Atrium

A PLACE...

filled with light

where each and every heartbeat begins

where connections are made

bringing health, hope and healing

FOR ALL
Dear Friends,

As we usher in a new year, Carolinas HealthCare System has unveiled a new brand – Atrium Health – to support its vision of being the first and best choice for care. In keeping with this forward-looking mindset, we at the Foundation are also revealing a new name and look for our magazine. Welcome to Momentum!

Momentum is a powerful word that signifies the growth and continual progress we strive for within our health system. It is a word that highlights the energy of our team – including staff, volunteers and donors – as we work together to advance research, establish new medical programs and provide the best patient-centered facilities.

In 2017, Carolinas HealthCare Foundation raised $33.1 million, well surpassing our $24 million goal. Atrium Health benefited from signature events such as the Levine Children’s Gala and new events supporting behavioral health and neurosciences. We raised millions to support endowed chair positions, which enable Atrium Health to retain and recruit the brightest talent. And we ramped up online fundraising and grateful patient fundraising efforts.

With support from Carolinas HealthCare Foundation, Atrium Health is developing novel treatments, offering clinical trials right here in our community, establishing new programs for heart and kidney patients, and creating world-class facilities. Our generous donors have been instrumental to this growth.

This year, we have an ambitious goal of raising $30 million. With your support, we will continue to inspire transformational giving to improve health, elevate hope, and advance healing – for all.

Get caught up in the Momentum!

With gratitude,

Armando L. Chardiet
President

“Momentum is a powerful word, one that signifies the growth and continual progress we strive for within our health system.”
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KEEP POUNDING 5K STADIUM RUN

SUPPORTING: Atrium Health

Wrenn - pediatric cancer survivor

Robert - multiple myeloma survivor

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 2, RUN FOR THE ONES YOU LOVE.

PRESENTED BY ROUGERS

BENEFITING ADULT AND PEDIATRIC CANCER RESEARCH AND PATIENT PROGRAMS AT LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE AND LEVINE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL.

WWW.KEEPPOUNDING5K.ORG
A New Era

“It’s a new era for coronary diagnosis and treatment at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute,” said Geoffrey Rose MD, Chief of the Institute’s Division of Cardiology. Driving this change is the Mattei Cardiovascular Innovations Fund, which is supporting new approaches, including genetic evaluation, advanced imaging techniques, stem cell therapies, and an arsenal of minimally invasive procedures. Thanks to these new treatment offerings, patients will experience better health outcomes, along with the promise of an overall lowering of healthcare costs.

The initial goal for the new Mattei Fund is to advance the Institute’s cardiac MRI imaging infrastructure, furthering collaboration between Sanger and other cardiac MRI centers of excellence. Sanger performs more than 750 cardiac MRIs yearly. In lieu of traditional methods, physicians utilize this magnetic form of imaging as well as cardiac CT to analyze the heart’s structure and function, with supercomputers gauging its blood flow.

Programs such as this one will be revolutionary for cardiac patients across Atrium Health.

CARDIAC Innovators

MATTEI FAMILY GIFT TO SUPPORT NEW ERA OF TREATMENT AT SANGER HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE
When it comes to supporting the medically at-risk, the Mattei Family is on the move. For 16 years, they have quietly dedicated their resources to identifying novel approaches to chronic disease care at Atrium Health.

Most recently, patients and care teams at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute will benefit from the Mattei Family’s $1 million gift to launch the Mattei Cardiovascular Innovations Fund, which will enable the Institute to pursue newer treatments – approaches that are aimed towards attaining not only longer life, but also higher quality of life for all patients.

The “for all” is an important part of the Atrium Health mission, and it is especially meaningful to Charlotte businessman and Atrium Health/Carolina’s HealthCare Foundation board member Jim Mattei. “We are honored to continue support for an institution that is dedicated to helping patients control and prevent potentially fatal diseases,” said Mr. Mattei. “It is our desire to help make a significant impact and to ensure that people from all walks of life have access to quality care.”

In recognition of the gift, the newly renovated Cardiothoracic Surgery Intensive Care Unit within the Institute now bears the Mattei name. The 14-bed unit provides 24-hour inpatient care to adult and geriatric patients requiring intensive care and recovery from cardiac procedures.

Continued on pg. 4

(L-R) Grateful for the care their family has received at Atrium Health, Ashley, Scott, Charlie, Kate, Sharon, and Jim Mattei are giving back to ensure that others have have access to quality care.
Jim Mattei’s own mother, Mary Louise Mattei, benefited from the intensive care she received at Atrium Health. Grateful for the experience she had, Mr. Mattei honored her memory by donating $1 million in 2002 to establish the Mary Mattei Institute for the Treatment of Chronic Disease at Carolinas Medical Center. Since that time, Scott Mattei – Jim’s son and a Mattei Foundation Trustee – has made significant contributions to help sustain and expand the Institute. As a result, the Institute has attained notable success, and many of its treatment protocols have been adapted throughout Atrium Health.

With the Mattei Foundation’s latest commitment to help usher in a new era of cardiovascular treatment, the family’s cumulative gifts to Atrium Health now total more than $4 million.

The Mattei Family often credits Atrium Health for keeping them healthy. In turn, they can be credited for providing hope and healing for the many, many patients whose lives have been – and will continue to be – touched by their generosity.
WOODS WOWS WITH DANCE MOVES, FUNDRAISING

What occurs when you couple Fred Astaire with old time rock n roll? You receive a standing ovation, which is exactly what happened to Atrium Health president and CEO Gene Woods the evening of Charlotte Ballet’s Most Incredible Gala. Not only did Woods and dance partner Sarah Hayes Harkins wow the sold-out crowd at the Knight Theater with their dance moves, but they also raised close to $300,000 during the competition, in support of Levine Cancer Institute.

Woods’ performance packed pizzazz; but more importantly, the funds he raised will bring health, hope, and healing to those suffering from cancer. In addition to supporting the Ballet, a portion of the funds he raised will go to multiple myeloma research—a cause that’s near and dear to his heart. Gene lost his father to the disease in 2001, and decided to honor him by establishing the Eugene Woods Sr., Multiple Myeloma Fund at Carolinas HealthCare Foundation, which will advance ongoing multiple myeloma research at Levine Cancer Institute.

Of the six leaders in the competition, two dancers (in addition to Gene) also supported Atrium Health through their fundraising. John Culbertson, managing partner for Cardinal Real Estate, danced for Levine Cancer Institute; David Secrest, managing director for Barings, danced for Levine Children’s Hospital.

1. Gene Woods and partner Sarah Hayes Harkins thrilled the crowd with their dance moves and stole the show with their fundraising—nearly $300,000 for the Charlotte Ballet and Levine Cancer Institute!

2. John Culbertson and Sarah Lapointe danced in honor of John’s late sister, raising $175,000 for the Ruth Samuelson Ovarian Cancer Fund supporting Levine Cancer Institute.

3. Barings’ David Secrest and partner Elizabeth Truell are number one in the hearts of patients at Levine Children’s Hospital who will benefit from the $320,000 the pair raised on March 3.
Small Yet MIGHTY

PAULA TAKACS FOUNDATION PUSHES SARCOMA INTO RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

For nearly 10 years, Paula Takacs fought liposarcoma, a cancer that she and her family realized soon after diagnosis was both rare and underfunded. With intent to support novel research and raise awareness for the devastating disease, Paula and her husband Geof established the Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research in 2010. Four years later, Paula lost her battle, but not before turning her non-profit into one of the most active grassroots sarcoma foundations in the country.

Today, Executive Director Sue Udelson carries on her close friend Paula’s legacy of creating awareness for the lesser-known cancer. The Foundation is now a haven for those touched by sarcoma. It has amassed a growing community of supporters, bringing together patients and survivors of all ages—and their loved ones—in a movement to improve the treatment and prevention of sarcoma.

Thanks to year-round fundraising initiatives and its flagship Sarcoma Stomp road race, the Paula Takacs Foundation has raised over $560,000 to date in support of Phase I and Phase II clinical research trials at Levine Cancer Institute. Their most recent gift of $185,000, announced in December 2017, will support the creation of sarcoma-specific clinical trials — the first such endeavor for the Institute and one close to the hearts of Foundation staff and supporters. What makes it even more heartwarming: the trials will also be available to children who have been diagnosed with the disease.

Unwavering optimism and drive are synonymous with the Paula Takacs Foundation, an organization that stands out as a true leader in transforming the pace of sarcoma research.

Sue Udelson, pictured above with Paula, carries on her close friend’s mission as Executive Director of the Paula Takacs Foundation.
Sarcoma clinical trials

Because sarcomas are relatively rare among children – and even more so among adults – they lack the government funding that other cancers often receive. Therefore, philanthropy is critical to funding clinical trials aimed at finding a cure.

With support from the Paula Takacs Foundation, a team of physicians at Levine Cancer Institute, led by Dr. Ed Kim, is conducting the first sarcoma-specific clinical trials across the Levine Cancer Institute network. One such trial, which involves chemotherapy as well as one of the new novel immunotherapies, is one of the only such trials in the country that allows patients who have soft tissue sarcomas to enroll.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

On February 17, more than 700 runners and walkers wore their hearts on their sleeves (and jackets), as they raced through Charlotte’s historic Dilworth neighborhood to raise funds for Atrium Health cardiac rehabilitation programs. As in years past, a portion of the funds raised will cover the cost for underinsured cardiac patients to attend up to 36 rehabilitation sessions, while much of the rest will fund education and outreach efforts. This year, funds will also be assigned to Atrium Health’s new pilot program, Cardiac Rehab On The Go. This program enables patients to remotely input data ranging from exercise to blood pressure, thus alleviating travel to and from the rehab clinics.

SPECIAL THANKS to Cupid’s Cup sponsors: Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute; K&L Gates; Piedmont Plastics; The Philip Nalibotsky Family; Chick-fil-A Charlotte; Bayada Home Health Care; Life Systems International; PNC; RP Signs; Sunteck; WCNC; and iHeart Radio.

1. It was chilly outside but we were warmed to our core, as hundreds of runners and walkers showed up for the event.
2. Cupid’s Cup would not be possible without its dedicated sponsors, including media sponsor WCNC.
3. Sanger administrator Stephen Wright, who had a heart attack last year, experienced his first Cupid’s Cup as a patient.
William R. Britton Jr.

MAKING HIS MARK ON MYELOMA RESEARCH

In his lifetime, William R. Britton Jr. worked to help others with multiple myeloma, donating his time and his financial resources to the cause. After he lost his battle to the disease last year, his family has carried on his legacy, ensuring efforts to treat this rare form of cancer are backed by the latest research. In January 2018, the Britton Foundation committed $500,000 to create the William R. Britton Jr. Myeloma Research Fund, supporting the research of Levine Cancer Institute’s Dr. Saad Usmani, a world-renowned myeloma specialist who treated Bill during his illness.

Bill was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2008, spending the next nine years fighting both his own cancer and the broader battle for increased research and more advanced treatment for multiple myeloma patients.

Though an average of 300 patients are treated for multiple myeloma every year at Levine Cancer Institute, it is still considered a rare disease by the National Institutes of Health, meaning federal funding is limited. The Britton Foundation’s substantial gift will enable Dr. Usmani and his Levine Cancer Institute research team to improve treatment in cases of relapsed myeloma, providing patients with access to cutting-edge treatment, close to home.

Bill was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2008, spending the next nine years fighting both his own cancer and the broader battle for increased research and more advanced treatment for multiple myeloma patients.

Trailblazing Clinical Research

As a member of both the International Myeloma Foundation and the Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium – one of only two members in the Southeast and 22 globally – Levine Cancer Institute is at the forefront of groundbreaking clinical trials in multiple myeloma. Patients have access to trials for potentially life-changing treatments, including targeted therapies and new immunotherapies. Levine Cancer Institute helped lead the research behind daratumumab, the first monoclonal antibody approved by the FDA for treating multiple myeloma.
KISS95.1, MORRIS-JENKINS TEAM UP FOR LEVINE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

It’s no secret: Children have a special place in the hearts of the Kiss95.1 morning team, and Dewey Jenkins, owner of local heating, A/C and plumbing company, Morris-Jenkins. When they teamed up in December for the sixth annual Secret Santa Radiothon, the results were unprecedented. Thanks to compelling stories of hope and healing, listeners were inspired to contribute a record $105,000 to provide holiday gifts for hospitalized children and to support the medical resources and patient services that make Levine Children’s Hospital a destination for world-class care.

1. The holiday spirit filled the airwaves as WNKSKiss 95.1 morning show hosts, Roy, Maney, and LauRen, broadcast live from the Ryan Seacrest Studios at Levine Children’s Hospital.

2. Presenting Sponsor, Morris-Jenkins, and partner stations K104.7 and The New 103.7 helped to lead a record-year in fundraising for the holiday radiothon.

3. Maney, Roy and LauRen along with event sponsors have made the radiothon, which just completed its sixth year, a holiday tradition.

4. Funds raised went toward gifts for hospitalized children and supported medical resources and patient services at the hospital.
**APRIL 26-28**

**Cycle to the Sea—North Myrtle Beach**
*Cycletothesea.org*

Cyclists of all types will ride from Charlotte to North Myrtle Beach to raise funds and awareness for the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program at Carolinas Rehabilitation.

**APRIL 28**

**Miles Against Melanoma – NC**
* milesagainstmelanomaactl.org*

Join the NC chapter of Miles Against Melanoma for a family-friendly 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run, and Kids Dash on April 28, benefiting the Carolinas Melanoma and Immunotherapy Fund at Levine Cancer Institute.

**APRIL 28**

**The 7th Annual Sarcoma Stomp**
*PaulaTakacsFoundation.org*

Lace up your running shoes for the 7th Annual Sarcoma Stomp 5K Run and 3K Walk, benefiting groundbreaking sarcoma research and clinical trials at Levine Cancer Institute.

**MAY 16**

**Catwalk for a Cause**
*MartinTruexJrFoundation.org*

Childhood cancer survivors from Levine Children’s Hospital will grace the runway in style at the Catwalk for a Cause, raising funds and awareness for local childhood cancer research and patient support programs, including those at Levine Children’s Hospital.

**MAY 17**

**Speak PINK**
*GiveCarolinas.org/SpeakPink*

Join us at the Westin for an inspiring program featuring Cathy Bessant, breast cancer survivor and Chief Operations and Technology Officer for Bank of America. Learn about her journey and the importance of supporting local breast cancer research.

**JUNE 2**

**The Keep Pounding 5K**
*KeepPounding5k.org*

Don’t miss your chance to run through BoFA Stadium and finish up where the big cats practice. All proceeds from the 8th annual event benefit pediatric and adult cancer programs at Levine Children’s Hospital and Levine Cancer Institute.

**JUNE 3**

**Levine JCC Kids Triathlon**
*LJCKidsTri.org*

The Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center (LJCC) will host its 7th Annual Levine JCC Kids Triathlon to benefit rehabilitation programs at Levine Children’s Hospital and the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program (ASAP).

**JUNE 11**

**Save Your Skin Melanoma Awareness Golf Classic**
*GiveCarolinas.org/saveyourskin*

This 13th annual event, held at Ballantyne Country Club’s South Course, supports melanoma research, treatment, and awareness at Levine Cancer Institute.
MITCHELL SALVINO ON THE MOVE TO SUPPORT LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE

On January 26, Charlotte Catholic High School students joined with their basketball team to achieve a record fundraising lead of more than $40,000 as part of the school’s annual Cougars 4 a Cure event. The event, founded in 2013 after his mother was diagnosed with bladder cancer, is led by Mitchell Salvino, a junior at Charlotte Catholic. Recognized by Carolinas HealthCare Foundation as a Young Ambassador for his fundraising achievements, Mitchell has helped Charlotte Catholic raise more than $140,000 for the Carolinas Bladder Cancer Fund in support of Levine Cancer Institute.

**Mitchell Salvino, center, spearheaded Charlotte Catholic’s fundraiser, Cougars 4 a Cure.**

**Bladder Cancer Clinical Trials**

- Levine Cancer Institute is currently enrolling 2-5 patients in each of 3 active Phase I clinical research trials for bladder cancer.

- 3 additional Phase I clinical trials for bladder cancer are pending activation at Levine Cancer Institute within the next quarter of 2018.

- In addition to the current Phase I trials, multiple additional investigator initiated research studies are presently underway or in development, being led by Levine Cancer Institute physicians, including Dr. Earle Burgess, Dr. Peter Clark (Chair, Department of Urology) and Dr. Stephen Riggs.

DR. NIRAJ PATEL LEADS “TEAM IDEA” IN THE INAUGURAL PEDIATRIC IMMUNODEFICIENCY GALA

Surrounded by families who have been touched by immunodeficiency, as well as medical colleagues and community advocates, Dr. Niraj C. Patel and Carolinas HealthCare Foundation led the inaugural Pediatric Immunodeficiency Gala on February 10, raising over $38,000 for Levine Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Immunodeficiency Center. The gala represents Dr. Patel’s latest efforts in his long-standing commitment to philanthropy, having organized and led his patients in fundraising for the Hopebuilders 5K through Team “IDEA,” (Immune Deficiency, Education, and Advocacy).

**Dr. Patel caught up with one of his patients, 2-year-old Prince (and family), at the Pediatric Immunodeficiency Gala. Prince is just one of the many patients who receive world-class care at Levine Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Immunodeficiency Center.**
BEVIE Hemby

CARRYING ON A FAMILY LEGACY WITH DEEP ROOTS
A lot has changed in the world since the Alex Hemby Foundation was created in 1952. Man went to the moon, eradicated smallpox, perfected heart transplants, and invented the World Wide Web.

But as Charlotte and the world around it moved into a new century, the Hemby family’s dedication to healthcare in our community remained a comforting constant. Generation after generation has taken on the family legacy, helping to guide the Charlotte healthcare community toward the future. Their gifts have launched Carolinas Medical Center’s Hemby Pediatric Trauma Institute, the Hilda Hemby Medical Intensive Care Unit, and established the Torrence Hemby Pediatric Hematology Oncology Center at Levine Children’s Hospital.

Most recently, the Alex Hemby Foundation has committed substantial funding to endow a chair of supportive oncology at Levine Cancer Institute, ensuring patients receive not just physical care, but emotional and spiritual services, as well.

The Hemby family’s involvement with Atrium Health doesn’t end with their significant philanthropic gifts.

May Beverly (“Bevie”) Hemby, who manages the Alex Hemby Foundation along with sisters Sandy Burnett and Alexa Amick, serves on the Carolinas HealthCare Foundation Board of Directors and the Atrium Health Board of Commissioners. She also volunteers in the hospital, visiting patients regularly, with over 800 volunteer hours tallied since 2003. And she is not the only Hemby working with Atrium Health. Her children, stepped in the same family values of community, kindness and compassion, are also engaged philanthropists, continuing a family legacy deeply rooted within Atrium Health.

Hemby Family Endowed Chair in Supportive Oncology

Declan Walsh, MD, will become the Institute’s first Hemby Family Endowed Chair in Supportive Oncology. One of the highest honors bestowed upon a physician leader, endowed chairs are given the academic and scientific freedom to pursue ideas that can move medical science forward and lead to novel therapies to benefit patients.

Dr. Walsh, who joined Levine Cancer Institute in November 2016, is an internationally renowned physician, researcher, educator, and administrator. He developed the first palliative care program in the United States in 1987. Under his direction, the Supportive Oncology Program at Levine Cancer Institute continues to build upon its strong foundation of exceptional clinical care, leading the way in the fields of survivorship, palliative medicine, cancer rehabilitation, nutrition, psycho-oncology, and integrative care.

If you would like to make a gift to supportive oncology, contact Cacky Higgins, cacky.higgins@carolinashealthcare.org
During his career, Carolina Panthers All-Pro tight end Greg Olsen has played in the Superbowl and been nominated for two consecutive years for the NFL’s prestigious Walter Payton Man of the Year award. He has also coached his youngest son through a series of lifesaving heart surgeries, all the while, advocating nationwide as he fundraises to give back to healthcare programs that have a special place in his family’s heart.

In just five years, the Greg Olsen Foundation has raised over $2 million to support the congenital heart program at Levine Children’s Hospital. From his personal commitments along with wife Kara – such as a recent $100,000 match during the Walter Payton Man of the Year campaign – to coordinating 5Ks and golf tournaments, Greg has developed a truly game-changing philanthropic initiative known as The HEARTest Yard.

In November 2017, Greg and his family announced their newest commitment: Funding the region’s first cardiac neurodevelopmental center by expanding the scope of the HEARTest Yard initiative.

“At The HEARTest Yard, we continually think bigger. The status quo is never enough because we have lives at stake,” Greg Olsen said. “While a few years ago we kicked off the program helping infants, our foundation is growing just like our heart babies. We’re dedicated to helping them over the course of their life. We see tremendous value in the expansion of The HEARTest Yard and that’s why we’ve already gifted $750,000 to fund the cardiac neurodevelopmental program.”

Beyond the physical challenges, up to 50 percent of pediatric heart surgery patients may have neurodevelopmental deficits during their lifetime, which can impact language, fine motor skills, or vision. They may be diagnosed with behavioral issues from depression to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or they may develop learning disabilities that limit their educational opportunities or even their job choices.

If Greg Olsen has his way, young heart patients won’t face the limitations they have in the past. They will thrive.
THE NEW
Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Center
will provide key services under one roof, including:
• Early diagnosis;
• Comprehensive evaluation from a team of pediatric specialists;
• Coordinated care through a single clinic; and
• Leading research

“A PROGRAM LIKE THIS IS A GAMECHANGER. IT BRINGS EVERYBODY TOGETHER IN THE SAME PLACE, SAME TIME. WITH ONE VISIT, PATIENTS WILL GET EVERYTHING DONE, FIND OUT WHAT THEIR ISSUES ARE, AND WORK ON THEM. HAVING A NEURODEVELOPMENTAL CLINIC FOR A CHILD'S LONG-TERM CARE IS GOING TO SET THIS PROGRAM APART CERTAINLY IN THIS REGION — AND PROBABLY IN THE COUNTRY.”

Paul Kirshbom, MD
Chief of pediatric cardiac surgery at Levine Children’s Hospital and Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute

NAMED CHAIRS ADVANCE RESEARCH, BENEFIT PATIENTS

Named chairs, established through philanthropic gifts, enable Atrium Health to attract and retain the brightest minds in medical care and research. These physicians are given the academic and scientific freedom to pursue ideas that can move medical science forward and lead to novel therapies that benefit patients. In addition to being a vital recruitment and retention tool, endowed chairs are one of the highest honors bestowed upon a physician leader.

The Sara H. Bissell and Howard C. Bissell Endowed Chair in Pediatrics
Chair Donors: Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Bissell
Chair Holder: Stacy Nicholson, MD
Area: Levine Children’s Hospital

The Kerry and Simone Vickar Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Hematologic Oncology and Blood Disorders
Chair Donor: Kerry and Simone Vickar Family Foundation
Chair Holder: Edward Copelan, MD, FACP
Area: Levine Cancer Institute

The Hemby Family Endowed Chair in Supportive Oncology
Chair Donor: Alex Hemby Foundation
Chair Holder: Declan Walsh, MD
Area: Levine Cancer Institute

Edward N. Hanley, Jr., MD, Endowed Chair for Orthopaedic Surgery
Chair Donors: Orthopaedic faculty along with former residents and fellows
Chair Holder: Claude Moorman, MD
Area: Carolinas Medical Center

Francis Robicsek, MD, PhD Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Surgery
Chair Donors: Colleagues, Patients, & Friends
Chair Holder: Joseph McGinn, MD
Area: Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute

Jeff Gordon Children’s Foundation Endowed Chair in Cancer & Blood Disorders
Chair Donor: Jeff Gordon
Children's Foundation
Chair Holder: Javier Oesterheld, MD
Area: Levine Children’s Hospital

Paul Kirshbom, MD
Chief of pediatric cardiac surgery at Levine Children’s Hospital and Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute
Elinor Caddell has always been curious. Or nosy. One of the two. But, she says, whichever one it is, it has continually led her to seek knowledge – a trait that served her well during her storied career as a nurse and teacher.

With that lifelong love of learning in mind, Elinor proposed a nursing symposium for the Charlotte healthcare community and has helped to facilitate its creation, pledging funds for what will be a yearly event. Elinor is the honorary chair of the symposium’s 2018 planning committee, with representatives from Atrium Health and local Charlotte-area nursing schools joining her.

The 95-year-old began her nursing education at Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (a precursor to the Carolinas College of Health Sciences), as part of its first graduating class in 1944. After earning both a bachelor of nursing education and a master’s degree at Duke University, Elinor taught at Charlotte Memorial and later Duke University, before being recruited in 1965 to create a nursing program at University of North Carolina – Charlotte. There, she and Edith Brocker, the former associate dean of nursing at Duke, created a solid foundation for the Charlotte university’s nursing program, nurturing its growth over the next 25 years.

After her retirement in 1989, Elinor continued her dedication to nursing students, through a scholarship established in her name at her alma mater, the Carolinas College of Health Sciences. Elinor’s latest gift cements a fitting legacy for the former educator, ensuring that Charlotte’s healthcare professionals will continue to learn and grow for years to come.
RAISING AWARENESS FOR ORAL CANCER

In 2013, Shelley Blevins lost her husband, Jeremy, to an aggressive form of oral cancer. But amid her grief, Shelley found a calling, choosing to honor Jeremy’s memory by increasing awareness about oral cancer and securing funding for its detection and treatment. This February, Shelley continued her mission, with the 2nd annual Jeremy B. Blevins Oral Cancer 5K and 10K. Bringing together more than 200 cancer advocates, the February 10 event raised a total of over $15,000. Proceeds from the event support the Jeremy B. Blevins Oral Cancer Fund, which seeks to enhance the treatment and diagnosis of oral cancer at Levine Cancer Institute.

NEXT GENERATION DANCES FOR THE NEXT

February 24 was a toe tapping, hair raising, dance-to-the-rhythm day for Davidson College and Belmont Abbey as they kicked off their respective dance marathons. Belmont Abbey raised $6,000 and Davidson chipped in a hefty $13,500. The two schools’ programs, both in their second year, are part of a larger network of universities and colleges that raise money through dance for their communities’ Children’s Miracle Network hospital. Levine Children’s Hospital, the area’s CMN hospital, will benefit from the colleges’ fundraising and will also receive money from UNC-Charlotte’s dance marathon, which will take place on April 7. The Charlotte university’s program has raised more than $185,000 for Levine Children’s Hospital in its five years of existence.

RUNNING WITH HEART

For Ted Frank, MD, his patients are his biggest inspiration. Driven by compassion to support them, he devised a unique fundraiser with the ambitious goal of raising $25,000.

For five straight days in November, Dr. Frank – director of heart failure services at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute – hit the streets to run five marathons to benefit his heart transplant patients. Each day at roughly the midway point in his marathon, patients and supporters were invited to join in for a one mile walk or run.

On November 16, 131 miles later, Dr. Frank wrapped up his week-long run and surpassed his goal, raising over $40,000 for Sanger. Every step was a labor of love for this heart doc!
Three years ago, when doctors diagnosed Jane Boland with metastatic colon cancer, hope seemed to be in short supply. But even as doctors told Jane’s husband to “get her affairs in order,” Jane didn’t fall victim to the darkness swirling around her diagnosis. Determined to battle cancer with a brave face and a fighter’s spirit, Jane went on to triumph over 17 tumors in her liver, enduring 69 rounds of chemotherapy. Now on the mend, the Levine Cancer Institute patient traces her remarkable recovery back to her friends and family, her Levine care team and a very special Carolinas program made possible through philanthropy.

“In addition to the incredible care [of] my nurse navigator, Joanna, and medical team at LCI, I also credit my positive experience to the Healing Arts Program,” Jane said. This program “allows patients like myself to explore creative expression in a safe, supportive environment, where we learn the powerful impact art can have on the healing process.” As medical staff tirelessly worked to address Jane’s physical health, the arts program allowed Jane to explore her emotional and mental healing. Licensed therapists and artists from the community lead workshops for patients, as part of the program, with outside organizations also participating. Resilience Gives is one such organization. Founded by cancer survivor Jake Teitelbaum, the organization helps cancer patients make their own inspirational socks, which are then sold to raise money for organizations chosen by the patients.

A group sock design, “Healing Arts, Healing Words,” which was completed by Jane and other patient participants in the Levine Cancer Institute Healing Arts Program, is now featured and available for purchase at Resilience.gives/collections/fundraising. A portion of proceeds from each sale of this inspiring design will support the Healing Arts Program at LCI.
Andrew Weaver

CMN CHAMP DOESN’T MONKEY AROUND

Andrew Weaver has endured a lot in his first three years, but you would never know it, watching him run through the Overcash atrium at Levine Children’s Hospital. “Today, we’re back to visit some of his care team,” said mom, Kelly. This team — comprised of doctors, nurses, and more — were instrumental in saving Andrew’s life after he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma at the young age of three months. They coined themselves, “Team Monkey” after the cuddly monkey blankets and stuffed animals that surrounded Andrew during his hospitalization. They rallied around Kelly and her husband Chris as their child endured chemotherapy, multiple surgeries, and numerous blood transfusions. And Team Monkey’s care extended beyond the walls of the hospital, as they came out to walk in Andrew’s honor at Levine Children’s Hospital’s annual Hopebuilders 5K fundraiser. “It was pure love and dedication to Andrew’s recovery, in motion,” said Kelly.

Today, Andrew is cancer-free and monkeying around with other toddlers his age. He and his family are also giving back to the hospital, creating awareness for cancer programs and advocating for philanthropic support. Andrew is representing the thousands of sick and injured kids treated at Levine Children’s Hospital by serving as the 2018 Children’s Miracle Network Champion for local CMN fundraising campaigns.

If you would like to support Levine Children’s Hospital and Children’s Miracle Network, contact: kellie.mcgregor@carolinascare.org
**GIVING THANKS BY RUNNING FOR A CAUSE**

Their father is still fighting, and so are they. For the past eight years, Sara and Andy (Jr.) Salisbury have honored their dad’s battle with Parkinson’s Disease by participating in the Charlotte Turkey Trot held on Thanksgiving Day. In the process, they and their supporters have raised over $560,000 for the Center for Parkinson Disease and Movement Disorders.

The funds raised this year will continue to support the RENEW Carolinas Parkinson’s Disease Initiative, which helps patients use technology to manage their symptoms, while also focusing on healthier lifestyles through customized nutrition counseling and physical therapy. In addition, the funds will benefit other exercise programs, including the non-contact boxing program which Sara and Andy’s father, Andy Sr., attends weekly. Activities like boxing have been shown to increase balance and lessen tremors, allowing for a better quality of life.

After raising more than half a million dollars to help fight Parkinson’s Disease, Sara and Andy are proud, but more importantly – thankful. And so is Andy Sr., who reached an important milestone just before this year’s Turkey Trot, celebrating his 65th birthday.

**BUSINESSMAN BOOSTS GIVING TUESDAY INITIATIVE WITH MATCHING GIFT**

When Giving Tuesday 2017 needed an extra boost, in stepped Felix Sabates. The renowned local businessman, owner of Mercedes-Benz of South Charlotte as well as other dealerships and board member of both Carolinas HealthCare Foundation and Atrium Health, stepped in with a matching challenge gift to encourage on-line givers to participate in the social media initiative.

As a result, a record $30,000 was raised on Giving Tuesday in November to benefit patients at Levine Children’s Hospital. Sabates is no stranger to supporting children, having generously given to the campaign to build Levine Children’s Hospital and leading fundraising efforts for Allegro Foundation, a local non-profit that supports disabled children. He is also an advocate for programs throughout Atrium Health and has committed resources to Alzheimer’s research, pastoral care, and cancer programs.
2017 was truly a winning year for Martin Truex Jr. and his longtime partner, Sherry Pollex. From the race track to the catwalk, the reigning 2017 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series champion capped off a record-setting year on the track with tremendous accomplishments off the track, including his foundation’s pledge of nearly $100,000 to support the Supportive Oncology Fund at Levine Cancer Institute.

An ovarian cancer survivor turned advocate, Sherry Pollex has faced her cancer journey with grace and wisdom that belies her years. Diagnosed at the young age of 35, Sherry has turned her experience into an opportunity to extend the reach of the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation, which currently funds ovarian cancer research and integrative health services for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, in addition to childhood cancer initiatives. The Foundation’s efforts to impact ovarian cancer are carried out under the fitting moniker, SherryStrong.

No strangers to the havoc that ovarian cancer, and the treatment it requires, can wreak on the body, Sherry and Martin have used the platform of SherryStrong to bring transformation and hope to women in our community who face this devastating diagnosis. Thanks to their pledge to Levine Cancer Institute through SherryStrong, North Charlotte Institute locations will soon offer the region’s most innovative and impactful supportive oncology services, such as healing touch therapy, oncology massage therapy, acupuncture, and other supportive services to ease the pain and anxiety associated with cancer.

Led by Dr. Declan Walsh, Chair of the Center for Supportive Oncology at LCI, Levine Cancer Institute models itself on a community-based approach to cancer care by ensuring that facilities have programs, such as Integrative Oncology in place to support cancer care in locations closest to where patients live and work. The support of SherryStrong and the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation are allowing LCI to achieve that very same vision in the North Charlotte region.
Everyone Needs a BUDDY

As anyone who has had an experience with cancer knows, it is an emotional journey for all involved. Family members or even close friends generally take on the role as “caregiver,” often times while juggling careers and families of their own. Dr. Kathryn Mileham of Levine Cancer Institute sees this often through her treatment of patients at the Institute. “So many times, caregivers are so devoted to the needs of the patient that their own health and well-being gets put aside,” says Mileham.

Dr. Mileham had an idea to address this challenge and she knew just whom to approach – Vince Sumner, the son of the late John S. Sumner, Jr., a patient who left a special impact on her life and career. “My father held Dr. Mileham in high regard, and I confirmed our family’s support for establishing a caregiver program to show our appreciation of the excellent care provided to my dad by Dr. Mileham and her staff,” said Sumner.

In 2017, The Buddy Fund at Levine Cancer Institute was established thanks to the generosity of the Sumner family and close friends honoring John – who was affectionately known as “Buddy.” The Fund’s purpose is to address the challenges that caregivers face while caring for a cancer patient. An additional objective is to create a more comfortable environment for caregivers when they accompany patients to treatment. Recently, new caregiver chairs were purchased for Levine Cancer Institute-SouthPark. An additional component of the program is to provide respite care in order to give caregivers back some valuable time to accomplish personal tasks or errands – or, simply take an emotional break from their caregiving responsibilities.

“OUR FAMILY IS OVERWHELMED BY AND APPRECIATIVE OF THE SUPPORT DAD’S COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, AND OTHERS PROVIDED IN ESTABLISHING THE BUDDY FUND. OUR GOAL IS FOR THE FUND TO CONTINUE TO GROW SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE CAREGIVERS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO BE THE BEST GIVERS OF CARE!”

COMING SOON:

The Inner Circle

Where innovation and inspiration meet
About 246,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women this year.

Thursday, May 17

Speak PINK

The Newest Forum for Breast Cancer Philanthropy

Join us for an inspiring program featuring Cathy Bessant, breast cancer survivor and Chief Operations and Technology Officer for Bank of America. Learn how her breast cancer journey impacted her highly successful career and why supporting local breast cancer research and early detection programs at Levine Cancer Institute is so important.

Bessant is ranked No. 1 among the “Most Powerful Women in Banking” on American Banker’s 2017 ranking and previously was ranked No. 1 on Institutional Investor magazine’s Tech 50 list of financial technology leaders. She also appears on Working Mother magazine’s “50 Most Powerful Working Moms” list for 2017.

givecarolinas.org/speakpink

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Carolinas HealthCare Foundation
Carolinas HealthCare Foundation’s Grateful Patient program provides funding to advance Atrium Health’s mission: to improve health, elevate hope, and advance healing – for all.

Carolinas HealthCare Foundation’s Grateful Patient program provides opportunities for patients to express their gratitude for the care they have received at Atrium Health. Charitable gifts may be made in honor of a physician, nurse, or other caregiver who has been a part of a patient’s medical journey. We will notify caregivers of any gifts made in their honor. Contributions from grateful patients help to enhance the quality of medical care available today, while laying the groundwork for future medical innovations at Atrium Health.

givecarolinas.org/grateful