Guests enjoyed an intimate, star-studded evening during the Inaugural Levine Children’s Gala on May 2.

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE
Give our kids every chance to get better.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE THE MIRACLES ARE.

Like all moms, I'm always concerned about my children's well-being. But sometimes they get sick. Sometimes they get hurt. That's why I'm so grateful we have children's hospitals. If any child needs a miracle, they'll do everything in their power to make one happen. Please join me in giving sick and injured children every chance to get better. Put Your Money Where the Miracles Are. Give to your Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals that provide 32 million treatments each year to kids across the U.S. and Canada. Donations stay local, funding critical treatments, pediatric medical equipment and charitable care. Find out why children's hospitals need community support and find your member hospital at CMNHospitals.org and facebook.com/CMNHospitals.

Give Today
to Levine Children's Hospital
Give Carolinas is a publication produced by Carolinas HealthCare Foundation.

For more information, please call 704-355-4048.

© Copyright 2015 by Carolinas HealthCare Foundation

In this issue:

Cover Story

2 Levine Children’s Gala

Profiles

3 Weston Andress
7 Walmart
9 Rite Aid
13 Charlotte Knights

Stories of Hope

5 Logan Romeo
10 Shannon Anderson

Fundraising in Action

4 Levine JCC Kids Tri
6 Keep Pounding 5K
6 Cycle to the Sea
9 Kickin’ It Challenge
11 Save Your Skin
11 Miles Against Melanoma
12 Hearts for Rehab
12 Riding for Research
13 Sarcoma Stomp

Save the Date

14 Telethon
Stiletto Sprint
Isabella Santos Foundation 5K
Carolina Cycle Challenge
Hopebuilders

Giving Large

4 Foundation For The Carolinas
7 Ballantyne Ball
8 Learn Live Hope
8 Purple Promise Foundation
15 Greg Olsen
15 Dreamcatchers
16 Catwalk for a Cause
16 Charlotte Ballet
On May 2, the inaugural Levine Children’s Gala welcomed over 350 guests to Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, raising proceeds of over $500,000 to benefit Levine Children’s Hospital. The Levine Children’s Gala was made possible by the generous support of many community sponsors, most notably, presenting sponsor PNC Bank.

“For the second year, PNC is proud to partner with Levine Children’s Hospital and support such a meaningful community resource,” said Weston Andress, Regional President for Western Carolina.

The gala was well-attended by representatives from Levine Children’s Hospital, as well as national and local celebrities, athletes, philanthropists, and corporate supporters, including major gala sponsors UTC Aerospace, Piedmont Natural Gas, and McKinsey.

Highlights included a Broadway-style performance by 12-year old entertainer and YouTube sensation Lexi Walker, who performed a moving rendition of the acclaimed single “Let It Go” from Disney’s Frozen. During a formal dinner, guests enjoyed a surprise visit from actor Vince Vaughn, who was first introduced to Levine Children’s Hospital by Gala Committee Member and all-pro Carolina Panthers Tight-End, Greg Olsen. No stranger to Levine Children’s Hospital, Greg Olsen shared his family’s journey to save his son, T.J., who received life-saving surgeries for a congenital heart defect.

Thank You, Gala Committee!
Candy and Darren Bing, Amy and Alfred Dawson, Sherrard and John Georgius, Stephanie and Dave Gitlin, Mandy and Todd Houser, Emily and Tyler Johnson, Kara and Greg Olsen, Tiffany and Scott Smith, Ann and Michael Tarwater, and Amy and Martin Welton.
The Olsen family’s heartfelt words inspired guests, including visionaries like Sandra and Leon Levine, to give generously throughout the evening. Most notably, The Leon Levine Foundation offered a spontaneous $100,000 matching grant challenge to be met by the conclusion of the Wells Fargo Championship on May 17. (See inset)

WBTV news anchor Christine Nelson led a live charity auction, followed by a special performance by national hit recording artist Andy Grammer.

The Olsen family’s heartfelt words inspired guests, including visionaries like Sandra and Leon Levine, to give generously throughout the evening. Most notably, The Leon Levine Foundation offered a spontaneous $100,000 matching grant challenge to be met by the conclusion of the Wells Fargo Championship on May 17. (See inset)

WBTV news anchor Christine Nelson led a live charity auction, followed by a special performance by national hit recording artist Andy Grammer.

Weston Andress — A Driving Force

PNC may be one of the newer players in the banking community, but they have quickly demonstrated they are trailblazers when it comes to community involvement. A driving force behind this effort has been PNC’s Regional President Weston Andress, who joined PNC in September 2012.

Under his leadership, PNC has been at the forefront of community giving, supporting the arts, education, and healthcare initiatives. For two consecutive years, PNC has been committed to Levine Children’s Hospital, most recently serving as presenting sponsor of the Inaugural Levine Children’s Gala, which raised more than $500,000.

In addition to providing financial support for pediatric healthcare through his business, Andress volunteers his time, serving on the Board of Ambassadors for Levine Children’s Hospital.
Young Triathletes Learn the Values of Perseverance and Philanthropy

On May 31, the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center hosted the 4th Annual Kids Triathlon, which raised more than $68,000 to benefit pediatric rehabilitative services at Levine Children’s Hospital and the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program (ASAP) at Carolinas Rehabilitation.

During the event, children of all ages and athletic abilities—including several ASAP participants—swam, cycled and ran, side by side.

Sandra and Leon Levine and Larry Polsky, director of The Leon Levine Foundation, thanked the young fundraisers and their families for their hard work. Their fundraising was matched by The Leon Levine Foundation with a $15,000 challenge grant. The 190 youth triathletes were also congratulated by Michael Tarwater, Carolinas HealthCare System Chief Executive Officer, and Luke Kuechly, Carolina Panthers linebacker and Levine Children’s Hospital advocate.

Special thanks to the Sandra and Leon Levine Foundation, Mann Travels, Sketchers, Precor, Bob Mayberry Hyundai, and UCS.

Foundation For The Carolinas

Foundation For The Carolinas continued its support of pediatric cancer research at Levine Children’s Hospital through its Children’s Medical Fund. Their recent grant of $100,000 will support research at Levine Children’s Hospital to improve early diagnosis of cardiac issues that frequently affect pediatric cancer survivors.
At 34 weeks Megan Romeo was given an ultrasound to check on “our sweet babe, Logan.” He was due December 30, and mom and dad (Aaron) were excited to give their first child, 2 ½ year old Brennan, a little brother.

The results of the ultrasound were frightening. Logan had a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH), a malformation of the diaphragm. His family had to quickly adjust to not only the lingo, but the new specialists and different doctors now in their lives.

Logan was born on November 25 and faced an uphill battle. He needed an oscillator to breathe and would require 40 days of intensive care. His parents gained strength from their faith and the caregivers at Levine Children’s Hospital. “My nurses, my sweet nurses were like family to me,” said Megan, “hugging, consoling and lifting us up when we needed it.”

After many hard days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery, Logan was well enough to move to the Progressive Care Unit. Here, the nurses continued to support him, as well as his parents. “Not only did they care so well for Logan, without me realizing, they were caring for my broken heart,” said Megan. “I never doubted whose hands he was in, because first and foremost, he was in the Lord’s hands. But the Lord has also gifted the staff with talent and compassion.”
Runners, Panthers Keep Pounding for Pediatric Cancer

Continuing a long-standing tradition of support for Carolinas HealthCare System’s cancer programs, the Carolina Panthers teamed up with more than 500 pediatric cancer advocates, survivors, donors, and sponsors for the 5th Annual Keep Pounding 5K Stadium Run on May 9.

Generous event sponsors—including Rodgers Builders, Walmart Foundation, Horack Talley, Boingo Graphics and media sponsor WCCB Charlotte—as well as top fundraiser Tracy Gallimore, helped raise $45,000 in net proceeds to benefit pediatric cancer research at Levine Children’s Hospital. During this one-of-a-kind stadium run, runners and fans were joined by Sir Purr, the TopCats, Coach Sam Mills Jr., and Panthers defensive-end Frank Alexander.

Photo courtesy of Randy Rimland at CarolinaSportsPhotography.com

Cycle to the Sea Success!

April marked the 16th anniversary of the Adaptive Sports & Adventures Program’s (ASAP) annual Cycle to the Sea. Cyclists from across the country, both able-bodied and hand-cyclists, covered the 180-mile journey from Monroe, NC, to North Myrtle Beach, SC, to raise funds for ASAP. This unique event raised $78,000 to support the mission of ASAP—to provide high quality, adaptive sport and recreation opportunities to youth and adults with physical disabilities, and to help participants develop skills that will lead to and enhance an active and productive lifestyle.
Walmart Miracles Hit Home for Locust Associate

From May to mid-June, Walmart stores locally raised funds for Levine Children’s Hospital through their annual Children’s Miracle Network campaign. From the sales of iconic miracle balloons at the register to bake sales and hot dog roasts, employees pulled together to raise awareness for Levine Children’s Hospital. For one store associate, the campaign was personal…

Debra Crisco has worked at the Locust Walmart for over two decades, and although she has participated in the Children’s Miracle Network fundraiser, this year she felt a special connection. That connection is with Levine Children’s Hospital, where her 10-year-old grand-daughter was treated for leukemia.

Bryanna Medlin was just nine years old when she detected her own cancer. She told her grandmother that she “had a lump on her neck.” The lump turned out to be Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Bryanna proved to be a fighter. She kept a smile on her face, even as she endured chemotherapy and hair loss. Today, she is growing out her hair—and she is celebrating her recent clear scans. Bryanna is also helping her grandmother by raising awareness for Children’s Miracle Network and Levine Children’s Hospital.

Inaugural Ballantyne Ball Supports Pediatric Cancer Research

The vision and leadership of event founder Allen Starrett, in partnership with the Isabella Santos Foundation, led to a highly successful inaugural Ballantyne Ball, which raised net proceeds exceeding $100,000 to benefit pediatric cancer research programs at Levine Children’s Hospital. Founded in 2009 by Erin and Stuart Santos—whose daughter, Isabella, lost her battle with neuroblastoma in 2012—the Charlotte non-profit has raised more than $700,000 for neuroblastoma research. Their generous and unwavering support of The Torrence E. Hemby Jr. Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and BMT Center at Levine Children’s Hospital is a remarkable tribute to Isabella’s legacy.
Record Fundraising at Hendrick’s Learn Live Hope Exceeds $1.7 Million

In May, Linda and Rick Hendrick hosted another successful Learn Live Hope celebration at Hendrick Motorsports, followed by a celebrity golf tournament the next day. The event’s record fundraising total exceeded $1.7 million. Levine Children’s Hospital was honored to benefit from the generosity of donors again this year.

Guests were inspired to join the “Be The Match” registry after hearing the personal journey of Levine Children’s Hospital patient, Mae Rainey. Adopted from China and now living in Charlotte, she fights a rare blood disorder and needs a life-saving bone marrow transplant. Mae is in search for the “perfect match.”

Melanoma Researchers at Levine Cancer Institute Receive a “Purple Promise” of Hope

The Purple Promise Foundation to End Melanoma recently made a generous commitment of $32,000 to Levine Cancer Institute in support of Dr. David Foureau and Dr. Richard White’s research project directed toward enhancing the treatment of late-stage melanoma. The Foundation has donated more than $57,000, collectively, to support melanoma research at LCI. The Purple Promise Foundation To End Melanoma was founded as a tribute to the life and memory of Jessica Dovi.
This spring, Carolinas Healthcare Foundation teamed up with local Rite Aid stores to raise funds and awareness for Levine Children’s Hospital and Children’s Miracle Network. Throughout their campaign, customers were asked to support Children’s Miracle Network by adding a donation to their total at checkout, allowing shoppers to become “Miracle Makers” for Levine Children’s Hospital.

This year, at one Rite Aid location in Gastonia, pharmacy technician Catrina demonstrated her passion for the Miracle campaign by sharing the story of her son, Alfred Johnson Jr., who received cancer treatment at Levine Children’s Hospital. Today, Alfred is a healthy 13-year-old. Because of her family’s experience at Levine Children’s Hospital, Catrina takes special pride and comfort in giving back to support the team that supported her family during one of the most difficult times in their lives.

On the “Rite” Track for Miracles

The Rite Aid Miracle Maker Campaign was personal for Catrina, who showed her pride for Levine Children’s Hospital by wearing motivational t-shirts and sharing the story of her son’s care at LCH.

Kickin’ It Challenge: Unite in the Fight

Pictured (L-R): Shana Shivel (Co-Founder), Kristy Hunsucker (Tournament Chair), Sarah Morris (Co-Founder). The Kickin’ It fundraiser raised over $60,000 to benefit breast cancer diagnostic services in York County (administered by Levine Cancer Institute).
During a routine check-up with her dermatologist, Shannon Anderson was told that a small spot behind her knee needed a closer look. A week later, she was shocked to learn the spot was melanoma. The mother of a two year old, Shannon was eight months pregnant with her second daughter.

A month after Shannon’s baby was born, she had surgery to remove three lymph nodes. Small amounts of melanoma were found in two of the three nodes, so she had a subsequent lymph node removal. Then interferon therapy began at Levine Cancer Institute.

Today, Shannon is cancer free; however, she visits Levine Cancer Institute every three months, and will continue the interval appointments for the next three years. Shannon is grateful for having Levine Cancer Institute close to home, as it helped her maintain a routine and remain closer to her young family. “And my team of providers at LCI started to feel like family, too,” she added.

**Melanoma Research Fund**

The Russell C. Guerin Melanoma Research Fund was established in honor of Russell Guerin, a former Carolinas HealthCare System executive and melanoma survivor. The fund is dedicated to supporting clinical and scientific research at Levine Cancer Institute with the goal of finding effective treatment for melanoma. Interested in donating to the fund? Contact Merrill.Mills@CarolinasHealthcare.org.
Save Your Skin—A Decade of Fundraising for Melanoma

On June 1, more than 100 golfers gathered at Carmel Country Club to celebrate the 10th Annual Save Your Skin Melanoma Awareness Golf Classic, raising an unprecedented $71,000 towards melanoma prevention and research at Levine Cancer Institute. The fundraising success of this year’s event brings the 10-year total to $500,000 in charitable support for the Carolinas Melanoma and Immunotherapy Fund.

Martin Kreshon, Sr., M.D., was a key figure in the creation of the tournament, which honors the life of his late wife Jerri, a former patient of Carolinas HealthCare System who lost her battle with melanoma in 2005. Standing hopeful alongside Dr. Kreshon were numerous melanoma advocates and patients, including Russ Guerin, a former CHS executive who was first diagnosed with melanoma in 2005 and whose dedication to the cause has inspired significant funding for melanoma research. In addition, 18-year melanoma survivor, Ken Lowery, shared his story, crediting his survival to the breakthrough treatments being developed by physicians at Levine Cancer Institute.

Presenting Sponsor
Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Reception Sponsor
Bourne Partners

Awareness Sponsors
MedCost Benefit Services and ACN, Inc.

SPF 25 Sponsors
Levine Cancer Institute, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC, Income Research & Management, Lincoln Harris, and Sterling Capital Management.

Miles Against Melanoma

On April 25, the NC chapter of Miles Against Melanoma held its fourth annual 5K, raising over $20,000 to benefit the Carolinas Melanoma & Immunotherapy Fund at Levine Cancer Institute. The event was founded in 2012 by Heather Joyner who lost her sister, Amy Robinson, to melanoma.
Riding for Research at Misty Meadows

On April 20, Jane Lockwood, Hugh McColl, Mike Rucker and several others completed their “Ride for Research” at Misty Meadows Farm in Waxhaw. The ride, which originated with a letter-writing campaign by young Jane Lockwood, raised over $140,000 to benefit the McColl-Lockwood Laboratory for Muscular Dystrophy Research. Donations made in connection with the ride benefited the Fourth International Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Research Conference and continue to support the Carolinas MD Research Endowment.

Since 2008, fundraising efforts led by the Lockwood family have raised over $400,000 for the Carolinas MD Research Endowment. Gifts to this endowment continue to advance research and treatment at the McColl–Lockwood Laboratory for Muscular Dystrophy Research at Carolinas Medical Center, one of the leading facilities in the world dedicated to finding a cure for LGMD.
Sarcoma Stomp Supports Levine Cancer Institute

On April 18, more than 1,000 participants and volunteers gathered at Christ Lutheran Church for the Sarcoma Stomp 5K Run and 3K Walk, hosted by the Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research. Presented by Babson Capital, the event honors the memory and legacy of Paula Takacs, who lost her battle to liposarcoma in April 2014. Proceeds benefit the Paula Takacs Fund for Sarcoma Research at Levine Cancer Institute. Since 2013, this fund has initiated two new clinical trials (currently in the approval process).

Inspired by the work of her father—Dr. Edward Kim of Levine Cancer Institute—13-year-old Alyssa Kim organized one of the largest teams at the Sarcoma Stomp. She and her Charlotte Latin classmates formed “Hawks for Hope,” which raised awareness for sarcoma research at Levine Cancer Institute.

Additional sponsors included WSOC-TV, Traci Zeller Designs, Wells Fargo Capital Finance, Carolinas HealthCare System’s Levine Cancer Institute, Katten Muchin Rosenman, Go Play Save and Massage Envy.

Pink Knights Raise Over $18,000 for Breast Cancer Outreach

The theme was “pink” on May 16, when more than 10,000 fans turned out for the 10th annual Pink Knights game, presented by Charlotte Radiology and Belk, Inc. Complimentary pink baseballs were given to the first 2,500 ladies who arrived at the BB&T Ballpark. The Charlotte Knights also wore special pink jerseys, which were auctioned off during the game. While raising awareness for breast cancer prevention and early detection, the event also raised $18,225 to benefit diagnostic breast cancer services at Levine Cancer Institute.

Since 2011, Carolinas HealthCare System’s Levine Cancer Institute has partnered with Charlotte Radiology to provide preventative and diagnostic breast cancer screenings for uninsured women in the Charlotte area, a collaboration known as Project Pink.
August 14
Give Here for Kids Here Telethon
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 (6AM-6PM) LEVINE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
Tune in to WCNC from 6:00 am – 6:00 pm to hear inspiring stories of hope from patients, families, and caregivers at Levine Children’s Hospital. giveherforkidshere.org

September 19
5th Annual Stiletto Sprint
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, SOUTH PARK MALL (OUTSIDE OF BELK)
A good pair of heels can save a life! Join hundreds of sprinters for the 5th Annual Stiletto Sprint, benefiting the Carolinas Ovarian Cancer Fund at Levine Cancer Institute. tealheels.org

September 26
8th Annual Isabella Santos Foundation 5K
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, BALLANTYNE CORPORATE PARK
Last year, 3,000 participants turned out for the Isabella Santos Foundation 5K/10K Race for Kids Cancer and 1-Mile Fun Run, which is held in memory of Isabella Santos.
5kforkidscancer.racesonline.com

October 5
Carolina Cycle Challenge
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, HICKORY, NC
The Carolina Cycle Challenge, hosted by Rotary Clubs of the Catawba Valley, gets in gear at 9:00 am. All proceeds benefit pediatric cancer programs at Levine Children’s Hospital.
carolinacyclechallenge.org

October 10
20th Annual Hopebuilders 5K
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 — OUTSIDE OF LEVINE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
The Annual Hopebuilders 5K and Fun Run will celebrate its 20th year! A signature fundraiser for Levine Children’s Hospital, Hopebuilders is a family-centered event presented by Babson Capital.
hopebuilders5k.org
Dreamcatchers “Raise the Roof” for Levine Children’s Hospital Patients

On March 26, Dreamcatcher Society members and their guests enjoyed a rooftop celebration at Levine Children’s Hospital, including hospital tours, Midwood BBQ, and live music by Dead Man’s Banjo. Special thank you to our generous sponsors, The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery and Midwood Smokehouse! Seven new members joined, making a combined pledge of $35,000 over the next five years to support a variety of programs and services at the hospital.

Greg Olsen: All Heart for Levine Children’s Hospital

Thanks to the generosity of Carolina Panthers all-pro tight end Greg Olsen, his foundation—Receptions for Research—continues to be an amazing partner and friend to Levine Children’s Hospital. In 2015, Receptions for Research has committed over $200,000 to support the HEARTest Yard Initiative, a charitable giving program that allows the Congenital Heart Program at Levine Children’s Hospital to support a continuum of care from an infant’s initial diagnosis with a congenital heart condition, through subsequent periods of surgery and recovery. The funds enable families to have in-home, private nursing care, physical therapy, and speech therapy—all of which are vital to ensuring these babies remain healthy as they prepare for each phase of their care. Additional thanks go to Greg and his wife, Kara, for their vision and heartfelt dedication to the inaugural Levine Children’s Gala.
Trux Team Hits the Catwalk for Kids

The Martin Truex Jr. Foundation held its annual “Catwalk for a Cause” fashion show on May 13 in Mooresville. The evening, which featured Levine Children’s Hospital oncology patients and NASCAR drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr., Danica Patrick, Ryan Newman, Kasey Kahne and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. as models, raised funds to support pediatric cancer research at the Torrence E. Hemby Jr. Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and BMT Center at Levine Children’s Hospital. The star studded evening finished with a video and song from Edwin McCain titled “Hold out a Hand.” McCain wrote the song specifically for the evening with all iTunes and Google Play download proceeds going to the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation’s tireless effort to FIGHT pediatric cancer at Levine Children’s Hospital. Thanks to Martin, Sherry, Sandy and everyone at the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation for their compassionate support.

Charlotte Ballet

Representatives from Charlotte Ballet joined leaders from Carolinas HealthCare System on June 4 to present a generous donation in support of Levine Cancer Institute’s Disparities in Cancer Care Program. As part of its ongoing partnership with Charlotte Ballet, Carolinas HealthCare System participated in the organization’s annual Dancing with the Stars Gala. Levine Cancer Institute President Derek Raghavan, M.D., danced on behalf of Carolinas HealthCare System, and helped generate over $53,000 for the Disparities in Cancer Care Program at Levine Cancer Institute.
Hope, health, and happiness. They are what we want for our children.

Your donation plays a crucial role in the healing and recovery of patients at Levine Children’s Hospital. Join us in giving children hope for a healthy future.

Donate or Register Today — www.hopebuilders5k.org
Thank you to Cosmo Motors for hosting a Cars for Coffee event benefiting the Hickory Carmike Cinemas’ Children’s Miracle Network Campaign. The event raised over $16,700 toward the $21,000 total that was raised for Carmike that day including CMN balloon sales and post-event donations.