



Your Hometown

Volume 36

“Our Family Caring For Yours”

Summer 2024

Richmond County Hospice, Hospice Haven & Anson Community Hospice



Meet Our Hospice Family

HOSPICE AIDES

Tammy Bull, NA II, CHPNA
Hospice Aide Coordinator
Teresa Graham, NA II
Esmeralda Rodriguez, NA I
Annalisa Thompson, NA I
Sybil Oxendine, NA I
Erica Armstrong, NA I
Regina Smith, NA I
Myrtle Paul, NA I
Autumn King, NA I
Megan Furr, NA I

PATIENT CARE TECHNICIANS

Audrey Martin, NA I
Kay Brewington, NA I
Bernice Thompson, NA I
Angela McDonald, NA I
Geraldine Leak, NA I
Ellen Schaefer, NA II

HEMOCARE PRIMARY NURSES

Lisa Wood, RN, CHPN
Home Care Team Coordinator
Hayley Plyler, RN, BSN
Lori Jenkins, RN
Christine Strickler, RN
Miranda Watson, RN
Natalie Barbour, BSW, RN, BSN
Amanda Leviner, RN

INPATIENT NURSES

Karen Geiger, RN, MSN, CHPN
Teresa Balzer, RN, BSN, CHPN
Kathleen Camp, RN, CHPN
Barbara Potter, RN
Corinne Swink, RN
Shonda Crump, LPN
Teri McDonald, LPN

ON CALL NURSES

Cindy Robinson, RN
Tammy Leviner, LPN
Fretia Flinchum, LPN

PRN NURSES

Bonnie Entwistle, RN, BSN
Patricia Wheeler, RN
Seth Dixon, RN
Tammy Owen, RN

COMPLIANCE & OUTREACH

Heather Monroe, RN
Compliance Coordinator
Lisa Luckey
Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Linda Russell, AA
Volunteer & Outreach Assistant

FAMILY SERVICES

Mary Martha Warnock, BSW
Social Worker
Shannon Huff, BA, Social Worker
Marla Barbee, BA, Social Worker
Nia Jones, BSW
Bereavement Social Worker
Breanna Allen, MSW
Bereavement Clinical Social Worker
Stephanie Thornton, BA
Inpatient Care Coordinator/Social Worker
Paula Daigle, BA/CPE, Chaplain
Kenneth Lyrerly, MDIV. Chaplain

MEDICAL STAFF

Susan McDonald, FNP
Julie Vercheck, MD
Van Slaughter, MD

SUPPORT STAFF

Lisa O'Neal, AA, Clinical Office Coordinator
Jane Burnette, Billing/Account Specialist
Kelly Williams, Receptionist/Secretary
Nic Wilkes, Creativity Coordinator
Buddy Edwards, Maintenance Technician
Rosa English-PRN Sitter/Housekeeper
Vladimir Tushin, Housekeeping
Lynn Clewis, Stenographer

LEADERSHIP

Kristina Leyden, MSW, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer
Steven Strobel, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Julie Woody, RN, CHPN
Director of Public Relations
Marvin Taylor, BS
Director of Finances
Arturo De Aguilar, MA, MDIV.
Director of Human Resources
Jessica Mims, BSW, CHP-SW
Director of Family Services
Jenny Mabe, RN, CHPN
Director of Nursing (Home Care)
Hollie Smith, RN, CHPN
Director of Inpatient Care

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Steve Crews, Chairman
Cleve Baxley, Vice Chairman
Tammy Benson, Secretary
Neal Watkins, Treasurer

Linda Arrington
Ken Bostick
Chuck Cobb
Mary Kate Lambeth
Mechelle Preslar
Kim Roberts
Jonathon Lewis
Audrey Moore
Jason Gainey

All of our volunteers who are
part of our Richmond County
Hospice Family.
Their gift of time and dedication
makes our organization the best
“Home Town Hospice” around!

April is recognized as National Volunteer Month and Richmond County Hospice is blessed with some of the best volunteers there are!

On Thursday, April 18th, at Outreach for Jesus Church we held our annual volunteer appreciation banquet with the theme of "Nacho Average Volunteers". As you entered the banquet area it was as though you had entered a fiesta on the streets of Mexico. Volunteers and their guests were treated to nacho chips with all the trimmings as an appetizer and then had steak, chicken, or beef tacos with rice and beans as the main meal all prepared by Los Mariachis along with desserts from Michelle Coggins and Delicias Monce. The meal was blessed by Bishop Marvin Taylor and the program for the evening included entertainment by Arturo DeAguilar and Version 3, with guest speakers Sheila Ray with Therapeutic Alternatives and James Mims, Richmond County Hospice Volunteer.

Volunteers giving more than 40 hours of their time in 2023 were recognized for their service and included:

- *Nancy Boling
- *Ken Lyerly
- *Emily Wescott
- *Litzy Garcia
- *Linda Compton
- *Jennifer Hurd
- *Myra Leak
- *Larry Florence
- *Janet Donick
- *Sheila Gilmore
- *Nyla Wilkes
- *Linda Hatcher



Other individual volunteer of the year awards were presented to the following:

- *Teen Volunteer of the Year- Trenton Woody
- *Rookie Volunteer of the Year- Adrianna Aguirre
- *Non-Clinical Volunteer of the Year- Emily Wescott
- *Patient Care Volunteer of the Year- Nancy Boling
- *Special Events Volunteer of the Year- James Mims
- *Bereavement Volunteer of the Year- Myra Leak
- *Haven Volunteer of the Year- Ken Lyerly
- *Professional Volunteer of the Year- Holly Howe
- *Board Member Volunteer of the Year- Linda Arrington
- *Church Volunteer of the Year- Outreach for Jesus
- *Business Volunteer of the Year- Sandhills Best Care
- *Our 2024 Mary Heavner Volunteer of the Year- Janet Donick



Thank you to each of the following who helped to make this night a special event to show our appreciation to our volunteers:

- *Outreach for Jesus for always going above and beyond to make our staff and our volunteers feel welcome!
 - *Our guest speakers Sheila Ray and James Mims for sharing encouraging words with our volunteers.
 - *Arturo DeAguilar and Version 3 for providing their musical and comical entertainment.
 - *Lisa Luckey and the entire Volunteer Banquet Planning Committee for their hard work to make the evening such a special time for our volunteers.
 - *And of course, a great big "Gracias" to all of our amazing volunteers for all that they do for our patients, their families, and our staff. You guys are far from average and we couldn't provide the services we do without you!
- If you are interested in giving your time, talents, or treasures to Richmond County Hospice as a Volunteer, please contact Lisa Luckey, Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator at 910-997-4464.







LIGHT OF LIFE MEMORIAL

On May 9th, 2024, Richmond County Hospice hosted our bi-annual Light of Life Memorial service. Held at Philadelphia United Methodist Church, this event was a touching tribute to loved ones lost and a beautiful reminder of the power of community. This memorial service provides a dedicated space for family members, friends, and our hospice team to come together and share in the collective grief and cherished memories of those who have passed. We would especially want to thank Linda Hatcher, the choir, and congregation of Philadelphia United Methodist Church for helping to make this evening one to remember.



FOREVER TREE LIGHTING MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Richmond County Hospice, Inc.
invites the communities of Richmond and Anson Counties
to share in the beauty of the holiday
while celebrating the memory of their loved ones.*



Our Forever Tree lightings give families the opportunity to remember or to honor a loved one by making a \$10 donation for a Forever Tree ornament. A beautiful, personalized ornament will be designated for the loved one on the Forever Tree.

Richmond County Hospice will host the **Richmond County Forever Tree** service on **Tuesday, December 10th at 6pm** on the office's front lawn at 1119 U.S. Hwy #1, Rockingham, NC.

Anson Community Hospice, our agency located in Anson Co., will sponsor the Anson County Forever Tree lighting on **Tuesday, December 3rd at 6pm**. Leavitt Funeral Home will host the special service in their chapel located at 2036 Morven Rd., Wadesboro.

The Forever Tree Lightings are open to members of the community. Please join us during the holiday season in honoring and remembering our beloved family members and friends.



**Justin
McDonald and
Brandi Miller**



**JC and Karen
Everett**



**Heather Taylor
and
Chloe Taylor**



Bayden & Katherine

**Katherine
and Bayden
Bendell**



**Dr. Bill Cleveland
And
Nicole Blake**



**Wayne Quinn
And Morgan
Quinn**



**Brandy Wheeler
And
Jessica Wheeler
White**

Dancing with the Stars - Dancing Duos

We have nine dancing duos committed to dancing in our Taste of the Sandhills Showcasing Dancing with the Stars fundraiser this year. Seven of them are pictured here, not pictured are Meredith Standridge and Allie Coen and Rahmeishia McKiver and Ty Brewington.

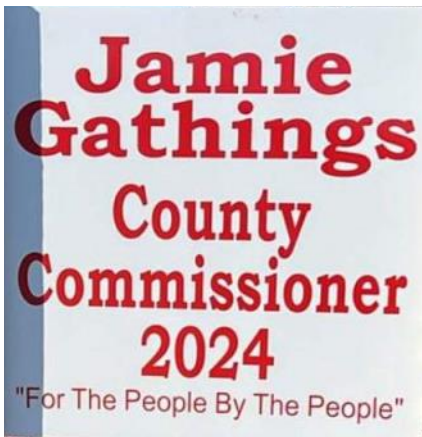
We appreciate their commitment to this event and can't wait to see all of them dance Saturday, September 21st.

**Thank you to
Mabry's- our
Taste of the
Sandhills
Showcasing
Dancing with the
Stars Event
Sponsor!**



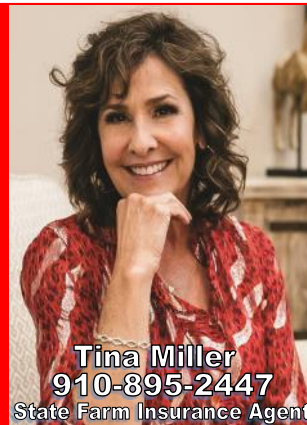
**Thank you Superior Cranes, Inc. for sponsoring
our Opening Number!**

**Thank you to the Hilb
Group, the Bar Sponsor
for our fundraiser!**



**We appreciate Jamie
Gathings, our event
Program Sponsor!**

**Here to
help life
go right.**



Tina Miller
910-895-2447
State Farm Insurance Agent

LIC:NC-35783



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1117 Rockingham Rd., Rockingham, NC 28379

**Thank you Tina Miller,
State Farm Insurance
Agent for being the
Trophy Sponsor for our
fundraiser!**

**Scan the QR code to purchase
your tickets for our fundraiser:**

**Mabry's Drug & Homecare
presents
RCH's TOS Showcasing Dancing
with the Stars**



Thank you to our Table Sponsors for our Taste of the Sandhills Showcasing Dancing with the Stars Fundraiser!



The Moree Family



FLEET MANAGEMENT



The Ross Family



TOWTIME

910.331.0357
Rockingham, NC

JTA
Jason's Tire & Auto

We appreciate our General Sponsors for our Taste of the Sandhills Showcasing Dancing with the Stars Event!



KanTime
 How better happens.

Vulcan
 Materials Company

TRINITY
 MANUFACTURING, INC.

Smithfield
 Hog Production Division

DRx Pharmacy



**GUIDING
 YOU HOME
 SINCE 1906**
 COLDWELL BANKER



HARRINGTON
 Funeral Home and Crematory
Family Owned and Operated



Hospice Haven is our Inpatient Facility for our acutely ill patients. It also serves as a place for our patients to come so that their caregiver(s) can receive a little time to themselves. Half of our patients come to get treatment, or a Respite stay, and then they return home. The other half come here to transition on to their Heavenly home. Care during these times is greatly dependent on our nurses and aides. Regardless of the outcome, it is often difficult for patients and families to accept the need for the Haven. Once here, their anxiety melts away due to the compassionate care and open arms that they receive from our staff. At Hospice Haven, we have 4 full time RNs (including the Director of Inpatient care), 2 full time LPNs, 2 part time RN's, and 2 PRN RNs. A RN is always on duty around the clock. They manage our patients' care while at the Haven.

Additionally, we have 6 full time and 1 PRN NA's. Their title at the Haven is Patient Care Technician (PCT). From daily bathing to providing a home cooked meal to our patients, our PCTs are on top of it. Our nurses and aides provide exceptional care for our patients and their families. They pride themselves in maintaining and managing a patient's comfort as well as easing the family's worry. They provide clinical care as well as being a listening ear or a shoulder to lean on. They like to take the extra steps to "wow" all our guests. It takes a lot of compassion and understanding to work in this field. It has been very demanding and stressful the past few years. All of the nurses and aides across our entire company encompass these qualities.

We have the best team anyone could ask for! Not only do we show appreciation for our nurses and aides during their National appreciation weeks, Nurse's May 6-12, 2024 and Aide's June 13-19, 2024, but year round with special thanks in November for Hospice month.

Thanks to all of our nurses and aides for functioning as a team to provide compassionate care and diligent work!!!



Hospice Care involves a team approach. Our nurses and Hospice Aides play a vital role in providing care for our patients and families. Dignity, respect, comfort, and quality are the foundations of our mission here at Richmond County Hospice.

Hospice nurses and aides provide care not only for the patient, but also for the family, addressing physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs during the most vulnerable point in their lives. Our nurses and aides provide routine, scheduled visits each week, which usually last an hour or more. They are also available to make unscheduled visits as needed to manage symptoms or provide additional support.

The work of a Hospice nurse or Hospice Aide varies from day to day, depending on the needs of the patient and family. In addition to their routine medical tasks, they are also educators, providing ongoing care instructions throughout the patient's course of care. They are counselors and mediators between patients and families. They meet spiritual needs by praying with the patient and family if they are asked to. They provide companionship by reading to patients or just listening as the patient tells stories of his or her life.

Caring for patients at the end of life can be unpredictable and exhausting for the patients and caregivers. It is often a relief to the patient and family to have someone who can anticipate their needs and provide comfort. A visit by the nurse or Hospice Aide may be the highlight of the day for a patient who is no longer able to get out of bed, or for the caregiver who has not left the house or seen anyone else for several days.

Richmond County Hospice is proud to acknowledge that our nurses and aides provide compassionate, quality, end of life care to our patients and families. We are so thankful for our dedicated nurses and aides and appreciate the important work they do year round, not just during their national appreciation weeks!



The Importance and Benefits of Volunteering

Why is volunteering so important?

Volunteering is important because it helps make a difference through individual acts and it connects you to people that need your support. Volunteering for nonprofit organizations, fundraising events, or community projects can have additional benefits beyond the immediate chance to support others. Opportunities to volunteer are available to accommodate many interests. Here are some ways to volunteer your time:

Office Support: As a nonprofit organization, we welcome ways for motivated and passionate volunteers to get involved with our organization and help us in fulfilling our mission. While many of the volunteer opportunities we offer support our programs, missions, various distributions, and community outreach opportunities, we are frequently looking for assistance with our internal office operations.

Patient Care: A volunteer may assist by spending time with patients, families, and staff in enhancing patient experience, education, emotional and spiritual support, dissemination of knowledge, good health of the community, and an environment conducive to equity, creativity, career development, and personal growth.”

Bereavement: A bereavement volunteer provides emotional and practical support to patients and families who are grieving. Their responsibilities may include: Utilizing empathetic listening skills, Supporting patient families via phone, cards; Assisting with mailings and filing documents; Providing companionship and friendly visiting; Light homemaking chores; Attending team meetings and educational offerings.

Special Events: Event volunteer roles and responsibilities can include the following tasks: Assist in planning and executing events or projects; Support staff and other volunteers when necessary; Complete tasks assigned by the supervisor; Maintain a positive and respectful attitude towards staff, other volunteers, and attendees; Adhere to the organization’s rules and policies; Participate in volunteer training and meetings; Set up and break down event spaces. Direct attendees and provide information.

Fundraisers: Whether weeding the facility’s flowerbeds, giving tours of your establishment, or sharing your donation page on social media, volunteers are essential to your nonprofit’s success. The dedication and skills they bring to the table make them valuable assets, especially regarding your fundraising efforts.

The benefits of volunteering

Volunteering to assist others can prove beneficial in surprising ways. Although most people volunteer to contribute to the social well-being of people other than themselves, the act of volunteering can pay off for the volunteer as well. Here are some ways that acts of volunteering are beneficial and reasons why volunteering is important socially, emotionally, and professionally.

- * Giving back to the community
- * Gain experience and promotes personal growth
- * Doing something good for others
- * Provides a sense of pride and identity
- * Increases self-confidence
- * Demonstrates your commitment
- * Shows a willingness to work for the betterment of others.
- * You can make a difference in someone's life





HOSPICE

HONORS 2024



(Hospice Honors Press Release)

ROCKINGHAM — Richmond County Hospice, Inc. has been named a 2024 Hospice CAHPS Honors Award recipient by HEALTHCAREfirst, a leading provider of CAHPS and bereavement survey programs for home health and hospice agencies.

This prestigious annual review recognizes agencies that continuously go above and beyond in providing high-quality care for patients and compassionate caregiver experiences. It acknowledges the highest performing agencies by analyzing the performance of the Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey satisfaction and quality measures.

To be considered for this award, the hospice agency must have scored above the HEALTHCAREfirst National Performance Score on the Hospice CAHPS Willingness to Recommend question. If that criteria is met, performance is evaluated utilizing a set of 23 additional quality indicator measures. These scores are then compared on a question-by-question basis to a national performance score calculated from all partnering hospices contained in HEALTHCAREfirst's Hospice CAHPS database.

“We began our Annual Hospice Honors Award program more than ten years ago as a way to highlight those agencies that are truly leading the way in providing and demonstrating quality patient care,” said Jeremy Crow, head of RCM and CAHPS Survey, Home Health and Hospice.

“We congratulate Richmond County Hospice, Inc. on this recognition and are so proud and honored that they have chosen to partner with us in helping drive success for their agency.”

Richmond County Hospice, Kristina Leyden, CEO credits every single employee, volunteer and the Board of Directors.

She said, “The strength of our team brings out the very best in our hospice care. Everyone on our team believes they are here to fulfill the mission of end-of-life compassionate care. And they all have the same goal to make the care extraordinary by providing respect, comfort, dignity, and support to our patients and their families.”

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Get To Know Our Team

*Mrs. Geraldine Leak, CNA I/Patient Care Technician
is the recipient of the
Employee Spotlight for the Month of June 2024!*

Mrs. Geraldine Leak began working with Richmond County Hospice on January 2, 2024 and has accomplished six months serving as CNA I/Patient Care Technician/Haven Inpatient Unit.

What drew you to Richmond County Hospice originally and what have you gained from working here? Jesus drew me to Richmond County Hospice. I have gained a great group of co-workers and patients.



What are three words to describe Richmond County Hospice? Peaceful, Enlighten and a Lot of Love here.

If you could pick one theme for Richmond County Hospice to turn into a book about the company, what would it be? A Place to Rest

Do you have a favorite saying or quote? “What kind of mess is this, LOL!”

What is the name of your favorite restaurant and why? Captain George, because of the seafood platters.

What are three words that best describe who you are? Trustworthy, Dependable, and Faithful.

Complete the sentence, “I am my happiest when...,” I have done my best in whatever it may be.

Where is the best place you have traveled to and why? Atlanta (ATL), because my step-sister was there.

When was the last time you laughed so hard you cried? When I was at the Wet and Wild Park and fell in 3ft of water and thought I was drowning!

What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work? Church, family, reading and relaxing.

Thank you, Mrs. Geraldine, for all of your hard work and dedication to Richmond County Hospice. We truly appreciate your loving and caring spirit and we are so blessed to have you on our Team!!