



THE COMPASS

Scattering Joy

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This past year, Carolina Caring Foundation learned how to *Scatter Joy* to continue caring for each other and our community in the year 2025.



CARE CONNECTION with Tara

Carolina Caring Foundation is deeply grateful to our community partners, businesses, donors, staff, and volunteers for making 2024 a successful year in fundraising and community engagement. Your support helps us fulfill our mission. In this edition of "The Compass," we share your impact through pictures, stories, and more.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities for growth across our twelve-county footprint. Our foundation team has developed a strategy to enhance our network and relationships, increasing our capacity for giving by:

- Developing stronger relationships with community foundations and exploring additional grant opportunities.
- Creating synergy between our organizational funding needs and foundation investments through our newly formed "grant back program."
- Growing our capacity for major and planned gifts through strategic partnerships with investment and estate planners in our area.
- Building lasting relationships through corporate and faith partnerships.
- Expanding our support of charity care through increased donations and support of our two Hospice Resale Shops.



Your support is crucial to the services we provide to our patients and communities. If you wish to learn more or get involved in our endeavors, please connect with me at tbland@carolinacaring.org.

Thank you!
Tara Bland
Executive Director, Carolina Caring Foundation



CAROLINA CARING FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GIVING

Are you interested in learning more about how your major or planned gift to Carolina Caring can make an impact on our organization?

Early this year we will be announcing our new planned and major gift education page for our donors and supporters. A link to this information will be sent via email. If you do not currently receive our information emails, please contact Sydney Farmer at sfarmer@carolinacaring.org to be added to our distribution list.

Our education page has been developed to expand educational opportunities and outreach, offering information on planned giving, bequests, donor-advised funds, IRA charitable rollovers, and more.



THE RIBBON HAS BEEN CUT AT THE HOSPICE RESALE SHOP

The Hospice Resale Shop has officially cut the ribbon for their new location in Mt. View! It was a wonderful day as CEO Dana Killian and Board Chair of the Foundation, Darrell Johnson shared about the impact the Hospice Resale Shop has on the community and Carolina Caring.

The Hospice Resale Shop Mt. View has performed exceptionally well since its doors first opened in August of 2024. In September, the first full month of operation since the store's opening, the shop had sales comparable to its sister store in Viewmont. "It took us 4 years to get to this sales level at Viewmont," says Charity Hand, Manager of The Hospice Resale Shops. "First day sales were nearly double the best sales day we have ever had in the history of The Hospice Resale Shop."



Your donations and purchases at The Hospice Resale Shop go directly toward Carolina Caring Foundation's Charity Care fund. This fund allows Carolina Caring to provide hospice and palliative care to anyone who may need it regardless of their ability to pay.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PEDIATRIC LIFE ENRICHMENT FUND

Theodore Mello lived 8 years on this earth with his mom, dad, and sister Lilly. He lived life with fullness and joy. He loved being outside and camping with his family, he loved the stargazer that shined on his bedroom ceiling, and he loved the Tennessee Vols and watching football with his family. His bright blue eyes and infectious smile made him impossible to forget. He touched so many hearts and was such a gift to us all.

In December of 2023 Theo and his family celebrated Christmas as a family with the help of Cardinal Kids' nurses and the Carolina Caring Foundation. The team was able to provide gifts, a visit from Santa, and many memories. This Christmas was one of the Mello family's greatest memories. Our 2024 Giving Tuesday campaign supported Pediatric Life Enrichment through "Theo's Gift", a fund established so families facing the same circumstances can celebrate their child's life at Christmas, birthdays or any time of year.

If you are interested in learning more about Theo's Gift, please contact us at foundation@carolinacaring.org



SCATTER JOY

Caring for each other and our community.

Since 2020, Carolina Caring Foundation has illuminated our campus in December to honor those who are most special to us during the holiday season. The Foundation welcomed the community to visit the Robinson Road Campus in Newton as the lights were illuminated.

With the help of our new friend, Kathy Riddle, we were able to purchase new, sustainable luminaries that could be lit for a full 10 evenings!

Kathy and her husband, Larry, scattered joy together throughout their marriage to others in their community. After Larry passed under Carolina Caring's services, Kathy decided to share their tradition of scattering joy with us. In honor of her and Larry, we decided to make our annual Light Up a Life event a celebration of the joy that our loved ones scattered into our lives.

Despite the cold and the heavy rain that first evening, we saw many smiling faces walking onto our campus to see the lights and reflect on the memories they shared with their loved ones.

We were grateful to have Tasteful Beans Coffeehouse of Hickory, Lowe's Foods of Hickory, and Publix donate coffee and pastries for the event, and Sunset Slush, who came to serve their special holiday flavors to everyone who came out. The evening provided meaningful fellowship to family members of those who have received our care. Families from all across our service areas and beyond came to share their stories of the compassionate care that they received from Carolina Caring.



“Everyone seemed genuinely happy to gather together and share stories and memories It really seemed to mean a lot to the families to have a place to remember their loved ones.”

*Andrea Haas, Bereavement Counselor,
Carolina Caring.*

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

FOOTHILLS ANTIQUE POWER ASSOCIATION

Carolina Caring Foundation's Executive Director, Tara Bland, traveled to the **Foothills Antique Power Association Annual Barbeque** in October. Pictured here is Carolina Caring volunteer Reba Reinhardt and her husband Howard, members of the FAPA. The FAPA has generously given to Carolina Caring Foundation for the last 20 years!



31ST ANNUAL BRONSON RUN

Carolina Caring Foundation attended the **31st Annual Bronson Run** on September 28, 2024. Foundation team members attended to serve dinner to many hungry riders that evening. The Hickory Riding Club has contributed **over \$130,000 to Carolina Caring Foundation!**



ROCK BARN ART SHOW

Maggie Gervais, Carolina Caring Foundation Board Member, in conjunction with Executive Director, Tara Bland, Foundation employees, Sydney Farmer and Ben Dungan, and Foundation Board Member, Sabina Hardy attended the **Rock Barn Art Show**. Together, they sold **Cardinal Kids Cards and Coffee** in support of **Theo's Gift** - our pediatric Life Enrichment fund that supports our Cardinal Kids' greatest needs and final wishes.



Buy Cardinal Kids Cards here at www.CarolinaCaring.org/cardinal-kids-note-cards-coffee/

WRAPPING UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON

➤ Giving Tuesday with Carolina Caring Foundation.



December 3rd, the Foundation celebrated Giving Tuesday to support our adult Life Enrichment fund and our pediatric Life Enrichment fund - Theo's Gift. Our social media campaign raised over \$800 that day to support the final wishes and needs of our patients!



➤ Carolina Caring Foundation receives a grant from Speedway Children's Charities.



Executive Director of the Foundation, Tara Bland, and Director of Professional Relations for Cardinal Kids, Melody Sowers, accepted a grant from Speedway Children's Charities for our Cardinal Kids program! Cardinal Kids was one of 60 recipients of the generosity of Speedway Children's Charities this year.



OUR GREATEST NEED

Many of our hospice and end-of-life care patients are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. However, there are some patients who may find themselves underinsured, uninsured, or facing financial constraints. Some families simply have no resources to support the heavy burden of caring for a loved one at the end of their life.

Our Charity Care program pays for patients' medical care, as well as room and board, at one of our in-patient hospice facilities, if needed. This program provides financial resources in the most trying of times. Consider giving to our Charity Care program so our patients and families may have peace of mind at the end of life.



Scan here to give to Charity Care



CARDINAL KIDS SEASON OF GIVING

Known by many as Cardinal Kids Christmas, this year, Carolina Caring collectively decided to rebrand this program as Cardinal Kids Season of Giving to support all of the children receiving Carolina Caring's Hospice and Palliative Care services.

As our Cardinal Kids program has grown year over year, Carolina Caring Foundation has welcomed the support of donors and community partners to provide gifts for a successful Season of Giving campaign.

Sixty-six Hospice and Palliative Care patients were given bags with gifts from each of their families' wish lists, and 100 Palliative Care patients received a weighted and lavender-scented Caring Cardinal, a visa gift card, and a memory-making ornament kit.

Thank you to International Paper in Newton, Catawba Insurance Agency, Bethlehem United Methodist in Claremont, Signature Wealth Strategies, and several individuals throughout our community who supported this effort.



Our 100 Caring Cardinals had custom tags that were sewn on by Design Foundry in Hickory. Once the tags were sewn on, Carolina Caring Foundation and Design Foundry worked together to pack them in individual boxes along with their memory-making ornament kit.

Many children, just like Troy (pictured to the left), received their bags from our nurses, social workers, volunteers, and other staff members at Carolina Caring.

This program is designed to help each child in our care, and their families, experience a joyful holiday season as they face the challenges that come with serious illness.

As we look ahead to next year, consider partnering with us during Cardinal Kids Season of Giving to create a joyful holiday season for families throughout our community.

To learn more please contact Tara Bland at 828.466.0466 or tbland@carolinacaring.org. You may also visit our Season of Giving webpage at www.CarolinaCaring.org/cardinal-kids-season-of-giving/



Join us this coming Spring at Moretz Mills on April 3!



Flights & Bites 2025

Flights & Bites is our annual wine and food pairing event featuring a silent auction with items donated from local businesses.

Enjoy wine that will be paired with tastes from around the world presented by Cranford Hospitality.

The event will be held at Moretz Mills on Thursday, April 3 at 5:30pm. Please purchase your tickets to reserve your seat before Monday, March 17.

For more information about our events, please contact Beth Schlosser at 828.466.0466 or at bschlosser@carolinacaring.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Flight & Bites

April 3 ♦ Moretz Mills

Join us for a night of great wine paired with tastes from around the world presented by Cranford Hospitality.

Learn more at www.CarolinaCaring.org/flights/



Charity Chase

May 10 ♦ Hickory, NC

Join Carolina Caring Foundation as we cheer on the runners of the annual Charity Chase!

Interested in joining the race? Please visit www.charitychase.com to register today!



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Give now at www.CarolinaCaring.org/give/ or email us at foundation@carolinacaring.org to learn more about how you can make a difference in our community!