

# CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS



*“Hospice care provides the greatest improvement in patient care I’ve seen in my medical career. Hospice has done more for humanity than any other service.”*

– Robert Gaddy M.D., practicing Raleigh physician for 53 years

**1977** Dr. Billy Dunlap, a hematologist and oncologist in Raleigh realizes the need for services for terminal patients in the Triangle. He creates a strategic plan to bring these services to the Triangle.

**1979** February 6, 1979, Hospice of Wake County (HOWC) is incorporated as a non-profit organization. Dunlap, along with Rex and WakeMed nurses, become the founding members of the first Board of Directors.

*“Fortunately for the people in our area, about forty years ago, Dr. Billy Dunlap had the vision, skill and determination to lead the development and expansion of hospice care services in Raleigh and Wake County. I feel privileged to have witnessed, and in a very small way been involved, in what has occurred. Dr. Dunlap and Transitions LifeCare highly deserve the gratitude, appreciation, and strong support of our entire community.”*

– Sherwood Smith, former Chairman, CP&L/Progress Energy



**Hospice of Wake County  
FOUNDATION**  
Supporting Transitions® LifeCare

**1980–2000** HOWC institutes a popular annual fundraiser, Oktoberfest. Held annually in Cameron Village in Raleigh, the event blossomed over those 20 years, with the ability to serve 15,000 people with the assistance of 581 volunteers over a five-day period.

**1992** HOWC forms the Hospice of Wake County Foundation for the Endowment Fund with the Legacy Society.

*“What’s needed most is a safety net, a dependable income stream, to ensure hospice will continue growing,”* says Dave Wolf, Trustee of the Hospice of Wake County Foundation. *“The endowment is the foundation of that growth.”*

**2004–2018** North State Bank hosts the first Summer Salute event to benefit HOWC.

*“Every family will face the loss of loved ones in different ways. But I can say from a very personal experience that my family encountered the unforgettable difference Hospice makes when the loss comes from a terminal illness. The people from Hospice enter into ‘the crucible of suffering’ with the families in order to help them confront the adversity of a terminal illness. It is clear to see why I can unequivocally suggest that all of us in our community should help Hospice. This is an organization that matters and makes a very quiet, but powerful difference in our community. We need Hospice now and we always will.”*

– Larry Barbour, President, North State Bank



Now in its 15th year, Summer Salute has raised more than \$1.6 million!

**2005–2009** Launch of the Build Hospice Campaign, led by Campaign Chairs Smedes York and Dr. Billy Dunlap. North Carolina Council of State awards 8.7 acres of land for the area’s first independent, free-standing hospice facility to be built off Trinity Road, Cary.



Chip Anderson, HOWC Foundation Board Chair;  
John Thoma, CEO; Art Pope

*Build Hospice Groundbreaking Ceremony 2007*

John William Pope Foundation gives the first major gift of \$1 million to formally launch the Build Hospice Campaign. As a tribute to the excellent care that Transitions provided to John William Pope and his family — and in loving memory of Mr. Pope — the foundation gave a matching grant of \$1 million to complete construction on the new inpatient facility.

*“My father deeply appreciated the in-home care and hospice service, and he wanted others to have the same opportunity — to avoid the cost, pain, and suffering of a hospital stay.”*

– Art Pope, Chairman, John William Pope Foundation

(over, please)

**2009** HOWC's campus on Trinity Road opens after a successful \$15 million campaign, with the 20,000 square foot William M. Dunlap Center for Caring, a 20-bed in-patient facility; the Dorothy Kerr Sanctuary; the Memorial and Veterans Gardens; and the Community Education and Administration Building.

*“What really impressed me was that Dr. Dunlap had created an organization that provided excellent hospice care regardless of the patient's ability to pay for it,”* says Johnny Kerr. *“My brother and sister and I have always heard the heartfelt stories of what Transitions LifeCare had done for loved ones, but I don't think any of us really understood the quality and compassion they provide until we experienced it first hand with our parents' passing,”* said Debbie Kerr Woody. *“Our support comes straight from the heart,”* added Linda Kerr Moore. *“And always will.”* – Children of Dorothy and Banks Kerr

The first patient served in the Hospice Home was a homeless woman. **Currently, eight percent of all Transitions LifeCare's patients are indigent – *four times* the national average.**



Smedes York and Billy Dunlap, Co-Chairs of the Build Hospice Campaign, with Reid Towler (center)

**2010** HOWC receives a \$1 million gift from Reid Stewart Towler, the largest individual gift received during the capital Campaign. The HOWC campus is named for him. At the time of his gift Mr. Towler said, *“It's very simple. I've always wanted to do something for Raleigh that my children and grandchildren would see. It seems like every time I read the obituaries in the newspaper, there is always some person I know who has passed away and they praise the services of Hospice. I see how Hospice of Wake County takes care of people. You all do such a good job. I wanted to help in any way I could.”*

**2013** Launch of the Power of 10 Capital Campaign to add 10 additional beds to the Hospice Home, led by Campaign Tri-Chairs Brenda Gibson, Thad Woodard and Dr. Billy Dunlap.

**2015** Launch of Transitions Kids Program, with a \$1 million gift from The Yeargan Foundation. The only program of its kind in the community, Transitions Kids relies on philanthropy to provide every terminally-ill child in our community with compassionate end-of-life care.

The UNC School of Medicine and Transitions LifeCare jointly launched the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship program, providing advanced education to three physicians each year in palliative and hospice care.

**2016** Launched the Pediatric Telehealth Program, with generous gifts from the A. J. Fletcher Foundation, the Duke Endowment and the Pope Foundation. This program allows Transitions LifeCare medical teams to respond quickly to the needs of children who live a great distance from the Transitions LifeCare campus.

*“With the Pediatric Telehealth program, Transitions is able give families in rural communities healthcare options that they wouldn't have otherwise. By reducing the stress of constant travel, their noble work improves the quality of life for the families they serve and ensures that children have access to the best possible care regardless of their zip codes. We're proud to support Transitions pediatric telehealth program.”* – Joyce L. Pope, Board Member, John William Pope Foundation

**2017** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Power of 10 Campaign, which raised \$6 million to add 10 additional beds to the Hospice Home.

Named the Brenda C. Gibson Education and Community Services Center after Brenda Gibson, a long-time volunteer and Board Member.

**2018** *Each day*, Transitions LifeCare's medical and caregiving teams are serving 570 hospice patients, 100 Home Health Patients, 870 Palliative Care patients, and 51 children in the Transitions Kids program.



Billy Dunlap, Brenda Gibson, Thad Woodard Tri-Chairs, Power of 10 Campaign

*“We are proud to partner with Transitions LifeCare in helping people navigate difficult circumstances. The fact that we are celebrating its 40th anniversary is a testament to the vision of Dr. Dunlap and the valuable services provided to families in our community.”* – Trent Ragland, III, Chairman of the Board of the W. Trent Ragland, Jr. Foundation

*“It is impossible to know how many lives are better in our community because of the dedication and work Dr. Dunlap gives us all. He is a Saint!”* – James H. Maynard, Chairman and Co-Founder, Investors Management Corporation and Golden Corral