

Spring 2017

Hand in Hand

THE 1979 CIRCLE • YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Founded as Hospice of Wake County • 1979

Your help is especially critical for critically ill children.



To quote a doctor of a different sort than I: “A person’s a person, no matter how small.” Dr. Seuss had it exactly right — except when it comes to the cost of hospice care. That is why philanthropic gifts like

yours are so crucial for the small people we serve through Transitions Kids.

The per diem hospice care reimbursement from Medicare / Medicaid is the same for children as for adults. But it actually costs more to care for children;

for example, medical supplies such as tubes are smaller and more expensive for children and require size changes as the kids grow.

With the initial gift from The Yeargan Foundation, and your charter membership in the 1979 Circle, we are able to care for children with life-threatening and life-altering illnesses. I cannot tell you how grateful our families are to each of you for making this possible.

Sincerely,



1979 Circle

Billy

William M. Dunlap, M.D.
Co-founder

The view above is from the Reid S. Towler Campus of Transitions LifeCare.

Why I give

FROM FUNDING TO HELPING IN JUST SIX MONTHS.

When Polly Yeargan Hardie selected Transitions LifeCare for a leadership gift from The Yeargan Foundation, she felt confident she was making the right decision. She earmarked the money for the establishment of Transitions Kids for pediatric palliative care — a service that did not exist in the area. Polly, as a mother of four young children, was immediately drawn to it.

She reports that within a very short time, she was completely certain.

It was the speed and proficiency with which the team put the new resources to work that Polly found so impressive. Transitions Kids had to be developed essentially from scratch, since adult services and systems did not apply. “This amazing group of people assembled an incredible team seemingly overnight and were able to begin serving patients within six months,” she recounts.

Polly also points to the way the team is able, in just a few hours, to convert an adult room in the hospice home to a room suitable for a child. “They not only make it as warm and cozy as possible,” she

states. “But because they know the child and family, they personalize it with items the child already loves.”

The Transitions Kids office also draws Polly’s praise: “There is sunshine and joy in that room, despite what the staff is dealing with.”

The generous gift from The Yeargan Foundation launched Transitions Kids and will fund the program for the immediate future. But pediatric care is especially expensive and insurance reimbursements are extremely limited.



“My only role was to write the check. Being there on the front lines takes really special people.”

POLLY YEARGAN HARDIE

Philanthropic gifts from supporters like you are the only means available to allow us to continue to provide services for children with life-limiting illnesses.

A SMALL PATIENT POPULATION, BY DESIGN

In the two years since we launched Transitions Kids, we have cared for 36 children yet have admitted only two to our hospice home. That fact, while surprising to some, is actually illustrative of what our program is and does.

Childhood illnesses, as opposed to what we see in adults, frequently do not require end-of-life care. Instead, there might be many months or years of disease progression, or an aggressive and invasive treatment regimen being performed, or a non-lethal but life-altering affliction with symptoms that require massive amounts of care.

In these cases and others, Transitions Kids follows not a hospice pathway but a family support pathway, providing what is needed most. Palliative

care. Home visits. Hospital visits. Team treatment meetings. Phone calls. Respite. Explanations. Advocacy. Comfort. None of which, it should be noted, is reimbursed by insurance.

Often, what parents need and appreciate most is validation, reports Dr. Laura Patel, Chief Medical Officer. “We frequently hear that we’re the only ones who make them feel like they’re doing a good job,” she says. “And that it gives them the strength to keep going.”



Lily Gillmor, Transitions Kids program manager, is justifiably proud of her

staff's ability to transform an adult room into one suitable for a child. “In a matter of hours, they create a colorful, cheery room decorated with favorite cartoon or movie characters.”

“Thank you to all the staff of Transitions LifeCare for everything! Everything you do, giving my son patience, compassion, love, care — everything. There are not words to thank you, nor money to pay. I pray God bless your lives and your families. You are special people! Gracias!”

JORGITO'S MOM, EVA

NEW PATIENT ROOMS TAKE SHAPE AS CONSTRUCTION SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR



The comparatively mild winter just past has been a real boon to construction of the expansion of the William M. Dunlap Center. Now, with the roof decking and

shingles in place and installation of the external walls of local brick veneer nearly complete, work can proceed on the interior space with no concerns about the weather.

“Thanks to the generosity of our community of supporters, Transitions LifeCare is right on track to add ten additional rooms to the current 20-room Center

(Hospice Home),” says John Thoma, CEO. “The new rooms will allow us to care for 500 additional patients each year.”

With occupancy anticipated before year’s end, construction and clinical staff are working closely together to minimize possible interference with the mission of the Center — providing unmatched hospice care to patients and families in our region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flamingos and sand dollars 14th Annual Summer Salute

The best of the beach comes to you
Saturday, June 10, 7 p.m.

North Ridge Country Club, 6612 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh
To date, our largest fundraiser has raised nearly \$1.4 million.
For ticket information or to become a sponsor, call Gina Bunch
at 919.645.6781 or SummerSalute@NorthStateBank.com.



Golfing fun for a great cause

13th Annual Transitions LifeCare Golf Classic

Hosted by INC Research

Coming this Fall at
North Ridge Country Club, 6612 Falls of Neuse Road
Raleigh, NC 27615

Learn more & register: transitionsgolfflclassic.org.



Transitions LifeCare

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