

Momentum

Spring
2025

A PUBLICATION OF ATRIUM HEALTH FOUNDATION

Family First

PHYSICIANS' GIFT TO ENRICH
FAMILY MEDICINE



**Atrium Health
Foundation**

A Message from our Board Chair:



Charlotte is a great place to live. We have a thriving business community, art scene, professional sports, and most importantly — access to the very best health care, right in our own backyard. It's reassuring to know that we don't have to travel far to get the care we need. We owe this benefit in large part to our donors, who never cease to amaze me with their compassion, generosity, and vision. Because of you, we have a thriving, growing health system.

It's a privilege to lead an organization that is so integral to advancing the health of our community. Together, we are uplifting those who need us most — improving health and making a tremendous impact on the patients we serve.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mandy".

Mandy Houser
Board Chair, Atrium Health Foundation

Dear friends,

I am so fortunate to call Charlotte, "home." It's a vibrant city, full of opportunity, and that holds true for Atrium Health, where philanthropy is fueling new facilities, programs, and research efforts that continue to attract the brightest experts in their fields. With the upcoming opening of Wake Forest School of Medicine at The Pearl, we continue to evolve as a destination for health care — for patients, students, technology, and business.



Passionate about investing in health, generous donors have helped launch a strong start to our year, committing close to \$10 million as of May 1. From sponsoring a children's gala, to planning legacy gifts, to supporting cognitive, heart, cancer, and behavioral health care — the community is helping us redefine care and inspire transformational giving.

Together, we are headed in the right direction; and together, we will achieve the extraordinary.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Armando".

Armando Chardiet
President, Atrium Health Foundation

CHARLOTTE VERMONT
893 MILES

CHARLOTTE HARBOR, FLORIDA
675 MILES

CHARLOTTE TEXAS
1275 MILES

CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA
214 MILES

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS
1,836 MILES

CHARLOTTE DOMA
940 MILES

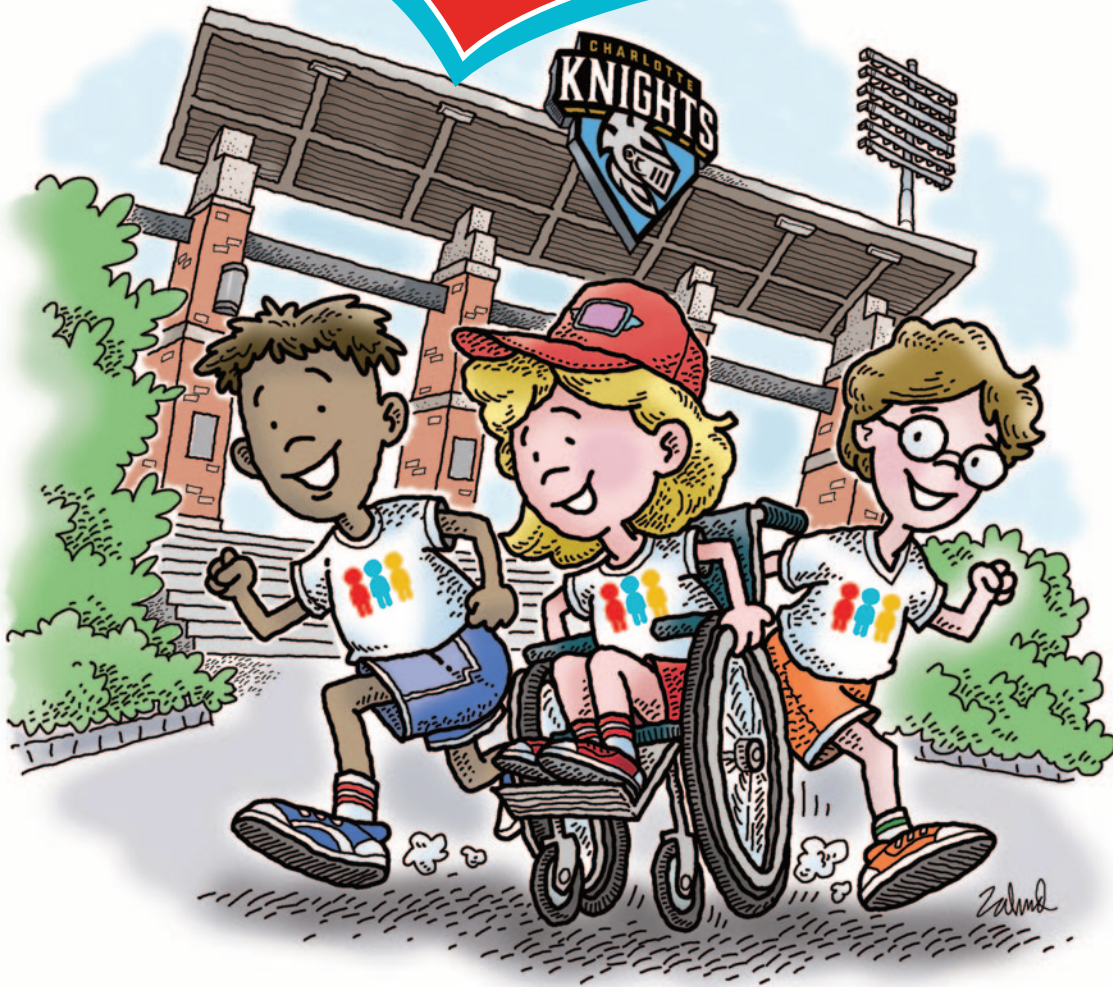
CHARLOTTE MICHIGAN
748 MILES

CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA
THE CENTER OF THE WORLD

30TH ANNUAL

Hopebuilders 5K

Saturday, November 1



BENEFITING



Atrium Health
Levine Children's

The race starts and concludes outside of Truist Field,
home of the Charlotte Knights.

Registration will open this summer at Hopebuilders5K.org.

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SPRING 2025



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Major Gift Strengthens Future of **FAMILY MEDICINE**

OUTSTANDING INSTITUTIONAL LEADER. MASTER CLINICIAN. TRUSTED COLLEAGUE.

Now, Dr. Mary Hall has added “philanthropist” to her list of accolades, following a major gift that she and her husband, Dr. David Hall, made in support of family medicine at Atrium Health. Hall retired in June 2024 after 37 years of distinguished service including as Atrium Health’s senior vice president of medical education and chief academic officer.



Longtime champions of education and family medicine, the couple established the Dr. Mary and Dr. David Hall Family Medicine Fund in hopes of inspiring others to invest in this critical area of medicine. The fund will provide the chair of the department of family medicine in Charlotte with annual discretionary funding to advance faculty development and enrichment activities in the areas of education, clinical and research skills, and programming.

“It is our hope that this contribution will enrich the faculty and enable them to thrive in their roles,” said Dr. Mary Hall. “The family physicians, researchers, and other health care professionals come to work every day driven by their mission to care for patients, explore scientific discovery, and educate the next generation of family physicians.”

“We practice family medicine because we love it,” said Dr. Rebecca Hayes, interim chair of Atrium Health’s department of family medicine in Charlotte. “It’s not lucrative,” she added, explaining that if faculty don’t feel supported or have the resources to advance their careers, they are more reluctant to

choose that path. “Mary has been a pioneer in our specialty, and the fact that she specifically earmarked faculty development in this gift, truly helps morale.”

“Mary is wise,” said Dr. David Slawson, immediate past chair of Atrium Health’s department of family medicine, who Hall recruited to help prepare the department to integrate with the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. “She knows that to attract and retain the highest-quality family physicians, we have to have the funds to support their academic careers.”

Slawson spent decades at UVA Health, where — as an endowed chair — he published, traveled internationally, and consulted for government health care systems around the world, bringing prestige to the university. When he arrived at Atrium Health, Slawson discovered a “brilliant” faculty but a lack of funding for advancing educational opportunities similar to those at UVA.

“We’re not cancer or heart or on the forefront of the news, so we’re not always on the docket for philanthropy,” said Dr. Dellyse Bright, vice chair of education at Atrium Health in Charlotte and former head of the residency program under Hall’s mentorship. “We love to do things for residents but lacked funding for activities like team building, appreciation events, and national conferences. Thanks to the new fund, we will now have that support.”

Supporting and developing faculty has a significant impact, according to Hall. “Faculty educate residents and students while caring for their own patients. By preparing learners to become family physicians, they influence future patient care through their graduates.”

“I’m a better doctor because I’m a teacher of doctors,” said Bright, who credits Mary as an amazing mentor. In addition to her exemplary faculty mentorship, Dr. Hall has been a passionate national advocate for strengthening doctor-patient relationships to uplift health and the overall well-being of patients and their physicians.

“Family Medicine’s foundation is comprehensive, long-term primary care,” said Dr. Hall, “which builds understanding and trust between doctor, patient, and family. Moreover, family physicians are essential in guiding patients through the increasingly complex medical landscape.”

Dr. Hall, who continues her work as a senior advisor to the dean and professor emeritus at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, is committed to addressing the shortage of family physicians in the U.S. and providing funding to advance academic careers.



Dr. Mary Hall and family medicine residents celebrating the holidays.

“People don’t realize what a bigwig Mary is because she doesn’t desire a lot of flash,” said Dr. Michelle Birch, associate dean of pre-clerkship and education at Wake Forest School of Medicine-Charlotte. **“She’s been a gift to the field, nationally and internationally; and now, locally, family medicine physicians will feel valued. This donation reflects her generosity of heart.”**



A Calling for **COGNITIVE CARE**

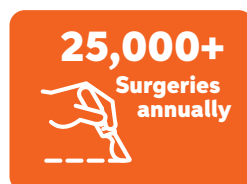
PHILANTHROPY FUELING NEUROSCIENCES IN GREATER CHARLOTTE

Every day across Advocate Health — of which Atrium Health is a part — more than 600 physicians and advanced care providers are using emerging treatments, diagnostic tools, and innovations to bring hope and promise to patients who require cognitive care. Collectively, these care teams have great potential to make a national impact in neurosciences — a top focus of Advocate Health.

“Working with an incredibly talented and dedicated team, we are charting a new path to achieve the extraordinary for our patients,” said Dr. Shaun O’Leary, national service line leader of neuroscience for Advocate Health.

Locally, that means patients will benefit from collaborations with Wake Forest University School of Medicine, for example, which is known for its world class research in Alzheimer’s Disease. Along with her team, Dr. Donna Graves, chair and specialty medical director of neurology in Greater Charlotte, is leveraging these partnerships to establish the first Comprehensive Cognitive Care Program in Greater Charlotte. “I’m deeply grateful to our donors and community partners who have helped us expedite the planning process as we prepare to launch the program this year,” said Dr. Graves.

ADVOCATE HEALTH NEUROSCIENCES





**Grateful Patient Family Establishes
Endowed Chair in Cognitive Health**

Family members of Dotti Shelton and Charles Shelton have turned their experience with Alzheimer’s and dementia into an opportunity to impact cognitive care for decades to come. Their transformational gift, honoring the memory of Dotti Shelton and Charles Shelton, recently established the **Shelton Endowed Chair for Cognitive Health Fund**. The fund will support innovative research, educational opportunities, and other special projects to advance Alzheimer’s and dementia-related treatments and clinical care, leading to novel developments in this field.

“We learned firsthand how an early and accurate diagnosis can impact the course of Alzheimer’s care,” said Mandy [Shelton] Houser, whose late father and aunt were impacted by the disease. “We want to help open the door for other families and enable options for diagnosis, risk reduction, treatment, and support.”

The fund will also support an endowed chair to oversee the Comprehensive Cognitive Care Program in Greater Charlotte. A national search is currently underway for the chairholder, who will help implement GUIDE — a new cognitive care model that is based on a wrap-around, team-based approach to supporting people living with dementia, as well as their caregivers. The model is intended to help improve access and focuses on comprehensive assessments, education, and respite for caregivers, and coordination of community-based services.

Continued on pg. 6

WITH GRATITUDE

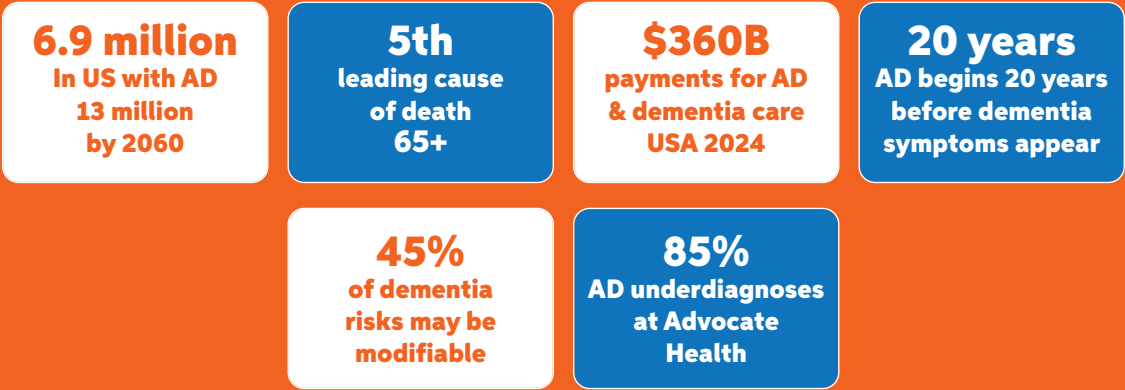
Charles Shelton Family

Sandy Shelton
Mandy & Todd Houser
Chip Shelton

Ed Shelton Family

Ed Shelton
Jennifer and Michael Egues
Winni Shelton & Dee Torres
Lydia & Mark Surles

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE



COGNITIVE CARE

Continued from pg. 5

Unique Partnership to Address Memory Care in Rural Counties

A generous gift from local businessman Dennis Moser will help launch a memory care ministry in Union and Anson counties. Moser established the **Dennis W. Moser Memory Care Fund** to support patients and caregivers managing memory care and dementia-related illnesses.



Dennis Moser

Nursing Center at Atrium Health Union; doll therapy equipment; and technology to promote cognitive stimulation and skills for patients suffering from memory loss.

In partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, Council on Aging in Union County, and Wingate University, this new ministry will provide a six-week support program for caregivers of patients experiencing Alzheimer's and other dementia-related issues. Piloted in Union and Anson counties, the program will be facilitated through churches and the faith-community network.

Additionally, this gift will expand innovative programs across Atrium Health facilities in Union and Anson counties, including an upfitted sensory room in the Jesse Helms

“Neurological conditions are the world’s leading cause of disability-adjusted life years, and result in over 90 million deaths annually. Fortunately, we are witnessing an explosion of increasingly effective therapies, thanks to molecular medicine, robotics, neuro-pharmacology, and computer science.”
— DR. TONY ASHER

Lead Gift to Launch New Era in Neurosciences In Charlotte

Local business leader and co-chair of Atrium Health’s Giving Hope campaign, Tom Finke, and his wife, Heather, are ramping up local cognitive care through a lead gift to Atrium Health Foundation. Their commitment will help launch an endowed chair at the Atrium Health Neurosciences Institute, supporting extensive research that has significant potential to improve societal health and well-being.

“The Neurosciences Institute is one of the best kept secrets in Charlotte, and it’s time to share that secret — loudly,” said the Finkes.

Dr. Anthony “Tony” A. Asher, leader of the Neurosciences Institute in Charlotte, believes Atrium Health is uniquely positioned to address brain health with the same strategies and resources that have been used to advance cardiac care and cancer.

“As part of a health care system with a world-class academic core, we are obligated to learn about human health and disease and use that knowledge to improve well-being and reduce disease burden to the greatest extent, and on the broadest scale possible,” said Dr. Asher.

“Strong leaders are essential to the long-range goals associated with this program,” said the Finkes. “We look forward to the celebration of accomplishments, research findings, and new facilities that may be associated with growth and future philanthropic commitments.”



Tom and Heather Finke

High School to Hospital:

ADRIANNA'S PATH TO BECOMING AN ATRIUM HEALTH TEAMMATE

From a young age, Adrianna Bird knew she wanted to pursue a career in health care, driven by a passion for helping others and a natural curiosity about medicine. But it was her time at Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences — a health care-focused high school located in Charlotte — that set the foundation for her journey. Adrianna is a graduate of Hawthorne Academy, which received a \$26.3 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2024. The school's early-college program, developed in partnership with Atrium Health, Carolinas College of Health Sciences, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, provides high school students with specialized courses and hands-on experiences like internships and certifications in health care. Adrianna took advantage of Atrium Health's Propelling Adolescents Towards Careers in Health Care (PATCH) program and the Mayor's Youth Employment Program, securing several summer internships at Atrium Health. These opportunities allowed her to shadow health care professionals, explore different specialties, and build a network of mentors and peers who shared her aspirations.

Today, Adrianna is balancing her education with work as a patient safety attendant at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital, where she plays a key role in ensuring the safety of her young patients. She is working toward earning her Associate of Applied Science in Cardiovascular Technology. Her ultimate career goal is to become an OB/GYN. "A lot of moms pass away during birth, and I want to help with that." Her commitment to improving maternal health care is driven by a desire to address health gaps and make a meaningful difference for her patients.

Adrianna's journey illustrates the importance of early exposure and hands-on experience in shaping a meaningful career. "A lot of teenagers want to work in health care, but they don't know where to start, or they don't know much about the careers and pathways to go on," she said.

"Hawthorne Academy allowed me to get those opportunities and meet a lot of great people. I really loved the team and the culture at Atrium Health, and I'm excited to officially be a part of the family now."



A 2024 graduate of Hawthorne Academy of Health Sciences, Adrianna now works at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital as a patient safety attendant.

RACING TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Friends of NASCAR Support Children's Health

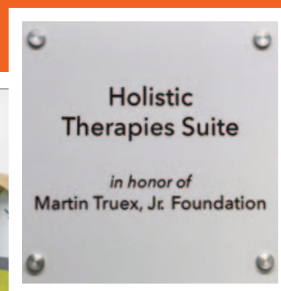
In the world of NASCAR, champions aren't just defined by what happens on the track, but by their generosity and commitment off the track. Through recent gifts, two of Atrium Health's dedicated partners, Speedway Children's Charities and the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation, are driving change for children and families in the Carolinas.

MARTIN TRUEX JR. FOUNDATION ENHANCES SUPPORTIVE MEDICINE

The Martin Truex Jr. Foundation has deepened its impact with a \$100,000 donation for the Integrative Medicine program at Atrium Health Levine Children's. The gift will expand access to holistic services like massage therapy, music therapy, and acupuncture, which promote the physical and emotional well-being of pediatric cancer patients.

The organization played a key role in establishing the Pediatric Integrative and Supportive Oncology program many years ago. Led by Dr. Jennifer Pope, director of supportive medicine at Levine Children's, the program offers evidence-based therapies alongside traditional treatments, enhancing overall care and supporting children emotionally and physically throughout their cancer journey.

Thanks to the Martin Truex Jr. Foundation, children battling cancer receive the best medical care and vital opportunities for healing and comfort.



SPEEDWAY CHILDREN'S CHARITIES COMBATS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A \$100,000 grant from Speedway Children's Charities will strengthen the Human Trafficking Advocacy Team at Atrium Health. Funding will help build a digitally integrated safety net for identifying and responding to human trafficking cases. Led by Dr. Stacy Reynolds, an emergency medicine physician at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, the team offers rapid identification, compassionate intervention, and continued support for victims.

The multi-disciplinary team includes physicians, advanced practice providers, social workers, advocates, and a data analysis group, all working together to deliver trauma-informed care. Atrium Health uses innovative technology, including a tracking alert system in electronic medical records, to recognize trafficking cases early and improve patient outcomes.

With Speedway Children's Charities' generous support, Atrium Health will continue to reduce vulnerabilities, offer comprehensive care, and protect children from exploitation.



A

Speedway Children's Charities' Charlotte chapter announced more than \$1.4 million in local grants during the 2024 holiday season. Atrium Health was honored as a beneficiary at the annual Night of Joy celebration, receiving a \$100,000 grant to combat human trafficking. From left: Quennetta Thomas, social worker assistant; Lauren Brittain, advocate; Alexa Polzella, project manager; Adrianna Boston, social worker; Dr. Stacy Reynolds and Emma Evitts, co-medical directors; and Atrium Health Foundation teammates Kate Donnelly, Ginger Moran, and Erin Oliveira.

< The Martin Truex Jr. Foundation has donated nearly \$1.9 million in support for Integrative Medicine at Atrium Health Levine Children's in Charlotte, helping to fund holistic services like music therapy, massage therapy, and acupuncture.

RODGERS BUILDERS AND ATRIUM HEALTH: BUILDING HOPE FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW

For nearly 40 years, Rodgers Builders has been a vital partner of Atrium Health, helping to transform the physical footprint of the health system across the greater Charlotte area. Leading this effort is Pat Rodgers, former CEO, who currently serves as Cabinet Co-Chair of the Giving Hope Campaign — the Foundation's largest comprehensive philanthropic campaign to-date.

Recently, Rodgers Builders committed a transformational gift, half of which is designated to support several of Atrium Health Foundation's signature fundraisers benefiting Atrium Health Levine Children's, Atrium Health Levine Cancer, and Atrium Health Pineville. The remainder of the gift will help to advance construction of a state-of-the-art advanced care facility underway at the flagship campus, Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center. The 12-story patient bed tower is slated to open in 2027 and will include a 4th-floor staff lounge named for Rodgers Builders.

Last December, Rodgers Builders, along with Atrium Health leaders, construction project managers, and design teams, gathered to celebrate the 'topping out' of the new advanced care facility — a significant milestone in the construction of the 1.1 million-square-foot expansion at Atrium Health's main campus.

"The Bed Tower project is an amazing endeavor based on its size, scale, and complexity," said John DeLony, Rodgers Builders' vice president of construction operations. "When completed, it will significantly enhance Atrium Health's ability to provide health, hope, and healing for the greater Charlotte community."

With philanthropic support and dedicated partners like Rodgers Builders, Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center is poised to provide the highest level of care for the region. This important investment in Atrium Health's future will modernize the health system's flagship campus to accommodate more medical innovations and patient-centered health care services than ever before.



1. The new advanced care facility is designed to optimize the speed and flow of emergency care and provide dedicated spaces for comfort and healing. 2. The new facility will connect with the current Rush S. Dickson Tower and the David L. Conlan Center at Atrium Health Carolinas Rehabilitation, which opened January of 2023.

IN MEMORIAM

Bishop George Edward **BATTLE JR.**

May 14, 1947 – March 9, 2025

The Atrium Health family celebrates the life and extraordinary legacy of Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.—a man who was a leader, mentor, friend to many, and true pillar of our community.

George Edward Battle, Jr. was born May 14, 1947, in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. He graduated from Clinton Jr. College in 1967 and earned his B.A. from Livingstone College in 1969. He later earned the M.Div. degree from Hood Theological Seminary in 1972 and received his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Howard University School of Divinity in 1990.

While words can never fully capture the depth of his impact, Bishop Battle was a leader whose unwavering dedication to access, education, and opportunity changed countless lives. As an emeritus member of the Atrium Health Board of Commissioners and the Atrium Health Foundation Board, Bishop Battle played a pivotal role in shaping Atrium Health into what it is today. His efforts extended far beyond our walls, enriching communities through his advocacy for affordable housing, small businesses, and more. Bishop Battle also generously gave for many years to Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital, exemplifying his passion for children and the next generation.

In 1975, Bishop Battle founded the Greater Enrichment Program which now operates in several Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools. Its mission is to provide an out-of-school educational program for school-age students and their parents, regardless of their background and abilities, helping children realize their potential for academic achievement, cultural/social enrichment, positive self-esteem, and productive citizenship.

Bishop Battle served for 17 years as a member of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education, including four years as its chairman. A lifelong advocate for the economically disadvantaged, he received more than 100 awards and honors during his career, including the Long Leaf Pine Award, the highest award bestowed by the state of North Carolina. His steadfast commitment to uplifting the underserved, and his record of successfully delivering on that work, has left an indelible mark on Charlotte and beyond.

Atrium Health proudly established the Bishop George E. Battle Jr. Scholarship Fund, dedicated to ensuring educational opportunities and careers in health care are accessible for all. This fund reflects Bishop Battle's lifelong mission to create pathways for others, while addressing the growing shortage of clinicians in both urban and rural communities across the Carolinas.

Bishop Battle's life was an anthem to servant leadership. He led with compassion, conviction, and an unwavering belief in the power of community. While the loss is profound, his influence will be felt for years to come, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all to lead with purpose and heart.





Transforming Executive Health

PHYSICIAN PARTNERS WITH LEADERS IN PERSONALIZED CARE

For Dr. Johnny Dias, executive health care is not only personal — it's a partnership. Since joining Atrium Health's Concierge Care team, he has quickly built personal relationships with his patients through the Executive Health program.

Providing a unique level of care for corporate and individual executives, the program is designed to keep leaders healthy and working at maximum efficiency. Dr. Dias's patients are already praising the personal convenience of his practice — and the peace of mind it offers.

A Texas native who was raised in Huntsville, Alabama, Dias pursued his undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, followed by medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. His path into executive medicine began during residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he cared for high-visibility patients, including senior-ranking military personnel and former presidential candidates. "It was my first exposure to this side of health care, and I enjoyed it," said Dias.

His journey with executive medicine continued at Fort Bragg, N.C., where he led a clinic caring for 36 military generals in the 82nd Airborne. The experience instilled in him a deep respect for the unique needs of high-performing individuals and the importance of time-sensitive, customized care. “They are a special group that often chooses to prioritize their careers over personal well-being,” said Dias, “so I work with them to form an alliance to achieve overall health through proactive and preventive care, such as stress management, nutrition, exercise, and weight management.”

Dias believes that early intervention and a personalized approach can significantly improve the quality of life for his patients. Not only do they value their consolidated care schedules and efficient coordination of multiple appointments and tests, but they have embraced his mantra of investing in their wellness.

Many of Dias’s patients, out of gratitude for their care, also invest back in the health of others through contributions to concierge medicine or other specialties they have utilized. “By connecting our grateful patients with Atrium Health Foundation, we are helping additional patients achieve positive outcomes, which can have a broad ripple effect across Atrium Health,” said Dias.

“The earlier you make health a priority, the greater the return,” emphasized Dias, who, outside of work, volunteers with a local veterans’ charity and enjoys spending time with his three children. He coaches them all with the same advice he gives patients: invest in your health!



Dr. Dias traded his white coat for a parachute, jumping out of airplanes during his time at Ft. Bragg. He holds foreign service parachutist badges from the Netherlands and Germany!



EXECUTIVE HEALTH SNAPSHOT:

Executive Health Physical that includes:

- Comprehensive examination, extensive lab testing, and state-of-the-art diagnostic evaluation including radiology
- Consult with a registered dietitian and exercise physiologist to customize wellness plans tailored to your unique health needs
- Board-certified internal medicine physicians to provide specialized, world-class care

Executive Health Concierge Membership includes:

- Ease of communication with your physician and team through calls and direct texts, 24/7
- Same day appointments—in-person or virtual
- On-site radiology services
- Seamless continuum of care with coordination of specialist appointments

For more information on executive health, call 704-468-3100.



ACCESS FOR ALL

The Leon Levine Foundation puts students' mental health first

Children living in rural counties will now have greater access to mental health care through a recent grant of \$2.08 million from The Leon Levine Foundation to expand Atrium Health's School-Based Therapy Program. This transformational gift will benefit K-12 students in five rural counties in North Carolina.

With support from The Leon Levine Foundation, Atrium Health's School-Based Therapy Program, which has predominately served students in Title I schools who come from lower income families, will expand to address unique barriers to mental health care experienced by residents in more rural communities. This critical development within the program reflects Atrium Health's deep commitment to all patients and families in our service area.

"For over 27 years, I have been a part of Atrium Health's School Based Therapy Program, and I have seen firsthand the impact of providing high quality care in schools for the students and the communities we serve," shared Donnie Mitchem, director of outpatient therapy for Atrium Health Behavioral Health Charlotte. "We are so grateful for organizations like The Leon Levine Foundation for recognizing the need and helping us help others."

Compared to urban areas, rural communities face challenges of having fewer options for both primary and mental health care services, which is compounded by negative stigmas associated with mental illness and a general lack of behavioral health support resources. Atrium Health's School-Based Therapy Program aims to fill these critical gaps in mental health care and community education.



Atrium Health

ATRIUM HEALTH CONCIERGE CARE



NOW OPEN IN LAKE NORMAN!

THE CONCIERGE DIFFERENCE

Your health is personal, and as a member, you'll experience care beyond the expected. From our spacious exam rooms to our care plans, everything is designed with you in mind. Atrium Health's Concierge Care is a membership-based, proactive approach to primary care and wellness that is customized to your health needs and goals, giving you access to a concierge physician with seamless communication, comprehensive annual exams, and preventive care.



CONTACT US: 704-801-8330
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AtriumHealth.org/ConciergeCare
9623 Bailey Road, Suite 220
Cornelius, NC 28031

As North Carolina continues to rank well above the national average for prevalence of mental health illness and ranks 26th for access to care nationwide, support from The Leon Levine Foundation is helping to rewrite our state's history, starting with communities in greatest need. As the School-Based Therapy Program expands, students and their families will have access to virtual and in-person therapy services and educational sessions, emphasizing:

Early detection and treatment: Swiftly addressing children's mental health concerns helps prevent escalation and promotes overall well-being. Students will be offered an appointment within 10 days or less from their initial request.

Reduced mental health stigma: Creating a secure, nonjudgmental, and supportive environment, naturally fostering trust.

Decreased time away from school: Eliminating the need for children and parents to travel for therapy appointments.

Improved academic performance: Spending less time away from class and developing coping skills often leads to improved learning readiness.

Currently providing care in two states, 11 counties, and more than 206 schools, Atrium Health's School-Based Therapy Program works with local school systems and is powered by 33+ licensed therapists who offer more than 8,500 in-person and 12,000 virtual therapy sessions each year. Thanks to The Leon Levine Foundation's generosity, these numbers will continue to climb.

North Carolina's youth mental health ranks 26th in the nation, revealing elevated rates of mental illness and reduced accessibility to care.

26th in the
nation



Blazing a Trail:

THE WILLIAM, JEFF AND JENNIFER GROSS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The California-based William, Jeff & Jennifer Gross Foundation continues to be a catalyst for care transformation across Atrium Health, both at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute — which houses The Jenny & Jeff Gross Family Center for Cardiovascular Care Transformation — and Levine Cancer Institute, each a recipient of recent transformational gifts.

Founded by renowned investor and philanthropist Bill Gross and his son and daughter, the William, Jeff & Jennifer Gross Family Foundation is committed to supporting organizations that provide abundant and dedicated support to the communities they serve. Among them, Atrium Health's Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute and Levine Cancer Institute hold special meaning for the Gross family and their loved ones.

Fueling Discoveries in Blood Cancer

Thanks to the Gross Foundation's generosity, Dr. Bei Hu, associate professor of medicine in hematologic oncology and blood disorders, is participating in two national multi-center retrospective reviews to better understand and impact care outcomes and treatment side effects for lymphoma patients.

The first study is currently examining side effects of Mogamulizumab for patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, a rare type of skin cancer. The second study is focused on Minimal Residual Disease, the presence of cancer cells that remain in the body after treatment of blood cancers. This specific study addresses patients diagnosed with Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma, with the hope of better predicting relapse of the disease.

Catalysts for Cardiovascular Care Transformation

Led by Dr. Bill Downey, the Jenny & Jeff Gross Family Center for Cardiovascular Care Transformation at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute focuses on medical innovation in cardiovascular care education, clinical research, and care pathways using the latest technology and multidisciplinary expertise to address significant cardiovascular issues.

With support from the William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Foundation, Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute is connecting clinical data across Advocate Health care centers in the Midwestern and Southeastern U.S. through a cardiovascular enterprise data platform developed by Advocate Health, of which Atrium Health is a part. The breadth of data analytics shared across the two regions allows Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute to improve clinical decision-making, advance research, and achieve continuous quality improvement.

“The Gross family’s continued generosity catalyzes our work to innovate and thereby provide the highest quality cardiovascular care to all in the communities we serve,” said Dr. Bill Downey, vice chair of quality care and transformation at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute and the first named chairholder of The Gross Family Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine.



At a Glance:

THE LATEST CARDIOVASCULAR INNOVATIONS FUNDED BY PHILANTHROPY

Thanks to the Gross Foundation, several key initiatives have recently come to fruition:

Cardiovascular Enterprise Data Platform

Using advanced analytics, Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute is now able to connect clinical data across the Midwest and Southeast regions to improve decision-making and research.

Heart Failure Care Optimization through Advanced Analytics

Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute is taking a health system-wide view of care for patients with heart failure, using real-time data mapping to optimize care navigation, medication, and post-hospitalization care.

Hypertension Bootcamp

Since its launch in 2020, the Hypertension Bootcamp has successfully helped over 1,250 patients manage high blood pressure through virtual health coaching, lifestyle changes, and medication optimization.

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery for Cardiac Surgery

Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute is leading a new project aimed at reducing complications, shortening hospital stays, and improving patient outcomes through optimized pre- and post-surgical care.

Providing the best care for ALL

The Cardiovascular Enterprise Data Platform allows assessment of all cardiovascular clinical programs across Advocate Health, identifying issues with access, care, and outcomes. Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute is using the data to pinpoint where disparities exist along a patient’s care journey and transform care operations accordingly.

Big Boost

24 FOUNDATION STEPS UP FOR SUPPORTIVE ONCOLOGY

Adult and pediatric cancer patients will have access to enhanced survivorship and wellness programs at Atrium Health, thanks to a \$2 million gift from 24 Foundation. The gift will help expand the supportive oncology programs at Atrium Health's Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte, which provide personalized resources to patients and their caregivers throughout their cancer journey.

In a partnership that has spanned the past 20 years, 24 Foundation has collectively invested more than \$7 million in Atrium Health to improve the quality of life for those impacted by cancer. And since its inception in 2002, the organization has raised over \$29 million to support cancer navigation and survivorship programs through local and national beneficiaries.



"We are deeply grateful for our longstanding partnership with 24 Foundation and their continued dedication to our cancer patients and their care teams," said Dr. Ruben Mesa, president of Atrium Health Levine Cancer. "Their transformational philanthropic investments continue to propel us to the forefront of supportive oncology, fueling crucial services that ensure our patients thrive throughout their treatment."

A significant portion of the 24 Foundation gift will provide continued funding for Levine Cancer Institute's art and music therapy; yoga and tai chi; and massage and acupuncture. The gift will also support the cancer resource center, psycho-oncology and exercise physiology programs, virtual programming, and a new full-time dietitian to work

individually with oncology patients to develop personal nutrition plans.

At Atrium Health Levine Children's, 24 Foundation will continue to support a psychology fellow — who provided mental health care for 310 patients in 2024 — and supplies for the 24 Foundation healthy snack cart, which teaches patient and families the importance of nutrition during cancer treatment. Funds will also launch a prehabilitation program to strengthen patients, physically and mentally, prior to treatment, and support team-building opportunities for pediatric and young adult cancer survivors.

"Thanks to partners like 24 Foundation, we are offering a full range of services to our survivorship patients," said Dr. Jen Pope, director of supportive medicine at Atrium Health Levine Children's Cancer & Blood Disorders Center, whose department cared for over 700 patients in the last year. "Teamwork between health care professionals and the community ensures that our patients don't just achieve a cure but thrive through survivorship."

"We are deeply committed to our partnership with Atrium Health and ensuring that patients in our community have equal access to the highest quality cancer services available," said Katherine Murphy, executive director of 24 Foundation. "I know our founder, Spencer Lueders, would agree that from the moment we first learned about the vision for Levine Cancer Institute, we knew 24 Foundation was stepping into something truly extraordinary."

"Defeating cancer is a team sport," said Dr. Mesa, "and thanks to the team at 24 Foundation, we are stronger, together."

Grants

The Duke Endowment Lays Groundwork for Pathways to Health, Pipelines to Medical Careers

The Duke Endowment recently granted Atrium Health Foundation over \$1.93 million to support health care providers, expand initiatives to address community health, and enhance health care workforce resilience and educational opportunities through three innovative programs. Including its longstanding support of Atrium Health's mission, The Duke Endowment's 100-year history is marked by transformational support of child and family well-being, health care, higher education, and rural faith communities — a testament to the organization's commitment to improving the lives of families, patients, and caregivers throughout the Carolinas.

Pathways to healthy communities

Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas (HPHC) is a community health initiative launched by The Duke Endowment to promote behavioral changes and address chronic health issues in 20 communities in North and South Carolina. Their latest grant will support Atrium Health's collaboration with Impact York County. "HPHC builds community partnerships," said Shekinah Miller, program and project coordinator for Impact York County.

"Atrium Health supports these partners by helping with evidence-based interventions, improving food access, and community education for vulnerable populations."

Additionally, grant funding from The Duke Endowment will support Physicians Reach Out (PRO) through a partnership with Atrium Health and Care Ring. PRO extends a community network of care for low-income, uninsured patients in Mecklenburg County. The program links patients to a local network of doctors, specialists, dentists, laboratories, and hospitals that supports primary, surgical, orthopedic, and cancer care at little or no cost to qualifying patients.

Continued on pg. 20



THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

Continued from pg. 19

New pipelines to foster, retain health care workforce

Designed to provide mentorship and exposure to health care careers, Atrium Health's HYPE (Hope for Youth Providing Education) Academy recently received a boost from The Duke Endowment to better serve local high school students and address gaps in the regional and local health care workforce. "HYPE Summer Academy is more than just a program — it's a gateway to opportunity," said Patricia Beckas, a senior human resources consultant with Atrium Health. "By connecting rural high school students with hands-on experiences, mentorship, and career exploration in health care, we're not just shaping futures — we're strengthening communities and the workforce of tomorrow."



Complementing the HYPE Summer Academy, Atrium Health is partnering with CaraNova, an incubator and health transformation catalyst, to jointly power a Health System Workforce Experience Accelerator. With support from The Duke Endowment, the program will address challenges in retaining a robust health care workforce by compiling and sharing best practices and innovations that improve resiliency and reduce employee burnout.

Funding from The Duke Endowment will also enable Atrium Health to offer PRISM — an evidence-based neurofeedback therapy — to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The first self-neuromodulation device cleared by the FDA to treat PTSD, Prism is helping health care workers regulate symptoms in an engaging and personalized experience. Dr. Oleg V. Tcheremissine, clinical professor and research director at Wake Forest University School of Medicine-Charlotte, will oversee PRISM. "PTSD is a significant concern among health care workers, especially those who have been on the frontlines during crises. Expanding access to effective treatments for our workforce remains a top priority for Advocate Health," said Dr. Tcheremissine.

CVS Health to Expand School-Based Virtual Care

A \$179,000 grant from CVS Health will support the expansion of Atrium Health Levine Children's School-Based Virtual Care program in Rutherford County. Funding will extend the program, which already operates in the county's elementary and high schools, to its three middle schools, allowing students and staff to access care, including diagnoses, treatment, and prescriptions—without ever having to leave school.

School-based telemedicine connects students to health care providers through virtual video visits. Physicians use advanced technology to diagnose and treat health concerns remotely, with parents joining either in-person or virtually. This program offers caregivers convenient health care without missing work or transporting children to a doctor's office.

With over 7,000 students in Rutherford County Schools — including 10 elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools — the program is expected to complete over 1,300 virtual visits annually, supporting students with both acute and chronic health issues, and ultimately contributing to their academic success.



2017
program
launched

14,000+
average visits
completed annually

217
schools, colleges,
and community sites
utilize the program

55%
return-to-
classroom rates

EPIC Launches School-Based Therapy in Two Rural Counties



Atrium Health's School-Based Therapy program has received a \$100,000 grant from EPIC Systems to launch teletherapy services in Montgomery County Schools and Asheboro City Schools. The expansion will bring much-needed mental health support to students in two rural counties, where access to care has traditionally been limited.

Offered through a partnership between Atrium Health Behavioral Health Services and Atrium Health Levine Children's School-Based Virtual Care, the program will serve over 8,000 middle and high school students, providing an accessible and convenient way for adolescents to receive mental health support.

20,000+
teletherapy sessions
completed annually

11
counties utilize the program
serving elementary, middle
and high schools

33%
wait reduction
from time of referral
to first appointment

30%
increase
in student
engagement

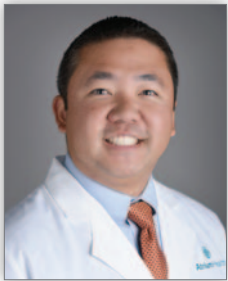
38%
improvement
in depressive
symptoms

36%
improvement
in anxiety
symptoms

A Lasting Impact

Paula Takacs Foundation: Revolutionizing Sarcoma Detection

The Paula Takacs Foundation for Sarcoma Research is advancing the fight against sarcoma and other rare cancers with its largest donation to date to support patients at Atrium Health. Their \$310,000 contribution brings the foundation's total funding to \$2.4 million, directly benefiting sarcoma research and clinical trials at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute and Atrium Health Levine Children's in Charlotte.



Dr. Johann Hsu is leading a study, funded by the Paula Takacs Foundation, using liquid biopsy to detect sarcomas.

The Paula Takacs Foundation's generous support has helped position Atrium Health as a leader in clinical research, funding numerous studies aimed at increasing survival rates, improving quality of life, and expanding treatment options for sarcoma patients.

One of the key studies currently funded by the Paula Takacs Foundation focuses on solving a major challenge in sarcoma care: the lack of reliable diagnostic tools. Currently, there aren't effective blood tests or markers to guide treatment of sarcoma. To address this issue, Dr. Johann Hsu and his colleagues at Atrium Health Levine Cancer are investigating the use of a type of blood test called a liquid biopsy, which could help detect sarcoma earlier and track its progression.

Liquid biopsies work by detecting tiny bits of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) in the blood. While liquid biopsies have already proven successful for cancers like lung, breast, and colon cancer, their use in sarcoma is still preliminary. Dr. Hsu's team is testing a broad range of sarcomas, with a particular focus on types that often exhibit genetic alterations — such as osteosarcoma, liposarcoma, and leiomyosarcoma.

In a small pilot study, the research team analyzed blood and tumor samples from 13 cancer patients, as well as healthy control samples. They found that ctDNA was present in 73% of the cancer samples, and in 69% of the sarcoma samples. Most importantly, the genetic changes in the blood closely matched those found in the tumor tissue, suggesting that liquid biopsies could be a reliable way to track the disease.



Although the study showed encouraging results, it also uncovered limitations. For example, some types of sarcoma, like synovial sarcoma, release less tumor DNA into the bloodstream, making it harder to detect with liquid biopsies. Regardless, Dr. Hsu and his team are hopeful about the future of liquid biopsies in sarcoma care and plan to conduct a larger study to see if liquid biopsies can help detect cancer recurrence and personalize treatment for each patient.

Through its partnership with the Paula Takacs Foundation, Atrium Health will continue advancing this innovative research, bringing renewed hope to patients and their families.



IN MEMORIAM

David Malcolm **FURR**

November 15, 1957 – February 12, 2025

The Atrium Health family celebrates the wonderful life of David Furr — leaving a legacy of service, gratitude, and friendship.

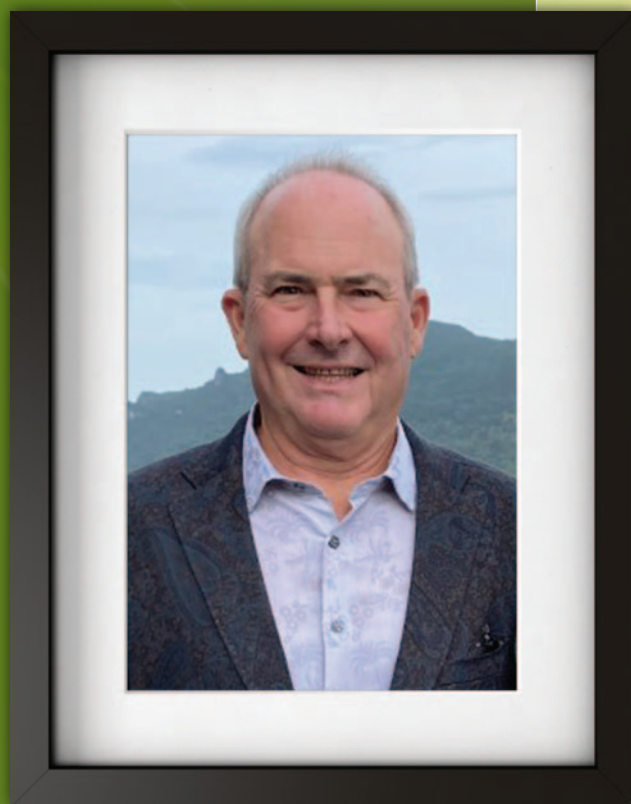
A first-generation college attendee, David attended Boys State at Wake Forest University in 1975, and graduated undergraduate from Wake Forest in 1980, School of Law in 1982, and post-graduate LLM Taxation from University of Florida in 1983. David served on the Board of Wake Forest Law School since graduation, supporting four deans.

Starting his law practice in Gastonia in 1983, David spent 40 years advising NASCAR marketing, global financial services with CapGemini, cybersecurity with Palo Alto Networks, and life sciences. Peers described him as a perfect combination of deal maker, legal mind, and investor.

David was also devoted to community service, raising funds for Wake Forest University, Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute, and wine-related charities as Chairman Emeritus of Charlotte Wine and Food. Passionate about wine, David believed a great business deal starts with a great bottle of wine. David also served on Atrium Health Foundation's Giving Hope campaign cabinet.

After a nine-year battle with blood cancer, David remained deeply grateful for the care he received at Levine Cancer. To show his gratitude, he gave generously — offering his time, talent, and resources to support cancer initiatives. He remained forever thankful to the dedicated teams led by Dr. Derek Raghavan, Dr. Nilanjan Ghosh, and Dr. Michael Grunwald.

He will always be remembered for his vibrant spirit, love of bringing people together with wine, and the deep-rooted gratitude that guided him.



Hope shined at the Levine Children's Gala



Gala emcee Erin Andrews and Greg Olsen were joined on stage by Levine Children's heart champion Aydan Ellis, cystic fibrosis warrior Palmer Horton, and cancer survivor Wren Jansen.

Atrium Health Foundation board member Beverly "Bevie" Hemby had a shining moment during the evening, receiving the Leon Levine Champion of Hope award.

On a starry night filled with hope and celebration, the 11th Annual Levine Children's Gala welcomed 600 guests and raised \$3 million to benefit Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital. The gala was made possible by the generous support of the community — most notably, The David and Nicole Tepper Foundation. Guests celebrated Levine Children's Hospital with a "Where hope shines" theme, recognizing the community's role in providing a bright future for patients and families in the Charlotte region.

Held for the fourth consecutive year at the home of the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC, the gala was attended by national and local celebrities, athletes, philanthropists, community leaders and representatives of Atrium Health and Levine Children's.

The evening kicked off with Aydan Ellis, a Levine Children's heart transplant recipient, leading the Wingate University marching band into the stadium playing James Brown's, "I Feel Good," on his trombone.

Emmy-nominated FOX Sports broadcaster, author, and award-winning community advocate Erin Andrews emceed before a sold-out crowd and recognized some of Levine Children's biggest supporters, including The David and Nicole Tepper Foundation, the Leon Levine Family, The HEARTest Yard/The Greg Olsen Foundation, The Hendrick Family Foundation, and PNC Bank.





Gala attendees enjoyed a lively performance by multi-talented musician, DJ, producer, and New York Times best-selling author Questlove, of the Grammy Award-winning hip-hop group, The Roots.



A lively paddle raise and auction hit record totals and were enjoyed by over 600 guests — including Sandra Levine, Advocate Health CEO Gene Woods and wife, Lauren, and David and Nicole Tepper.



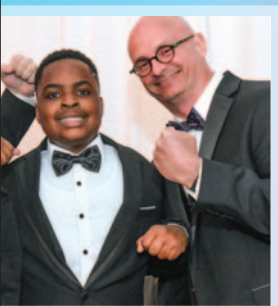
“As a foundation that cares deeply for the families Atrium Health serves throughout the greater Charlotte area, we want every child’s future to shine brightly,” said David and Nicole Tepper. “Levine Children’s Hospital is all about investing in the future of our region’s patients and care teams — and the impactful resource it represents for our community.”

Atrium Health Foundation board member Bevie Hemby had a shining moment during the evening, receiving the Leon Levine Champion of Hope award for her years of advocacy, volunteerism, and investment in Levine Children’s — both personally and through her family’s foundation.

On stage, Erin Andrews and national sportscaster and former Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen interviewed several children, who all marveled at the life-saving care they received at Levine Children’s. Inspired by their moving stories of hope and resilience, gala attendees gave generously during the bid paddle raise, which featured matching gift incentives from Charlotte’s own Oaklore Distilling Company and Bojangles. The paddle raise and auctions hit record totals.

The gala culminated with a lively performance by multi-talented musician, DJ, producer, and New York Times best-selling author Questlove, longtime drummer for the Grammy Award-winning hip-hop group, The Roots.

Thank you, Levine Children’s Gala Committee: Robbie and Andrew Adams; Joclyn and John Balanda; Candy and Darren Bing; Monica and Armando Chardiet; Janelle and Todd Collins; Amy and Alfred Dawson; Mandy and Todd Houser; Tara and Jackson Hughes; Emily and Tyler Johnson; Alexis Kolpak; Kara and Greg Olsen; Ana and Manuel Rey; Maria and Gonzalo Wallis; Nazy and Durham Weeks; and Joy and Hunter Widener.



Pictured with his doctors, Gonzalo Wallis (left) and Thomas Maxey (right), heart champion Aydan Ellis kicked off the Gala in style.





A Heart for

INNOVATION:

Dowd Foundation Fuels Discoveries in Cardio-Oncology

As the landscape of cancer therapeutics has evolved rapidly over the past two decades, philanthropic investments have allowed clinicians to move boldly toward more innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to care and treatment. In recent years, the hybrid discipline of cardio-oncology has emerged as an essential subspecialty dedicated to minimizing cardiotoxicity — heart damage caused by cancer treatment — and improving cancer outcomes for patients with cardiovascular disease.

In 2022, the Charlotte-based Dowd Foundation stepped forward with a transformational gift, establishing The Dowd Foundation Center of Cardio-Oncology in memory of Janis Dowd. As part of that commitment, The Dowd Foundation recently supported a groundbreaking pilot study, the CAPACITY (Cardiac Amyloid and Physician ACTivity) Trial, enrolling 50 patients to help researchers learn how cardiac rehabilitation can improve outcomes for cardiac amyloidosis.

The Dowd Foundation Center for Cardio-Oncology is also incorporating advanced cardiac imaging for the early detection of cardiotoxicity, allowing clinicians to adjust patients' cancer treatment and help prevent heart damage and preserve heart function. This work involves Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute's participation in a national MRI registry for amyloidosis — a multicenter collaboration on how best to screen for and diagnose cardiac amyloidosis. Initial results of the initiative were recently published in the European Heart Journal for Cardiovascular Imaging.

Emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach to care, and with support from The Dowd Foundation, the Center has recently begun using specialty nurses to streamline and coordinate care across oncology, pharmacy, imaging, and other disciplines. “Patients are connected to all necessary supportive care with the multidisciplinary team, whether at Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, Atrium Health Levine Cancer, or other specialty partners,” explains cardiologist Dr. Jai Singh, who leads the Center.

“Nurses, as care coordinators, are the bridge that transforms patient concerns into timely care and ensure each patient receives the attention and treatment they deserve,” shared Shelby Kotsokalis, nurse program coordinator for Cardio-Oncology. “We have the privilege of supporting and empowering patients to help them feel their best during a very vulnerable time.”

An important milestone in Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute’s continued rise to national prominence was achieved last October, when Atrium Health hosted the inaugural Dowd Foundation Center for Cardio-Oncology Symposium. The event brought together national experts with clinical leaders from both Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute and Levine Cancer Institute to discuss challenging cases in cardio-oncology. The Dowd Foundation’s generosity will continue to fuel new innovations and foster cross-specialty collaboration in this emerging field of medicine for years to come.

“THE DOWD FOUNDATION’S GENEROSITY WILL CONTINUE TO FUEL NEW INNOVATIONS AND FOSTER CROSS-SPECIALTY COLLABORATION IN THIS EMERGING FIELD OF MEDICINE FOR YEARS TO COME.”



Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute’s Dr. Amar Parikh (far right) and Dr. Jai Singh (second from right) posed with fellow-attendees of the first annual Dowd Foundation Center for Cardio-Oncology Symposium in October 2024.

Giving HOPE

OPPORTUNITIES IN SIGHT

Our generous donors continue to build hope and inspire others to transform the landscape of health care in the greater Charlotte area. As of the first quarter of 2025, the Giving Hope comprehensive fundraising campaign has raised:



\$171 Million
for Healthy
Communities



\$73 Million
for Outstanding
Education



\$53 Million
for Preeminent
Research



\$45 Million
for Exemplary
Facilities

Fundraising totals shown as of January 2025.

Opportunities in Giving Hope

Atrium Health Foundation had one of its most successful years in 2024, raising **\$71.4 million** for the Giving Hope campaign.

In 2025, we are on pace for another strong year, with more than \$10 million raised to date. The path ahead is exciting!



ATRIUM HEALTH CAROLINAS MEDICAL CENTER

Opening in 2027, the new 12-story, acute care facility is poised to provide the highest level of care for all in the greater Charlotte area. Numerous philanthropic opportunities exist to support this marquee project, which has already received several investments from generous donors.



WAKE FOREST SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CHARLOTTE TO WELCOME FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS

This fall, Charlotte's first-ever four-year medical school will welcome its first class of 48 students as finishing touches are completed on the new Wake Forest University School of Medicine Charlotte campus and surrounding Pearl innovation district. Anchored by the Howard R. Levine Center for Education, and featuring the sixth-floor William Cannon, Jr. Terrace, the campus will offer cutting-edge technology and innovative learning methods.

ATRIUM HEALTH LAKE NORMAN

Anticipated to open its doors later this year, Atrium Health Lake Norman includes a 170,000 square-foot flagship hospital located in Cornelius, N.C., bringing residents of North Mecklenburg County access to world-class care, close to home. Featuring 30 patient beds, operating rooms, maternity care, a state-of-the-art ICU and emergency department, and concierge medicine, the Lake Norman campus features numerous philanthropic opportunities to enhance patient care.



PHILANTHROPY BUILDS MOMENTUM FOR NATIONAL SERVICE LINES

With continued investment from the community, Advocate Health is forging a path and redefining care in both the Midwest and Southeast through national service lines in cardiology, cancer, and neurosciences.

Atrium Health Levine Children's Medical Plaza in Charlotte continues to undergo expansion and renovation with philanthropic support from donors, including crucial investments in a comprehensive sickle cell program that will bridge pediatric and adult care into survivorship, and advance cutting-edge research and treatments.



Atrium Health Levine Cancer is recognized nationally for its expertise, and with donor support, provides a national network of cancer care rooted in a strong research foundation. Anchored by its flagship facility in Charlotte, Atrium Health's Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Cancer Proton & Advanced Radiation Center offer the most cutting-edge cancer care available in the Charlotte area.

A new era in **Neurosciences** is underway with leading investments from generous community members anchoring a future endowed chair in Neuroscience Innovation, which will support a broad and essential range of research efforts that have significant potential to improve societal health and well-being.





Quest for a Cure:

PHILANTHROPY BRINGS RENEWED HOPE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Atrium Health is deeply committed to ensuring that every patient we serve not only achieves optimal health, but also thrives in life. With the support of philanthropy, a particular group of individuals treated at Atrium Health — pediatric and adult sickle cell patients — will soon have access to more comprehensive care and support resources than ever before.

Atrium Health Levine Children's and Atrium Health Levine Cancer are actively partnering to provide the latest treatments for sickle cell disease, including gene therapy, transfusion therapy, and bone marrow transplant. In addition to the continued evolution of these cutting-edge therapies, Atrium Health is committed to improving the entire care journey of sickle cell patients, from childhood into adulthood, and into survivorship for those cured of the disease.

The support of philanthropy will help us in our quest for a cure, by helping Atrium Health expand patients' access to psychosocial support services, develop novel ways to treat sickle cell disease, improve overall patient care and navigation, and increase community awareness of sickle cell disease.

**To support Atrium Health's comprehensive sickle cell disease program, visit:
AtriumHealthFoundation.org/SickleCell.**

GENE-EDITING THERAPY GIVES TEEN WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE A CHANCE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Ryan Dodson, 18, was diagnosed with sickle cell disease soon after he was born. Sickle cell disease is a genetic condition that can cause severe pain, organ failure, and decreased life expectancy.

At a young age, Ryan began to experience numerous health challenges, including debilitating pain crises and surgery to remove his spleen. "By the time he got to middle school, he'd missed 100-plus days of school," said Kim, Ryan's mother.

Like many families with a child who has sickle cell disease, the Dodsons frequented the emergency department and numerous doctors' offices.

They found his long-term sickle cell care team at Atrium Health Levine Children's Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C. There, he learned about a new gene-editing clinical trial at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte — one of only a few sites in the nation offering this curative therapy option.

At Levine Children's Hospital, the clinical trial offered Ryan and his family a path forward, and renewed hope. He underwent a one-time treatment where he donated his stem cells, received high-dose chemotherapy, and then got his gene-edited cells back.

For Ryan, the gene-editing treatment has been a game-changer. He is symptom-free and on the road to recovery.

"Kids and young adults living with sickle cell disease suffer many complications of their disease that impact all aspects of their life, and often those of their loved ones," said Dr. Lyndsay Molinari, pediatric stem cell transplant physician at Levine Children's Hospital. "This important new treatment has been shown to eliminate pain and improve the quality of life for those born with sickle cell disease."



Pictured (center): Now on a strong path to recovery, the future is bright for Ryan, who is free of sickle cell symptoms and living his life to the fullest.



Gene editing uses advanced technology to turn on the production of fetal hemoglobin in the red blood cells of sickle cell disease patients. Once these cells are transplanted back into the body, the patient has the same type of protection they experienced in-utero. A potential benefit of this novel approach is that, unlike other treatments for the disease, patients shouldn't need continual, daily medication following the gene editing treatment.

EASTWOOD HOMES AND LEVINE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: A PARTNERSHIP BUILT WITH CARE

In a partnership spanning the past 17 years, Charlotte-based Eastwood Homes has built a reputation for giving back — and giving hope — to patients of Atrium Health Levine Children's. Home to the Ryan Seacrest Studios, an in-house multimedia broadcast center, Levine Children's Hospital recently benefited from a major gift from Eastwood Homes that will advance this unique patient program.

From playing "DJ" and broadcasting their favorite songs throughout the hospital, to interviewing celebrity guests and enjoying live musical performances, patients have enjoyed the Seacrest Studios as a creative outlet and source of hope since 2013. The studios also serve as a community resource, providing student interns with invaluable work experience in radio and television broadcasting.

In addition to giving back through the Eastwood Classic annual golf tournament, the award-winning home builder donates a portion of every home built in the Charlotte area to Levine Children's Hospital, amounting to more than \$1.5 million donated by Eastwood Homes since 2008 to enhance the care and comfort of Levine Children's patients and families.



Over the past 16 years, Eastwood Homes has contributed more than \$1.5 million to benefit Levine Children's Hospital, including the Eastwood Homes Hospitality Cart (top left), which circulates the hospital and provides healthy snacks, reading materials, and toiletries to patients and their families.



Bottom, left: In 2024, Eastwood Homes employees and leaders presented a donation of \$185,000 in proceeds from the company's annual golf tournament, which will benefit the hospital's Seacrest Studios.

RECEPTIONS FOR RESEARCH AND DEFIBTECH: EMPOWERING HEART SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Receptions for Research: The Greg Olsen Foundation, and Defibtech, a leading designer and manufacturer of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), recently partnered to equip Atrium Health athletic trainers in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools with life-saving medical technology. Thanks to a donation of 89 AEDs, local schools can protect the heart health of student athletes and sports fans using the most advanced technology available.

A portable device that detects and treats a potentially fatal heart rhythm, an AED delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore its normal rhythm. Though medical emergencies requiring an AED are uncommon, in 90% of sudden cardiac events, the life-saving device is not readily available.

Jennifer Gardner, assistant vice president of outreach at the Atrium Health Musculoskeletal Institute, helps lead efforts to ensure schools can protect the health and well-being of student-athletes. “Athletic trainers need access to the tools that allow them to perform their job at the highest level possible,” said Jennifer. “AEDs save lives, and the athletes, coaches, staff, and spectators are safer when life-threatening emergencies happen on the sidelines.”



Support from Receptions for Research and Defibtech is an important investment in safety — one that will ensure access to the lifesaving technology at every partnering school in Atrium Health’s service area.



Receptions for Research, through its HEARTest Yard initiative, has a long history of support for Atrium Health, including establishing the Atrium Health Levine Children’s HEARTest Yard Congenital Heart Center, which opened in 2020 and provides comprehensive care and support to families and children effected by congenital heart conditions.

Aydan ELLIS:

*Heart Warrior and
Champion for Children*



Aydan entered the world as a fighting champion. From birth, he faced several complex medical conditions that would require great strength — of mind, body, and spirit — to overcome. He was born with just one kidney, an enlarged heart, and extensive swelling in his tissue and organs.

At three years old and weighing only 35 pounds, Aydan suffered both heart failure and a stroke that paralyzed his right arm and leg. He was placed on a heart/lung machine (ECMO) and endured intense rehabilitation over several months at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital.

Aydan was placed on the heart transplant list and spent five months at Levine Children's Hospital. His heart couldn't pump enough blood, so he was supported by a Berlin Heart, an external artificial heart that allowed him to stay active while waiting for his transplant.

Even during his most challenging times, Aydan's bright smile, charm, and wit captured the hearts of his care team and fellow patients. He'd often be seen striking a Spider Man pose, living every day with joy and lifting the spirits of patients and families.

A Second Chance, A New Heart

Just one month before Aydan's fourth birthday, his mother, Miriam, received the greatest news of their lives: there was a heart available, and Aydan was a perfect match. Aydan received his new heart thanks to another family's heartbreaking and generous decision to choose organ donation and give the gift of life. Following the surgery, Aydan was asked what he thought his heart did, and he responded with one word: "Love."

Aydan's heart surgeon, Dr. Thomas Maxey, marvels at Aydan's growth over the past eight years. "Warrior" is an understatement for Aydan," he said. "He has a glowing personality, spunk, grit, and a passion for life."

A Champion for Children

Now 12 years old, Aydan is thriving. From playing the trombone and video games, to enjoying "all types" of candy, his enthusiasm for life abounds. Always full of love for his fellow heart warriors and other patients at Levine Children's Hospital, Aydan has embarked on a new journey: serving as the 2025 Children's Miracle Network Champion for the Charlotte area, an honor that recognizes his greatest qualities.



1. Four-year-old Aydan and his transplant surgeon, Dr. Maxey.

2. Aydan with David Tepper, owner of the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC.

CMN Impact:

The first ECMO machine at Levine Children's Hospital was purchased with Children's Miracle Network (CMN) funds. These unrestricted funds allow hospital leadership to purchase what is needed, when it is needed. ECMO is a type of life support that keeps blood moving through the body and blood gases in balance. It serves as temporary heart and lungs, allowing a patient's organs to rest. CMN has since funded additional ECMO machines used throughout Atrium Health Levine Children's care locations, saving the lives of our most critical pediatric patients.



**Join our
Children's
Miracle
Network
partners**

Join our Children's Miracle Network partners supporting Levine Children's Hospital year-round:

RE/MAX

Miracle Home Program

Panda Express

Point of Sale Campaign and
Employee Giving

Speedway

Point of Sale Campaign

Love's Travel Stops

Point of Sale Campaign

Flow Control Group

Employee Giving Campaign

GameStop

Point of Sale Campaign

Club Car Wash

Twelve Dollar Tuesdays

Coming this summer:

June 9 – July 6:

Walmart & Sam's Club
Round-Up Campaign

June 13 – 22:

Publix Coupon Sale Campaign

June 25 – August 26:

7-Eleven Register Campaign

July 31:

Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day

August 1 – 3:

ACE Bucket Days

RE/MAX EXECUTIVE FAMILY ‘SOLD’ ON BRINGING HOPE TO LEVINE CHILDREN’S PATIENTS

For Kourosh Sharifi, CFO of RE/MAX Executive Carolinas, supporting Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) is more than a professional responsibility — it’s a deeply personal mission. Since joining RE/MAX in 2007, Kourosh has been an advocate for his local member hospital, Atrium Health Levine Children’s Hospital, where his 8-year-old daughter, Ariana, has received care.

A few years ago, Ariana was admitted to the hospital for treatment of a second-degree burn. The compassionate and expert care she received left a lasting impact on her. Compelled to give back, Ariana has organized lemonade stands, bought toys for other patients, and led fundraising activities at her school.

Kourosh and his wife, Mirta, have been dedicated to supporting the hospital ever since. One of the most significant contributions from RE/MAX was a \$500,000 donation, which helped name the waiting room in the pediatric emergency department — a space their family knows all too well.

“It’s a proud moment when you see medical equipment with the Children’s Miracle Network sticker, knowing that our contributions are making a difference,” said Kourosh, who also serves as a member of the Levine Children’s Hospital Board of Ambassadors. “Kids are not just the best part of us. They also represent our future. By making an investment in children’s health, we are securing the future of our communities.”

Since 1992, RE/MAX agents have helped raise millions of dollars for local children’s hospitals, ensuring that children like Ariana have access to life-saving care when they need it most. In the Charlotte area, this generosity has translated to over \$1.7 million for Levine Children’s.

As a proud CMN partner, Kourosh is passionate about the impact of these donations on children’s lives. “When RE/MAX agents make a donation in honor of their clients, not only is their generosity helping a kid in need, they’re also helping raise awareness and inspiring others to be involved.”

About the RE/MAX Miracle Home Program

Since 1992, RE/MAX has partnered with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals across the U.S. and Canada. The RE/MAX Miracle Home Program empowers RE/MAX agents and offices to support their local children’s hospital. By designating their listing as a Miracle Home or Property, agents will donate on behalf of their clients with each home sale, and 100% of the donation benefits their local children’s hospital.

1. Inspired by the care their daughter received at Levine Children’s Hospital, Kourosh and his wife, Mirta, are honored to give back through Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Kourosh serves as a member of the Levine Children’s Hospital Board of Ambassadors.



2. From patient to young philanthropist, Ariana Sharifi chose to raise funds for Levine Children’s Hospital by hosting a neighborhood lemonade sale last summer.



EXTRA LIFE: GAME CHANGERS FOR ATRIUM HEALTH LEVINE CHILDREN'S

The virtual gaming community is leveling-up to support patients of Atrium Health Levine Children's through Extra Life, a national Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) partner. Since the program's inception in 2008, Extra Life has raised more than \$130 million for CMN nationwide through its virtual peer-to-peer fundraising and gaming platform.

This year marks two important milestones in the gaming career of local Extra Life participant, Chris Barlow. Known as "Sly Fawkes" among his fellow gamers, Barlow has been a dedicated supporter of Levine Children's

Hospital for a decade, uniting fellow gamers and his personal network of donors to champion children's health and well-being. "Sly Fawkes" has raised \$50,000 (and counting) to benefit Levine Children's Hospital, seizing the title of #1 Extra Life fundraiser in the Charlotte market.

Inspired by his own daughter's medical journey, and as witness to friends whose children have received life-saving care from the cardiology and neonatal intensive care teams at Levine Children's, Barlow's commitment to children's health runs deep. "Extra Life is a family affair for us," said Barlow. "My wife and four children all know the importance of this program and what it means to patients of Levine Children's Hospital."

Introduced to Extra Life by a colleague and fellow gamer, and encouraged by his wife, a former Children's Miracle Network intern in college, Barlow has enjoyed seeing his fundraising efforts grow larger and more successful with each passing year. "Games are such an easy way to connect with anybody, and you never know whose life you are going to change by just trying this out."

To get involved in 'gaming for good' in support of Atrium Health Levine Children's, visit **Extra-Life.org** and check out "Sly Fawkes" on Twitch: **SlyFawkesFTK**.

1. From left: Chris Barlow and his wife, Perky, Shannon and Keith Pohl, and Bri and Patrick Savago hosted a Game Changers Gala last year to benefit Levine Children's Hospital.

2. Gamer Chris Barlow ("Sly Fawkes") is the #1 Extra Life fundraiser for Levine Children's Hospital in the Charlotte area.



ATRIUM HEALTH TEAMMATES & PATIENTS UNITE FOR CUPID'S CUP 5K

The annual Cupid's Cup 5K brought together hundreds of community members in support of cardiac rehabilitation at Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute. Among them was heart attack survivor Glen Atwell, whose journey to the finish line symbolized the power of expert care and heart health awareness.

Glen was volunteering for Hurricane Helene relief when he suddenly felt dizzy, weak, and drenched in sweat. Recognizing the danger, his group leader called for medics — an action that ultimately saved his life. Moments later, he suffered a heart attack and lost consciousness. Thanks to quick EMS response and emergency angioplasty at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, Glen survived.

Now an advocate for heart health, Glen joined fellow patients, medical professionals, and supporters at the Cupid's Cup 5K, turning his personal victory into a celebration of resilience, community, and life-saving care. Since its inception two decades ago, the Cupid's Cup 5K has raised over \$1.25 million for cardiac rehabilitation programs, benefiting countless patients like Glen.



1. Glen Atwell at the Cupid's Cup 5K with members of Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute's cardiac rehabilitation team. 2. Dr. Nyal Borges (right), director of interventional cardiology, treated Glen at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, performing a life-saving stent procedure.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Jerry **PETTY**

August 25, 1935 – April 20, 2025



Atrium Health Foundation honors the life and legacy of Dr. Jerry Petty — a founding partner of Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates, a national leader in neurosurgery, and a beloved mentor and friend. Dr. Petty's 53-year career helped shape Charlotte into a destination for world-class neurological care. His impact extended far beyond the operating room — from pioneering the use of CT in Charlotte to serving as a medical consultant for NASCAR and the NFL to contributing to a culture of excellence, compassion, and service both at Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates and Atrium Health.

Dr. Petty's legacy lives on through the Dr. Jerry and Audrey Petty Endowed Professorship in Spine Surgery at Atrium Health Foundation and the countless lives he touched with grace, humility, and vision. There is a saying that "we stand on the shoulders of giants." Dr. Petty leaves the world a much brighter and more caring place.

Edmund Hill **SHEA III**

August 10, 1960 – April 20, 2025

Atrium Health Foundation celebrates Edmund "Ed" Shea — a trailblazer in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) philanthropy and dear friend to our health system.

Despite living with ALS himself for more than 25 years, Ed lived an active and inspiring life. He raised four children, built a successful business, and exemplified grace and strength. He kept his sense of humor and retained the ability to laugh. Never being one to complain, Ed emphasized how the disease had taught him patience and the importance of listening.

Dedicated to helping others with the disease, Ed and his family were instrumental in advancing ALS care and research in Charlotte, N.C., through their signature Pinstripes fundraiser. Thanks to his efforts and the support of those who rallied with him, he profoundly impacted many lives in our community.



BENJAMIN THE BRAVE

AN ANGEL ON EARTH BRINGS HOPE TO LEVINE CHILDREN'S

Many faith traditions believe that angels walk among us, bringing peace and comfort to the living. Benjamin Robert Poole — described by his family as one such angel on earth — inspired his parents, Molly and Zach, to find a cure for medulloblastoma after he lost his life to the disease at

age three. Through the Benjamin the Brave Medulloblastoma Foundation, the Pooles are helping families facing this common childhood brain cancer.

The Poole family, through Benjamin the Brave Medulloblastoma Foundation, has made their second and largest gift to Atrium Health Foundation in support of Atrium Health Levine Children's. This recent donation will help fund the collection of tumor samples from five patients, advancing research and improving treatment options for children with medulloblastoma.

Additionally, the gift will ease the financial burden on families whose children undergo proton beam therapy at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Proton & Advanced Radiation Center. Although this cutting-edge treatment was not

available in Charlotte while Benjamin was alive, children and adults in the region can now benefit from this life-saving therapy, close to home.

Finding the lessons in life and loss

Benjamin was diagnosed in 2019, shortly after his second birthday, and he and his family traveled across the country in search of a cure. Although he endured rigorous treatments and multiple brain surgeries, Benjamin's joyful spirit prevailed and inspired. During treatments, he'd sing and dance to his favorite songs. After his hair fell out, what remained formed a perfect halo pattern on top of his head. And in his last weeks, his family shared that he'd point to the sky in his sleep, an angelic picture of hope amidst incredible pain.

The mission of Benjamin the Brave underscores the importance of not only seeking a cure for medulloblastoma but also supporting families amidst their cancer journey — a goal that has carried the Poole family forward and continues to bring hope to countless patients at Levine Children's Hospital.





Easing the burdens of care

While research is essential to improving future outcomes for medulloblastoma patients, there is much to be done to support patients who are currently undergoing treatment. With the opening of the Atrium Health Levine Cancer Advanced Proton & Radiation Center, it is expected that this facility will care for between 10-15 pediatric medulloblastoma patients in the coming year. Many of these patients will travel to Charlotte from other locations during a six-week course of treatment, costing each family an average of \$7,500 to cover lodging, transportation, and associated costs of living, all while navigating daily proton beam therapy. The Benjamin the Brave Medulloblastoma Foundation will significantly reduce the financial burden for families undergoing this novel care, a key component of the organization's mission to support families in their battles with this disease.

Air Conditioning
MORRIS-JENKINS
Plumbing · Electrical

PROUD
SUPPORTER OF
**LEVINE
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

IN MEMORIAM

Elinor **CADDELL**

December 5, 1922 – September 4, 2024

Elinor Caddell graduated from the inaugural class of Charlotte Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1944. She began her career at Charlotte Memorial Hospital, where she also mentored nursing students. Recognizing her passion for nursing education, she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing education from Duke University and returned to Charlotte in 1948 to teach at Charlotte Memorial Hospital. In 1960, she went back to Duke to complete a master's degree and to teach. By 1965, Elinor was in Charlotte again, this time to help establish the nursing program at UNC Charlotte. She played a pivotal role in introducing graduate nursing education to UNC Charlotte in the late 1980s, marking the culmination of her distinguished career.

Regarded as a North Carolina treasure, Elinor touched all levels of nursing education throughout the state, shaping the careers of thousands of nurses and, through them, impacting the lives of countless patients. Every person who knew Elinor — from her former students to fellow alumni, colleagues, and friends — knew her passion for education and her dedication to patient-centered care, including patients' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

During her lifetime, Elinor was a generous donor to the Carolinas College of Health Sciences

(CCHS). A scholarship was established in her name by former classmates and students to benefit associate degree nursing students pursuing higher education. Her generous designation of CCHS as a beneficiary of her estate will further develop numerous educational opportunities for faculty, alumni, and students.

Elinor's legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her — and will ensure that her spirit lives on in the hearts and minds of those she touched.



CAROLINAS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES ALUM SUPPORTS NURSING PROGRAM

Atrium Health's Carolinas College of Health Sciences has received \$200,000 in scholarship contributions from Eve B. Hoover, PhD, to support future health care professionals. Dr. Hoover's gift will fund two key scholarships to empower nursing students and alleviate financial barriers to education.

The Eve B. Hoover PhD CNA Student Scholarship will directly support students in the Certified Nurse Assistant Program. By easing students' financial pressures, Dr. Hoover aims to produce more confident, skilled, and compassionate health care professionals.

Dr. Hoover's continued support for nursing education also includes a contribution to the Dr. Kathleen Revel Scholarship Endowment, established in honor of Dr. Revel to provide financial assistance to students pursuing an Associate Nursing Degree at the college. Dr. Revel's dedication to nursing serves as an inspiration to students, and this scholarship encourages the next generation of nurses to pursue their dreams.

Together, these scholarships are more than just financial support — they are investments in the future of health care. By removing financial barriers, these gifts empower students to fully dedicate themselves to their education.



Benefactor Eve Hoover, PhD, pictured with Ali Merchant, director of advancement and alumni relations at Carolinas College of Health Sciences.



On the SCENE

A season of hope for WARD'S Foundation and its founders

It was a busy event season for WARD'S Foundation and its founders, Caroline and Trey Winslett, who were honored with Charlotte Business Journal's Health Care Heroes Hope Award and recognized among Charlotte Magazine's Charlotteans of the Year. Caroline and Trey were joined by Atrium Health Levine Children's senior vice president Callie Dobbins, Dr. Amanda Lanier, and Atrium Health Foundation assistant vice president Kellie McGregor to receive these prestigious recognitions. These accolades celebrate the dedication of the Winsletts and the organization's profound impact on the rare disease community.



Building on this momentum, WARD'S Foundation successfully hosted its Third Annual A Rare Affair, raising an impressive \$480,000 to support the Ward Winslett Center for Complex and Rare Diseases at Atrium Health Levine Children's. The Center continues to serve as a beacon of hope for patients and families facing a rare disease diagnosis.

Reneé and Dewey Jenkins Wellness Center unveiled

In February, Atrium Health unveiled the Reneé and Dewey Jenkins Wellness Center, thanks to a transformational gift to Atrium Health Foundation from benefactors Reneé and Dewey Jenkins. Their generous support of the Giving Hope campaign has elevated health and wellness offerings at Atrium Health Concierge Care SouthPark, offering yoga, meditation, nutrition classes, and personalized fitness support. A member of the campaign cabinet, Dewey has a deep history of giving back to Atrium Health, including significant contributions to Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital and corporate donations through his family business, Morris-Jenkins.



Community supporters make history at the Sarcoma Stomp

A record-breaking 1,000 participants turned out for the Paula Takacs Foundation's annual Sarcoma Stomp, which marked its most successful year to date, raising over \$320,000. Proceeds from the event support groundbreaking sarcoma cancer research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer and Atrium Health Levine Children's in Charlotte. This achievement reflects the passion and dedication of everyone who went the extra mile to move the needle in the fight against sarcoma. Pictured (1): Dr. Megan H. Jagosky led remarks at the Sarcoma Stomp on behalf of her colleagues from Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute.



Community unites for heart transplant patients

Hope was on full display at the Atrium Health Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute Heart Transplant Run, held at McAlpine Greenway Park in April. The event served as a vibrant celebration of life and resilience, bringing together patients, caregivers, and health care heroes to support patients with heart failure, heart transplants, and mechanical circulatory devices. Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Ted Frank, an advanced heart failure and transplant cardiologist at Atrium Health, the 5K raised crucial funds to ease the financial burden for patients in need of life-saving treatments.



On the SCENE

Kicks for Kids scores big for Levine Children's patients

Our friends at the Carolina Panthers and Morris-Jenkins joined patients and staff at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital this spring to culminate the fifth season of the Kicks for Kids initiative. This year's campaign raised \$35,500, with Morris-Jenkins contributing \$28,000 — representing a \$1,000 donation made for every Panthers field goal at home during the 2024-25 season — and a donation of \$7,500 from the Panthers raised during training camp.



All-In to Fight Cancer deals a winning hand for cancer research

The annual All-In to Fight Cancer Texas Hold'em charity event in Charlotte was an unforgettable evening, with over 600 guests coming together to raise money for cancer research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer and local beneficiaries. Each hand played, every chip stacked, and every dollar donated contributed directly to patient support. The ongoing dedication of All-In to Fight Cancer, along with its sponsors and participants, highlights the power of unity in the fight against cancer.



Music with a mission: Charlotte concert supports local breast cancer research

The Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation's Concert for a Cure was a powerful evening of community, music, and purpose, benefiting leading research at Atrium Health Levine Cancer in Charlotte. Held in memory of Allison Kaitlin Criswell, the event featured a performance by Charlotte's own Hot Sauce and remarks from Drs. Antoinette Tan and Amy Voci, who shared inspiring updates on local efforts to improve treatment for triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC).

Proceeds from the event will directly advance TNBC research at Levine Cancer Institute and support the vision of establishing a dedicated Triple Negative Breast Cancer Center of Excellence—helping to transform treatment and outcomes for those affected by this challenging disease.

1. From left: Drs. Antoinette Tan and Amy Voci with event speaker Leila Esmaeili and Drew Cawthorne.



Dr. Amy Sobel takes center stage for breast cancer patients

Dr. Amy Sobel, section chief of Charlotte Radiology breast services, and her dance partner, Maurice Mouzon Jr., won the Judges' Choice award at Charlotte Ballet's Dancing with the Stars of Charlotte Gala. Their dedication helped contribute to over \$1.4 million raised for local charities. Dr. Sobel selected Levine Cancer: Project PINK as her charity of choice, a program that provides life-saving breast cancer screenings to more than 1,300 uninsured and underinsured women annually through mobile mammography. She and Maurice (image 1, center) were supported by a strong Charlotte Radiology presence, including (from left) Drs. Jon Fromke, Mark Fromke, Amy Chudgar, Shannon Hill, special guest Luke Kuechly, and Drs. Shannon McCrann and Robyn Stacy-Humphries.





PARTNERS

Partners in Breast Health

FOR ATRIUM HEALTH LEVINE CANCER

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Charlotte community came out in full force to support Atrium Health Levine Cancer breast cancer initiatives. From raising a pink pint, to scoring points on the soccer field and tennis courts, community and grassroots initiatives brought creativity, meaning, and hope to those fighting breast cancer.

In the United States, 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. These statistics are devastating to an estimated 10% of women living in North Carolina who are underinsured or uninsured. Fortunately, programs like Project PINK — a partnership between Levine Cancer and Charlotte Radiology — offer women hope by providing early detection, enhanced education, and cutting-edge treatment options.

Levine Cancer, with its comprehensive care team, handles more breast cancer cases than any other institution in the region. They offer access to clinical trials and groundbreaking programs, delivering the highest level of care. Philanthropy is crucial to these efforts.



◀ Marc Kantor Teaches Cancer a Lesson:

Tennis professional Marc Kantor "served up" the effort to raise funds for the Carolinas Breast Cancer Fund at Levine Cancer. For one week in October, he donated half of his tennis lesson earnings at Raintree Country Club and collected community donations to support oncology research and patient care in the greater Charlotte area.

Charlotte Radiology Raises a Pint for Project PINK: ▶

Charlotte Radiology hosted its 13th Annual Pink Night with NoDa Brewing Company, celebrating with live music, an online auction, food trucks, and a signature pink brew. Donations to Project PINK allow Levine Cancer and Charlotte Radiology to provide life-saving mammography screenings, free of charge, for uninsured women in their communities. The program's state-of-the-art mobile breast unit travels to areas of greatest need throughout the community offering free screenings and follow-up diagnostic care in a convenient, comfortable environment.



Sun City Shines a Light on Early Detection ▶

A dedicated group of breast cancer survivors and advocates at Sun City Carolina Lakes in Indian Land, S.C., are committed to improving breast cancer prevention, detection, and awareness through philanthropy and fellowship. The Sun City P.I.N.K. Group — standing for **P**revention **I**nvolvement **N**ever give up **K**indness — hosted multiple fundraisers to benefit Project PINK. Organizers brought a sense of fun and fellowship to their mission, hosting a Mahjongg tournament and luncheon, annual neighborhood pink ribbon sale, and in-store fundraiser at the Wine Cellar.

IN THE UNITED STATES,
1 IN 8 WOMEN WILL
DEVELOP BREAST CANCER
IN HER LIFETIME.



^ NC Soccer Association: Celebrate the Tatas

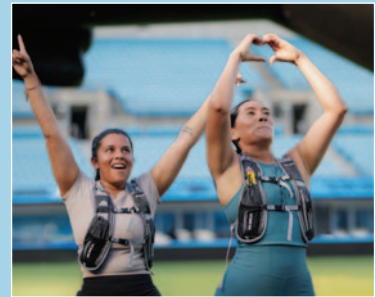
The NC Soccer Association hosted its 11th Annual Celebrate the Tatas Tournament of Champions, raising funds to ensure all women have access to mammography screening services through Project PINK. The 2024 event honored Rabbi Judith Schindler and Susan Kent, both cancer survivors who advocate for early detection and continue to highlight the importance of community support.



KEEP POUNDING



5K



Run where the big cats prowl!
***A unique event for a great cause, starting at
Levine Cancer Institute and ending on the field at
Bank of America Stadium –
home of the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC.***

*Proceeds support Atrium Health
Levine Cancer Institute and Levine Children's Hospital.*

Fall 2025

Registration opens this summer:

KeepPounding5K.org



A GRANDMOTHER'S LOVE

Plants seeds of hope for the next generation

Planned gifts are essential to sustaining Atrium Health's mission, enabling us to invest in the future of health care. A legacy gift from Veronica Gelardi will support the pediatric nephrology program at Atrium Health Levine Children's, where her grandson receives care. Her heartfelt gift is impacting her family as well as the lives of countless children and families affected by kidney disease.

A California native, Veronica was known for her deep devotion to her family, including caring for her eldest child who lived with a life-changing disability. In 2017, Veronica settled in Charlotte, North Carolina, to be near her son Nick Foy and his wife, Natalie, and their two children.

Nick and Natalie's oldest child, Theo, was diagnosed in utero with severe kidney complications. He spent the first three months of his life in critical care at Atrium Health Levine Children's Hospital. When he was 17 months old, he underwent a life-saving kidney transplant, thanks to a generous donor — his aunt. In the years that followed, Veronica witnessed the dedication of Theo's care team at Levine Children's Hospital, led by his devoted nephrologist, Dr. Susan Massengill.

Theo's life will forever be linked to Levine Children's nephrology program — a fact that his grandmother knew well. Though a cure for kidney disease remains elusive, Theo and his fellow patients face their lifelong health conditions with an outstanding support system at Levine Children's. "Theo isn't defined by his illness at all," said Dr. Massengill. "And that's the win, that's the triumph."

Thanks to the support of philanthropy and donors like Veronica, Theo and fellow "kidney kids" continue to benefit from the region's most comprehensive nephrology program which features a psychologist and other services to address the mental and emotional needs of children diagnosed with lifelong kidney disease.

The program also offers Co-Production, a peer support group and collaboration between patients, families, and medical providers, giving children with kidney disease a safe space to share their anxieties, support one another, and co-develop tools such as new patient welcome kits.

Veronica's planned gift supports Levine Children's Hospital's evolution as a nationally respected center of excellence in nephrology. "Our hope is to become a destination for kids to come and get the treatment they need, and we continue to expand on what we can do with the support of philanthropy," said Dr. Massengill.

The Levine Children's nephrology team charts a path to hope

- *A study led by Levine Children's nephrologist Dr. Donald "Jack" Weaver is currently focused on cardiovascular outcomes of kidney disease and developing ways to mitigate cardiovascular impact for patients at a younger age.*
- *Dr. Megan Yanik leads a transplant consortium that aims to establish protocols and best practices in addressing medication compliance among children and adolescents with kidney disease — a vital aspect of survival, post-transplant.*
- *Dr. Massengill and her colleagues are paving the way for the development of novel therapies to better target and individualize care, including a national clinical trial called the NEPTUNE study, which has been funded by the National Institutes for Health.*

When it came time for Nick to discuss his mother's estate plans with her, it was clear that supporting the nephrology program at Levine Children's would be especially meaningful to Veronica. Nick, who is a financial advisor and founder of Greenway Wealth Advisors, discussed options with his mother and determined the best choice to achieve her vision was to name Atrium Health Foundation as the beneficiary of Veronica's IRA, to benefit Levine Children's Hospital's pediatric nephrology program. It was also meaningful for Veronica to personally express her gratitude for Dr. Massengill, whom she deeply admired for her devotion to Theo.

"There's nobody as passionate about what they do as Dr. Massengill," shared Nick. "It's important to us, as it was to my mother, to enable future generations of kids who need high-quality care to access it easily. To see the way the program has evolved and grown over the years is significant."

Moved by Veronica's final act of generosity, Dr. Massengill shared, "I'm honored that she would trust me — and trust our team — to take this gift and help others the way we've been able to help Theo. I'm very grateful and touched."

**To learn more about legacy giving and how to designate
Atrium Health Foundation as the beneficiary of your IRA, contact:
Elizabeth.Braxton@advocatehealth.org or call 704-355-4049.**



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A photograph of a male golfer in mid-swing, wearing a white polo shirt, khaki pants, a white cap, and white gloves. He is holding a golf club, and the background is a clear blue sky.

Golfing for **GOOD**

SEPTEMBER 22

Pineville Golf Invitational

AtriumHealthFoundation.org/PinevilleGolf

Benefiting: Atrium Health Pineville
Location: Carolina Lakes Golf Club
Register today.

SEPTEMBER 29

32ND ANNUAL

Dr. Ed Stubbs Memorial Golf Invitational

**[AtriumHealthFoundation.org/
UniversityGolf](http://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/UniversityGolf)**

Benefiting: Atrium Health
University City
Location: North Lake Country Club
Registration opens this summer.

OCTOBER 20

Save Your Skin Melanoma Golf Classic

**[AtriumHealthFoundation.org/
SaveYourSkin](http://AtriumHealthFoundation.org/SaveYourSkin)**

Benefiting Melanoma research,
prevention, and awareness
programs across Atrium Health
Levine Cancer.
Location: Ballantyne Country Club.
Register today.