



# THE COMPASS

Passport to Giving

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Flights & Bites invites guests to embark on a Passport to Giving—an evening of generosity that supports our mission to provide compassionate care and dignity to every patient and family we serve.



# CARE CONNECTION with Tara

The Carolina Caring Foundation team is excited to share with you the stories and work that have been underway since our Winter publication. This season, we will highlight one of our dedicated board members, showcase pictures and details from our recent, successful Flights & Bites event, and share other notable foundation moments. We are also delighted to share with our readers the impact our generous donors have helped us create in 2024. Please read below to learn more about how Carolina Caring Foundation supports Carolina Caring, our patients, and our community.

Over the past years, I have diligently studied and worked to achieve my CFRE designation through the Association of Fundraising Professionals. This designation is an international accreditation. Since 1981, the Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE) has stood as our profession's leading certification. Those who attain the CFRE designation demonstrate they are trusted leaders with proven experience, success, and knowledge, adhering to the highest fundraising ethics. I am elated to achieve this designation and look forward to serving our foundation with the highest ethical standards, while stewarding our supporters with the same dedication.

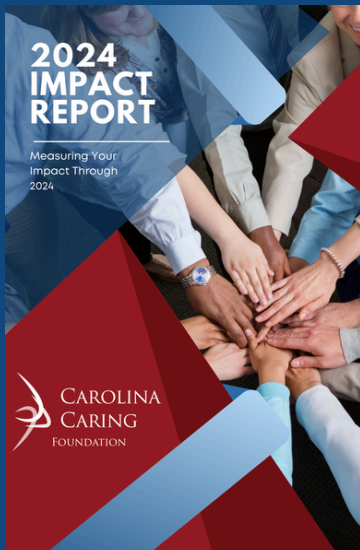
In the next issue, you will learn more about our efforts to develop planned giving, donor-advised fund gifts, and the stewardship of large donations to our foundation. Your giving is of the utmost importance to our work in the community. Thank you for your continued support. To learn more about making an impact gift, visit: [Home - Carolina Caring Foundation](https://www.carolinacaring.org)

With Gratitude,

Tara Bland, CFRE  
Executive Director  
Carolina Caring Foundation



Scan to Support  
Carolina Caring  
Foundation



## THE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS 2024 IMPACT REPORT

As supporters of Carolina Caring Foundation and our mission, you have made a tremendous impact on the lives of our patients and their families.

Our 2024 Impact Report shares the major milestones and achievements we made together throughout 2024.

To view the full Impact Report, please go to this website:  
<https://simplebooklet.com/2024infographicbooklets>



## LINDA CLARKE SCHOLARSHIP SWEATSHIRT FUNDRAISER

Carolina Caring Foundation is excited to share the success of our recent sweatshirt fundraiser benefitting the Linda Clarke Scholarship, a fund created to support Carolina Caring employees in pursuing higher education and professional growth.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our team and supporters, over 120 sweatshirts were sold, raising more than \$2,000 to help further the educational dreams of those who serve our patients with compassion and dedication daily.

The Linda Clarke Scholarship honors a legacy of excellence in care and leadership, empowering employees to expand their knowledge, skills, and service. This fundraiser not only raised vital funds but also united our community in celebration of learning and support for one another.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who purchased a sweatshirt, spread the word, and championed this meaningful cause. Your support is helping build brighter futures for our employees.



Sydney Farmer, Development Coordinator, Carolina Caring Foundation wears one of Carolina Caring's Sweatshirts.

## THE FOUNDATION HOSTS ITS FIRST EVER BRIDGE & LEARN EVENT

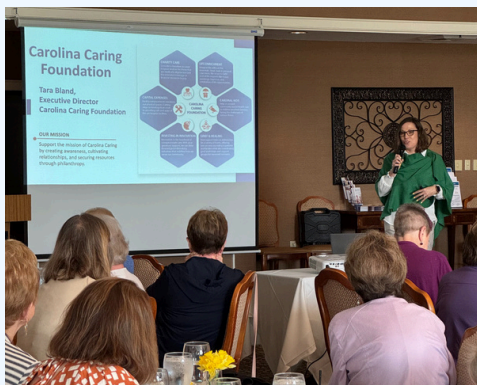
Carolina Caring Foundation was honored to host a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and learning at our recent Bridge & Learn event.

Guests gathered to enjoy a friendly game of bridge with friends, followed by an inspiring presentation from Julie Packer, Director of Professional Relations at Carolina Caring, and Tara Bland, Executive Director of the Carolina Caring Foundation.

Together, they shared how Carolina Caring provides expert, compassionate hospice, palliative, and specialized care to individuals and families across our region, and how the Foundation ensures that every patient receives support, comfort, and dignity, regardless of their financial circumstances.

*Events like this not only bring joy and connection but also deepen awareness of the life-changing work our supporters make possible.*

We look forward to hosting more opportunities like this to engage, learn, and grow together.



# PASSPORT TO GIVING

## Carolina Caring Foundation's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Flights & Bites Event

Carolina Caring Foundation recently hosted its 5th Annual Flights & Bites, a signature evening of food, wine, and heartfelt giving—all in support of patients and families receiving care through Carolina Caring.

Held in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of Moretz Mills in Hickory, guests were treated to a curated menu of expertly paired wines from Winebow in Virginia and tastes from around the world crafted by Chef Ben Sullivan. Each bite and pour reflected the spirit of the event: comfort, connection, and care.

Beyond the flavors, the evening served as a meaningful opportunity to share stories of impact. Guests heard how their generosity ensures that no patient is ever turned away from compassionate care, regardless of their ability to pay. Through powerful moments and personal testimonies, the mission of Carolina Caring came to life around each table.

Thanks to the support of sponsors, attendees, and generous donors, the event raised critical funds to continue providing comfort, peace, and expert care to those navigating serious illness.

As we look ahead, we are deeply grateful for those who make this work possible. Every flight raised and every bite shared is a reminder that love and compassion are best served together.

“**Flights & Bites is more than a fundraising event—it’s a gathering of hearts. It’s about celebrating community and honoring the dignity of every life we touch.**”

*-Tara Bland, CFRE, Executive Director,  
Carolina Caring Foundation*







# NOTABLE FOUNDATION MOMENTS



## Ella Bailey Donates to Brighter Days Camp as part of her High School project.

After the loss of her mother in 2022, Ella and her siblings depended greatly on their community as they grieved their loss.

Learning about the support that Carolina Caring's Brighter Days Camp provides to children navigating grief and loss, inspired Ella to raise money at her church for Brighter Days to "give back to the community that supported us through our loss," says Ella.



Sydney Farmer and Beth Schlosser, Development Coordinators of Carolina Caring Foundation, receive check from Ella Bailey.



## Gastonia East Rotary Day of Giving gives to Cardinal Kid's Memory-Making Initiative.

Carolina Caring Foundation is grateful to have received a generous donation from Gastonia East Rotary's Day of Giving! Gastonia East Rotary has given to our Cardinal Kids program every year since 2021! This year, their gift will support our memory-making initiative for our Cardinal Kids program!

Our memory-making initiative allows our Cardinal Kids to continue to make precious memories with their families as they face the challenges of serious illness.



Ben Dungan, Melody Sowers, and Marian Taylor receive check from Gastonia East Rotary.

## OUR GREATEST NEED

Imagine life without the essentials: food, heat or personal care items. Our Life Enrichment fund is responsible for taking care of those needs and fulfilling the final wishes of our patients in their most vulnerable moments so they can live as fully as possible.

Our Life Enrichment Fund allows us to take patients fishing, to concerts, and even throw a wedding. "What is the most important thing for you today?" Everyday, our nurses ask our patients that very question. Enriching the lives of you and your loved one is the most important thing to us at Carolina Caring. Consider giving to our Life Enrichment fund to make sure every need is met and every life enriched.



Scan here to give to our Life Enrichment Fund



## CAROLINA CARING RECEIVES A \$975,000 GRANT FROM THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

We're thrilled to share that Carolina Caring, through the work of Carolina Caring Foundation, has been awarded a \$975,000 grant from The Duke Endowment—one of the largest grants in our organization's history.

This transformational gift will fund a two-year palliative care pilot program developed in partnership with CaroNova, a nonprofit catalyst for health transformation across North and South Carolina. Together, we are launching a bold initiative to create a sustainable, accessible, and equitable model of palliative care for individuals facing serious illness.

Because of your faithful generosity, Carolina Caring Foundation has the infrastructure and support in place to respond to opportunities like this—helping expand life-changing care when and where it's needed most.

This pilot program will make Palliative care even more proactive, coordinated, and person-centered. It will also reach underserved populations and include caregiver education, advance care and estate planning, and spiritual support from chaplains, social workers, and clinical teams.

*This grant represents not just a financial investment, but a powerful affirmation of the mission we share with you: to honor every life with dignity, compassion, and expert care.*



## PAWS FOR A CAUSE OUR CURRENT PETS OF THE MONTH

A look at our Pets of the Month for the  
year 2025



Scout - Winner of Cutest Pet  
Contest 2024!

Pet Peace of Mind ensures that patients in hospice care don't have to worry about what will happen to their beloved pets.

Through this special program, Carolina Caring Foundation provides support for pet food, veterinary care, and even rehoming assistance—helping patients find peace knowing their furry companions are safe, loved, and cared for.

**For more information about Pet Peace of Mind, please contact Sydney Farmer at [sfarmer@carolinacaring.org](mailto:sfarmer@carolinacaring.org).**



Bubbles - February's  
Pet of the Month



Bentley - March's Pet of  
the Month



Poe - April's Pet  
of the Month



Barclay - May's  
Pet of the Month



# Board Member Spotlight: Maggie Gervais

## *Carolina Caring Volunteer & Foundation Board Member*

After retiring, Maggie Gervais knew she wanted to be part of a community of volunteers. Caregiving had always come naturally to her—whether she was comforting a friend through heartache or tending to someone in need, Maggie has always had a heart for helping others.

That calling became a reality after a conversation with Kelly Tate, who shared the mission and heart behind Carolina Caring. Inspired by the nonprofit's compassionate work and dedicated team, Maggie joined as a volunteer in November 2014, and her impact has been felt ever since.

Maggie's service is as heartfelt as it is varied—visiting patients, writing personal notecards, sitting vigil with those at the end of life, wrapping gifts for the Cardinal Kids program, and helping with events hosted by the Volunteer Department. One of the most meaningful aspects for her is sitting with patients who have no family present—holding their hand, offering a prayer, singing softly, and simply being there as they journey home.

In 2021, Maggie was nominated by her friend, neighbor, and fellow board member Diane Taylor to join the Carolina Caring Foundation Board. As a board member, Maggie brings not only passion and experience but a deep belief in the Foundation's mission to provide care regardless of financial ability.

*"It is with pride to know how much effort, energy and enthusiasm, that our Foundation staff takes in finding ways to care for our patients through fundraising," says Maggie. "Carolina Caring's mission keeps me raising my hand to be a volunteer; to assist in fund raising initiatives; support the Hospice Resale Shop with donations; and to serve the Board in support of that mission."*

We're honored to spotlight Maggie's incredible compassion, her steadfast commitment, and the grace she brings to every patient and family she serves.



Maggie Gervais with Tara Bland after receiving her 10-year volunteer pin.

## CONNECT WITH THE FOUNDATION



Learn more about the work of the Foundation and how to get involved by contacting Sydney Farmer, Development Coordinator of Donor Relations for Carolina Caring Foundation at [sfarmer@carolinacaring.org](mailto:sfarmer@carolinacaring.org) or call at 828.466.0466 ext. 2143

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