

Spring 2020

# Hand in Hand

THE 1979 CIRCLE • YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Founded as Hospice of Wake County • 1979

*Extraordinary care in extraordinary circumstances*



very sick people live, bringing care and compassion to them and to their families.

Since 1980, as Hospice of Wake County, and more recently as Transitions LifeCare, we have taken great precautions to ensure that infections are not spread

The coronavirus crisis has caused extreme stress for all of us. At Transitions LifeCare, like all health care workers, ours are coming face-to-face into those stresses, and this is literally true. For over 40 years, we have gone into the homes and facilities where the

in either direction, thus our physicians, nurses, and CNAs are prepared to deal with today's extraordinary circumstances.

I have heard our staff and volunteers called "angels" hundreds of times, and I truly share this assessment. **Thank you for your continued support and partnership that makes all of this possible.**

Sincerely,



1979 Circle

*Billy*

William M. Dunlap, M.D.

Co-founder

1979 Circle Charter Member

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



*The Healing Garden on the Reid S. Towler Campus of Transitions LifeCare*

## DR. WILLIAM M. DUNLAP IMPACT FUND EXCEEDS \$3 MILLION GOAL

At Transitions LifeCare, our mission is simple and profound: We provide compassionate end-of-life care for people of all ages, and we provide support for their loved ones through their journeys of grief and recovery. We are here to keep these commitments, to ensure our services are available to all who need it. **Our core value is to provide this care to anyone regardless of their financial status.**

To keep the commitment of our co-founders, to ensure that our services are available to all, Transitions LifeCare created the Impact Fund, in honor of Co-Founder Dr. Billy Dunlap, which will provide additional and long-term support for our signature programs.

"Families often come to us with highly complex needs after having exhausted all other resources —

medical, financial, social. We strive to help lift this burden and lead them through this journey," said John Thoma, CEO. "We appreciate all the many donors and families who have contributed to the Impact Fund which allowed us to meet and exceed our \$3 million goal."

"We're so thankful to, once again, see our vibrant community lean in with tremendous support for the Impact Fund! During trying times like these, the ability as an organization to be agile and adaptive simply cannot be underestimated. The Impact Fund allows Transitions LifeCare to be just that," said Jason Sandner, Chair of the Hospice of Wake County Board of Trustees. "While recent events might compel individuals to reassess their philanthropic goals and capacity, the Impact Fund represents a pool of strategic capital that enables our organization to continue developing and cultivating programs that our communities so desperately need, providing the right care at the right time."

*"The Impact Fund will give these programs the resources to thrive and expand to meet this growing need — focused on our work with indigent patients of all ages, and for families, friends, and children grieving the loss of a loved one."*

GEORGE YORK AND SMEDES YORK,  
CO-CHAIRS OF THE IMPACT FUND CAMPAIGN

# Why I give

## AT 1:00 AM, RELIEF THAT MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

When my Dad passed away, Transitions LifeCare gave my Mom a meaningful gift: the opportunity to have peaceful, final moments with him.

At the time, and now, it was relief that made all the difference. But, we were concerned, having heard that death can be raw and ugly. I did not want Mom to witness that kind of suffering, or to have it etched in her or anyone's memory. And we did not want that for Dad.

But my Dad died peacefully, quietly, and with dignity. After months of wonderful care under Dr. Dunlap at Mayview, we called Transitions LifeCare at 1:00 a.m. and, somewhat to our surprise, someone was there to receive the call and a nurse came immediately.

I called my brothers who were able to say a final goodbye by phone. Then, on Dad's prior instructions, I went home to be with my young family. Mom stayed, and told Dad it was okay to let go. He slipped away without fear or pain.

It was what she and all of us needed, and what he would have wanted.

### Honoring the gift that Transitions LifeCare provided to us

At the time that our family witnessed firsthand the value

and importance of Transitions LifeCare, we learned that the organization was seeking support and assistance from people with community ties and local relationships. By accepting an invitation to serve on its Board of Directors, I could seek to honor the lasting gift provided to our family by helping enhance this vital community asset that does so much for so many.

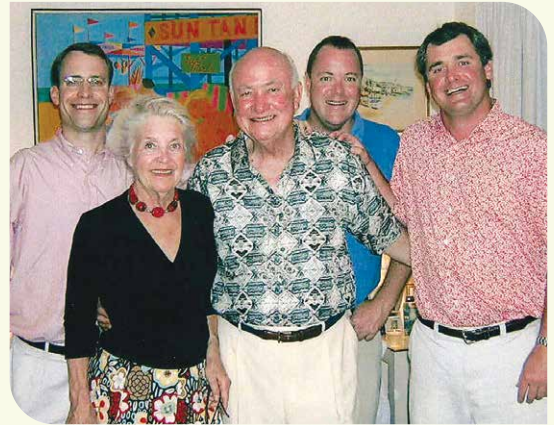
### A group with heart

I quickly observed that fellow Board members and the staff had also benefitted and are intensely devoted to the mission of Transitions LifeCare.

Most of us did not know what we needed, until we needed it. But we have all come to know that everyone should share those final moments cloaked in peace. We want everyone to have access to hospice care.

### The 1979 Circle

Our family has joined the 1979 Circle, Transitions LifeCare's annual fund that underpins this vital work. These resources allow everyone to have access to hospice care, including those who cannot afford to pay. There are a lot of generous donors in this community, thank goodness,



Sally and Bill Creech, sons Zeke, Larry and Charles  
Celebrating Dad's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beach

and we are grateful a growing number choose to support Transitions LifeCare.

As the 1979 Circle continues to grow, we also seek ways to broaden the base of support, to engage other families and younger donors to participate in and to support our mission. They are just as connected to the community, and just as appreciative of the role Transitions LifeCare plays.

Whatever our station in life, we come to know that Transitions LifeCare means dying with dignity. It's about allowing us to say goodbye. It's about having someone answer the call at 1:00 a.m., to provide relief that makes all the difference.

Please give. With gratitude,

Zeke Creech

*“Most of us did not know what we needed, until we needed it. But we have all come to know that everyone should share those final moments cloaked in peace. We want everyone to have access to hospice care.”*