday, June 22, 12 - 1:30pm  
11900 Vanstory Drive, Huntersville

**Lincoln County Office**  
Monday, June 29  
12 - 1:30pm and 6:30 - 8pm  
107 North Cedar Street, Lincolnton

**Uptown Charlotte Office**  
Tuesday, July 21, 6 - 7:30pm  
1420 East Seventh Street, Charlotte

**South Charlotte Office**  
Thursday, July 23, 6 - 7:30pm  
7845 Little Avenue, Charlotte

## "Let's Do Lunch" Grief Support Group

**4th Wednesday of each month**  
11:30am at The Olive Garden  
9421 Pineville-Matthews Road,  
Pineville

.....  
Stephen D. Sifford  
Isaac Glenn Sigmon  
James M. Smith  
Nancy Howell Reid Smith  
William James Sneed  
Nancy Lucinda Soletto  
Homer Sparks  
Suzanne H. Stallings  
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Irene Gibbs Wear  
David Alan Webb, Sr.  
Geraldine Lucille Allen Weiger  
Betty Holloway Weir  
Harry Leonard Welch  
Ruth Wessman  
William Lafayette Whisnant  
Irene Kirby Whitlock  
Billy Lee Williams  
Belinda J. Williams  
James Wessen Wise  
Bobbie Jean Hancock Wolfe  
Sara Benfield Wright  
Blanche Wylie

Please contact Katie Benston at 704.335.4324 or [benstonk@hpccr.org](mailto:benstonk@hpccr.org) to let us know of any omissions or corrections to this list, if you want to learn more about memorial giving, or to request giving envelopes to have on hand when you need them.

# Grief Camp celebrates a decade of help and hope

It began with a man whose brother had died. He wondered why there wasn't a children's grief camp in Charlotte like the one his nephews had attended in Virginia. That man, Rob Carter, raised the money and developed the initial curriculum for the program that would become our Chameleon's Journey™ Grief Camp for children, ages seven to sixteen. Over the past nine years, hundreds of kids have attended the camp and benefitted from its healing environment, including Holly and Kate Antony, two young women who have become champions of the program.

When they came to Chameleon's Journey (CJ) for the first time, in September 2001, it had only been three months since their little sister, Claire, passed away. That first camp was difficult; their feelings were raw, and dealing with this loss was a seemingly insurmountable task.

After attending the camp for several more years, both girls learned how to express their feelings and cope with their loss. They made friends with fellow campers, who had also lost loved



**Left to right, Chris, Holly and Kate Antony, along with their friend and fellow junior counselor, Melissa Bayne, provide smiles of support to our Chameleon's Journey campers.**

ones, and they learned to help others who were newly grieving. After she turned seventeen and was no longer eligible to participate as a camper, Holly, now a senior at Wake Forest University, became one of our first junior counselors, sharing the knowledge she gained over the years. Kate also joined the staff when she turned seventeen, and has flown home from Butler University for the past two years to serve in the same capacity. In

2008, seven former campers served as junior counselors, and there are others waiting for their turn to pass on the valuable lessons they have learned. For Holly and Kate Antony, the last two camps have been particularly special; their parents, Mike and Chris, joined as volunteers, making Chameleon's Journey a family affair.

Mike, Chris, Holly, and Kate will never forget Claire. Though years have passed, she is always on their minds, especially as they help new

campers struggle with their own losses. The Antony family has touched the lives of hundreds of children by sharing their story of how they learned to live with their grief. More importantly, they have helped the campers understand that they are not alone, and that healing can happen. By doing so, they honor Claire's memory and the short life that she shared with her family.


In addition to former campers, the CJ staff also regularly includes members of The Junior League of Charlotte, who have partnered with the camp for the past five years. Some volunteers work directly with campers while others provide help behind the scenes.

Since its beginning in 2000, CJ has been offered free of charge to campers. Many families and other organizations, such as The Junior League of Charlotte and Speedway Children's Charities, have supported the camp. If you would like to become involved with Chameleon's Journey as a volunteer or donor, or would like additional information about our camp, please contact Gerri Cummings at 704.335.4334 or [cummingsg@hpccr.org](mailto:cummingsg@hpccr.org).

**Newsletter writer/managing editor:**  
Cricket Weston

**Newsletter writer/creative editor:**  
Andrea Powell

**Contributing writers:**  
John Barkley, Katie Benston,  
Caroline Clark, Nancy Cole,  
Larry Dawalt, Janet Fortner

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