



THE COMPASS

The Art of Caregiving

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As we enter the holiday season, Carolina Caring and the Carolina Caring Foundation pause to honor the caregivers whose light and love illuminate the lives of those we serve.



CARE CONNECTION with Tara

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. To celebrate our dedicated staff and community caregivers, Carolina Caring Foundation hosted **The Art of Caregiving** at the SALT Block in Hickory on November 13th.

This community event honored caregivers and those they care for through storytelling, art, and shared experience. Supported by a Community Cultural Grant from **Arts Culture Catawba** in collaboration with the **Hickory Museum of Art**, and a generous gift from the **Estate of James and Louise Brannock**, the evening reminded us that caregiving is not only a responsibility, it is a work of heart.

The event featured a resource fair, showcase of caregiving-inspired art, and a screening of the PBS documentary *Caregiving*, followed by a panel discussion. Each element reflected the profound truth that caregiving shapes lives and strengthens communities. It is through these moments of connection that we find healing, understanding, and hope.

One story that embodies this truth is that of Louise Brannock, whose life was a testament to compassion and courage (**see page 4**). Louise's experience inspired *The Art of Caregiving*, and her legacy continues through the Carolina Caring Foundation Circle of Life Society, which allows donors to make planned gifts that sustain Carolina Caring's mission for generations to come. Louise's gift ensures that others will receive the same comfort and care she experienced, a lasting reflection of her love and values.

When you give to Carolina Caring Foundation, you help ensure that compassionate care reaches every family who needs it. Through your generosity, we can continue to celebrate the art of caregiving and the beauty found in every act of care.

Warmest Regards,

Tara Bland, CFRE
Executive Director
Carolina Caring Foundation



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Foundation



Please consider an end-of-year gift to our foundation:
CarolinaCaring.org/give/

Learn more about leaving your legacy:
CarolinaCaringLegacy.org/legacy

To view the panel discussion from *The Art of Caregiving*:
[Art of Caregiving Panel Discussion Recording](#)

THE HOSPICE RESALE SHOP MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSTS NOVEMBER'S FIRST FRIDAY MORNING BREW

Carolina Caring Foundation was honored to host **The Chamber of Catawba County's First Friday Morning Brew** for the month of November. The event took place at The Hospice Resale Shop's Mountain View location, where we were delighted to welcome so many community friends and partners for a morning of connection and collaboration.

Guests enjoyed fresh-brewed coffee from **Campground Coffee** and delicious bagels from **North Hickory Market**, the perfect way to start a crisp fall morning while engaging in meaningful "netgiving."

Throughout the morning, attendees learned more about the work of Carolina Caring Foundation and The Hospice Resale Shop, as well as opportunities to partner in our shared goal of providing compassionate care and comfort to individuals and families across our region.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event such a success. Your participation and support embody the true spirit of "netgiving," bringing people together in generosity, purpose, and care for one another.



CAROLINA CARING FOUNDATION HELPS MAKE DEBORAH'S DREAM COME TRUE

For as long as she can remember, Deborah has held a deep affection for giraffes, filling her home with artwork, blankets, and mementos of Africa's tallest wonder. Yet despite her lifelong fascination, she had never seen one in person.

Thanks to her Carolina Caring hospice care team and Carolina Caring Foundation, Deborah and her family traveled to the North Carolina Zoo for a once-in-a-lifetime moment: feeding a giraffe face-to-face. It was a joyful memory that her family will carry with them forever.

This experience was made possible through the **Life Enrichment Fund**, supported by donors like you, which creates meaningful moments for Carolina Caring patients and their families.

To read the full story and watch the Queen City News feature, visit:
<https://www.carolinacaring.org/news/carolina-caring-foundation-helps-hospice-patient-fulfill-dream-at-north-carolina-zoo/>



THE ART OF CAREGIVING

Honoring Those Who Care: Louise's Story

Grief touches every life, but love is what carries us through. Few people embodied that truth more deeply than Louise Brannock (pictured below).

Throughout her life, Louise cared for those she loved with strength and devotion. She walked beside her daughter, Amy, through a decade-long battle with cancer. She supported her husband, Jim, through the end of his life, and she held close friends and family members as they faced their own times of loss. Through it all, Louise showed what her son-in-law, Roger, calls “beautiful bravery.” Her life was a testament to the enduring power of compassion, to the art of caregiving itself.

When her own grief grew heavy, Carolina Caring was there to walk beside her, offering the same comfort and care she had so freely given to others. **Louise turned to Carolina Caring's grief support services** to find healing, connection, and understanding. She attended support groups where she could share her story and listen to others who had experienced similar loss. Over time, within the Carolina Caring community, she developed relationships that reminded her she wasn't alone, and that healing could be found in shared compassion.

Our counselors provided a safe space for Louise to speak openly about her grief, her memories, and her faith.

Louise's story became part of the inspiration for **The Art of Caregiving**, a special community event in Hickory created to honor caregivers and those they care for. Her life reminds us that caregiving is more than a role; it's a reflection of love in its purest form.

The event, made possible through generous community support, celebrated that truth through storytelling, art, and shared experience. It served as a reminder that caregiving is not only an act of service, but a work of heart, a legacy that continues long after the care itself has ended.

Through stories like Louise's, Carolina Caring Foundation continues to honor those who bring light and love to every life they touch. Her life reminds us that even in grief, there is beauty. And in every act of care, there is art.



Support the expansion of our Community Grief Program so every caregiver can receive the support they deserve.

Visit CarolinaCaring.org/caring-heals



NOTABLE FOUNDATION MOMENTS



32nd Annual Bronson Run Continues to Support Carolina Caring

We're deeply grateful to the Hickory Riding Club for their generous **\$12,000** donation to the Carolina Caring Foundation, raised through their 32nd Annual Bronson Run. Each year, the Club donates proceeds from the event to support the compassionate care Carolina Caring provides throughout our community.

Over the years, these dedicated riders have contributed more than **\$150,000** in support of our mission.



CaroMont Health Foundation Supports Carolina Caring Foundation

We were honored to receive a **\$20,000** donation from the **CaroMont Health Foundation** in support of Carolina Caring's Bamboo Ping Program for Gaston County.

This generous gift helps strengthen care coordination and communication among providers, ensuring that Carolina Caring patients and families receive seamless, compassionate support throughout every stage of their journey.



Paws for a Cause: Cutest Pet Competition Receives Record-Breaking Results

Congratulations to **Lavender**, the winner of this year's Paws for a Cause: Cutest Pet Competition in support of our Pet Peace of Mind program!

Thanks to record-breaking participation from our community, we raised **over \$1,000** to help Carolina Caring patients keep their beloved pets cared for and by their side when they need them most.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who joined in the fun and supported this meaningful cause!



SUPPORTING OUR CARDINAL KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN EVERY SEASON

Our recent **Cardinal Kids Fall Festival**, hosted by Williamson's Chapel United Methodist Church in Mooresville, was a joyful day filled with fun, fellowship, and meaningful moments for our Cardinal Kids and their families.

We are deeply grateful to **Williamson's Chapel UMC** for welcoming us so generously and to the many community partners who helped create a day full of engaging activities, games, and opportunities for families to connect.

This special gathering reminded us of the strength and warmth of our community, when we come together in support and compassion, we create lasting memories for the families we are honored to serve.



The Carolina Caring Foundation was honored to participate in the annual **Art Show at Rock Barn** Country Club & Spa in Conover, where we connected with guests and shared the many ways we're supporting our Cardinal Kids and their families this season. Our table featured Caring Cardinal weighted plushies, Cardinal Cards, and cozy "Helping Hats" generously donated by Foundation Board Member Linda DiCianni.

Proceeds from these items benefit **Theo's Gift**, a special fund established in memory of Theo Mello. Through this fund, we're able to grant wishes and create meaningful experiences for Cardinal Kids, bringing comfort, joy, and connection to families during some of their most challenging moments.

Carolina Caring Foundation was grateful to participate in **Merry Market** at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Hickory, continuing our partnership with St. Stephen's Lutheran School. We enjoyed sharing our Caring Cardinals, Cardinal Cards, and cozy Helping Hats with the community, with proceeds supporting Cardinal Kids through **Theo's Gift**.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to support local vendors and help bring joy to the children and families we serve. Your kindness made the day even more meaningful.

Want to purchase a gift that gives back?
Visit CarolinaCaring.org/cardinal-kids-holidays to purchase Cardinal Cards and Caring Cardinals!



Light Up a Life

Light Up a Life is a time of reflection and remembrance, honoring the loved ones who have passed on. Each light represents the life of someone who is no longer with us.

For the second year in a row, we will offer a space for attendees to step out of their cars and gather on our campus to reflect together. Our bereavement counselors will be present for anyone who wishes to speak with them, and refreshments and light snacks will be available.

Join us as we “Scatter Joy” one light at a time.

For more information about our events, please contact Beth Schlosser at bschlosser@carolinacaring.org

Join us at our Robinson Road Campus in Newton for Light Up a Life!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Giving Tuesday

December 2

This Giving Tuesday, we invite you to help expand our Community Grief Program.

Your gift directly enhances counseling services, outreach, and compassionate care. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected community of healing.

Follow us on social media to learn more about how you can participate in Giving Tuesday.

Year-end Giving

A year-end gift to the Carolina Caring Foundation makes a meaningful impact on the care we provide every day.

Give now at CarolinaCaring.org/give

Light Up a Life

December 9 ♦ Carolina Caring, Newton Campus

Join us for Light Up a Life, a meaningful time of remembrance honoring those we’ve lost.

Learn more at CarolinaCaring.org/lights

Stay Up to Date: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @carolinacaringfoundation