

# Momentum

Summer  
2022

A PUBLICATION OF ATRIUM HEALTH FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING  
YEAR ONE

*Giving*  
**HOPE**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ATRIUM HEALTH

**Gifts of Gratitude**

CAMPAIGN HITS \$200 MILLION



**Atrium Health  
Foundation**



#### **A Message from our Board Chair:**

Summer conjures memories of catching fireflies, splashing under sprinklers, and waving sparklers on the 4th of July. Sparks bring joy and hope. One of my “sparks” is making a difference in the lives of the patients, families, and caregivers we support through Atrium Health Foundation.

Over the past few months, we have experienced the joy of getting back together – celebrating at the Levine Children’s Gala, running in the Keep Pounding 5K, and watching the community pull together to do good things on our behalf.

Passionate donors continue to engage with us as we move forward with our Giving Hope campaign. We are grateful for their collective sparks, which are lighting the way for success!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Mandy Houser".

Mandy Houser  
*Board Chair, Atrium Health Foundation*



#### **Dear Friends,**

The world of healthcare is rapidly evolving, so as we celebrate summertime, many of us welcome the longer days and slower pace. We also take time to plan for the opportunities that change brings to our health system and celebrate recent milestones.

Just 15 months after launching our Giving Hope campaign, we hit the \$200 million mark! Thanks to generous community support, we’ve celebrated a lot, including investitures for endowed chairs at both Levine Cancer Institute and Musculoskeletal Institute, a major gift from The Duke Endowment in support of community initiatives, and a legacy gift to support breast cancer programs.

It’s evident to me that others share my spark, which is our “for all” mission at Atrium Health. Thank you for sharing our passion to be one of the best academic health systems in the country.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Armando Chardiet".

Armando Chardiet  
*President, Atrium Health Foundation*



A close-up photograph of a lit sparkler against a dark night sky. The sparkler is positioned diagonally, with its handle pointing towards the bottom right. It is emitting a bright, intense light from its tip, which has spread out into a large, fan-like shape of numerous fine, golden-yellow sparks. Some sparks are still attached to the main cluster, while others have drifted away, creating a trail of light. The background is dark, with some out-of-focus light spots (bokeh) visible, suggesting other lights or sparks in the distance. A semi-transparent teal horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the word 'Momentum' in white text.

# Momentum

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



NOVEMBER 5, 2022



*Join us for the*

# HOPEBUILDERS 5K

**benefiting Atrium Health Levine Children's**

*Enjoy our all-new course, finishing on Truist Field!*



CHARLOTTE  
**KNIGHTS**

With Special Thanks to  
Supernova Super Star sponsor:

**BARINGS**

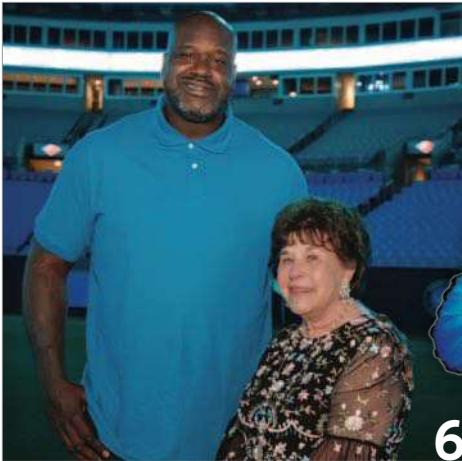


**[Hopebuilders5K.org](https://Hopebuilders5K.org)**



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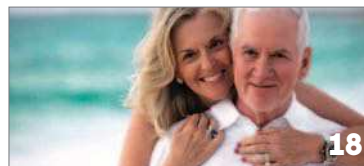
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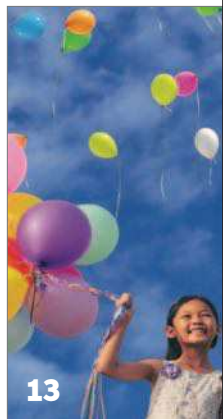
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### Atrium Health Foundation Board of Directors:

Mandy S. Houser, Chair; Howard Bissell, III; Todd Collins; Hugh S. (Beau) Cummins III; May Beverly Hemby; Greg Johnson; Beverly Ladley; Doug Lebda; Luther Lockwood, II; Sonja Nichols; Greg Olsen; Manuel Rey; Mike Rucker; Michael Salvino; David Secrest; David Sheffer

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# Giving HOPE

ATRIUM HEALTH  
FOUNDATION  
CELEBRATES  
CAMPAIGN'S  
FIRST YEAR



May 25 marked one year since Atrium Health Foundation publicly launched ***Giving Hope: The Campaign for Atrium Health*** – a bold initiative that will fuel the health system's vision to be the national leader for health, learning, and community.

To celebrate, friends of Atrium Health gathered for a long awaited, in-person event at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte. Gene Woods, president and CEO of Atrium Health, shared an update on the campaign, which has raised \$200 million to date in its first year. Guests also heard from Hugh McColl, virtually, as well as guest speaker Smoky Bissell, whose family's involvement with Atrium Health has spanned decades. Margaret and Smoky Bissell's most recent \$30 million gift has inspired others to step forward and support the campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of community members, corporations, and foundations, Atrium Health Foundation is well on its way toward an ambitious \$500 million goal. Philanthropy is paving the way for game-changing projects associated with the four pillars of the campaign: Healthy communities, outstanding education, preeminent research, and exemplary facilities.



**1. Smoky Bissell addressed guests at the Campaign celebration, emphasizing: "What's more important than our health?" 2. (L-R) Armando Chardiet, Felix Sabates, and Gene Woods. 3. Members of the Giving Hope Campaign Cabinet, including Foundation board members, community leaders, and physician vice-chairs, gathered at Quail Hollow Club to celebrate the campaign's one-year milestone.**







## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- **The Drive to Thrive mobile unit** providing women's care in underserved communities  
*Made possible by Barbara and Todd Kopczynski*
- **The Sarah and Tim Belk Community Kitchen** providing heart healthy meals to the community  
*Made possible by Sarah and Tim Belk*
- **School-based behavioral health services** for children  
*Made possible by The Duke Endowment*

## OUTSTANDING EDUCATION

- **The Howard R. Levine Center for Education** at Wake Forest University School of Medicine Charlotte
- **4 Chairs of Excellence:** The Alvin Levine Distinguished Chair in Melanoma Research; Dr. Jerry and Audrey Petty Endowed Professorship in Spine Surgery; Gayle J. and Charles C. Tallardy III Foundation Distinguished Chair in Clinical Research, and Bissell Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine

## PREEMINENT RESEARCH

- **Lymphoma Research at Levine Cancer Institute** led by Steven Park, MD, division chief of Hematology and Oncology, funded by the American Cancer Society
- **Pediatric Cancer Research at Levine Children's Hospital**, led by Dr. Giselle Sholler, with support from the Isabella Santos Foundation and Beat Childhood Cancer Foundation

## EXEMPLARY FACILITIES

- **David L. Conlan Center at Carolinas Rehabilitation** (Margaret & Smoky Bissell / Bissell Ballantyne & Annette Siverling)
- Opening of **Atrium Health Union West**
- Groundbreaking for **Center for Advanced Radiation Therapy**



## The Todd and Janelle Collins Nurse Aide Scholars Program

Atrium Health Foundation board member and campaign cabinet member Todd Collins, and his wife Janelle, have demonstrated their commitment to the Giving Hope campaign with a generous gift to the Carolinas College of Health Sciences. With their support, a new scholarship program has been established to help increase the diversity of the student body and remove barriers for underrepresented students who may have a desire to work in healthcare professions. The Todd and Janelle Collins Nurse Aide Scholars Program will offer full scholarships to qualified Charlotte-area high school students and graduates to attend the Nurse Aide program at Carolinas College.



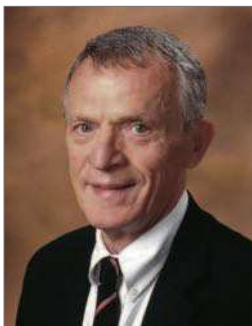
## Backbone of Support

# Transformational Gift Endows Professorship in Spine Surgery



*Dr. Coric is the inaugural holder of the Dr. Jerry and Audrey Petty Endowed Professorship in Spine Surgery. A neurosurgeon, partner, and dedicated leader at CNSA, he serves as the executive medical director of SpineFirst – a joint venture between CNSA and Atrium Health.*





*Dr. Jerry M. Petty*

In March, Atrium Health Foundation announced a transformational gift to establish an endowed professorship in spine surgery at Atrium Health Musculoskeletal Institute. The professorship – which honors Dr. Jerry M. Petty – was made possible with a leading \$2.3 million gift from Rick and Linda Hendrick, with Felix Sabates, Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates, Downie and Sally Saussy, and the Petty family among additional contributors. Dr. Domagoj Coric, the inaugural holder of the Dr. Jerry and Audrey Petty Endowed Professorship in Spine Surgery, was recognized at an investiture on March 22. The endowment will support Dr. Coric’s research and education initiatives strategically envisioned by Atrium Health Musculoskeletal Institute and SpineFirst leadership.

Dr. Petty, who concluded his extensive career in 2021, is regarded as one of the most distinguished neurosurgeons in the nation, and one of the most admirable healthcare providers in the history of the Charlotte region. Over the last several decades, Dr. Petty’s spirit of innovation has paved the way for thousands of patients in the region to access the most advanced care available.

“Our family is honored and humbled to support the Dr. Jerry and Audrey Petty Endowed Professorship in Spine Surgery,” shared Rick Hendrick, owner of Hendrick Motorsports and chairman and CEO of Hendrick Automotive Group. “As one of the most respected neurosurgeons in the world, Jerry has dedicated the entirety of his professional life to helping patients and has done immeasurable good here in our region and across the country. The endowment will ensure that the impact of his unparalleled 53-year career practicing medicine will continue to be felt for many, many more years to come.”



*Pictured (L-R): Drs. Domagoj Coric and Jerry M. Petty with Linda and Rick Hendrick at the investiture on March 22.*

*Endowed Professorships*

Set against the backdrop of Uptown skyscrapers lit in “Atrium Health teal,” the 8th Annual Levine Children’s Gala, presented by PNC, welcomed over 500 guests to the home of the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC. The first event of its kind to be hosted on the stadium field, the gala raised over \$1.86 million to benefit Atrium Health Levine Children’s. Everything was “big” about the evening, from the funds raised, to the entertainment, to the men’s college basketball playoff game, broadcast throughout the venue.

With help from nine-year-old cancer survivor Colin Case, Atrium Health President and CEO Gene Woods welcomed a sold-out crowd, acknowledging both caregivers and guests who have invested tremendously in Levine Children’s. “We are here to celebrate you – our biggest supporters and cheerleaders.”

PNC has been one of Levine Children’s steadfast supporters, serving as presenting sponsor of the gala since its inception. “We want every child to have the opportunity to thrive,” said Weston Andress, PNC regional president for Western Carolinas. “Access to world-class healthcare is a key part of that growth, and we celebrate the local resource we have in Levine Children’s.”

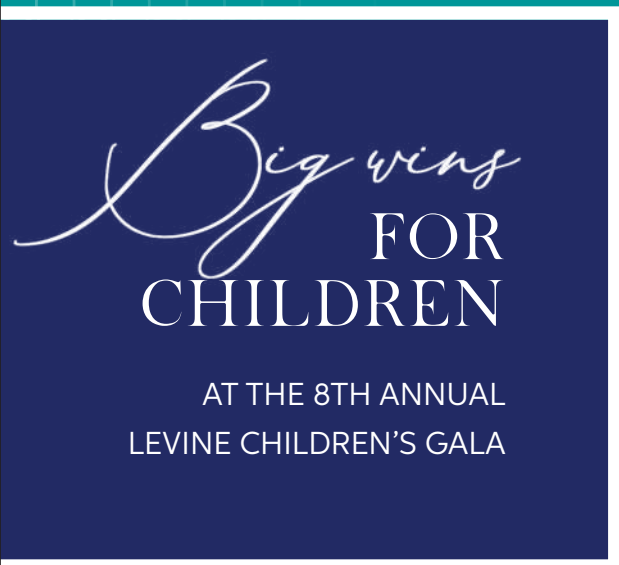
Levine Children’s Medical Plaza offers more than 30 medical specialties outside the inpatient hospital. Several children who have received care at the facility were featured throughout the evening, including kidney transplant patients Jordan and Luke Ocampo, who played a moving tribute on violin to honor their late mother.

Inspired by the poignant stories of hope and resilience, gala attendees gave generously and enjoyed a performance by Shaquille O’Neal, aka DJ Diesel, while watching the historic NCAA Final Four game, which was broadcast on 32 different screens.

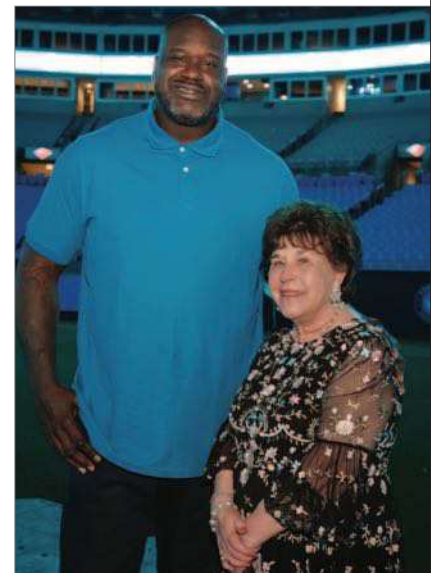
It was big night with big wins – for all!

## THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

PNC Bank, Rodgers Builders, The David and Nicole Tepper Foundation, Carolina Panthers, Charlotte FC, Bank of America, Brighthouse Financial, Office Environments, and Truist



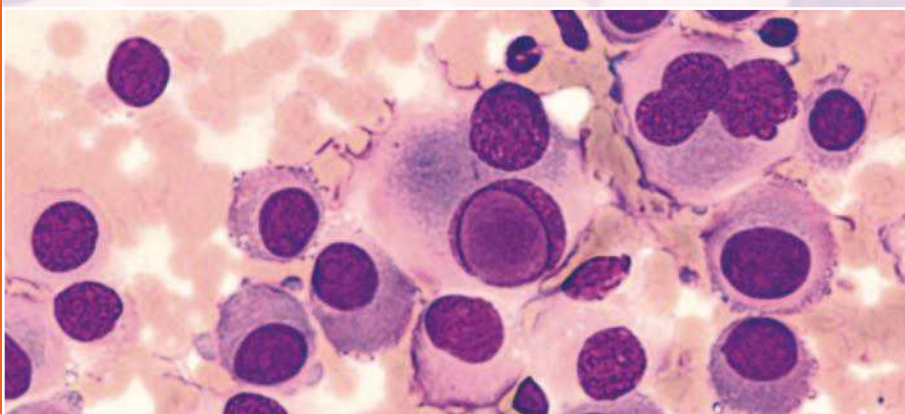




**Special Thanks to the Levine Children's Gala Committee:** Joclyn and John Baland, Candy and Darren Bing, Stephanie and Howard Bissell, Janelle and Todd Collins, Monica and Armando Chardiet, Amy and Alfred Dawson, Mandy and Todd Houser, Emily and Tyler Johnson, Kara and Greg Olsen, Ana and Manuel Rey, Natalie and David Secrest, Tiffany and Scott Smith, Nazy and Durham Weeks, Amy and Martin Welton, and Joy and Hunter Widener.



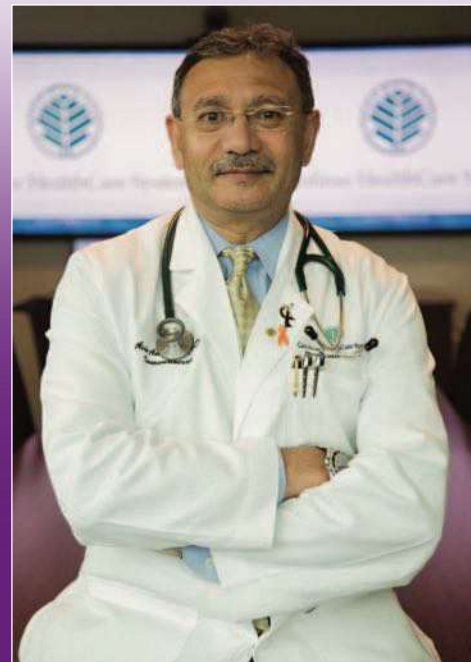
*Grateful Patient Family*  
Honors Physician,  
Establishes  
Distinguished  
Chair



▲  
**Melanoma  
cells under  
magnification**

Atrium Health Foundation has received a \$1 million gift from the family of Alvin Levine to further advance melanoma research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute. The gift will establish the **Alvin E. Levine Distinguished Chair in Melanoma Research Endowment** at Levine Cancer Institute. Dr. Asim Amin, director of immunotherapy at the Institute, is the first recipient of the chair.

“We are grateful for this transformational gift and for the Levine family’s understanding of the value of this gold standard of faculty distinction,” said Dr. Derek Raghavan, president of Levine Cancer Institute.



Peter Taylor Photography

**A 17-year veteran of Atrium Health, Dr. Asim Amin** attended King Edward Medical College and completed his residency at Providence Hospital of Washington, D.C., and his fellowship at Georgetown University. In his current role at Levine Cancer Institute, he serves as principal investigator for clinical trials in renal cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma.

“THE ALVIN E. LEVINE FAMILY IS HUMBLLED AND GRATEFUL TO HONOR DR. AMIN FOR HIS EXCELLENCE IN ONCOLOGY, AND, MOST OF ALL, FOR HIS CARE AND HUMANITY IN WORKING WITH EVERYDAY PATIENTS—JUST LIKE OUR DAD.”

— DANIEL LEVINE



*The Alvin E. Levine Distinguished Chair in Melanoma Research, Dr. Asim Amin (center) was honored through a private investiture ceremony held at the Duke Mansion this July. Pictured from left: Derek Raghavan, president, Levine Cancer Institute; Ken Haynes, enterprise executive vice president and president of the Greater Charlotte Region for Atrium Health; Daniel Levine; Helene Levine; and Armando Chardiet, president, Atrium Health Foundation.*



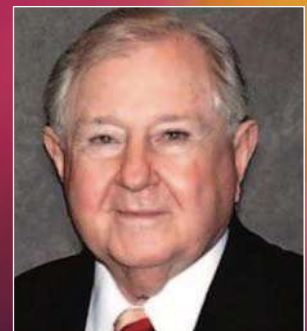
***The family established the endowment to honor the memory and legacy of the late Alvin Levine, as well as Alvin's long-term commitment to improving healthcare and advancing cancer research.***

Levine, founder of both Pic 'n Pay Shoe Stores and Levine Properties, served on the board of Charlotte Memorial Hospital and Carolinas HealthCare System (now Atrium Health), helping to transform healthcare delivery in the community. He embodied the true spirit of giving and helping others.

The endowment named in his memory will help advance melanoma research led by Dr. Amin, leading to earlier detection, novel therapies, improved outcomes, and curative treatments for melanoma.

"It is our hope that this gift will help others for years to come," said Helene Levine, whose husband battled melanoma with support from the care team at Levine Cancer Institute. It was Dr. Amin's commitment to caring for Alvin Levine that compelled the family to give back.

Dr. Amin, in turn, is grateful for the opportunity to meaningfully impact the trajectory of cancer care in the greater Charlotte region. "Immunotherapy clinical trials for melanoma will help to advance the broader knowledge of how this form of therapy can impact different forms of cancer," said Amin.



*Alvin E. Levine, a humble man from Rockingham, NC, loved Charlotte and was thankful for all the opportunities it offered throughout his life. Like many before him, he believed great cities have strong public hospitals. He was filled with joy to see Charlotte Memorial Hospital become one of the country's great medical centers. A critical part of this growth is Atrium's unparalleled specialty areas.*

# Tiny But Tough

## GRATEFUL NICU GRADUATE GIVES BACK

Born prematurely at 30 weeks, Brandon Wilson came into the world “tiny, but tough,” as his father David describes. Since receiving lifesaving care in Levine Children’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Brandon has grown into a remarkable and resilient young man. Now 11 years old, Brandon is not only a straight-A student, musician, and athlete, he’s also the CEO of his own not-for-profit organization and an Atrium Health Young Ambassador. Since December

of last year, Brandon has raised over \$1,900 towards his \$5,000 goal to benefit Levine Children’s Child Life program by designing and selling bracelets and mugs featuring the motto #PRAYERSWORK.

The care Brandon received as an infant—both in the NICU and from pediatric Child Life Specialists who supported his entire family—was not the only motivation for his fundraising. Brandon’s mother, Michelle, was admitted last spring to Atrium Health with a severe case of COVID-19. So severe, she endured septic shock, kidney failure, dialysis and weeks of rehabilitation before finally going home. Ventilated while she was treated in the ICU on Mother’s Day, Michelle’s experience was harrowing at times.

Though David and Brandon were unable to be by her side, due to pandemic-related visitor restrictions, they found strength in Child Life Specialists who helped them navigate Michelle’s medical crisis just as they did in the NICU more than a decade ago.

One member of Child Life holds a special place in the Wilson family’s hearts. “A call from Molly Whitt from Child Life was an amazing blessing,” shares David. “She and Brandon spoke for hours every day about what Michelle was going through.” Between board games, special deliveries to their home, and providing an iPad to call Michelle while she was in the ICU, Molly made the family’s experience bearable and was a bright spot during a scary time for the family.



***Pictured: Molly Whitt, Atrium Health Levine Children’s Child Life Specialist, with Brandon Wilson, grateful patient and founder of Beemer, Inc.***



"Molly is one of the most caring people I've met in my whole life," shares Brandon. He says Molly explained every step of his mother's care, helping to restore a sense of understanding and control for the Wilsons. Michelle, who serves as a family navigator for the NICU at Levine Children's, knows the importance of what Child Life Specialists do to provide patients and their families with a sense of normalcy and control during hospital stays and medical treatments.

"I am donating money so that Molly can help other kids whose parents are sick," shares Brandon. Having overcome so many obstacles in his young life, Michelle and David's "miracle child" plans to continue paying it forward. Once he meets his fundraising goal to support Child Life, Brandon says he'll carry on his fundraising for the benefit of the NICU at Levine Children's.

*"We are grateful for the fine people here who have saved so many lives including our own," David remarked at a recent presentation of his son's first check to support Child Life. "The caring, dedication, thoughtfulness and sheer talent here cannot be overstated."*



## ***Once upon a time, there was a hospital.***

For 15 years in a row, Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital has been named a Best Children's Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. We're the only children's hospital in the Charlotte region recognized – and this year, we're ranked in 8 specialties.

In addition to our award-winning hospital, Atrium Health Levine Children's has every type of pediatric care your child might need. This includes pediatric primary care, emergency rooms, and the only children's urgent cares in the area. Plus, with same-day sick visits and virtual options, getting the best care is easy as can be.

We're proud of our accomplishments and everything we offer. But when children live happily – and healthily – ever after, that's the best award of all.

# More happily ever afters start here.



**Tuli, 1**  
Pulmonary Patient



# Racing for HOPE

## YOUNG TRIATHLETES GO THE DISTANCE FOR ATRIUM HEALTH

This May marked the 10th year of the annual Levine Jewish Community Center's Kids Triathlon, which has raised over \$900,000 since its inception. The youth-driven fundraising event benefits pediatric rehabilitation patients at Levine Children's Hospital and athletes who participate in Atrium Health's Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program.

With a triumphant "in person" return to the Levine JCC Kids Triathlon, more than 120 youth triathletes of all ages and abilities swam, biked, and ran to raise more than \$136,000 to bring hope to adaptive athletes and patients receiving rehabilitative care. Presenting sponsor, **The Leon Levine Foundation**, helped lead the fundraising charge as the presenting sponsor, along with honorary event chairs, **Lori and Eric Sklut**.



### Thank you, supporting sponsors

The Leon Levine Foundation, Lori & Eric Sklut, Julie & Howard Levine, Atrium Health Foundation, The Labcorp Charitable Foundation, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, Action Plus Ideas, Dale & Larry Polsky, Interstate Solutions, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, Dana & Scott Gorelick Family, Bari & Jeff Gorelick & Family, P'ninah Miriam Gorelick Gimbel & Yisroel Gimbel, Webb & Goldsmith Orthodontics, Brownlee Jewelers, Donald K. & Barbara L. Bernstein, Shannon Crystal & Robert Haber, William & Patricia Gorelick Family Foundation Carolina Classic Builders, Laxer, Long & Savage, Ellen & David Framm; and in-kind sponsors: St. John Photography, Your Event Source, and WhatsWaterIce.



# "A Million" Reasons

## TO CELEBRATE COSTCO'S DEDICATION TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Over the course of two decades, Costco locations in Charlotte, Matthews, and Mooresville have together achieved a major milestone in the wholesale retailer's support of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. As of earlier this year, local Costco stores exceeded \$1 million in funds raised since 2001 to benefit patients of Levine Children's Hospital. This year, local membership warehouses joined over 600 Costco locations nationwide to raise funds for lifesaving medical equipment and patient resources at CMN member hospitals.

For one employee of a Mooresville-based Costco location, giving to Levine Children's brings joy to her life. This year, Bev, a longtime store associate, served as her store's Children's Miracle Network Champion, setting an example for her colleagues and encouraging customers to give generously. Bev says the annual Children's Miracle Network campaign is the "most important thing" to her and that there is "nothing like hearing 'yes' when asking people at checkout to make a donation [to CMN]."

When learning about the many programs that make Levine Children's so special, Bev says she was most inspired by the Child Life program and, as a foster parent herself, understands the importance of alleviating a child's fears or anxiety during moments of uncertainty. She says she is also inspired by the countless stories shared by customers who've been touched by Levine Children's and other CMN Hospitals.

*Bev, Mooresville Store Champion, says the Children's Miracle Network Campaign is the "most important thing" about her work.*



UPWARD



### **Ace Hardware Customers Round Up for Change**

During the month of April, Ace Hardware associates encouraged customers to round up their purchases to “Change Kids’ Health, Change the Future” at 170 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals across the country. Locally, Blackhawk Hardware and Ace Hardware Indian Trail participated in the campaign for Atrium Health Levine Children’s Hospital. Generous store associates, advocates like CMN Champion Sarah (pictured), and customers helped raise over \$5,200.

### **Publix Celebrates Three Decades of Partnership**

For 30 years, Publix has partnered with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals to raise funds to ensure every child receives the care they need, no matter life’s circumstances. During the supermarket chain’s latest campaign held in June, Charlotte-area stores collected donations of \$1, \$3, and \$5 for Levine Children’s Hospital in exchange for coupons for leading vendor products. Thanks to the generosity of store associates and customers, local Publix Super Markets raised more than \$66,000.

### **College Students Show Off Their Moves for Levine Children’s Hospital**

Every year, students across the country become change makers for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals by hosting dance marathons. Locally, two campuses continue to participate in the student-led philanthropic initiative on behalf of Levine Children’s Hospital. This spring, Davidson College’s “Cats for a Cause” and UNC Charlotte’s “Ninerthon” collectively raised over \$40,000.





## Help Make Miracles!

Buy a balloon, round up at the register, or participate in other CMN campaigns.

### September:

Love's Travel Stop Balloon Campaign  
Dairy Queen Round Up Campaign

### October:

Great Clips Register Campaign  
Summer Classics Home Campaign

### November-December:

Ace Hardware Register Campaign  
7-Eleven Register Campaign

### December:

Anthropologie Register Campaign

### December 14 – 15:

iHeart Cares for Kids Radiothon  
(96.1 the Hits)

For more details, visit:

[AtriumHealthFoundation.org/CMN](https://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/CMN)

# UPWARD



# GIFT PLANNING

## EVA'S GIFT OF HOPE

A planned gift from benefactor Eva Stark will bolster clinical research, early detection, and treatment of breast cancer at Levine Cancer Institute. The motivation behind Eva's generous gift stems from her own family experience with cancer, as she witnessed the effects of the disease on her beloved grandmother. Born in Germany during the Holocaust, Eva lost her mother during childbirth and was raised by her grandparents in Chile. When her grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer, Eva served as caretaker until her passing.

Eva's love for her grandmother and experience touring LCI's research laboratories inspired her to make a legacy gift to Atrium Health Foundation. She visited the research lab with her close friend, Sandra Goldman, an LCI patient and four-time breast cancer warrior. In addition to funding groundbreaking breast cancer research, Eva's gift will benefit LCI: Project PINK, a program that provides free mammogram screenings and education for uninsured women across Greater Charlotte. Her gift will also support renovations to the rooftop Healing Garden at LCI, as gardening is one of Eva's lifelong passions. She wants to ensure this space continues to serve as a place of respite and reflection for patients and their families, for years to come.





A teal ribbon, a symbol for ovarian cancer awareness, is positioned in the upper right corner of the page.

## GLORIA'S LEGACY OF COMPASSION

Patients of Levine Cancer Institute will have improved access to novel treatments for ovarian cancer with significant support from an estate gift left to Atrium Health Foundation by the late Gloria Gabrick. With Gloria's generous planned gift of \$20,000, LCI's ovarian cancer research program will continue to advance treatment and early detection of ovarian cancer, both of which may improve survival rates among patients diagnosed with one of the deadliest forms of gynecologic cancer experienced by women nationwide.

A dedicated employee of Royal Insurance, Gloria worked in the insurance industry for her entire career and relocated for positions in Kansas City, Chicago, and parts of the northeast before settling in Charlotte in 1994. Gloria's brother, Mark, recalls Gloria truly "found a home" in the Queen City, where she formed a tight circle of friends.

Described by those friends as a "tough lady with a gentle soul," Gloria fought a long and courageous battle with cancer. A patient of Levine Cancer Institute in her final months of life, she always expressed gratitude for the care she received from her oncologist, Dr. R. Wendel Naumann. "Research is the key to improving the treatment of our patients with advanced ovarian cancer. With the support of patients like Gloria, LCI has been one of the leading institutions to participate in ground-breaking phase-I and phase-III clinical trials to develop new targeted therapies for ovarian cancer," commented Dr. Naumann, associate medical director of clinical trials.

**For more information on gift planning, contact Beth Braxton at 704-355-4048.**

A close-up photograph of two hands cupping a mound of dark, rich soil. A small green seedling with three leaves is growing out of the soil.

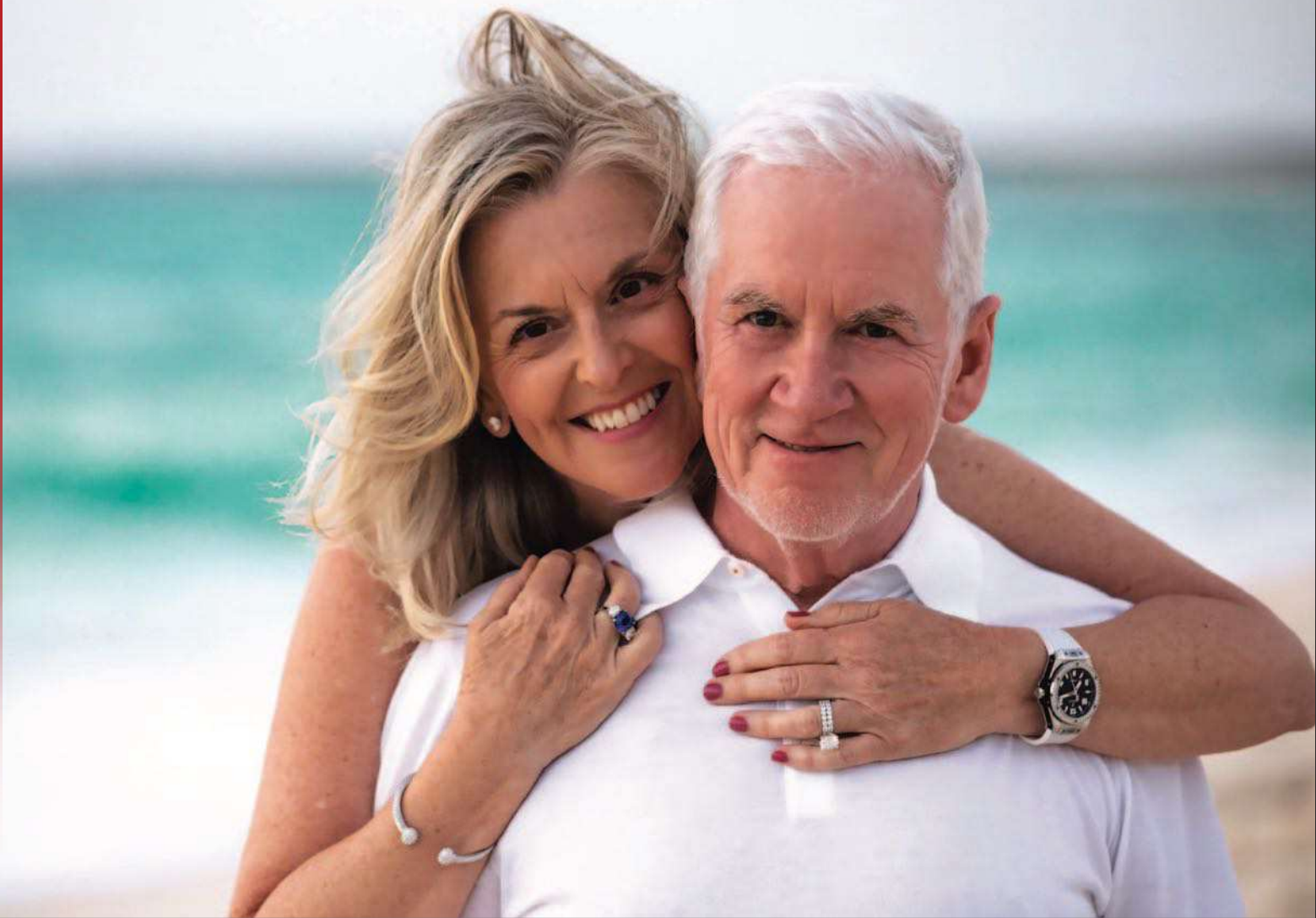
## Leave a Legacy

A charitable gift from your estate is a method of giving that enables you to achieve your financial goals and benefit Atrium Health. Making Atrium Health Foundation a beneficiary of your estate plan is simple to implement and easy to change should you ever need to during your lifetime.

### **A bequest may be right for you if:**

- You would like to make a legacy gift to Atrium Health Foundation;
- You want the flexibility to change your mind;
- You want continued access to your gift assets, should you need them.

For more information about making a charitable bequest to benefit Atrium Health Foundation, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 704-355-4049 or [Elizabeth.Braxton@atriumhealth.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Braxton@atriumhealth.org).



# More than Skin Deep

CANCER  
SURVIVOR HOLDS  
ONTO HOPE

**T**hanks to lifesaving immunotherapy provided under the guidance of Asim Amin, MD, PhD, of Levine Cancer Institute, one grateful patient is 'paying it forward' by supporting patients diagnosed with late-stage melanoma.

Born in Scotland and a resident of Charlotte, Stuart Grant can be called many things: a melanoma survivor; retired biotech industry leader; a family man; and, along with his wife Flora, a generous benefactor of Levine Cancer Institute. With the couple's recent gift of \$100,000, the More Than Skin Deep Fund was established to support Dr. Amin's immunotherapy research, meet special needs of patients being treated for melanoma at Levine Cancer Institute, and establish support groups for melanoma patients, including adolescent and young adult patients.



Treated for melanoma during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Stuart had to endure treatment without Flora by his side. During this difficult time, he found respite in supportive oncology resources available at LCI, including art therapy. Painting became a lifeline and distraction while Stuart underwent 12 weeks of immunotherapy, a form of therapy that uses the body's immune system to attack cancerous cells. Over time, the palm-size tumor – initially discovered on his liver and determined to be stage-4 metastatic melanoma – was eradicated.

With additional investments from the community, the More Than Skin Deep Fund aims to advance Levine Cancer Institute's understanding of how melanoma patients respond to different immunotherapy treatments. "In recent years, we've begun to see great promise in the effectiveness of immunotherapy to combat metastatic or late-stage melanoma," shared Dr. Amin.

The fund will support Dr. Amin's continued research, including support for research personnel, data management for clinical trials, and infrastructure improvements to help ensure LCI remains on the leading-edge of medical science.

*Stuart found hope and healing through LCI's art therapy program, naming this original painting "holding on" to represent his mindset during 12 weeks of treatment.*



“HOW FORTUNATE WE WERE TO FIND DR. AMIN AND HIS TEAM AT LCI,” SAID STUART GRANT. “THEY WERE, AND STILL ARE, BY MY SIDE EVERY STEP OF THE JOURNEY.”



*Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Children's teammates were in full force at 24 Hours of Booty, which was kicked off by Chasse Bailey-Dorton, MD, chief of integrative oncology at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute.*

## 24 Foundation: Changing the Course of Cancer

Powered by their dedication to change the course of cancer, hundreds of donors, cancer survivors, and avid cyclists gathered this July for 24 Hours of Booty, a celebration of hope, healing, and solidarity in the face of adversity. The iconic "Booty Loop" and historic Myers Park neighborhood were the backdrop for the momentous fundraising event, which raised a record \$1.3 million to benefit cancer survivorship programs at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Atrium Health Levine Children's, among other local beneficiaries.

# Making **WAVES**

## FOR CANCER RESEARCH

At Atrium Health, philanthropy plays an integral role in propelling cancer therapies forward by funding clinical research. Commitments from **Swim Across America – Charlotte** have supported many projects related to blood cancers at Levine Cancer Institute, including:

### 1. *Germline Predisposition to Blood Cancers*

Within the Hematologic Oncology Translation research lab, Drs. Belinda Avalos and Lawrence Druhan, are leading research to identify novel variants in the granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor gene (CSF3R) that increase the risk of leukemia and other blood cancers.

After locating an extended family with a hereditary CSF3R variant that causes chronic neutrophilic leukemia and carries a significant risk for the development of acute myeloid leukemia, researchers have discovered a candidate class of drugs for the treatment of this disorder.

### 2. *Personalized Medicine for Patients with CML and ALL*

Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) are commonly used to treat two forms of leukemia: chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph+ ALL). Current dosing strategies for these therapies is based on a “one size fits all” approach, leading many patients to develop drug-related side effects.

Led by Drs. Michael Grunwald, Aleksander Chojecki, Jai Patel, and Lawrence Druhan, investigators at Levine Cancer Institute have initiated an effort to determine the relationships between the genetic differences found in each patient and the observed TKI-related side effects and toxicities. The study will help set the groundwork for an individualized approach to dosing these therapies with minimal side effects.

CANCER  
RESEARCH



*Since 1987, Swim Across America has been “Making Waves to Fight Cancer” through its annual charity swims. The events, which take place from coast to coast, raise money for doctors and researchers who are pioneering new cures and treatments in their local communities.*



## JANSSEN ONCOLOGY GIVES A LIFT TO NEW FELLOWSHIP IN HEALTH EQUITY

This spring, Janssen Oncology joined Atrium Health to address a common goal of ensuring health equity, committing \$50,000 to support Levine Cancer Institute's Project LIFTED. The innovative clinical fellowship program is designed to provide early-career physicians at Levine Cancer Institute with a keen awareness of barriers to care that exist in many underprivileged communities.

Through Project LIFTED, program fellows will improve their understanding of how care disparities, bias, and racism can impact disadvantaged and marginalized populations. After completing the three-year program – which includes instructor-led training modules,



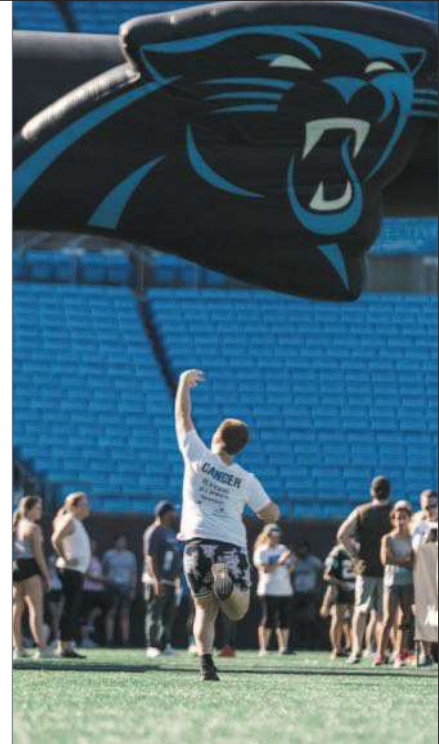
*"PROJECT LIFTED WILL ALLOW US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES EXPERIENCED BY PEOPLE IN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES," COMMENTED RODNEY GILLESPIE, VP OF SALES & MARKETING FOR JANSSEN ONCOLOGY. "ENHANCING CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN YOUNG PHYSICIANS IS A CRITICAL STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THESE DISPARITIES. WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO PARTNER WITH LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE ON THIS PROGRAM TO ENSURE PATIENTS IN EVERY COMMUNITY LIVE LONGER, BETTER LIVES."*

simulations, field work, and capstone projects – physicians will apply their knowledge of social determinants of health into their professional work.

"Essential to creating bridges to more equitable health access for all are partners who recognize the importance of innovation and lend the critical early support required to begin the build," commented Mellisa Wheeler, director of the Disparities and Outreach program at LCI. "Janssen's contribution to Project LIFTED demonstrates a clear commitment to elevating the voices of vulnerable communities and we are grateful for the positive social impact that is sure to come as a result."

With support from Janssen Oncology, Project LIFTED will have a real-world impact on the health and treatment of Atrium Health's most vulnerable patients.





## BACK WHERE THE BIG CATS PROWL, KEEP POUNDING 5K RAISES \$100,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH

On June 4, more than 1,300 community supporters and Carolina Panthers fans across the country participated in the 12th Annual Keep Pounding 5K, co-presented by Rodgers Builders and JELD-WEN. The event, which had been held virtually the past two years, welcomed runners back to the racecourse, beginning outside Levine Cancer Institute and ending inside Bank of America Stadium.

Inside the stadium, loud cheers could be heard from the stands as runners made their way to the finish line.

"I have seen firsthand how the funds raised by this race have impacted those at Levine Children's and Levine Cancer Institute," shared Kellie McGregor, assistant vice president of development for Atrium Health Foundation. "Patients, young and old, who have access to cutting edge clinical trials that just a few years ago were not available here...this gives them, and their families, hope and inspiration."

Since the Keep Pounding initiative began nearly 20 years ago, more than \$4.4 million has been raised for cancer research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Atrium Health Levine Children's.

*More than 350 associates of Rodgers Builders (1) and JELD-WEN (2) participated in this year's Keep Pounding 5K. The companies have remained steadfast in their commitment to funding cancer initiatives at Atrium Health as co-presenting sponsors of the event since 2019.*



### **With special thanks**

**to this year's sponsors for  
leading the charge in the fight  
to cure cancer:**

**Rodgers Builders  
JELD-WEN**

**Genentech**

APM Terminals  
DeMayo Law Offices, LLP  
704 Shop



# Hometown Team Invests

## IN THE POWER OF PLAY FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

**T**he Carolina Panthers are helping kids win from within by partnering with Atrium Health to revitalize a play therapy room in the Atrium Health Behavioral Health Charlotte facility. The renovated space is designed to bring healing to many of the youngest and most vulnerable patients in our community. In addition to renovating the playroom itself, grant funding from the Carolina Panthers has allowed Atrium Health to purchase new, durable toys to support a diverse spectrum of patients through enhanced play therapy.

"We needed our play therapy room to be welcoming and comfortable for our youngest patients," said Christine Zazzaro, vice president and facility executive of Atrium Health Behavioral Health Charlotte. "Now, our mental health specialists can better interact with and care for kids in a space that's not only engaging, but beautiful."

On and off the field, the Carolina Panthers continue to invest in the health and wellbeing of our community. In addition to the team's longstanding support of Atrium Health's cancer research and community wellness initiatives, their investment in children's mental health is essential, as we combat both the physical and psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***"The mental health concerns of children is a significant issue in the wake of the pandemic," said Riley Fields, Panthers director of community relations. "The Carolina Panthers are pleased to partner with Atrium Health to provide enhanced resources to support the mental health needs and well-being for children in our community."***

Partners in this important endeavor, Atrium Health and the Carolina Panthers share a common belief in the power of play to bring health, hope, and healing to children who need it most.



## PHILANTHROPY DRIVES ATRIUM HEALTH'S SOCIAL IMPACT STRATEGY FORWARD

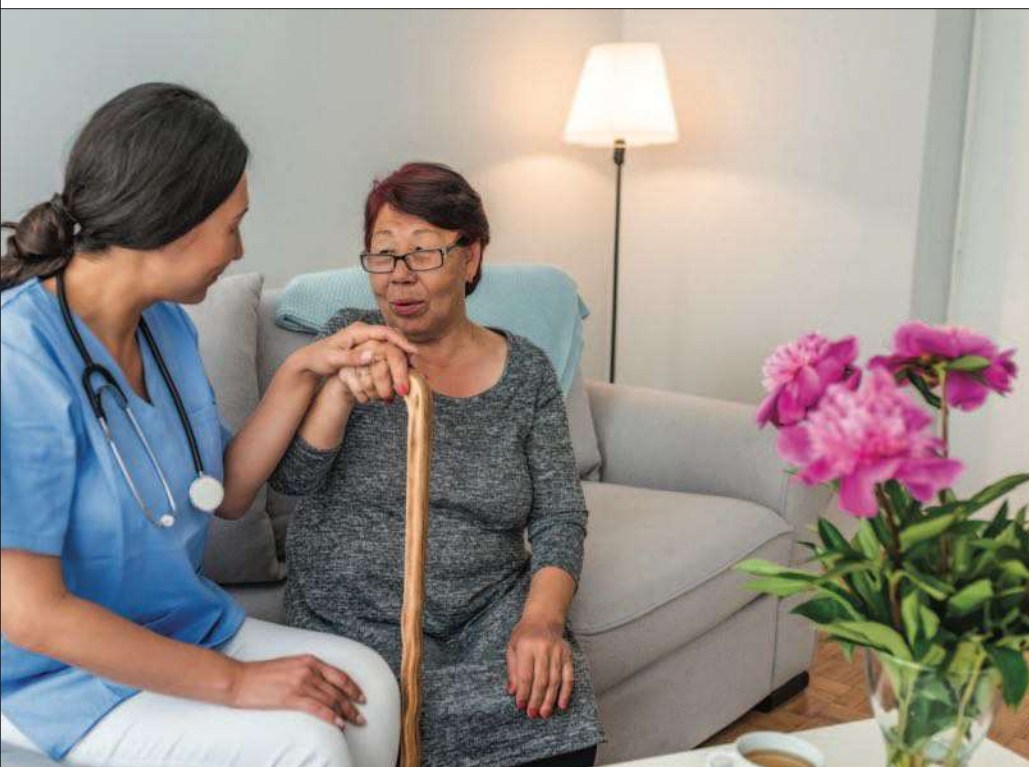
A \$500,000 grant from The Duke Endowment will support Atrium Health's efforts to address critical social determinants of health and improve health equity among minority and low-income populations.

With support from The Duke Endowment, Atrium Health will expand one of its social impact programs – Building a Sustainable Care Delivery Model for Addressing Acute Social Needs – to be implemented over the next three years across the Greater Charlotte region.

Program priorities include optimizing the Community Resource Hub, a digital referral tool; and assembling an interdisciplinary care team to connect patients with resources they need to improve their health. The interdisciplinary care team – comprised of primary and specialty care providers, Community Health Workers, referral navigators, and geographically focused community partners – will serve patients through a

centralized referral process designed to improve healthcare utilization and lower patients' healthcare costs.

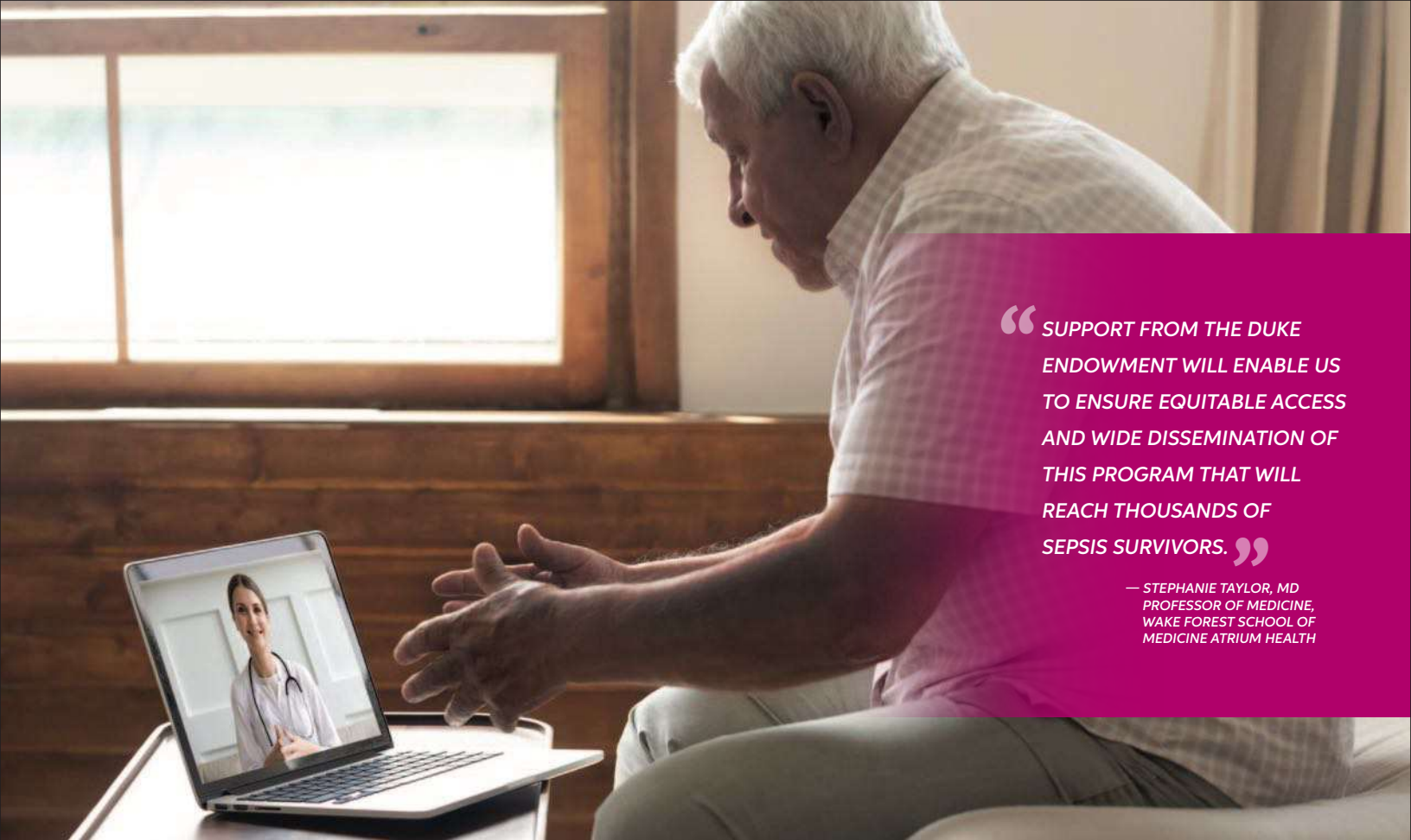
"We recognize the importance of extending care to homes and communities where patients reside," shared Jennifer Snow, program director and assistant vice president of Atrium Health's community health strategy. "The Duke Endowment's support is critical to address the social determinants of health, especially through our Community Health Workers, who are trusted members of the communities they serve."



A longtime supporter of community health initiatives championed by Atrium Health, The Duke Endowment recognizes the value of collaboration among community-based organizations and healthcare systems to create and sustain wellbeing in the local population.

**"In order to improve health, we must recognize that where we work or go to school, how we spend our free time — even our ability to access fresh food and exercise in a safe environment — all contribute to our health and well-being," said Rhett Mabry, president of The Duke Endowment. "To improve health within a community, we have to expand how we think about what affects it locally. We need to address health improvement on the ground, at a very local level."**





“SUPPORT FROM THE DUKE ENDOWMENT WILL ENABLE US TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND WIDE DISSEMINATION OF THIS PROGRAM THAT WILL REACH THOUSANDS OF SEPSIS SURVIVORS.”

—STEPHANIE TAYLOR, MD  
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE,  
WAKE FOREST SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE ATRIUM HEALTH

## THE DUKE ENDOWMENT AWARDS GRANT TO SUPPORT SEPSIS RECOVERY PROGRAM

An innovative sepsis-recovery and intervention program led by Atrium Health's Department of Internal Medicine, Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, and Department of Implementation Science recently received \$700,000 in grant funding from The Duke Endowment. Approximately 1.4 million survivors of sepsis, a life-threatening organ dysfunction due to infection, are discharged from U.S. hospitals each year. Emerging medical evidence shows that sepsis survivors are at high-risk for medical complications and hospital readmission rates comparable to patients with other major diseases, particularly among non-white and rural patients.

In 2019, Atrium Health created the Sepsis Transition and Recovery (STAR) intervention program to monitor patients across post-acute settings, allowing clinicians to intervene early and improve health outcomes for sepsis survivors, while reducing the cost of care. In a randomized controlled trial conducted the same year, STAR leaders found that the program reduced hospital readmissions and mortality after sepsis by 7.5% in year one.

With grant support from The Duke Endowment over a three-year period, Atrium Health will examine strategies to extend the STAR program to the most vulnerable sepsis survivors in the Greater Charlotte region and beyond. Delivered through a telehealth platform, the nurse navigator-led program is designed to facilitate patients' recovery by providing patients with disease education, connecting patients to care sites, and bringing gaps in service for medically complex patients.

A major goal of the project is to determine the effectiveness and sustainability of post-sepsis interventions, to create a blueprint for providers to adapt and scale-up STAR across the health enterprise, starting with five Atrium Health hospital facilities in the Carolinas.



# Born by Daybreak

## A SPECIAL DELIVERY AT ATRIUM HEALTH UNION WEST

For the Saffles family of Indian Trail, having care close to home at Atrium Health Union West was an unexpected and lifesaving gift. Pregnant with her second child, Cheryl Saffles and her husband, Jon, had planned on delivering at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, where Cheryl had received prenatal care from the team at Eastover OB-GYN. But baby Saffles had other plans.

Cheryl awoke early in the morning on March 15 with contractions. Within an hour, the nurse from Cheryl's OB-GYN told her to make her way to the hospital. "We still planned on going to CMC when we left the house, but we realized on the way that we weren't going to make it," Cheryl said. Cheryl and Jon decided to make an emergency stop at Atrium Health Union West.

Located just off U.S. Highway 74, and only 10 minutes from Jon and Cheryl's house in Indian Trail, the Saffles say the new Matthews hospital was the perfect haven. As soon as Cheryl and Jon arrived, the team with Atrium Health Women's Care Creek Pointe OB-GYN jumped into action to safely deliver baby Saffles.





# Women's Care

## AT UNION WEST

Addilyn Rae Saffles graced the world bright and early, one of the first babies to be born at Union West – and she is the first baby Tamara Meekins, MD, has delivered at the Union County hospital. “The Saffles family is a prime example of how this hospital bridges the gap between counties,” Meekins said. “There’s no doubt that we will be able to provide many people critical access to care at this location.”

For Cheryl and Jon, the unified care they received was key to a calm, healthy delivery. They were reassured to see the teams working together despite the change of plans – a testament to the cohesive care across the women’s care division at Atrium Health.

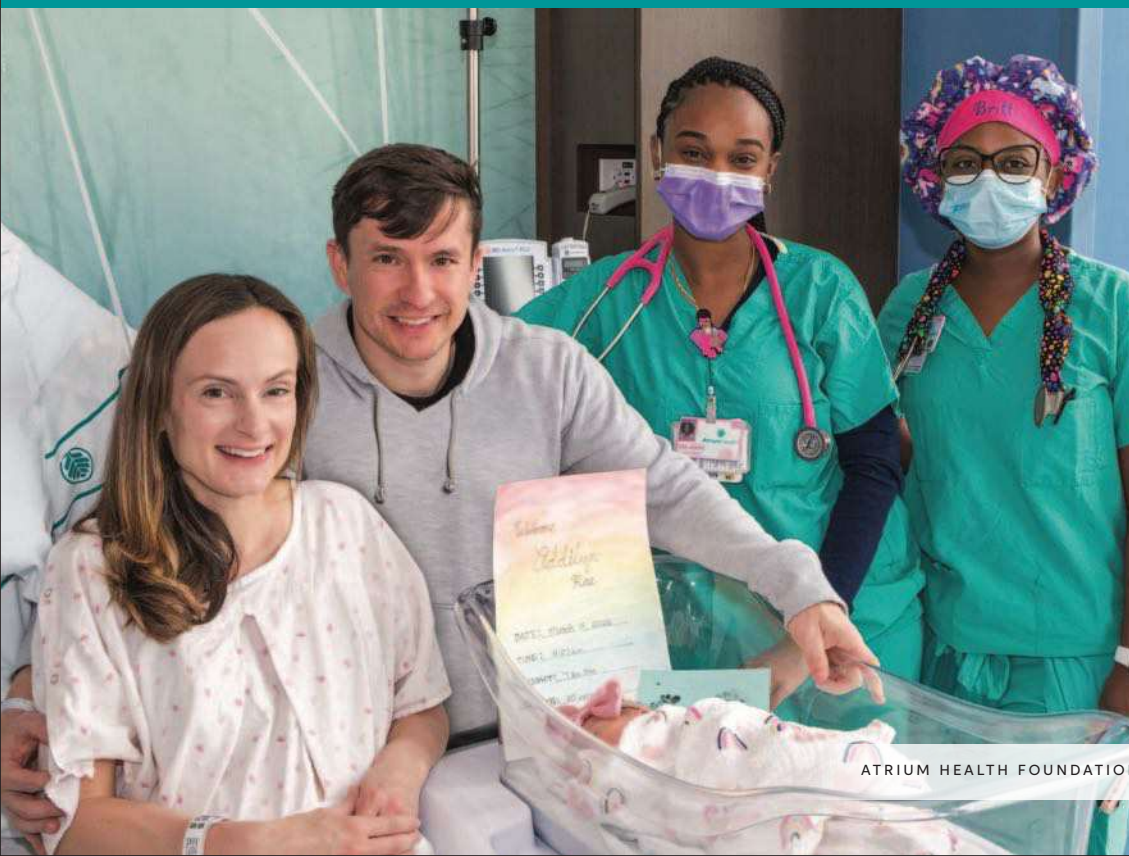


Next-level care is matched with thoughtful details at the new Union West facility, featuring:

- Six labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum rooms, all designed to help moms feel more settled in the same space throughout their stay.
- Fourth trimester support, including lactation assistance, support groups, and pelvic healthcare



To learn how you can support Women’s Care services at Atrium Health Union West and other aspects of the facility, visit [AtriumHealthFoundation.org/UnionWest](https://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/UnionWest).





**1. Bosom Buddies** hosted multiple breast cancer fundraisers this spring at Weddington Swim & Racquet Club, Charlotte Indoor Tennis Club, and the Levine Jewish Community Center (JCC). Nearly 350 ladies attended the events, which included a luncheon, silent auction, and tennis clinic. Since 2005, the organization has contributed over \$500,000 to Levine Cancer Institute through this unique initiative, funding local clinical research, support, and prevention programs.

Pictured (L-R): Cyndi Thilo with Debbie Miller, Site Coordinator at Weddington Swim & Raquet Club and Bosom Buddies Board Member.

Pictured (L-R): Tammy Golder, JCC Site Coordinator and Bosom Buddies Board Member; Cyndi Thilo, Executive Director of Bosom Buddies and President of the Board of Directors; Julie Smallwood, Vice-President of the Board of Directors; and Tina Rogovin, incoming JCC Site Coordinator.

**2. On May 9, players and friends of the Charlotte Knights** gathered for a round of golf at the 15th Annual Charlotte Knights Charities Golf Classic benefiting Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital. Sarah Guy (pictured center), a heart transplant recipient and 2022 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion, was an honored guest of the event. The event raised over \$38,000 for Levine Children's inpatient rehabilitation therapy department.



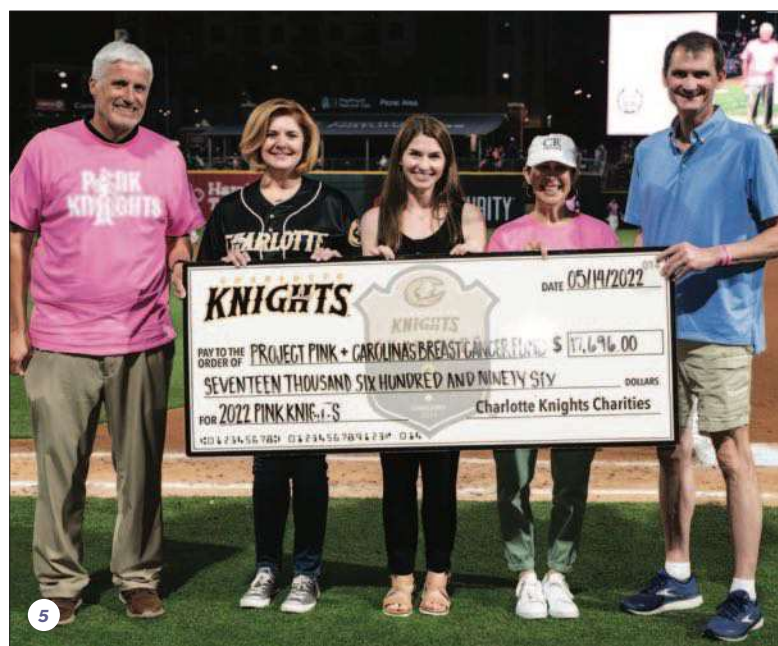




3. On April 28, friends of Atrium Health Foundation gathered for an investiture ceremony recognizing David M. Foureau, PhD as the inaugural holder of the **Gayle J. and Charles C. Tallardy III Foundation Distinguished Chair in Clinical Research** at Levine Cancer Institute. The distinguished chair endowment was established with a \$1 million gift from the Tallardy's foundation (pictured alongside Dr. Foureau).



4. On April 23, **The Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research** hosted its annual **Sarcoma Stomp**. The 5K fundraiser, which benefits sarcoma research at Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Children's, welcomed participants back in person for a day filled with joy and determination. Thanks to the dedication of families, donors, and corporate sponsors, The Paula Takacs Foundation raised \$220,000 in hopes of finding a cure.



5. **Charlotte Radiology** and the **Charlotte Knights** celebrated home runs at the 16th Annual **Pink Knights** baseball game. The event, which honors breast cancer warriors and survivors, benefits Levine Cancer Institute: Project PINK and the Carolinas Breast Cancer Fund at Atrium Health Foundation. Attendees and auction participants helped Charlotte Radiology and the Charlotte Knights raise over \$21,000 for breast cancer initiatives in the Charlotte community.

*On the Scene*



**6. Pamela and David Furr** hosted an intimate dinner party at Stagoni benefiting lymphoma research at Levine Cancer Institute. A grateful patient, David was diagnosed with b-cell lymphoma in 2016 and was one of the first individuals to receive CAR-T cell therapy at Levine Cancer Institute. Thanks to the Furrs, who generously underwrote the event, and guests who made contributions in honor of their dear friends, the event raised \$52,000 to advance local research.



**7. On May 10, Atrium Health leadership and teammates** gathered outside Atrium Health Pineville's Palmetto Tower to celebrate the opening of the Pineville Healing Garden. The garden, which features beautiful works of art, will provide visitors with a tranquil space for holistic healing. Alicia Campbell, vice president and facility executive of Atrium Health Pineville, and Michael Lutes, senior vice president of Atrium Health and market president of Atrium Health's South Market, shared remarks with guests.





8. Greg and Kara Olsen at the 9th Annual HEARTest Yard Golf Classic. 9. The 6th Annual HEARTest Yard + Showmars 5K took place on May 14. This spring, the HEARTest Yard and Showmars Restaurants joined forces for not one, but TWO events in support of congenital heart families in the Carolinas. On May 2, the 9th Annual HEARTest Yard Golf Classic, presented by Showmars, celebrated its most successful year to date, raising over \$200,000. Later that month, over 700 community supporters came out to support the 6th Annual HEARTest Yard + Showmars 5K, presented by Lifeshare Carolinas. Participants walked, jogged, and ran to raise vital funds for the HEARTest Yard Congenital Heart Center at Levine Children's Hospital.



10. On May 10, the Duke Energy Center dazzled in honor of the **Purple Promise Foundation** and its annual reception. During the event, guests heard from Dr. Rasu Shrestha, executive vice president of Atrium Health, who discussed the health system's future innovation district, The Pearl. To date, the Purple Promise Foundation has raised over \$120,000 to advance melanoma research and treatment at Levine Cancer Institute.

*On the Scene*



11. Will Shipley, running back for the Clemson University Tigers, visited Levine Children's Hospital on May 18 to present a check for \$10,000. Will's generous contribution was made possible by Clemson's TigerImpact initiative, which raises funds for athletes' charities of choice. Levine Children's leaders, including Dr. Andrew Herman, Dr. Stacy Nicholson, and Callie Dobbins, were in attendance to accept the donation.

12. Supporters of the Ward Winslett Center for Rare Disease joined the Winslett family and Atrium Health Levine Children's leaders at Charlotte Country Club on May 11 to raise funds in support of the new specialty center.

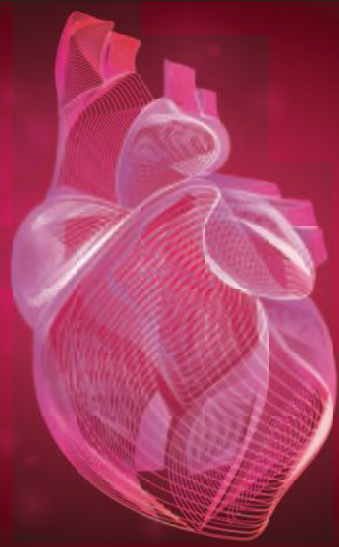
Pictured (L-R): Levine Children's benefactors Trey and Caroline Winslett; Callie Dobbins, facility executive, Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital and Jeff Gordon



Children's Center; Dr. Stacy Nicholson, president of Children's Services and chair of pediatrics, Atrium Health; Kellie McGregor, assistant vice president, Atrium Health Foundation; Dr. Ashley Chadha, special medical director, Pediatric Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, Atrium Health Levine Children's; and Dr. Amanda Lanier, medical director of Atrium Health Levine Children's Perspective Health & Wellness.



# NORRIS B. “BUTCH” Harbold Jr, MD



**A**s the first Cardiologist at the Sanger Clinic (now Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute), Dr. Butch Harbold dedicated his life to improving healthcare in Charlotte and beyond.

An innovator and a pioneer in advancing the field of cardiology, Dr. Harbold impacted thousands through his leadership and dedication to patient care.

To honor his legacy and life's work, Dr. Harbold's friends and former colleagues joined together to commission the work of renowned American portrait artist James Crowley. After meeting with Butch and his family, Mr. Crowley sought to honor Butch through his unique work of oil on canvas.

On June 4th, 2022, Atrium Health Foundation joined Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute in a special tribute for Dr. Harbold and unveiled the portrait in its new home in the lobby of the adult cardiology suite at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute.

## ATRIUM HEALTH SANGER HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 700TH HEART TRANSPLANT MILESTONE

After more than 35 years since its first life-saving heart transplant, Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute has performed more than 700 heart transplants for patients from around the world. Since its inception, Sanger has repeatedly earned national recognition as the region's top-rated heart and cardiovascular program, and the only hospital in the region to be recognized as high performing in all six common heart conditions and procedures evaluated by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Over the years, surgical techniques and medications have continued to advance and improve the outcomes for heart transplant recipients. Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute has one of the best one-year survival rates in the nation. Sanger has a 97% one-year survivability rate following a heart transplant, compared to the nationwide average of 91%.

The team at Sanger continues to bring innovative techniques and advancements in cardiac care that will benefit numerous patients, including a new method that can help preserve a donor heart for a longer time, once it's outside the body. Furthermore, by performing heart transplants in Charlotte, patients receive their complex care locally and did not have to travel for their care.

***For more information on supporting world class cardiovascular care at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, contact Mark Griffith or Sarah Trimmer at 704-355-4048.***

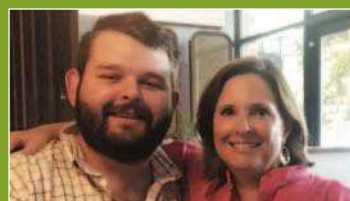


## A New Chapter in Beth's Career

A North Carolina native and graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, Beth Braxton has enjoyed a career as a fundraising professional for more than 30 years. Beth joined Atrium Health Foundation in April of this year, assuming the responsibility of generating philanthropic support for Atrium Health Musculoskeletal Institute and Atrium Health Women's Care, as well as providing expertise in the area of planned giving. Prior to joining the Foundation, Beth served as director of development at the School of

Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill, bringing her wealth of knowledge and proven commitment to healthcare advancement to her new home in Charlotte.

Beth is a proud mother of two adult sons, Matt (28) and Ben (26). In her free time, she enjoys baking or making from-scratch Italian meals, improving her needlepoint skills, delving into a good book, and traveling to broaden her knowledge of history. Beth's love for cooking has even extended into her community; during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, she cooked through 125 pounds of locally milled flour, feeding friends, family and residents at the SECU hospitality house. Say hello if you pass by Beth around town, as she explores Charlotte's museums, breweries, sporting venues, and all that our Queen City has to offer.



## Helen's Heart for Children

Helen Kernodle has a heart for children and a passion for healthcare, both of which have led to her 16+ year career with Atrium Health. Helen came to Atrium Health Foundation in 2022 after many years as a certified Child Life Specialist, supporting sick and injured children and their families. Helen fondly remembers the day her team helped to move the first pediatric patients into the newly built Levine Children's Hospital in 2007, a dream only made possible with the support of many generous benefactors. As a Child Life Specialist,

Helen witnessed firsthand the power of philanthropy to touch patients' lives. She brings this unique perspective and her keen ability to connect with patients to her role as a Senior Development Officer with the Foundation, where she helps to lead fundraising for the Levine Children's service line.

Born in Augusta, GA, Helen grew up in Georgia, Florida, and later Virginia, where she also earned her degree at the University of Virginia. Helen has called the Queen City home for more than 16 years. A busy mom of three boys, Jennings (8), Max (6), and Will (3), and wife to David, an avid UNC Tarheel, Helen fills her free time with family and friends, often traveling, running, doing yoga, and enjoying the great outdoors. Helen also loves practicing her Spanish with those fluent in the language whenever she has the opportunity.





# Carole Ann SIMPSON

**JANUARY 24, 1946 – MARCH 7, 2022**

This spring, we shared in the loss of Carole Ann Simpson, a beloved member of our Atrium Health family.

Carole Ann retired from Atrium Health after more than 43 years in Medical Records Administration and OBGYN Medical Education at Carolinas Medical Center, where she mentored generations of young physicians as they embarked on their training.

Carole Ann had a passion for life and is remembered warmly for her optimism and kindness to others. When deciding what legacy she would like to leave, Carole Ann chose to honor the people who helped her during her cancer journey by making a gift to the Carolinas Liver and Pancreatic Cancer Care Advancement Fund. This meaningful tribute was made to honor her doctor, Reza Nazemzadeh, MD, and the Levine Cancer Institute nursing team that cared for her during her chemotherapy treatments.

Proud of her work and her time at Atrium Health, Carole Ann was grateful for the opportunity to leave a philanthropic legacy for the organization that she was a part of for so long and had impacted her so deeply.

With her gift, Carole Ann became a member of Atrium Health Foundation's Evergreen Society, where her bequest will fund critical pancreatic cancer research here in Charlotte.

A lover of travel, animals, UNC basketball, baking and water aerobics, Carole Ann had a way of brightening the spirits of everyone in her presence.

She will be fondly missed among her family, former colleagues, and countless friends who were blessed to have known her.





# Ollen **Bruton** SMITH

MARCH 2, 1927 – JUNE 22, 2022

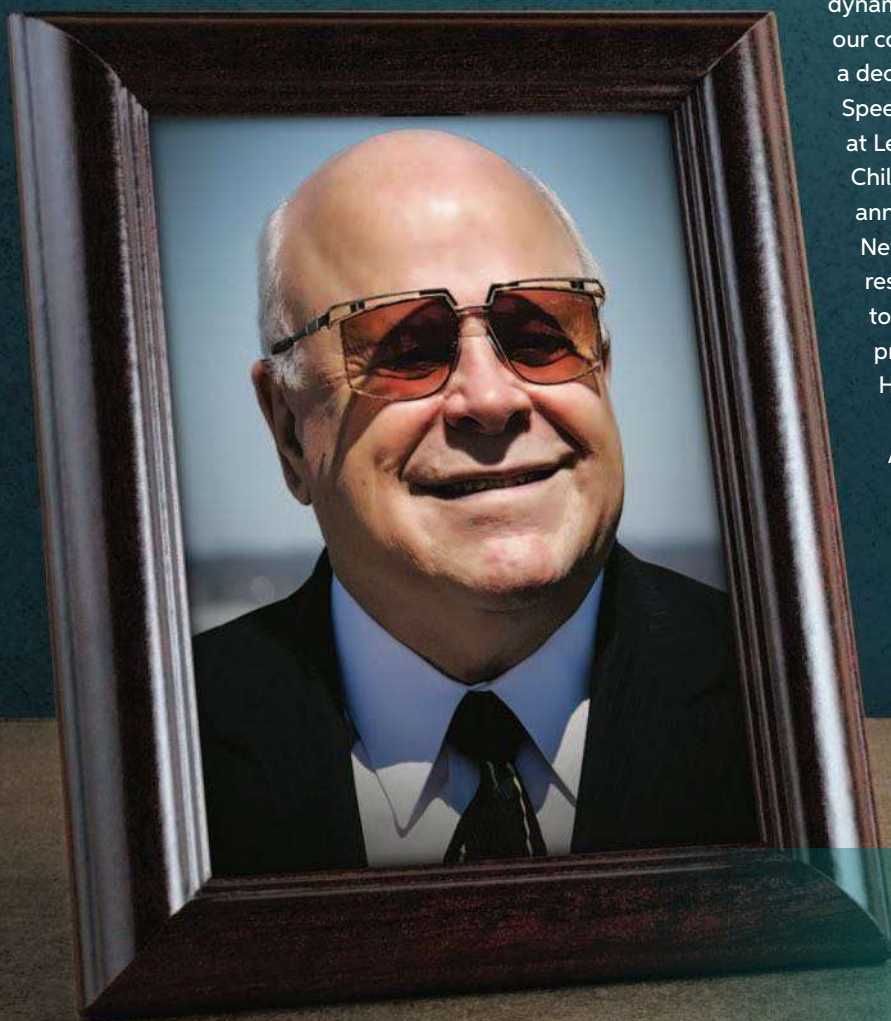
Atrium Health Foundation celebrates the life and legacy of Bruton Smith, a beloved father, pioneering businessman, and prominent philanthropist.

A native of Oakboro farm country in North Carolina, Bruton's modest upbringings taught him the value of hard work early in life. With an inspiring determination and relentless enthusiasm, Smith built a powerhouse business empire across the country as founder and executive chairman of Sonic Automotive, Speedway Motorsports and Speedway Children's Charities. He took great pride in employing thousands from coast to coast through his companies and giving hard-working people an opportunity to excel and support their families.

While most notable for his Hall of Fame career with NASCAR, his impact on improving the lives of children is where his imprint can be felt the most. Smith founded Speedway Children's Charities in 1982 as a memoriam and legacy to his son, Bruton Cameron Smith, who passed away as an infant. Today, Speedway Children's Charities has distributed more than \$61 million to nonprofit organizations across the country helping children and communities in need.

As the official healthcare provider of the Speedway, Atrium Health joins together with Charlotte Motor Speedway and Speedway Children's Charities in celebrating a dynamic partnership that makes life better for our community. Smith's generosity spans over a decade with gifts supporting The Speedway Children's Charities Infusion Suite at Levine Children's Hospital, the Speedway Children's Charities bike helmet program, annual contributions to Children's Miracle Network, funding for essential concussion research, and their most recent dedication to enhance facilities and innovative programs for Atrium Health Behavioral Health-Charlotte.

Among his many accolades, Smith was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2016, the North Carolina Business Hall of Fame and National Motorsports Press Association's Hall of Fame in 2006, and the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2007. He was also a member of the U.S. Army during the Korean War, serving two years stateside as a paratrooper.



“OUR SOLE CONCERN AT  
SPEEDWAY CHILDREN'S CHARITIES  
IS TO HELP A CHILD IN NEED.”

— O. BRUTON SMITH





**Join us for a night to remember...**

# *In the* **NIC** *of Time*

**benefiting the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital**

**December 18, 2022**  
**Byron's South End**

180 W. Worthington Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28203

**Calling all teens:** Join Charlotte-area highschoolers and champions for children in this special fundraising celebration.

Tickets will soon be available online:  
[AtriumHealthFoundation.org/NICofTime](https://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/NICofTime)



Parents, use the QR code above to learn more about how you or your business can become a Host Couple or Sponsor\* of this meaningful event:

\* Host couple and sponsor VIP Reception details will be shared separately.



## THE CIRCLE OF HOPE

For the Owino family of Fort Mill, S.C., a special journey of hope has come full circle. Parents Haley and Arnold Owino and their four children are no strangers to Levine Children's, where both their daughter Adda Claire (8) and son Gordon (10) have received life-saving care. Specialists in the neonatal intensive care nursery at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital worked around the clock to save Adda Claire's life when she sustained a traumatic experience as an infant. The family had recently moved to Charlotte and Hayley found her unresponsive, face-down in her pack and play. She remained unresponsive even after neighbor performed CPR. Thankfully, with the care she received at Levine Children's, Adda Claire made a full recovery.

Levine Children's later became a medical home for Gordon, who was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition. He continues to benefit from the outpatient care he receives at Levine Children's Medical Plaza, where pulmonology and neurodevelopmental specialists manage chronic health issues associated with his heart condition. The comprehensive care Levine Children's has provided to the Owino children – close to home – has allowed Gordon and Adda Claire to experience all the joys of childhood, alongside their siblings.

To honor their son's heart journey and bring the gift of hope to patients treated at Levine Children's, Haley and Arnold established the Gordon Owino Heart Foundation. The Foundation partners with healthcare providers and social workers to support the special needs of heart patients, and their families, as they receive heart care, such as transportation, meals, utility bills, and other ancillary expenses.

"Healing families through tough times," shared Haley, "is truly what motivates us every day to support heart families, just as Levine Children's always supported us during our darkest moments."



*A rising baseball star, Gordon Owino (pictured with his family) credits his active childhood to his care team at Levine Children's, who help to ensure he remains healthy enough to enjoy his favorite sport (R).*





October 17, 2022

Ballantyne Country Club

# Save Your Skin

15th Annual  
Melanoma  
Awareness  
Golf Classic

Join us on the greens to *save the skin you're in*.  
Proceeds benefit melanoma research, treatment,  
prevention, and awareness through  
Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute.

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GEE FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

ADMINISTERED BY:

**FINANCIAL**  
**jhg**  
PROTECTING YOUR FINANCIAL BLIND SIDES

[AtriumHealthFoundation.org/SaveYourSkin](https://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/SaveYourSkin)



## 'Tis the season to bring health, hope, and healing

to patients and families spending the holidays at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital. This December, join the hosts of 96.1FM the Hits, Miguel and Holly, in spreading the holiday cheer during the **Cares for Kids Radiothon**.

**December 14-15**, tune in daily to hear heartwarming stories of hope from our patients and make your gift benefiting Levine Children's.

Visit [AtriumHealthFoundation.org/CMN](https://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/CMN)  
for more details.





208 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203  
atriumhealthfoundation.org

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# FIGHT WITH A PINT!



**Thursday, September 29**  
**NoDa Brewing Company**  
**2921 N. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Join Charlotte Radiology and NoDa Brewing to #FightWithAPint for the **11th Annual Pink Pint Night!** This much-anticipated community event helps raise funds for essential screening mammograms for local uninsured women through Levine Cancer Institute: Project PINK.

**[AtriumHealthFoundation.org/PinkPintNight](https://atriumhealthfoundation.org/PinkPintNight)**