

# Moments

BRINGING YOU TO THE HEART OF OUR CIRCLE OF CARE

SPRING 2017



Founded as Hospice of Wake County • 1979

## Kids are not small adults

Launching Transitions Kids was one of the most rewarding things we've ever done — but also one of the most challenging.



Dr. Laura Patel and Lily Gillmor

With everything we know about palliative and hospice care for adults, it might seem that we simply needed to extend the program to children. But children are not little adults. Their needs are different, their care is different, their illnesses are different, their medications are different — virtually everything is different.

Thus everything — services offered, types of staff, required competencies, even the electronic medical records system — had to be created from scratch or, at the very least, heavily adapted.

Lily Gillmor, Transitions Kids Program Manager, elaborates: "The hospice model was

created based on adults, where there's a definite trajectory of decline leading to the final six months. Kids don't follow that trajectory. For a variety of reasons, a child can appear to have only a few weeks left but live for another two or five or ten years."

According to Dr. Laura Patel, Chief Medical Officer, the dramatic differences between adults and children explain why the original plan to provide pediatric hospice care was soon altered. "It became clear very early on that in addition to creating a hospice pathway, we also needed to create a supportive care pathway."

### Support can take many forms

Visiting the child and family at home or in the hospital, explaining unfamiliar care regimens to parents, helping families navigate the complex healthcare system, working to relieve pain, procuring additional resources such as food stamps — the needs of the patient and family dictate what we do. And we're careful to always ensure that the parents are in the driver's seat.

It's labor intensive, it's time consuming, it's expensive and only minimally reimbursed. But fewer children are suffering. Fewer families are suffering. What could be more rewarding than that?

“*Transitions Kids entered our home, put their angel wings around us, and made sure we understood what was happening. They allowed us to find what we felt was best for Vincent and for our family. We know that this program exists only through the support of donors like you, and we will always remember that we got to take our son home because of the incredible generosity of total strangers.*”



Vincent's mom and dad, DeAndrea and David

“ Thank you to all the staff of Transitions 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



“ We made the decision together to...take this journey. There were dreams for her we just had to let go. We will never see her get married. We'll never see her go to college. But, in spite of everything that she's going through, she's still here, and the things that we can do for her we want to be able to do for her. That's why Transitions means a lot to me. It's not just a name. They actually go above and beyond for us. ”

SAMIYAH'S MOM AND DAD, TAUZA AND ANDRE



## Patel named Physician of the Year

At its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Expo, the Association for Home & Hospice Care of NC recognized Dr. Laura Patel, our Chief Medical Officer, by naming her Physician of the Year. With the passion, commitment, knowledge and encouragement she displays in her many endeavors at Transitions LifeCare, we can think of no one more deserving.

*Dr. Laura Patel receives "Physician of the Year" award from AHHC President and CEO Tim Rogers*

### Have you heard about the 1979 Circle?



You are invited to become a Charter Member of the 1979 Circle, a society of caring individuals committed to sustaining our work through leadership philanthropy of \$1,000 or more each year. The Circle recognizes the enduring commitment of William M. Dunlap, M.D., the driving force behind the founding of Hospice of Wake County in 1979. Charter membership is open through December 31, 2017. To join, visit [transitionslifecare.org/1979Circle](http://transitionslifecare.org/1979Circle).

### 11th Annual Cabin Fever Throwdown Success!

On February 12, 2017, the Raleigh Shag Club hosted a fun night of dancing that raised \$41,615.38 for Transitions LifeCare! **Thank you** to the wonderful volunteers who helped produce this event, and to all of the attendees.



### Upcoming Events

#### Flamingos and sand dollars 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:SummerSalute@NorthStateBank.com).



#### Golfing fun for a great cause

##### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Transitions LifeCare Golf Classic

Hosted by IMC Research

Coming this Fall at  
North Ridge Country Club

6612 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC 27615

Learn more & register: [transitionsgolffclassic.org](http://transitionsgolffclassic.org).



### Transitions LifeCare

250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh NC 27607 • 919-828-0890 • [transitionslifecare.org](http://transitionslifecare.org)



### How you can help

**Gifts of any amount are appreciated.**

Give online at [transitionslifecare.org/donate](http://transitionslifecare.org/donate)

Mail to: Transitions LifeCare  
250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607

Here is my tax-deductible gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my check, payable to Transitions LifeCare.  Please charge my credit card:  Amex  Visa  MasterCard  Discover

I would like to make a recurring gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month, starting \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_. *Please charge my credit card.*

Ms.  Mr.  Dr.  Mr. and Mrs.  Mrs.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Card number

Signature

Exp. date

Security code

I would like information about including Transitions LifeCare in my will or estate plans.

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