Momentum

Fall 2025



A Message from our Board Chair:



As we embrace the fall weather and a new season, we recognize that vibrant change is all around us. At Atrium Health Foundation, we take this time to celebrate a leader who has been instrumental in changing and growing the culture of philanthropy at Atrium Health. It has been my honor to serve alongside our president, Armando Chardiet, who has led us through tremendous growth over the last eight years. We followed him through the launch of our most ambitious fundraising campaign to date, built a team that is leading us to our goal, and never lost sight of the important role that you — our donors — play in our success.

In January, Armando will turn over a new leaf as he heads into his next season — retirement. His vision and compassion have inspired us all, and we will continue to honor his legacy with our commitment to lifting up others and making health care accessible for all.

Mandy Houser

Board Chair, Atrium Health Foundation

Dear friends,

I've said it before, but it bears repeating: I am so fortunate to call Charlotte, "home." This community gave me a warm welcome when I moved here in 2017 to lead Atrium Health Foundation. That southern hospitality has taken root over the years, as so many of you opened your doors to opportunities and shared your passion for building the best health system this community can offer. In less than a decade, I've had the privilege of building relationships with amazing people who have helped us advance research, expand programs, and open state-of-the-art facilities.

Your commitment to our "for all" purpose and your compassion for members of this community are unparalleled. After all, that's the true meaning of philanthropy — the love of people.

As I embark on my next season in life, I look forward to watching the tremendous impact this team and our partners in the community will continue to make for years to come.

Warm regards,

Armando Chardiet

President, Atrium Health Foundation





Momentum

"Momentum is a powerful word, one that signifies the growth and continual progress we strive for within our health system."



Meet Shannon Duval - Advocate Health's New Chief Philanthropy Officer

Shannon Duval is embracing a new role at Advocate Health as its first Chief Philanthropy Officer. The seasoned leader joined the enterprise in July to spearhead the organization's philanthropic and alumni relations efforts, driving strategic initiatives to support Advocate Health's purpose to redefine care — for all.



Duval brings nearly 30 years of experience and a proven track record in philanthropy and health care leadership. Prior to joining Advocate Health, she was the global chief development officer at Ronald McDonald House Charities, where she led global growth strategies across 60+ countries. Duval previously held senior philanthropy and development roles at CommonSpirit Health, Catholic Health Initiatives, MercyOne, Unity Point Health Systems, and the University of Iowa Foundation, where she raised funds for the Carver College of Medicine.

Vice chair of the Board of Trustees at her alma mater, Luther College in Iowa, Duval also holds a master's degree from both Indiana University and Drake University Law School. She serves as a board member for the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), as well as a faculty member at the AHP Madison Institute and the Modern Institute for Charitable Giving. She is regularly called upon as an industry expert within health care philanthropy. Outside of work, Duval enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons.

"I look forward to working with the dedicated team at Advocate Health and our generous donors in the Southeast and Midwest to advance our mission and make a lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities."



Giving Hope: Connecting generations, building a legacy

In 2021, Atrium Health Foundation launched Giving Hope, the largest comprehensive philanthropic campaign in Charlotte's history. The movement to raise \$500 million by 2027 has connected neighbors, families, and caregivers, and will transform health care for generations. Our journey is powered by your generosity. Let's build hope and raise the final \$100 million, together, ensuring a lasting legacy for our community.



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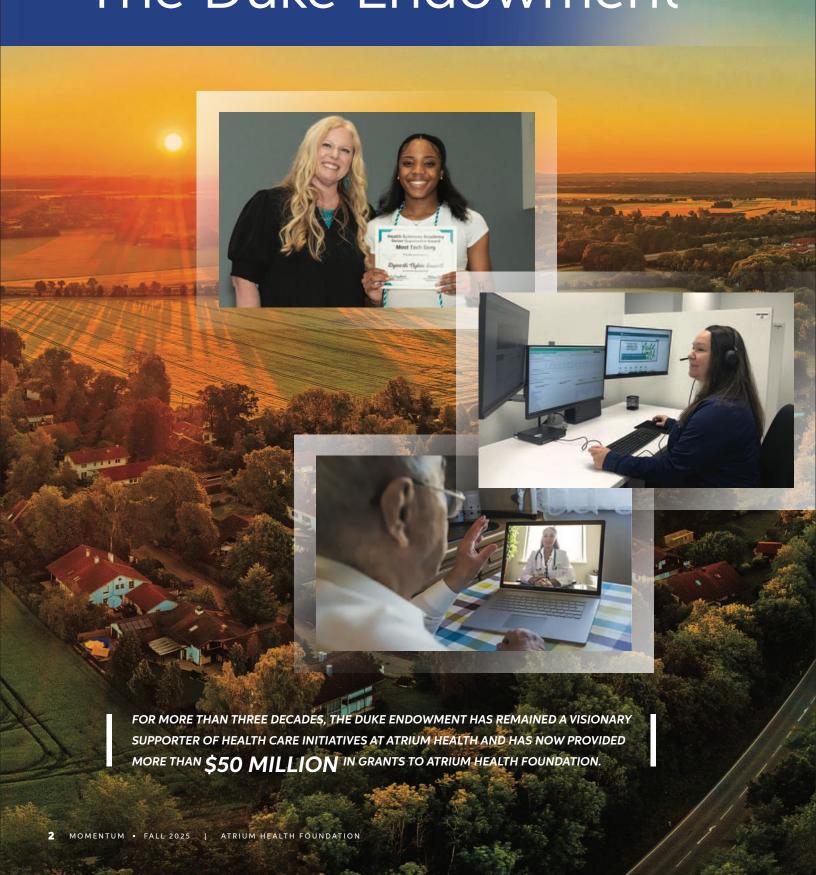
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51 Sonja Grigg, MD



Atrium Health Foundation Board of Directors: Mandy S. Houser, Chair; Luther Lockwood II, Vice Chair; David Secrest, Secretary; Howard Bissell III; Todd Collins; Hugh S. Cummins III; Amy Dawson, May Beverly Hemby; Greg Johnson; Beverly Ladley; Grace Nystrum; Greg Olsen; Manuel Rey; Mike Rucker; Michael Salvino; David Sheffer; Nicole Tepper

rural communities celebrate boost from The Duke Endowment



trium Health Foundation is lifting up rural health initiatives thanks to a \$4 million commitment from The Duke Endowment through five grants, marking the largest gift the Foundation has received from The Duke Endowment to date.

The largest of the five grants was for \$1.45 million and will launch a virtual nursing program at Atrium Health Stanly, creating the first all-wired virtual nursing facility in rural North Carolina. This initiative is expected to create 50 new jobs in Stanly County and provide significant benefits for both patients and care teams.

Marietta Abernathy, facility executive for Atrium Health Stanly, said, "Having cameras in every room will enable our bedside nurses to focus on direct patient care while virtual nurses provide continuous monitoring and timely interventions, helping to reduce hospital readmissions and improve outcomes."

Two additional grants will support physicians: one will build upon the successes of the Atrium Health Cabarrus Family Medicine Residency Program by creating a rural residency program in Stanly County; the other will study an advanced Al-powered tool for physicians.

Atrium Health has virtual clinics in over 200 schools across 10 counties in North Carolina. Funding from The Duke Endowment will support a user-friendly mobile app and web-based platform to improve workflow and communications between schools and Atrium Health providers.

At the Health Sciences Academy, a unique partnership between Atrium Health Union and Union County Public Schools, The Duke Endowment will fund the new headquarters with enhanced learning opportunities, including a simulation lab and apprenticeship positions. The academy prepares students for careers in health sciences through hands-on experiences and pathways to success.

"We share Atrium Health's commitment to ensuring access to care in communities where people live and work," said Lin Hollowell, director of health care at The Duke Endowment. "Whether through supporting emerging technologies or enhancing existing programs, together, we can make a profound impact on our communities for generations to come."



Many Union County Health Sciences Academy graduates are now employed by Atrium Health.



Atrium Health Stanly is the first all-wired virtual nursing facility in rural North Carolina and is expected to create 50 new jobs.



TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT TO SUPPORT STEM LAB

at Wake Forest University School of Medicine-Charlotte

\$1.5 million gift from The Dickson Foundation will support a special space at Wake Forest University School of Medicine-Charlotte: a state-of-the-art science lab that honors a visionary leader who was committed to advancing health care and medical education at Atrium Health.

The R. Stuart Dickson Science Lab, located on the fourth floor of the Howard R. Levine Center for Education, will provide hands-on training for Atrium Health learners and students of Wake Forest University School of Medicine-Charlotte and Carolinas College of Health Sciences. The 1,000-square-foot lab will foster scientific discoveries, medical breakthroughs, and care advancements for the next generation of health care professionals.

A longtime partner of Atrium Health, The Dickson Foundation has been instrumental in supporting programs impacting cancer, heart and vascular disease, children, medical research and education, and more. Their latest gift — a tribute to the late R. Stuart Dickson — is a testament to their unwavering dedication to improving the quality and reach of medical science, both locally and nationally.

R. Stuart Dickson's commitment to Atrium Health spanned his lifetime. His father, Rush, served as chairman of Charlotte Memorial Hospital for 20 years. Stuart followed in his

footsteps, serving in leadership roles on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital Authority, and later, as chair of the Atrium Health Foundation board.

"The Dickson Foundation's gift will have a lasting impact," said Armando Chardiet, president of Atrium Health Foundation. "We are deeply grateful for their vision, partnership, investment in the future of medicine, and the well-being of our community. They serve as a powerful example of how philanthropy can drive progress and inspire excellence."



The late R. Stuart Dickson







This fall, the R. Stuart Dickson Science Lab welcomed Wake Forest University School of Medicine's first cohort of the new Charlotte campus.

66 THE DICKSON FOUNDATION'S GIFT WILL HAVE A LASTING IMPACT. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THEIR VISION, PARTNERSHIP, INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE, AND THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY.

> — ARMANDO CHARDIET, PRESIDENT, ATRIUM HEALTH FOUNDATION

Musicland Gift Foundation

Bringing Hope and Harmony to Cancer Patients

usic is often described as a universal language with the power to heal - and to unite. For cancer survivor Kenny Kahn, co-founder of Musicland Gift Foundation, music became his life raft, keeping him afloat during the darkest hours of his lymphoma diagnosis. A collector of music from every genre, Kenny found comfort and connection in playlists he carried with him throughout his cancer treatment at Atrium Health Levine Cancer. Not only did music keep his anxieties and discomfort at bay, but it also served as a powerful connection to his loved ones, who shared video messages and playlists to remind Kenny he was not alone in his fight.

Throughout his lymphoma treatment, which began in 2021, Kenny marveled at the supportive oncology programming available to patients throughout Atrium Health Levine Cancer. From psycho-oncology and physical therapy to nutritional counseling and spiritual and palliative care, Levine Cancer offers a wide range of holistic care to ease the physical and mental burden of cancer care on patients. Kenny also witnessed, first-hand, the power of art and music therapy in patients' lives.

"I understood how important cancer survivorship options were because the medical treatment cured me; but supportive oncology healed me," said Kenny.

In the years following his cancer treatment, Kenny and his daughter, Rachel, made it their mission to ensure all patients, regardless of where they receive care, have access to supportive oncology programming.



The Kahn Family

Inspired by Levine Cancer's vision to create a national model for cancer survivorship, the Kahn family established Musicland Gift Foundation, whose mission is to support this work and advance Levine Cancer's Supportive Oncology program in Charlotte.

Dr. Declan Walsh, chair of Supportive Oncology at Atrium Health, underscored this vision, describing the national model as "a scalable and transferable model — an idea whose time has come. We believe this will become the standard of care not just in the United States, but internationally."

This fall, supporters of Musicland Gift Foundation raised their glasses, instruments, and voices during numerous fundraising events held across the Charlotte-area to benefit supportive oncology at Levine Cancer:



Hope and Harmony

During the three-day event series, supporters were moved by patients' stories of hope and the talents of Levine Cancer's music therapy teammates, who performed with operatic soprano Melinda Whittington.



Cabaret for a Cause

Hosted by Petit Philippe, the event featured performances of several gifted student musicians from Northwest School of the Arts.



Musicland Gift Foundation

HOPE AND HARMONY • CABARET FOR A CAUSE TAYLOR, RICHARDS, CONGER MIXER DINING WITH DOCTORS • WINE AND MUSIC SOIREE INNER CIRCLE WINE DINNER

AGED INVENTORY IN CONCERT AT LA POISSON ROUGE IN NYC



Taylor, Richards, Conger Mixer

The premier clothier has become one of Musicland Gift Foundation's designated "Givers of Hope," raising over \$20,000 with customers' support to benefit the Foundation's mission.

Dining with Doctors

Hosted by L'Ostrica, chef Eric Ferguson, and Cat Carter, the intimate dinner featured a sevencourse meal with fine wines donated by clients of Petit Philippe. Drs. Declan Walsh, Anthony Caprio, Jen Sullivan, and Ruben Mesa shared their perspectives on the development of a national model for cancer survivorship.

Continued on pg. 8

MUSICLAND GIFT FOUNDATION

Continued from pg. 7

Wine and Music Soiree

Guests enjoyed an evening at Petit Philippe with chef Michael Bader, live music, and a silent live auction with auctioneer Luke Proctor, all supporting Levine Cancer's survivorship program.



Inner Circle Wine Dinner

Attendees enjoyed a five-course dinner paired with fine wines and culinary masterpieces from chef Michael Bader. The event brought together Levine Cancer physicians, patients, and advocates to build meaningful connections for a shared cause. Pictured: Mark Meissner and wife Casey Hickey, owners of Petit Philippe and co-chairs of Hope and Harmony along with Amy and Kenny Kahn.



Aged Inventory in Concert at La Poisson Rouge in NYC

On December 4, Aged Inventory rocked an unforgettable night of music and philanthropy benefiting Musicland Gift Foundation.



Finding meaning through music:

Gifts from Musicland Gift
Foundation in recent years
have significantly advanced
supportive oncology at
Atrium Health Levine Cancer
by investing in supportive
oncology telemedicine and
Al research; caregiver
support; student internships
focused on nutrition,
psycho-oncology, and pain
management; and medical
education, including a
post-graduate fellowship in
supportive oncology.





For more information on how you can support Levine Cancer's Supportive Oncology program contact Page.Stroup@advocatehealth.org or visit AtriumHealthFoundation.org/SupportiveOncology.

Celebrating the Power of Art TO HEAL AND TRANSFORM



For a creativity-fueled decade, national nonprofit Arts For Life has provided high-quality art education and art therapy to patients and families across Atrium Health Levine Children's in Charlotte. Ten years and countless smiles later, Arts For Life programs — spanning visual art, music, and literary arts — have inspired, comforted, and transformed patients' and families' medical journeys. "The art is

not just a craft — it is an opportunity for meaningmaking, providing a distraction and normalization that is vital to the patient-

experience," says Andrea Klauss, Arts For Life program coordinator for Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital and Jeff Gordon Children's Center.

Just like Andrea, Atrium Health's Arts For Life program director Olivia Chisholm emphasizes the importance of the program's ability to reach patients of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. "To me, this speaks to the culture of our hospital," said Olivia. She and her colleagues, along with a cadre of volunteers, are passionate about developing community partnerships and strive each day to ensure Arts For Life programming is available to all patients and their caregivers. As the hospital and community grow, Arts For Life hopes to expand to support more patients with adaptive needs and limited mobility, and to partner with community groups to bring more creative experiences to families with extended hospital stays.

Since 2015, Arts For Life has supported over 8,800 participants through more than 14,000 hours of creative programming.

To help grow this remarkable program, visit AtriumHealthFoundation.org/ArtsForLife.



Charlotte, a cancer survivor, poses by her art at the 2025 artist showcase.

For one patient-family who has visited Levine Children's almost weekly for the past two years, Arts For Life has become a source of comfort and joy. "Arts For Life is one of the key reasons that my kids love coming to clinic... my daughter relishes each opportunity to do a special project while she is waiting for labs or getting an infusion," shared Alexis, a grateful parent. "It's hard to put into words how much Andrea and this program mean to our family... it provides a source of light and feeling of normalcy through what is otherwise a very challenging situation."



Strengthening the body and mind through innovative treatments in mental health

upporting the mental health of our society is now, more than ever before, as critical as supporting our physical health. Fueled by our donors' generosity, Atrium Health Behavioral Health is restoring hope and offering greater relief to patients across Charlotte-area communities.

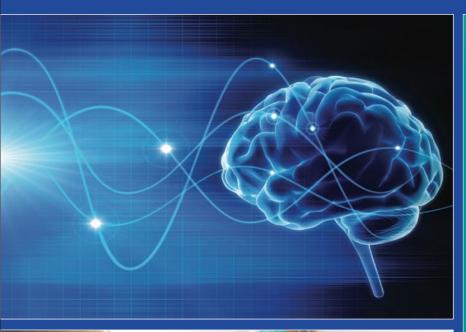
A transformational gift from Lynn and Marshall Carlson and the Hendrick Family Foundation, combined with an anonymous donation, will help patients served by Atrium Health Behavioral Health overcome deep challenges and live life to the fullest. With this support, Atrium Health will introduce the TMS Therapy System, an FDA-approved treatment for Major Depressive Disorder for patients with combined depression and anxiety symptoms. The system also supports Magnus Medical's Standford Accelerated Intelligent Neuromodulation Therapy (SAINT) protocol, an advanced form of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) used to address treatment-resistant depression.

Now available to patients served by Atrium Health Behavioral Health, the SAINT protocol is a non-invasive procedure that delivers magnetic pulses to specified areas of the brain. Support from the Carlsons and Hendrick Family Foundation will also ensure that patients lacking financial resources have access to the novel procedure and related behavioral health services offered by Atrium Health.

Dr. Nicole Aho coordinates these advanced treatments as assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at Atrium Health and Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

"It's incredibly rewarding to help people return to their lives, jobs, and families, and to see them make progress over the years," said Aho. "The generosity of our donors allows us to offer unique treatments like SAINT to patients and help them understand their safety and benefits. Even just talking about the causes of depression and targeting brain networks can help patients understand their illness better and avoid guilt or shame."

Newly available to Atrium Health patients, the SAINT protocol has been approved by the FDA and shows significant promise for treating patients experiencing psychiatric crises. It is especially suited to emergency departments, where some patients must wait several days for inpatient psychiatric care. The rapid TMS procedure significantly condenses treatment compared to traditional TMS therapy that can take weeks to complete.





UNDERSTANDING THE SAINT **PROTOCOL:**

- The five-day treatment includes 10 three-minute sessions per day.
- FDA-approved, SAINT has been very effective in preliminary clinical trials.
- SAINT can provide immediate relief for patients in crisis, avoiding longer waiting periods for inpatient psychiatric care.
- Available in outpatient settings, the non-invasive treatment has minimal side effects, allowing patients to return to their daily routines quickly.

IN MEMORIAM

Doug **LEBDA**

January 29, 1970 - October 12, 2025

Atrium Health Foundation honors the life and legacy of Doug Lebda — a visionary entrepreneur, devoted husband and father, and generous philanthropist whose impact resonates throughout the Charlotte community and across the business world. Doug served as a cherished member of the Atrium Health Foundation Board of Directors, and his presence will be deeply missed by all.



Born in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Doug embodied humility, hard work, and a deep sense of community. These values guided his path as the founder and CEO of LendingTree, where his belief that "there has to be a better way" transformed the lending industry. From a frustrating mortgage experience in 1996, Doug built a platform that empowered millions to make smarter financial decisions, bridging technology and trust.

Doug's legacy extends far beyond his business achievements. Through the Lebda Family Foundation, he championed causes that foster upward mobility, financial wellness, and rural health care ensuring that children in underserved communities received the care they deserve. Most recently, Doug and his family partnered with Atrium Health to establish the Lebda Family Rural Healthcare Program, bringing school-based virtual care to thousands of children in North Carolina's most vulnerable communities. Doug's generosity also touched Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital another example of his deep care for children.

Along with the Atrium Health Foundation Board, he served on the board of The Darden School Foundation and proudly became a minority owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

As a passionate mentor, Doug inspired students at his alma maters — Bucknell University and the University of Virginia — believing that entrepreneurship is a mindset fueled by creativity and optimism. He found joy in fishing, regenerative farming, and nurturing life — whether in soil, startups, or communities. Doug's life was a testament to innovation and compassion.

Doug found his greatest joy in helping others succeed. He will be remembered for his brilliance, generosity, humor, and heart. His life and legacy are immeasurable but will be felt for generations.



he Baby J Ladley Pediatric Brain Tumor Fund was established by Charlotteans Mark and Beverly Ladley to honor their late son, John Francis Ladley III, who passed away in 2000 after a courageous battle with a malignant brain tumor. The Ladleys, with support from their dedicated network of friends and family, have raised over \$1.3 million for pediatric brain tumor research at Atrium Health Levine Children's in Charlotte. Their efforts have helped bring groundbreaking clinical trials to the region and provided medical resources to support patients' neurological and psychological needs during cancer treatment.

Today, the Baby J initiative continues this mission by fueling research in collaboration with the ARISE Cancer Consortium™, a network of top pediatric oncology programs at distinguished institutions across the Southeast. Headquartered at Levine Children's Hospital, ARISE is dedicated to expanding access to new and novel therapies through clinical trials and research. Proceeds from Baby J ornament sales and donations directly support this life-saving work, bringing hope to children and families affected by pediatric brain tumors.



John "Baby J" Ladley

Give blessings of love and protection this holiday with the gift of a Baby J ornament! Designed by Tiny Gods owner, Mary Margaret Beaver, this year's ornament features a whimsical ladybug in gold and silver, representing the role of garden protector and symbolizing good fortune, love, and protection.

Purchase your ornament by December 31 at BabyJFund.org or at Tiny Gods or Collected store locations in Charlotte.

VOICES / Nope





n August 20, more than 100 guests gathered at Carmel Country Club for Atrium Health Foundation's inaugural Voices of Hope — an evening filled with powerful stories, medical discoveries, and the voices that bring hope to patients and families, every day. Guests were welcomed by Dr. Ruben Mesa, president of Atrium Health Levine Cancer.

"Tonight, we gather not only to celebrate what has been achieved, but to commit ourselves to what still must be done. Every dollar raised, every voice lifted, brings us closer to a world where cancer is a challenge that we can overcome — together," said Mesa.

Dr. Mesa paid tribute to the late Leon Levine, recognizing his legacy and the impact the Levine family and The Leon Levine Foundation have made on the cancer community. "With deep appreciation for Leon Levine whose keen vision and generosity propelled Atrium Health Levine Cancer to national prominence — his legacy continues to ensure world-class cancer care for generations to come," said Mesa.

One of the many hopeful voices of the evening belonged to cancer survivor Katy Harrell, a young mother who was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer at age 33. Katy shared both the challenges — and triumphs — of her breast cancer journey, highlighting the compassionate care of her oncology team.

"Standing here today, I feel an overwhelming mix of gratitude for even being able to stand in this room and tell my story, and disbelief in the road I've had to walk to get here," shared Katy. "I leaned heavily on my oncologist, Dr. Heeke, who is more than just my doctor. She cried with me, reassured me, and was one of my biggest strengths in this fight."

Guests were invited to join one of two panel discussions, featuring oncologists and researchers from Levine Cancer. Dr. Seungjean Chai, chief medical officer and clinical lead in the Charlotte region, moderated a session with panelists from Levine Cancer's clinical oncology and translational research programs. The team offered unique insights into discoveries in radiologic oncology, immunotherapy, and the role of targeted therapies and precision medicine in treating certain cancers, such as multiple myeloma.

Dr. Richard L. White, chief of Surgical Oncology, led a second session that highlighted advancements in personalized medicine and the role of supportive oncology — hallmarks of Atrium Health's commitment to patient-centered care. Experts on breast cancer, melanoma, gastrointestinal cancer, supportive oncology, and radiation oncology all emphasized the role of philanthropy in elevating the standard of cancer care offered at Levine Cancer.

"My dream is that we can bring all of these personnel in Levine Cancer together to position ourselves as a center of excellence in personalized medicine, including our pharmacogenomics team that is actively assessing patients to see how they respond to drugs, along with the power of the clinicians and the power of the molecular scientists," said Dr. Arielle Heeke.

1. Dr. Arielle Heeke was joined by her Levine Cancer colleagues in a panel discussion on personalized medicine and supportive oncology. 2. Keynote speaker and Olympian Shannon Miller inspired guests with her cancer story, facilitated by ESPN analyst Jay Bilas. 3. Breast cancer advocate Katy Harrell shared her gratitude for Levine Cancer in her care journey. 4. Benefactor Sandra Levine was recognized for her family's profound impact in the cancer community.







FOR PATIENTS BATTLING BLOOD CANCER

laire and Jonathan Bancroft's hearts are full. Grateful for the care Jonathan received at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute during his battle with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), the couple made a transformational gift to advance research and support patients undergoing cancer treatment.

Now in remission, Jonathan describes his cancer journey and the bond he formed with his oncologist, Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, as nothing short of a miracle.

"It was such a blessing having Dr. Ghosh as an advocate and a friend who was really listening to us and keeping us upbeat," shared Jonathan. "To him, providing care isn't just about the medical diagnosis; it's about making people feel comfortable."

Jonathan's wife, Blaire, elaborated: "Dr. Ghosh gave us his personal phone number and would do anything to be there for us, even if he was away from the clinic," said Blaire. "We were in good hands and that made a world of difference when we were going through this experience."

After consulting with Levine Cancer Institute and another cancer center out of state, the Bancrofts felt confident in Dr. Ghosh's treatment plan and grateful for the resources that allowed them to explore their options, nationwide. Knowing many patients lack the resources to seek care far from home, the Bancrofts designated a portion of their gift to support travel and lodging for patients undergoing treatment for blood cancers at Levine Cancer Institute. Given that treatment can compromise their immune systems, patients often require isolation or housing close to the hospital.

Primarily, the Bancroft's gift will advance Dr. Ghosh's efforts to move medical science forward and develop novel therapies for blood cancers, including an international phase 3 clinical trial and two studies investigating a new antibody and risk factors associated with treating CLL. Dr. Ghosh and his colleagues will also have more opportunities to present and publish research findings on the national and international stage.

All in the family: A legacy of giving back

Jonathan and Blaire (daughter of Levine Children's benefactors Dewey and Renee Jenkins) have long witnessed the ripple-effects of her family's generosity — through the Morris-Jenkins company, as well as their personal giving. The couple followed suit, joining their work colleagues and family to pursue better health for patients across Atrium Health.

"When we had the means to make a difference, it was largely from the example that Dewey had established at Morris-Jenkins and was built on the principle that you should give back to help others," says Jonathan, former President & CEO of Morris-Jenkins.

Blaire underscores the importance of establishing a legacy and what that means for their two children — both college students — as they enter adulthood.

"My whole family believes that one of the best ways you can help the world is to keep people healthy and well, and to keep families together," says Blaire. "I want my kids to see that we always have a responsibility to help others."



— DR. NILANJAN GHOSH CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HEMATOLOGIC ONCOLOGY AND BLOOD DISORDERS, CHIEF, LYMPHOMA DIVISION, LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE



Atrium Health Levine Cancer: Paving the way for hope through medical discovery

- A leader in CAR T-cell therapy and the first program in the Charlotte area to offer advanced treatments for blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma
- Home to the largest lymphoma division in the Southeast and offering therapy options for lymphoma patients who do not respond to standard stem cell transplant
- Conducting translational research to move promising discoveries from the lab to patient care, including development of treatments for drugresistant lymphomas















COMMUNITY UNITES TO

Pound out Cancer... One Step at a Time

The 15th Annual Keep Pounding 5K marked a record turnout in September, uniting more than 1,800 runners, walkers, cancer survivors, and families. Presented by Rodgers Builders and hosted in partnership with the Carolina Panthers, the event raised more than \$123,000 to benefit cancer programs at Atrium Health Levine Cancer and Atrium Health Levine Children's in Greater Charlotte.

The morning began at Levine Cancer Institute, where cancer survivors Lucy Dwindt-Bustos and Lauren Felzer helped kick off the race. From there, participants set off on a route that finished at Bank of America Stadium — an energizing kickoff to the Panthers' regular season. Along the way, Sir Purr, the TopCats, and the PurrCussion Drumline kept spirits high.

More than 65 teams rallied behind the cause, with Rodgers Builders leading the way with their 55-member group.

Since its founding to honor the late Carolina Panthers linebacker and coach Sam Mills, the Keep Pounding initiative has raised over \$4.7 million for cancer research and patient support programs at Levine Cancer and Levine Children's in Charlotte. Each year, the 5K serves as a powerful reminder of the strides the Charlotte community can make when it comes together in the fight against cancer.

Why Wendy Runs

For Wendy Ruth Paxton, "Keep
Pounding" isn't just a slogan — it's the
story of her life. Diagnosed with stage 4
non-hodgkin's lymphoma in 2004, Wendy
endured a grueling treatment journey
that tested her strength and spirit. With
the expert care of her team at Atrium
Health Levine Cancer, she not only
survived but thrived.

Running in the Keep Pounding 5K has offered her a chance to honor loved ones lost, support those still fighting, and celebrate the gift of survivorship. "As a 21-year survivor, I'm living proof of what your gifts make possible," she shares. "You're not just funding treatments; you're giving people like me the chance to keep pounding forward."





With special thanks to our sponsors:





GENENTECH
MIDREX
PFIZER
DPR CONSTRUCTION
PROVIDENCE ROW

1. A partner of the event since its inception, Rodgers Builders showed up in full force to advance cancer care across the community. 2. Lucy Dwindt-Bustos (left) and Lauren Felzer (right), both cancer survivors and Atrium Health patients, helped kick off the race. 3. Team Graham was recognized as the top community fundraising team. 4. Dale Rudiger secured the top individual fundraiser award.



















Carolinas Rehabilitation:

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF RESTORING QUALITY TO LIFE

trium Health commemorated a significant milestone for rehabilitative medicine this September, as teammates, community members, and grateful patients gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Atrium Health Carolinas Rehabilitation. Todd Bennett, vice president of Carolinas Rehabilitation, welcomed over 125 attendees to the celebration, recognizing the patients, teammates, advocates, and donors who have shaped Atrium Health's legacy in rehabilitative medicine.

"At Carolinas Rehabilitation the word 'rehabilitation' means restoring hope, dignity, independence, and joy... it's the very heart of our mission," said Todd. "Our journey has been shaped by visionary leaders, an exceptional team dedicated to excellence, resilient patients who inspire us daily, and the extraordinary generosity of our philanthropic supporters who have made our growth possible."

Carolinas Rehabilitation's evolution and future are eternally tied to the generosity of our donors, such as Margaret and Smoky Bissell and Bissell Ballantyne, whose philanthropy established The David L. Conlan Center to anchor the flagship facility of Carolinas Rehabilitation. With community support, Carolinas Rehabilitation has achieved remarkable outcomes in clinical care, education, and research, consistently ranking among the top rehabilitation programs nationwide and #1 in the Southeast and Carolinas.

The David L. Conlan Pathway to Independence: Reimagining Healing in Harmony with Nature

A bold future awaits Atrium Health Carolinas Rehabilitation, with plans to build upon its longstanding history of excellence by introducing the David L. Conlan Pathway to Independence, a first-of-its-kind, immersive therapy path where patients will recover from injuries or illnesses in harmony with nature.

This addition combines traditional medical and rehabilitative interventions with holistic services, positioning Carolinas Rehabilitation to expand in ways not achievable elsewhere in the country. "It allows all of our patients to benefit from the most advanced and comprehensive treatments, making us the premier destination for rehabilitative care in the Southeast, as well as the nation," said Dr. Vishwa Raj, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation chair and specialty medical director of Carolinas Rehabilitation.

Designed in collaboration with Carolinas Rehabilitation teammates, patients, and caregivers, and slated to open in 2026, the David L. Conlan Pathway to Independence will provide real-world, functional, rehabilitative experiences, including:

- Therapeutic intervention stations
- Outdoor therapy equipment
- Accessible pathways with varied ground textures
- Hills, ramps, and walkways
- Sensory and communication therapy areas
- Accessible raised garden beds

With community support, the David L. Conlan Center plans to add a biomedical research lab, innovation lab, Center for Independent Living, and somatosensory resource center. In addition, Carolinas Rehabilitation envisions expanding the Lifespan Therapies and Technology programs, integrating occupational, physical, and speech therapies with cutting-edge rehabilitation technologies to serve patients across all stages of life.

"These visionary projects — each one rooted in compassion and innovation — are more than just plans," said Robert Larrison, president of Carolinas Rehabilitation. "They are promises to our patients, caregivers, and community that the future of Carolinas Rehabilitation will be defined by possibility, progress, and purpose, while we remain steadfast to our mission of restoring quality to life."





Illustrations of the future David L. Conlan Pathway to Independence courtesy of Kimley-Horn.



Philanthropy plays a vital role in making these promises a reality. Every gift advances expert care, groundbreaking research, and innovative technology to ensure that all patients can recover and thrive. Join us in transforming lives and building a legacy of healing for generations to come.

AtriumHealthFoundation.org/CarolinasRehab75

Swim Across America

MAKES WAVES FOR CANCER RESEARCH

ince 2017, Swim Across America has helped advance cancer research at Atrium Health. Through the generosity of its swimmers, volunteers, and donors, the organization's collective contributions have surpassed \$1 million. Today, Swim Across America is propelling \$370,000 in active research funding at Atrium Health Levine Cancer, supporting the work of Drs. Lawrence Druhan, Michael Grunwald, Greg Knight, Zvonimir Milas, Jai Patel, Brittany Ragon, and Srinivasa Sanikommu. Together, this team of physicians and scientists is driving progress toward safer, more effective treatments for patients.

Four current studies supported by Swim Across America include:

- **Personalizing leukemia care:** Identifying genetic predictors of how chronic and acute myeloid leukemia patients metabolize drugs and experience side effects, helping guide more precise treatment and dosing.
- **Reducing transplant risks:** Assessing genetic and clinical factors linked to cardiac toxicity after bone marrow transplants, with the goal of improving survivorship and quality of life.
- Addressing financial stress: Exploring how financial navigation services can reduce distress and improve outcomes for patients with acute myeloid leukemia.
- Understanding cancer evolution and early detection: Studying how cancers develop through genetic changes, with an emphasis on identifying disease earlier. This includes the Firefighter Project, which screens firefighters for premalignant conditions tied to occupational exposures, aiming to inform better prevention, monitoring, and treatment strategies for high-risk populations.

Thanks to Swim Across America's continued commitment, these studies are bringing hope to cancer patients and their families.





1. On October 5, Swim Across America—Charlotte hosted its Ninth Annual Open Water Swim at Camp Thunderbird, bringing together supporters for a day of impact. 2. Atrium Health Foundation hosted Swim Across America for a lab tour in August, where the team announced its largest grant to date — \$235,000 to advance leukemia research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer.

BETH BATTLES CANCER WITH THE "STRENGTH OF A LION"

When Beth Bramlett was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma, her life changed instantly. What started as unexplained fatigue and abdominal swelling quickly became a devastating reality, launching her and her family into a battle they never expected.

"I never imagined that I would be worried about seeing our kids graduate high school, attend college... just being there to watch their lives flourish," Beth recalls.



Despite the fear, Beth found hope in both her care team at Atrium Health Levine Cancer and the community that rallied around her. From neighbors providing meals and friends offering emotional support, to her sisters showing up to her first oncology appointment in matching pajamas, love showed up in many ways.

Beth's treatment was aggressive: six weeks of oral chemotherapy to shrink tumors, followed by nine months of immunotherapy. When melanoma later appeared in her left ovary, she underwent a complete hysterectomy, all while managing side effects including fatigue, nausea, thyroid dysfunction, hair thinning, and rheumatoid arthritis.

"I've had my share of side effects," Beth says. "But that's a small price to pay because I'm still here." Now on a maintenance plan with regular lab work, scans, and oral chemotherapy, she remains focused on healing — and ringing the bell that signals the end of treatment.

Through it all, Beth's husband, John, has been her rock. A longtime songwriter and musician, he channeled their experience into music, creating "Strength of a Lion"— a tribute to Beth and everyone facing cancer. "Music is therapeutic," Beth says. "I'm so proud of him for writing this song and putting himself out there. It tells the story of what it feels like to walk through cancer, together."

The Bramletts have used the song to help raise money for the Carolinas Melanoma & Immunotherapy Fund at Atrium Health Levine Cancer in Charlotte — the very place that gave Beth hope, healing, and a second chance at life. Beth credits her oncologist, Dr. Asim Amin, whose pioneering research in immunotherapy offered a path forward. "We knew that supporting Levine Cancer Institute meant supporting that kind of life-saving work," she says.

To support the Bramletts' fundraising and hear John's original song, visit: AtriumHealthFoundation.org/StrengthofaLion



- 1. Married for 27 years with three children, Beth and John always face life's journey together.
- 2. Beth was surrounded by love at her first oncology appointment, with her sisters accompanying her in matching pajamas.

The Hopebuilders 5K Celebrates a 30-Year Legacy for Children's Health

ince 1996, the Hopebuilders 5K has united the community in a shared mission of bringing hope and healing to children at Atrium Health Levine Children's. What began as a small race has grown into one of Charlotte's most cherished traditions, marking 30 years of strides toward a healthier future for kids and families across the region.

This year's event, presented by Morris-Jenkins and hosted in partnership with the Charlotte Knights, brought together more than 850 registrants and raised over \$113,000 to advance patient care and clinical research. This achievement was made possible by the generosity of donors and sponsors, led by Morris-Jenkins, along with DPR Construction, Aramark Healthcare+, and Metrolina Greenhouses.

At the race, Meghan Clithero, facility executive and vice president of Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital, spoke to a crowd filled with caregivers, patients, and supporters: "Levine Children's Hospital stands as a testament to what's possible when people come together with a common goal. For 18 years, we've been recognized as a top children's hospital by U.S. News & World Report. But what matters most is the care we provide, the lives we touch, and the people who stand beside us."

Many patient families and care teams attended, forming more than 40 teams that filled the streets of Uptown Charlotte. Among them, Care for Rare led this year's fundraising efforts, with over 70 team members raising more than \$46,000 for the Ward Winslett Center for Complex and Rare Diseases at Levine Children's. Their passion inspired a matching gift from WARD'S Foundation, doubling their impact and helping to bring hope to kids with rare medical conditions.

Since its inception, the Hopebuilders 5K has raised over \$3.4 million to benefit programs at Levine Children's, and, with every step, has carried hope for our patients.







A Look Back

1996

Two Charlotte families — Gigi and William Harris, and Mattye and Marc Silverman — organize and host the inaugural **Hopebuilders 5K** in memory of their children.

2007

Levine Children's Hospital officially opens its doors, the result of a community campaign to ensure a healthier future for children and families in our region.

2008

Levine Children's Hospital is named the Charlotte region's only "Best Children's Hospital" by U.S. News & World Report. 2013

Ryan Seacrest Studios opens, offering a creative, therapeutic multimedia space where patients can explore radio, television, and other forms of media.



Morris-Jenkins brought their trademark enthusiasm to race day, and more than 40 team members.



The Care for Rare team earned the Top Community Fundraising Team Award, with teammate Elizabeth Civils winning Top Individual Fundraiser.





Aly's Journey from Rehabilitation to Race Day

Just one year ago, Aly Taylor was relearning how to stand at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital after suffering a spinal cord injury during gymnastics practice. The accident required emergency surgery, followed by nine days in the trauma ICU and seven weeks in inpatient rehabilitation.

During her stay, Aly found healing not only through expert medical care but also through programs that brought comfort to her hospital days — painting with Arts For Life, visiting with facility dogs, and celebrating holidays with the Child Life team. "I never really felt like it was a hospital because I could do so many activities," she said. "It made my days fun instead of just medical."

One year later, Aly returned to support Levine Children's in full force, lacing up her running shoes for the 30th Annual Hopebuilders 5K. Cheered on by family, friends, and the care team who supported her recovery, she crossed the finish line as the top female finisher in her age group.





at 30 Years...

2019

The region's only Cellular
Therapies Program launches,
providing blood and marrow
transplants, stem cell transplants,
and other advanced treatments
for children with cancer or
blood disorders.

2020

The **HEARTest Yard Congenital Heart Center** opens, offering
comprehensive care for children
with congenital heart disease.

2021

The 100th pediatric heart transplant is performed at Levine Children's Hospital.

2024

Levine Children's Hospital is named the #1 children's hospital in North Carolina by U.S. News & World Report, tying for first in the southeastern United States.

HOPE IN MOTION: 24 FOUNDATION SPINS FOR SURVIVORSHIP

For hundreds of cycling enthusiasts and cancer advocates, riding Charlotte's famous "booty loop" this July held special meaning, commemorating 24 consecutive years of hard work, camaraderie, and dedication to improving the lives of those impacted by cancer. The event raised a record-breaking \$1.7 million, bringing 24 Foundation's lifetime support to more than \$31 million to strengthen cancer navigation and survivorship programs through local and national beneficiaries, including Atrium Health Levine Cancer and Atrium Health Levine Children's in Charlotte.

Through their unwavering support, 24 Foundation has enabled Atrium Health to expand supportive oncology programs for pediatric and adult patients, providing personalized resources to guide patients and their caregivers throughout their cancer journeys. This includes programs that holistically aim to decrease side-effects of cancer treatment, improve health, facilitate recovery, and nurture patients' well-being.

For many supporters of 24 Foundation, such as Mondo Normile, participating in 24 Hours of Booty holds personal meaning. A leukemia survivor, Mondo was a patient at Atrium Health Levine Cancer when he was inspired to give back and support fellow patients through their own experiences with cancer treatment and survivorship.





1&2: Atrium Health leaders and teammates were in full force at 24 Hours of Booty. 3&4: Blood cancer survivor Mondo Normile celebrated his fourth year with his dedicated "Mondo's Mission" teammates.



"When my friend asked me to participate in 24 Hours of Booty I thought, 'Ride for 24 hours in the heat of July... no thanks!' But let me say, once you start, you can't stop," said Mondo, who participated for the fourth time in the cycling event this year. "Today, I am in remission, and it is hard to describe my perspective... I'm grateful I live in a community where I can access an abundance of care, support, and resources through Levine Cancer Institute and organizations like 24 Foundation."

What an incredible 24th year of 24 Hours of Booty," said Katherine Murphy, executive director of 24 Foundation. "We are deeply grateful to every participant, survivor, supporter, and sponsor — including Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital — who showed up with heart and purpose to make an immediate impact in our cancer community and help change the course of cancer.









Argh, Matey!

5&6: Over four years, Mondo and his team have raised \$47,000 by riding in 24 Hours of Booty and hosting the annual Pirate Party for Booty, which brings together 100+ friends and neighbors in costume to support the cause.

Overcoming sickle cell disease

— A MOTHER'S HOPE FOR HER DAUGHTER

hen Tiaunah Harris talks about her five-year-old daughter, Temperance, she beams with pride. Temperance is a bright, friendly, and precocious kindergartener, who loves building with magnetic tiles and wants to enjoy all that childhood has to offer. "I am so grateful to see how Temperance has grown into a child who has the personality to fill a room. She is confident and funny, but also very caring," shared Tiaunah. Behind Temperance's sweet smile, it is easy to miss that she also quietly suffers from sickle cell disease. When the Harris family initially learned of her diagnosis, it was devastating news to bear.

"It was like time stopped," said Tiaunah. "Our family spent her first Christmas at Levine Children's Hospital... the tree was still up and the presents unopened." Temperance had spiked a high fever, requiring her to spend five days at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital one of countless trips she would make to treat her condition in the years ahead. Thankfully, Temperance is one of many young patients who have access to the latest treatments and support services available to sickle cell patients at Atrium Health Levine Children's. "Her

> care team has been incredible," shared Tiaunah. "Temperance feels cared for and right at home."

With the guidance of her medical team, Temperance is already aware of what she needs to manage the disease a burden too great for her to navigate on her own. Thankfully, Levine Children's is committed to providing patients

with the most comprehensive, patient-centered, and family-

centered sickle cell program in the region. Philanthropic support would help hire a transition coordinator, psychologist, and patient navigator to ease the journey for Temperance and other young patients facing sickle cell disease.



and that's very special," said Tiaunah.



Treating Sickle Cell Disease:

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that impacts the shape of red blood cells, causing the cells to block blood flow, which can result in severe pain, infections, anemia, and organ damage. Millions of adults worldwide suffer from the disease and nearly 300,000 infants are born with sickle cell disease annually. While in the past, quality of life and life expectancy for patients with the disease were poor, new research and treatment options are giving hope to those living with the disease in our community. At Atrium Health, patients have access to promising treatments such as gene-editing therapy, novel medications, and stem cell transplantation.



BRING HOPE TO SICKLE CELL PATIENTS

With significant philanthropy, we can help patients at Atrium Health Levine Cancer and Atrium Health Levine Children's navigate their care, prevent pain crises, and even reach cures that didn't exist a decade ago. Supporting our comprehensive sickle cell program is a vital piece of the fight against chronic disease. Join us as we aspire to raise \$3 million to integrate pediatric and adult sickle cell care into a cohesive, supportive, and comprehensive program — one that treats and supports our patients from childhood, to adulthood, and into survivorship.

Let's walk alongside these patients and provide innovation, access, and hope.

LEARN MORE:





SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR THE



JANUARY 27, 2026

The Pearl - Charlotte's Innovation District

Tickets and information available at: SICKLECELEBRATION.ORG



COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK:

Up, up, and away!

Publix heroes give with heart

The creativity and dedication of Publix associates resulted in a record-breaking summer campaign, with teams across the Charlotte market raising over \$101,000 for Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital. From Miracle Balloon sales at the register in exchange for exclusive product coupons, to fundraising competitions held between team members, 31 local Publix supermarkets gave generously. Sherrills Ford's Publix was recognized as the top fundraising Publix supermarket, nationwide.

"At Publix supermarkets, giving back is part of who we are — a value deeply rooted in the vision of our founder, George Jenkins, who believed that we should invest in the communities we serve," said media relations manager, Jared Glover. "The success of our Sherrills Ford Publix supermarket's record-breaking year is a testament to the dedication of our associates, the generosity of our customers, and our shared mission to make miracles happen."



Above: Sherrills Ford Publix supermarket associates dressed the part, combining their 'superpowers' to give children health — and hope.





Above: The Charlotte market's Life Time fundraising team was led by fitness instructor Jerrod Benton, who issued the call: "Be different and be better in all endeavors!"

"Ride of a Life Time" changes children's lives

Life Time athletic clubs are on a mission to fight for children's health. A Children's Miracle Network partner since 2019, Life Time has raised over \$3.5 million for children's hospitals nationwide and over \$14,500 for Atrium Health Levine Children's in Greater Charlotte through its annual "Ride of a Life Time" cycling event. The month-long fundraising effort culminates in a single-day fitness event and celebration at Life Time clubs across the country.

"By expanding the event to feature a variety of movement formats, we aim to engage even more participants in creating a lasting impact for children at pivotal moments in their lives, while helping to build a healthier, brighter future for generations to come," said Sarah Emola, director of the Life Time Foundation.

Local Life Time members, instructors, and guests put muscle into the campaign, raising over \$5,900 for Atrium Health Levine Children's.



Layne Riggs, driver No. 34 of Love's RV Stops Ford, and Todd Gilliland, driver No. 34 of Love's Travel Stops Ford Mustang Dark Horse, visited the Seacrest Studios at Levine Children's Hospital.

Love's Travel Stops fuel every child's tomorrow

Love's Travel Stops are fueling health and hope for children across the Greater Charlotte area. Led by six local travel stop locations, Love's hosts a variety of point-of-sale fundraising campaigns benefiting Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital year-round. This year's campaigns have collectively raised \$73,500, and counting, surpassing last year's record total of \$68,000.

In the driver's seat this season for Front Row Motorsports were Todd Gilliland, driver No. 34 of Love's Travel Stops Ford Mustang Dark Horse, and Layne Riggs, driver No. 34 of Love's RV Stops Ford in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series. Putting the pedal to the metal to change children's health, Gilliland and Riggs paid a special visit to patients and families at Levine Children's Hospital. "We get to build some race cars and talk about drivers while really trying to help these kids out," said Riggs, after giving high-fives to patients. "We're all trying to do our part to make a small difference," shared Gilliland.









A Grapshot of Hope:

Funds raised through Children's Miracle Network are unrestricted, allowing donations to be designated to support the greatest needs at any time across Atrium Health Levine Children's in Greater Charlotte. **CMN donations have funded:**



State-of-the-art rehabilitation equipment, including the MOVAO Bari, the world's first bedside leg-press to help patients regain leg strength during recovery

Family Resource Center materials, including books that aide with coping, like They Call Me Brave: A Children's Book about Cancer





Outpatient pediatric programs and services that enhance quality of life for our patients, including our **summer food program** and **school supplies** to help students get a head start when entering kindergarten







AccuVein, Inc. vein-finder devices, helping health care providers identify veins for blood draws and minimize pain for patients



Celebrate the Geason

WITH CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK



Visit Gingerbread Lane at The Ballantyne Charlotte

December 14-28 (excluding Christmas Day)

Celebrate the magic of the season at The Ballantyne Charlotte, where holiday artistry meets heartfelt giving. Experience life-size gingerbread houses, the Cocoa House, and opportunities to vote for your favorite gingerbread creation — all in support of Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital.

Shop 'til you Drop at The CMN Gift Card Shop!

Through December 31

Visit the CMN Gift Card Shop to purchase gifts cards of your choice, and 3% of each card's face value will be donated to Levine Children's Hospital! Visit: CMNHospitals.TheGiftCardShop.com





Round Up at the Register!

Through December 31

Remember to round-up at the register when you dine at any local Dairy Queen or Panda Express; shop for home improvement supplies at your neighborhood ACE Hardware store; and fuel up at local Speedway and 7-Eleven convenience stores.

Mpcoming:

February 28 **UNC-Charlotte** Ninerthon Dance Marathon

March 2026 Life Time Fitness Ride of a Lifetime

March 20 **Dairy Queen**

Dip it for Kids Free Cone Day

For Children's Miracle Network partner campaigns benefiting Atrium Health Levine Children's year-round, visit AtriumHealthFoundation.org/CMN.



The Wilbur Legacy

Margaret and John Wilbur met at age 17 and built lives of service together — Margaret as an internal medicine physician and John as a city planner and housing advocate. After moving to Charlotte in 2017, the Wilburs embraced life as grandparents, enjoying reading, traveling, and biking together.

In 2020, their lives were upended when John was diagnosed with ductal carcinoma, a form of pancreatic cancer. Aware of the aggressive nature of the disease, the Wilburs found confidence and hope in Dr. Kunal Kadakia, an oncologist at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute. "Dr. Kadakia is special," shares Margaret. "John always felt hopeful and we both felt we had agency to make decisions."

John joined a locally advanced pancreatic cancer clinical trial, hoping that the study would improve his prognosis and offer better treatment options to other patients in his position. Although side effects forced John to leave the trial, Dr. Kadakia's thoughtful care plan gave the Wilburs what mattered most: time to embrace life together, filled with love, adventure, and peace.

"We were able to travel, see friends, ride bikes — all of the things we loved," says Margaret. "I give credit to Dr. Kadakia. He knew what quality of life meant for us, and we felt like that was a win."

John survived four years after his diagnosis — a medical miracle on many counts. Grateful for the time he and Margaret had been given, he asked Margaret to support research that would help others. Honoring his wishes, Margaret recently made a gift to advance pancreatic cancer research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer, led by Dr. Kadakia and Dr. Brandon VanderVeen, assistant professor of cancer biology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

"My hope — and John's hope — is that by funding research, 10 years from now there will be a difference in the outcomes for patients and families," shares Margaret.

With support from the Wilburs, Dr. Kadakia and Dr. VanderVeen are currently co-leading a study on cancer cachexia — a common and significant complication for many patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. "We are humbled and grateful to know that the Wilburs made the decision to give funds for research that will enhance the lives of other cancer patients," says Dr. Kadakia.



Because of the care John received at Levine Cancer Institute, his final years were filled with memories his family will always cherish.

WE ARE HUMBLED AND GRATEFUL THAT THE WILBURS MADE THE DECISION TO SUPPORT RESEARCH THAT WILL ENHANCE THE LIVES OF OTHER CANCER PATIENTS.

DR. KUNAL KADAKIA
 ONCOLOGIST, ATRIUM HEALTH LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE

Hope on the horizon for patients with pancreatic cancer:

Dr. Kunal Kadakia of Atrium
Health Levine Cancer and
Dr. Brandon VanderVeen of
Wake Forest University are
co-leading research on cancer
cachexia — a serious condition
affecting up to 90% of
pancreatic cancer patients.
Cachexia causes extreme
muscle loss due to
inflammation and metabolic
changes, reducing patients'
ability to tolerate treatment
and impacting their survival.

While some inflammatory proteins show promise as treatment targets for cancer cachexia, few therapies have succeeded in clinical trials. Dr. VanderVeen's lab is analyzing blood samples from pancreatic cancer patients to improve diagnosis and treatment options.



Dr. Kunal Kadakia



THE PAULA TAKACS FOUNDATION: Carrying a legacy of hope forward

ignifying The Paula Takacs Foundation's deep commitment to sarcoma programs at Atrium Health Levine Cancer and Atrium Health Levine Children's, a \$2 million endowment fund was recently established at Atrium Health Foundation to support an endowed chair for sarcoma research at Atrium Health. Dr. Joshua C. Patt was named the inaugural Paula Takacs Foundation Endowed Chair for Sarcoma Research during a private investiture ceremony held this summer.

During the investiture, Dr. Ebony Boulware, dean of Wake Forest University School of Medicine, underscored the significance of the prestigious appointment. "Endowed chairs are powerful vehicles of progress that elevate scientific discovery, strengthen clinical leadership, and expand our ability to care for patients in meaningful, life-changing ways," said Dr. Boulware. "The Paula Takacs Foundation's vision and generosity are lighting the path forward in cancer research and care, allowing us to carry that legacy into the future."

The Paula Takacs Foundation Endowed Chair for Sarcoma Research will advance medical research leading to earlier detection, novel therapies, improved outcomes, and curative treatments for pediatric and adult patients treated for sarcoma. Supported by The Paula Takacs Foundation, Patt and his colleagues, led by Dr. Johann Hsu, have launched a promising study on liquid biopsies and circulating tumor DNA to advance Atrium Health's research on bone and soft tissue sarcomas.

Christine Wade, executive director of The Paula Takacs Foundation, sees this position as a catalyst for hope. "The establishment of the Paula Takacs Foundation Endowed Chair for Sarcoma Research represents a transformative moment — not only for Dr. Patt and Atrium Health Levine Cancer, but for every patient and family touched by this rare cancer," said Christine. "By investing \$2 million into this endowed chair, we are making a powerful statement of hope: Every person diagnosed with sarcoma deserves the best and brightest minds fighting for their future."

Admired for his dedication to nurturing the careers of learners and colleagues across Atrium Health, Dr. Patt serves as the sarcoma section chief at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute in Charlotte, vice chair for education, and professor of orthopaedic surgery at Atrium Health. Previously, he led the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center as program director and continues to support both residency and fellowship programs. His appointment as The Paula Takacs Foundation Endowed Chair honors his remarkable career and ensures his impact for generations to follow.

Dr. Ruben Mesa, president of Atrium Health Levine Cancer and executive director of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center, spoke at the investiture ceremony, praising Dr. Patt for his leadership. "Dr. Patt's ability to balance clinical excellence with compassionate care is extraordinary. Whether he's in the operating room, mentoring a resident, or leading a research initiative, he brings integrity, humility, and vision to our cancer team."

As the demand for comprehensive cancer care and sarcoma expertise in the Charlotte area continues to grow, philanthropic support from donors like The Paula Takacs Foundation will help to ensure that Atrium Health's patients have access to the best sarcoma care available in the region.



Dr. Patt was joined by staff and board members of The Paula Takacs Foundation for his investiture ceremony.



Paula's Passion: A Vision of Hope

Paula Takacs never met a challenge she wouldn't work to conquer. In 2004, as she held her newborn son, Graham, Paula anticipated all the challenges new mothers experience with infants: lack of sleep, endless diaper changes, and mastering the perfect swaddle. However, four days after bringing her baby home, Paula faced the greatest challenge of her life: she had been diagnosed with liposarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer. Typical of her approach to life, Paula faced her treatment with determination — and conviction — to make the future better for other sarcoma patients. With the help of family and loved ones, she founded The Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research, Since 2010, the foundation has raised \$2.4 million to fund local sarcoma research, expand global hope, and amplify awareness of the disease.

I WANT PEOPLE TO THINK OF ME AS
A PERSON WHO NEVER GAVE UP.
SOMEONE WHO LIVED WITH
PURPOSE AND STROVE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD.

— PAULA TIPTON TAKACS



Public-private partnership forges healthy future for students and communities

he Meaningful Medicine initiative was established in 2022 with a landmark \$10 million grant from Bank of America to Atrium Health Foundation. It unites the best innovations within health care, social impact, and workforce development to directly target health access and economic mobility within Charlotte.

In partnership with Atrium Health, Bank of America, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), Central Piedmont Community College, Inlivian Housing, Latin American Coalition, Mecklenburg County, and YMCA of Greater Charlotte, this initiative supports families across the Charlotte region.

At CMS, the initiative is helping increase access to health and emotional wellness resources and expanding career training opportunities for students during high school and post-graduation. Additionally, the program provides the most vulnerable in the community with embedded health support systems, including convenient access to new virtual health care sites and other social needs.

When the public and private sector work together, impact can be scaled and build greater results. These partnerships are key, according to Shannon Duval, chief philanthropy officer for Advocate Health, of which Atrium Health is a part. "Meaningful Medicine is truly driving Atrium Health's mission home. It's ensuring people in the communities we serve have access to care, and offering opportunity and training to those who wish to pursue a health care career."

In 2022, School-Based Virtual Care — or telehealth — was established in 20 CMS elementary schools and soon grew to expand to 115 CMS locations. Since then, the program has served more than 10,000 students and school faculty during school hours with a 61% return to classroom rate. Additionally, 76% of patients reported facing financial barriers to care (August 2022-2024).

SCHOOL-BASED VIRTUAL THERAPY

In addition to School-Based Virtual Care to support students' and staff's physical wellness, the Meaningful Medicine program also supports emotional and behavioral health through its School-Based Virtual Therapy program. This program is making a critical difference and offers supplemental support to those needing psychiatric evaluation and prescription medication for a mental health diagnosis.

To date, 32 CMS locations offer this resource to students to support their emotional wellness and behavioral needs during school hours, on campus, with the option to continue services at home throughout the year. Since 2022, nearly 11,000 CMS students have utilized the resource for their needs.

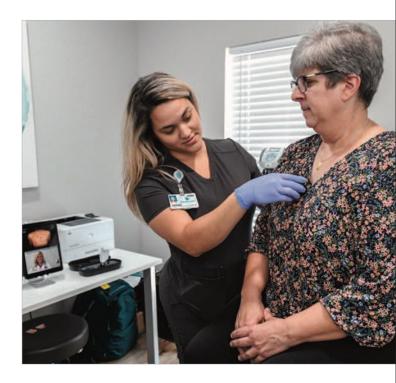
COMMUNITY VIRTUAL PRIMARY CARE

Meaningful Medicine also provides Community Virtual Primary Care clinics to meet the needs of the broader Charlotte region. Six clinics are supported by the YMCA of Greater Charlotte, the Latin American Coalition, Inlivian Housing, and Central Piedmont Community College. Since 2022, the program has provided virtual care to more than 800 patients and identified 1,100 patients at risk for negative health outcomes due to acute social health needs.

Continued on pg. 40



The Meaningful Medicine program has six areas of focus: School-Based Virtual Care, School-Based Virtual Therapy, Workforce Development, Community Virtual Primary Care, Suicide Prevention, and providing social support.



PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



1 of 2

patients came from families facing financial barriers

70%

of participants were from historically under-represented communities

Source: 2024 year-end report on Meaningful Medicine program.

A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

Continued from pa. 39

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

An important element of the Meaningful Medicine initiative is its workforce development alignment, which advances nursing and medical-related training programs for CMS high school students. Led by Atrium Health, three health-related career pathway programs offer targeted experiences and training to help high school students advance in their health care careers. Since 2022, more than 300 CMS students have participated in Atrium Health's career programs:

- Propelling Adolescents Towards Careers in Healthcare (PATCH), an eight-week curriculum of exposure to health care careers through professional development, has enrolled 132 students*
- The program has supported 71 CMS students with paid internship positions*
- Rise to Success, a three-year program for students pursuing an associate degree in a health care field, has enrolled 76 CMS students post graduation*

*As of August 2024







I GOT TO SEE SO MANY NEW CAREERS I WOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO EXPLORE MYSELF OR GET EXPOSED TO,
AND I'M DEFINITELY CONSIDERING MORE OF THESE
PROFESSIONS I'VE SEEN DURING MY INTERNSHIP.

— INTERN, SUMMER 2025

PARTNERS IN HEALTH

Atrium Health, Bank of America, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Central Piedmont Community College, Inlivian Housing, Latin American Coalition, Mecklenburg County, and YMCA of Greater Charlotte

Opportunities Through Learning

Over 90%

of participants agreed that Rise to Success was important for their financial stability and general well-being, and helped them reach their academic goals.

56%

of the Mecklenburg County participants were enrolled in a prior Workforce Development program.

Mecklenburg County Rise to Success graduates in 2025: Nursing, Surgical Technology, Ultrasound, and Medical Lab Technology



The road ahead:

Program partners are expanding the Meaningful Medicine initiative by increasing access through virtual care and workforce development, and by strengthening connections through support for social drivers of health and mental health in Charlotte.

To learn more about Meaningful Medicine, visit:

AtriumHealthFoundation.org/MeaningfulMedicine.



Lidya Kidane Providence High School, class of 2024

RISE TO SUCCESS HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE BY SUPPORTING MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING A DEDICATED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE HEALTH CARE **PROFESSIONAL COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN** OTHERS' LIVES.



Shamice Boyd West Charlotte High School, class of 2023

66 RISE TO SUCCESS HAS TRULY BEEN A BLESSING IN MY LIFE. IT'S GIVEN ME THE **CHANCE TO KEEP PURSUING MY NURSING DREAMS WHILE GROWING BOTH** PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM MEANS SO MUCH TO ME. I HONESTLY COULDN'T ASK TO BE PART OF A BETTER PROGRAM OR GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO TRULY BELIEVE IN ME.

On the SCENE

Foundations of the Future celebrates high school students

In October, sophomore students from Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences attended the inaugural Foundations of the Future event at The Pearl. The celebration recognized their completion of the first year of an innovative early-college program, generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, that is designed to prepare them for future careers in health care.

Students and families heard from partner leaders at Atrium Health, Carolinas College of Health Sciences, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, who shared insights about the program and the career paths that lie ahead.





1. Leaders from Atrium Health Foundation, Atrium Health's Workforce and Career Development program, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Carolinas College of Health Sciences attended Foundations of the Future, celebrating the growth and continued impact of the early-college program. 2. Bloomberg Philanthropies leader Jenny Kane (left) addressed more than 150 attendees at the event.



Cycle to the Sea recognizes 25 years

This year's Cycle to the Sea marked a milestone 25th anniversary, as 27 riders pedaled from Atrium Health Union in Monroe, N.C. to North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Over the course of their three-day journey, participants raised nearly \$80,000 in support of the Adaptive Sports & Adventures Program at Atrium Health Carolinas Rehabilitation.

Since its inception, Cycle to the Sea has united more than 625 cyclists and 200 volunteers, collectively riding over 4,500 miles in support of individuals with physical disabilities. Proceeds help provide adaptive equipment, dedicated staff, and recreational opportunities for participants of all ages and abilities, free of charge.

Levine Children's Hospital opens reimagined rooftop terrace

In September, Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital celebrated the reopening of its rooftop terrace — a vibrant, reimagined space made possible by generous community supporters. Since its debut in 2007, the terrace has been a cherished escape for patients and families, where they have enjoyed movie nights, outdoor games, and countless joyful moments.

Led by Morris-Jenkins, along with Chick-fil-A, National Gypsum Company, and Blaire and Jonathan Bancroft, donors helped transform the terrace into a cityscape "town center" designed to spark imagination and support healing. Physical and occupational therapists now use the space to help children navigate their environments, while Child Life specialists can incorporate play into care through games and activities.

"Sometimes the sunshine and fresh air can be just what the doctor ordered," said Meghan Clithero, facility executive and vice president of Levine Children's Hospital.





The Morris-Jenkins team joined patients and caregivers at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the rooftop terrace.

The Thompson family hosts kickoff event supporting Levine Cancer

After losing her husband, Mike, to stage 4 colorectal cancer in 2023, Michelle Thompson has honored his memory through philanthropy. Following a successful fundraiser at the VanLandingham Estate this spring, she and two of her children joined Mike's oncologist, Dr. Mohamed Salem, for a check presentation. With the support of friends, family, and colleagues, the Thompson family raised over \$22,000 to support colorectal and gastrointestinal cancer care at Atrium Health Levine Cancer in Greater Charlotte.



PINK POWER:

t Atrium Health Levine Cancer, hope for breast cancer patients begins with early detection and advanced treatments. Thanks to philanthropy, the community continues to foster that hope by funding programs that provide cancer screenings, education, and innovative therapies. During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the community joined together to honor survivors, remember loved ones, and raise critical funds for local breast cancer initiatives.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO EARLY DETECTION

Through Project PINK, Atrium Health Levine Cancer provides free mammogram screenings and follow-up care for uninsured and underinsured women across Greater Charlotte.





Tickled PINK Spotlights Survivors

Now in its 17th year, the event brought together 200 guests for a night of fashion, hope, and impact, raising more than \$100,000 to support women across Union County and beyond.

Charlotte Radiology's Pink Pint Night Raises a Glass for Detection

Hosted in partnership with NoDa Brewing Company, the 14th annual event raised nearly \$50,000 to help local women access care.



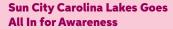
Champions for Change: Event Rallies for Breast Cancer Screenings

The 12th Annual Celebrate the Tatas Tournament of Champions united 19 women's soccer teams for a weekend of camaraderie and competition to support important breast health screenings.





PHILANTHROPY FUELS BREAST CANCER PROGRAMS



Residents rallied to support Project PINK through an annual Mahjong tournament, as well as Levine Cancer breast initiatives through a charity golf outing.



Pickled Pink Spooktacular Rallies for Detection

The Highland Creek community combined pickleball and Halloween fun, raising funds to provide mammograms and education for women in need.



Framebridge Supports Access to Breast Care

Framebridge Myers Park hosted a special shopping event, donating a portion of proceeds to expand access to breast cancer detection and follow-up care.



ADVANCING RESEARCH AND TREATMENT

Donations to the Carolinas Breast Cancer Fund support patient education, outreach, and clinical research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer in Charlotte.

Marc Kantor Serves Up Aces for Breast Cancer Research

Tennis professional Marc Kantor turned his love of the game into purpose, raising funds to advance local research.



SUPPORTING YOUNG WOMEN BEYOND DIAGNOSIS

Through the Sandra Levine Young Women's Breast Cancer Program, Atrium Health Levine Cancer provides specialized patient support services for breast cancer patients 45 years of age and under.

Arboretum Pediatrics Bakes for a Cause

The Levine Children's Arboretum Pediatrics team hosted its 12th annual bake sale and auction benefiting young women impacted by breast cancer.





Together, these events represent the strength and generosity of a community united by one goal — ensuring that every woman has access to early detection, advanced treatments, and the hope of healing.

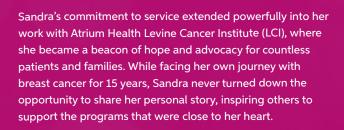
IN MEMORIAM

Sandra GOLDMAN

January 14, 1968 - November 12, 2025

Sandra Goldman's life was a testament to compassion, dedication, and the quiet power of service. Always ready with a smile, a thoughtful word, or a helping hand, Sandra will be

forever remembered by colleagues and loved ones as someone who brought warmth and kindness to every interaction.



As a trusted voice and leader on the LCI Patient and Family Advisory Council, Sandra championed the patient-perspective by helping to lead the renovation of LCI's Healing Garden, where patients and families have a place of respite, and designing a "patient to patient" guide, offering newly diagnosed patients practical advice from someone who truly understood their journey.

Passionate about supporting others, Sandra embarked upon an unforgettable skydiving mission to raise donations and awareness for Project PINK — a program dedicated to improving access to free, life-saving mammography screenings for local women — and was honored as the first Project Pink Partner of the Year for her incredible efforts.

In 2024, Sandra organized the Beyond the Pink Runway event to honor and empower breast cancer patients, their physicians, and clinicians, while also raising vital funds for the Sandra Levine Young Women's Breast Cancer Program.

Inspiring hope, dignity, and community among those facing cancer, Sandra's service and philanthropy were marked by courage, creativity, and a relentless drive to make a difference. Her legacy at Levine Cancer Institute will continue to uplift and empower patients, families, and advocates for years to come.

Sandra Goldman with her oncologist, Dr. Julie Fisher, co-director of the Sandra Levine Young Women's Breast Cancer Program







ATRIUM HEALTH GASTROENTEROLOGY PROGRAM RECEIVES **BOOST FROM MATTEI FOUNDATION**

A generous commitment from Ashley and Scott Mattei through the Mattei Foundation will help advance the Gastroenterology program at Atrium Health. The gift — coupled with donations from grateful patients, family, and friends — created the **Richard L. Sigmon, MD** Gastroenterology Lecture and Fellowship Fund at Atrium Health Foundation.

The fund honors Dr. Sigmon's legacy by establishing an annual lecture and supporting fellows in the Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center Gastroenterology Fellowship program. Ongoing educational activities are essential for advancing medical knowledge and clinical excellence.

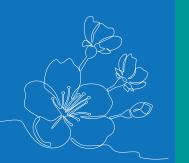
The Mattei Foundation has also established the Mary Louise Mattei Chronic Disease Institute at Carolinas Medical Center, the Mattei Cardiothoracic Surgery ICU at Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, and launched the Mattei Cardiovascular Innovation Fund to fuel novel technology and treatment options offered at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute.



Through their philanthropy, Ashley and Scott Mattei are continuing their family's legacy of providing hope and healing for the countless patients whose lives have been transformed by Atrium Health.

Dr. Richard Sigmon (holding award) with (L-R) his son, Dr. Lee Sigmon, Atrium Health Foundation's Michelle Spreitzer, and benefactor Ashley Mattei.

Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center is ranked as a High Performing Hospital by U.S. News & World Report for its gastroenterology and GI surgery program. Coupled with more than 40 years of experience, the program offers the latest technological advancements to prevent, diagnose, and treat conditions of the digestive system and related organs.



Vansforming Women's Care

THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

trium Health Women's Care is deeply committed to delivering advanced care to all women across the Greater Charlotte area — regardless of their background, financial resources, or location. With strong philanthropic support, Atrium Health is transforming maternal and perinatal services by introducing innovative care models that better support women at every stage of their health journey.

Atrium Health Centering Pregnancy Program Components



Health assessments:

Patients receive one-on-one, personalized care and self-care guidance.

Interactive learning:

Patients are empowered to make informed, healthy choices for themselves and their babies.



000

Community-building:

Group discussions foster O O O questions and meaningful connections among participants.

Partners in Health

Launched in 2018 through a grant from the Centering Healthcare Institute, Atrium Health's Centering Pregnancy Program is an evidence-based, group perinatal and maternal care model led by Atrium Health Women's Care to address the maternal health needs of community members. The program ensures women receive high-quality maternal, pre- and post-natal care through timely health assessments, interactive learning, and communitybuilding in group settings with patients and providers.

A recent grant of \$2.1 million awarded by AmeriHealth Caritas, Inc. will significantly enhance Centering Pregnancy's objectives, ensuring consistency, growth, and alignment with Atrium Health's mission in the Greater Charlotte area.

Since inception, Atrium Health's Centering Pregnancy program has enhanced both affordability and accessibility of maternal care, resulting in improved health outcomes for mothers and infants, while also fostering a strong sense of community among new and expectant mothers. The program has served over 500 patients at Atrium Health Women's Care locations.







With AmeriHealth Caritas grant support, Atrium Health is expanding the Centering Pregnancy program by enhancing patient learning, improving access through transportation, investing in facilitator training, and launching new care programs — including virtual options — for diverse communities.

Dr. Pamela Cobb, medical director at Atrium Health NorthPark OB/GYN, leads the Centering Pregnancy program, which has improved outcomes like reduced pre-term labor and longer breastfeeding. "Partners such as AmeriHealth Caritas are essential to helping provide quality care and a strong support system, resulting in better health for patients and deeper community connections," she said.







In 2022, **Anna Spangler Nelson and Thomas C. Nelson** made a \$10 million gift through the C. D. Spangler Foundation to enhance women's health. Today, those funds are fueling a state-of-the-art birth simulation mobile training unit that travels across the Greater Charlotte area to improve Atrium Health teammates' skills and readiness to manage complications of labor and delivery.

The birth simulation mobile training program, led by Atrium Health Women's Care, Atrium Health Levine Children's, and Carolinas Simulation Center, uses advanced mannequin-based simulations to train staff in managing common childbirth emergencies, improving care quality and patient safety.

Held weekly at nine care sites, each session trains up to six nurses and two providers on the mobile unit, with participants earning four hours of continuing education credits.

"It is incredible to see the progress of this innovative, donor-funded training program," said Dr. Katie Borders, senior medical director of the Women's Care Service Line for Atrium Health (NC-GA Division). "With additional philanthropic support, our goal is to extend newborn simulation training to all birthing facilities and offer pregnancy simulation training at Atrium Health's free-standing emergency departments."

Continued on pg. 50

On the road with the Birth Simulation Mobile Training Unit



14 subject matter experts in obstetrics, gynecology, and maternal-fetal medicine

869 learners, including physicians, advanced practice professionals, and registered nurses





2,475 training contact hours logged through September 2025

6 counties served, including Cleveland, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, and Union





TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S CARE

Continued from pg. 49

Building a bridge from loss to hope

When a family suffers from a perinatal loss, Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center (CMC) walks alongside them, every step of the way. This commitment is supported by **two vital programs** that are providing comfort and restoring hope to be every defamilies who have suffered maternity-related losses.



Established in 2007, **Anna's Gift Fund** offers compassionate support to families who have experienced the loss of an infant before, during, or shortly after childbirth. The fund offers grief support training for nursing staff and supplies bereaved families with educational materials, special memory boxes with keepsakes of their child, and additional resources to help them cope with their loss with comfort and dignity.

Allison and Dave Evans — founders of Anna's Gift Fund and now parents of three children — were once experiencing such grief, after the passing of their firstborn Anna. "We understood the beauty in a hug, a quiet space to grieve, an empathetic look; and we found that beauty to be such a gift amidst great pain," said Allison. "We knew we would find peace in Anna's legacy by helping other families facing similar circumstances."

CMC delivers more newborns each year than any other health care facility in Mecklenburg County.

Devastatingly, on average, 100 deliveries each year result in perinatal losses including late miscarriages, stillbirths, or neonatal deaths. Like Anna's family, these families' lives have forever been altered.

For this reason, the Women's Division at CMC envisions creating a sacred space that is dedicated for families navigating deep loss. The **Family Bereavement Room**, located apart from the Labor and Delivery unit waiting areas, will offer privacy, comfort, and support in these early hours and days of loss.

With community support, this thoughtfully designed room will provide a sacred space where families will feel supported, loved, and seen in their grief. It will be a space that honors Anna's legacy and offers hope to families for years to come.



*Design rendering subject to change.

To support Anna's Gift Fund and the Family Bereavement room, visit: AtriumHealthFoundation.org/AnnasGiftFund

DR. SONJA Grigg

A Passionate Partner in Health

Dr. Sonja Grigg always knew she wanted to be a physician, following in the footsteps of her mother, a radiologist, and her father, a neurosurgeon. Her path in medicine, however, took a few turns before she landed her dream job with Atrium Health Concierge Care.

After six years working in a traditional hospital clinic, Grigg realized she wasn't fulfilling her vision of outpatient care. "We all need a partner in our health, and I wasn't living up to what I believed in," she explained. This realization led her to leave medicine for a journey in self-discovery. She became a mindset coach. Then, along came the executive health physician role at Atrium Health, which offered a perfect blend of clinical practice and lifestyle management.

Grigg joined the team in March and has spent her time focusing on individuals who have dedicated their lives to their careers — often at the expense of their own well-being. Although her work varies from performing comprehensive exams, answering emails, to even providing input on TikTok videos, what remains constant is the shared humanity she encounters. "We all have such similar weight that we carry in different flavors. It's beautiful how we are all the same in our humanness," she noted.

This shared humanity is what drives the partnership between the Executive Health team and Atrium Health Foundation. Patients of Dr. Grigg support not only her practice but other areas of Atrium Health that impact their health. "Philanthropy means the love of humanity, so connecting our patients with the Foundation ultimately helps them pay it forward and make a broad impact for all patients," she said. "This collaboration uplifts the entire community."



Dr. Grigg advises her patients to pour love and energy into themselves. "Our culture has modeled for us to sacrifice, and that comes at the cost of vitality and joy." She encourages them to make time for self-care, to delegate, and guiet the inner critic.

As the wife of an oncology physician and mother of two young boys, Dr. Grigg heeds her own advice. She carves out time for coaching, reading, yoga, meditation, cooking — and playing with her kids. Her dedication to her patients and her holistic approach to health make her an invaluable addition to Atrium Health.



CONCIERGE CARE AT THE LAKE!

Atrium Health has opened its newest concierge care office in Cornelius' Lake Norman (9623 Bailey Road, Suite 220). For more information on our personalized, membership-based care, call 704-801-8330.

The Pearl:

WHERE CHARLOTTE GROWS TOGETHER

CELEBRATING THE QUEEN CITY'S CROWN JEWEL

Charlotte's first innovation district — The Pearl — officially opened its doors in June, marking the launch of a transformative new model in health care. Developed in partnership with Atrium Health and Wexford Science & Technology, and anchored by Wake Forest University School of Medicine—Charlotte and IRCAD North America, The Pearl is a leading educational destination for our region's future doctors, nurses, and health care leaders. A bustling medical innovation district that fosters collaboration, The Pearl will attract students, researchers, tech startups, and biomedical companies.





Advocate Health CEO Gene Woods welcomed community supporters and leaders during a special grand opening ceremony held at The Pearl this June.

UNITING BRIGHT MINDS WITH MODERN MEDICINE







Wake Forest University School of Medicine-Charlotte welcomed the Class of 2029, which started its educational journey in July.



The Howard R. Levine Center for Education anchors the Wake Forest University School of Medicine-Charlotte — the Queen City's first four-year medical school, which welcomed its inaugural class this July. The new campus, home to Carolinas College of Health Sciences, is a dynamic hub for medical education that demonstrates Atrium Health's commitment to collaborative, community-focused physician training.

Benefactors Julie and Howard R. Levine joined Atrium Health leaders and supporters this June to celebrate the opening of the Howard R. Levine Center for Education.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Atrium Health is building a knowledge community that drives discovery, relying on industry, corporate, government, and philanthropic partners to help position Charlotte as a world-class destination for innovation. Philanthropy has significantly shaped the school of medicine and surrounding innovation district, with nearly \$40 million contributed by the community. A groundbreaking investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies helped to launch an early college and Science Engineering Technology and Math (STEM) program in partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Young learners have free access to a state-of-the-art STEM lab on campus, where they collaborate with students enrolled in the school of medicine.

The program underscores Atrium Health's commitment to leveraging immersive technologies and flexible learning environments to transform how we prepare caregivers for the challenges of tomorrow.

IRCAD North America: Setting the pace for surgical innovation

IRCAD North America opened at The Pearl this September, marking a major milestone in surgical innovation. The event welcomed over 450 guests, including leaders from medicine, technology, research, and education, along with industry partners and dignitaries from around the world.

Founded in Strasbourg, France, IRCAD is a global leader in minimally invasive surgery and digital health education. IRCAD North America will offer advanced training in cardiovascular, neuro, and orthopedic surgery, attracting thousands of medical professionals each year.



INTERESTED IN SPARKING INNOVATION AT THE PEARL?

Visit GiveAtrium.org to learn how we can grow, together.

IN MEMORIAM

Christa **OVERCASH**

June 30, 1926 - October 9, 2025

Atrium Health Foundation celebrates the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Christa Lee Anderson Overcash, whose generosity and vision have left an indelible mark on health care and education in North Carolina.



Born in North Wilkesboro, NC, Christa began her journey in service as a graduate of Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, dedicating her early career to caring for others as a nurse. Later, she turned her focus to family and philanthropy, becoming a passionate advocate for causes that uplift communities.

Christa's commitment to education and health care was unwavering. Her transformative support of Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital helped make its opening possible, ensuring world-class care for countless children and families. In recognition of her extraordinary contributions, Christa received the North Carolina Benefactor of the Year Award in 2000 and CPCC's Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

Her generosity reached a historic milestone with a \$5 million gift to Levine Children's Hospital upon its opening. Today, her name graces the hospital's iconic three-story entrance and

family plaza — the Christa A. and Reece A. Overcash Atrium — a welcoming space that sets the tone for healing and hope.

The Overcash family continues this proud tradition of philanthropy, with children actively engaged in health care and community service. Their shared commitment reflects Christa's values and vision for a better future.

Christa's spirit of kindness and generosity will live on, inspiring generations to come.



HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS REVS UP PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH

On a sunny September day, Chase Wheaton placed his handprint onto a Hyundai vehicle, helping to mark the launch of a \$100,000 grant from Hyundai Hope on Wheels that will fund groundbreaking research at Atrium Health Levine Children's to improve outcomes for kids diagnosed with aggressive sarcomas.

The generous gift builds on last year's support, which helped establish advanced tools for analyzing pediatric tumors. This year, the funding will support private investigator Kaitlyn Smith, PhD, to dive deeper into understanding Ewing sarcoma, osteosarcoma, and rhabdomyosarcoma — rare cancers whose survival rates have remained stagnant for decades.

"Thanks to Hyundai Hope on Wheels' continued support, we're now able to apply our custom cytometry panels to patient samples," said Dr. Smith. "This will allow us to track how tumors and immune profiles evolve throughout treatment, potentially leading to earlier detection of relapse and more personalized therapies."

The research leverages Levine Children's unique biological sample and data repository, which collects tumor, blood, and other specimens from patients over the course of their treatment. Tracking tumor and immune changes may reveal early markers to improve pediatric sarcoma care.

"This research has the potential to transform how we detect and treat pediatric sarcomas," said Kellie McGregor, associate vice president at Atrium Health Foundation. "We're deeply grateful to Hyundai Hope on Wheels for their vision and generosity in giving children like Chase a brighter future."

Charlotte Hyundai Dealers raised an additional \$100,000 for Levine Children's at their November Auto Show. Since 2010, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has donated over \$1.1 million to give hope to patients and families at Levine Children's.





1. Hyundai Hope on Wheels leaders, local Hyundai dealers, patient families, and care teams gathered for the Handprints of Hope Ceremony during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. 2. Award recipient Dr. Kaitlyn Smith and Levine Children's patient Chase added their handprints to the Hyundai Hope vehicle, which will travel across the country and inspire others in the fight against pediatric cancer.

Atrium Health Supporters Golf 'Fore' Good

This fall, tournaments benefiting Atrium Health University City, Atrium Health Pineville, and Atrium Health Levine Cancer brought together more than 330 golf enthusiasts and community partners to advance patient care initiatives, facility enhancements, outreach, and clinical research across the Greater Charlotte area.



14th Annual Pineville Golf Invitational

Presented by Rodgers Builders Over \$1.2 million raised over the past 14 years!

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION:

With support from donors, Atrium Health Pineville's award-winning facilities and care teams bring hope and healing to more than 24,000 patients annually. Because of philanthropy, we are:

- Prioritizing patients and families, working to ensure their safety and comfort at every step of their care journeys
- Enhancing our facilities through state-of-the-art technology and medical equipment
- Equipping our teammates to perform at their best through advanced training, medical simulations, and professional development
- Earning recognition as a "Best Hospital" in the country by U.S. News & World Report for maternal-fetal care

66 We are immensely grateful to our donors, whose gifts allow us to provide patients with the best possible care, and ensure positive outcomes and experiences for every patient, visitor, and teammate who walks through our doors.

> — ALICIA CAMPBELL VICE PRESIDENT AND FACILITY EXECUTIVE, ATRIUM HEALTH PINEVILLE



32nd Annual Dr. Ed Stubbs **Memorial Golf Invitational**

Honoring the great work Dr. Stubbs started, we are always so grateful for the support towards women's and community health. With contributions from over 20 corporate sponsors, this year's event raised the most in its 32-year history.

-JOE LABOVITZ

INTERIM PRESIDENT, ATRIUM HEALTH UNIVERSITY CITY AND HUNTERSVILLE SURGERY CENTER



20th Annual Save Your Skin Melanoma Golf Classic

Co-Presented by Gee Family Foundation and Kreshon Family, LLC \$1.5 million raised over the past 20 years!

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION:

Created in 2005 in memory of Jerri Kreshon, this event benefits Atrium Health Levine Cancer's nationally recognized melanoma and immunotherapy program. Because of philanthropy, we are:

- Providing comprehensive patient support and access to cutting-edge clinical trials dedicated to improving treatment options for patients with melanoma
- Leading research and discoveries in immunotherapy, allowing clinicians to develop personalized therapies for advanced-stage melanoma
- Raising awareness and educating the community about cancer prevention and sun-safety, the founding purpose of the Save Your Skin Melanoma Golf Classic

Support from the community has allowed us to impact research and innovations in care, improving patients' quality of life and offering hope for this devastating disease.

DR. RICHARD WHITE
 ENDOWED CHAIR IN SURGICAL ONCOLOGY, LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE
& DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY CAROLINAS MEDICAL CENTER/ATRIUM HEALTH

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION:

Celebrating Dr. Stubb's vision to provide accessible, affordable care to surrounding communities, this event continues to amplify Atrium Health University City's impact in the community, as well as its partnership with the Cook Family Clinic in Huntersville. Because of philanthropy, we are:

- Providing comprehensive, personalized care to patients from across the Charlotte area in an award-winning maternity center
- Highlighting nutritional and environmental benefits of fresh, locally grown produce through a teaching garden available to patients, visitors, and teammates
- Building a healthy community in partnership with YMCA of greater Charlotte, through health education, wellness, disease prevention, and medical referrals
- Enhancing care at Cook Community Clinic, one of the oldest and largest medical providers serving uninsured patients in Mecklenburg and South Iredell counties

CELEBRATING CHANGEMAKERS: MEET THE ATRIUM HEALTH YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

In September, Atrium Health Foundation recognized more than 40 Atrium Health Young Philanthropists for their generosity during the 2024–25 school year. Surrounded by family and friends, the children and teens were honored at a special ceremony celebrating the impact they have made across Atrium Health.

From enhancing the Child Life department at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital, to supporting adult and pediatric intensive care units, strengthening pediatric rehabilitation services, and providing resources for children of gynecologic cancer patients, their contributions have touched countless lives. Several of these changemakers have even established their own 501(c)(3) organizations, raising funds through lemonade stands, bake sales, car shows, and more.

With compassion and generosity, Atrium Health Foundation Young Philanthropists prove that philanthropy has no age limit. Their dedication is building a brighter, healthier future for patients and families across the Greater Charlotte community.

Do you know young leaders making a difference for Atrium Health patients? Nominate them today: **AtriumHealthFoundation.org/YoungPhilanthropists**



1&2 Among the Young Philanthropists recognized was Alston Collins, founder of Candle Culture. Inspired by his parents' commitment to Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital, Alston created a special "Uplift" candle, donating proceeds to support patient care initiatives. 3&4 The celebration included a surprise visit from former Carolina Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis Sr., with sweet treats generously donated by Morris-Jenkins.





This Holiday Season, I'm sharing my "why."

Our world was turned upside down when my son, TJ, was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a congenital heart defect that prevented his heart from developing normally.

After his successful heart transplant in 2021, TJ is now a healthy and thriving teenager.

He makes the most of each day, a feat made possible by Atrium Health

Levine Children's Hospital's compassionate, expert care team, which was beside us, every step of the way. We know firsthand how valuable this care can be.

I believe we all have a reason — a why — that moves us to give:

Gratitude for the care a loved one received...

Lifting up those in need...

Bringing hope to patients like TJ...

Whatever your why is, it matters; and when you act on it, our community grows stronger because of it.

— Greg Olsen, proud supporter of Atrium Health and founder of The HEARTest Yard

FIND YOUR WHY AND MAKE A GIFT TO SUPPORT YOUR AREA OF PASSION:

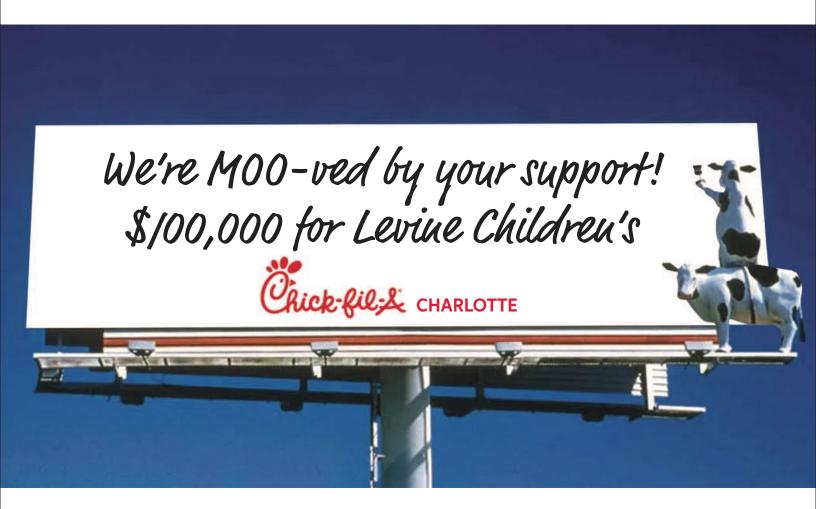
AtriumHealthFoundation.org/FindYourWhy



If you would like to learn more about how to include Atrium Health Foundation in your estate planning, contact: Elizabeth.Braxton@advocatehealth.org



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PERMIT # 3156



From funding programs like music, art, and pet therapy to creating joyful spaces for patients and families, Chick-fil-A's generosity continues to make a lasting impact at Levine Children's. We are grateful for their continued partnership — and for every customer who placed an order to make this donation possible!

