



Your Hometown

Volume 34

“Our Family Caring For Yours”

WINTER 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
Latonia Williams, NA I
Regina Smith, NA I
Myrtle Paul, NA I
Autumn King, NA I
Bre'Shauna Marshall, NA I

PATIENT CARE TECHNICIANS

Audrey Martin, NA I
Kay Brewington, NA I
Bernice Thompson, NA I
Angela McDonald, NA I
Jaikyla Dumas, NA I
Geraldine Leak, NA I

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 Blair Leviner, RN

INPATIENT NURSES

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

PRN HOSPICE AIDES

Megan Hope Furr, CNA I

ON CALL NURSES

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

PRN NURSES

Bonnie Entwistle, RN, BSN
Patricia Wheeler, RN
Seth Dixon, 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 C. Barbee, BA, Social Worker
Sandy Black, BSW
Bereavement Coordinator
Nia Jones, BSW
Bereavement Social Worker
Breanna Bostick, BSW
Bereavement Clinical Social Worker
Stephanie Thornton, BA
Inpatient Care Coordinator/Social Worker
Christopher Thornton, CPC/Chaplain
Kenneth Lyrly, MDIV. Chaplain
Paula Daigle, PRN 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

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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!



Richmond County Hospice Forever Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Richmond County Forever Tree Lighting service was held on the front lawn of the Richmond County Hospice's administrative office building on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 6pm. The event began with the families placing their "In Honor" and "In Memory" ornaments onto the beautiful Forever Tree which served as the centerpiece of the service. Jessica Mims led the congregation in singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" then she recited the poem "One Little Candle" after Kristina Leyden, CEO of Richmond County Hospice, welcomed the guests. Hollie Smith, Director of In-Patient Care and Julie Woody, Director of Public Relations, recognized the many Forever Tree donations by reading the name of each person being remembered and Kristina Leyden recognized the persons being honored. Following the lighting of the Forever Tree, Hannah Taylor sang a beautiful solo, "The Sweetest Gift." Chris Thornton, hospice chaplain, closed the service with prayer. Guests then enjoyed a time of fellowship which included hors d'oeuvres catered by Hidden Treasures as they gathered inside of the warm building.

Donations from the Forever tree services help to support the Bereavement Services of Richmond County Hospice. A loved one being remembered does not have to have been a hospice patient and does not have to have died during the last year. All donations are welcomed. To show appreciation for a friend or caregiver, "In Honor" donations are also appreciated. We thank our community for being so supportive of Richmond County Hospice.









Anson Community Hospice Forever Tree Lighting Ceremony

Leavitt Funeral Home graciously hosted our annual Anson County Forever Tree Lighting on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6pm. The service was opened with Mrs. Joyce Burr, pianist, playing the prelude. Jessica Mims, Director of Family Services, greeted the guests with a welcome and an opening prayer. Special music was provided by four members of the Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble who sang two beautiful Christmas songs.

The evening's devotion was shared by Pastor Teddy Lawson of Lilesville Baptist Church. Following Kristina Leyden, CEO of Richmond County Hospice, reciting the poem, "One Little Candle," family members placed the ornaments of the Forever Tree. Nia Jones, Bereavement Social Worker and Jessica Mims, Director of Family Services, then individually recognized the loved ones honored or remembered by the families' Forever Tree donations. Mrs. Mims led the guests in singing "Joy To The World" after the lighting of the Forever Tree.

Following the service, guests enjoyed fellowship and hors d'oeuvres catered by Ansonia Soup Company. Staff of Anson Community Hospice and Richmond County Hospice want to thank Ken Caulder and the staff of Leavitt Funeral Home for kindly hosting the Anson County Forever Tree Lighting.







Light of Life Memorial Celebration

On Thursday, November 9, 2023, Richmond County Hospice hosted our bi-annual Light of Life Memorial Celebration at First Presbyterian Church in Rockingham.

The evening was a time of reflection for patients' families and the hospice staff who were given the opportunity to remember and to honor beloved patients who had died within the last 6 months. To provide comfort and support to those in attendance, Pastor Ron Schermerhorn shared words of encouragement and scripture. Prelude performed by Linda Hatcher on piano and Gene Player along with Alyse Melvin of the group, the Remnant sang two beautiful songs for the events special music.

Richmond County Hospice would like to thank: Marvin Taylor III and Kinnley Micklem for being the skilled sound crew, Buddy Edwards for constructing a new votive stand, and James Mims for his photography talents. Richmond County Hospice greatly appreciates Pastor Schermerhorn and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for graciously hosting the memorable service.





Candy Cavalcade – Trunk or Treat 2023

What an AMAZING evening we had on October 26th! Thanks to everyone who put up with unseasonably HOT temperatures (especially those adults in costumes) to create a fun atmosphere for the children of Richmond County! We posted on Facebook, after the event, a brief apology for having to close things a little early, but by our best estimates we had around 500 children come through and everyone was running out/ran out of candy. This was after pretty much each “trunk” went to get more treats at least once during the evening. We understand that some of them made 2 candy runs during the event and that the Sheriff’s Department came with 300 bags made up to give out, went back and got 150 more bags and 2 additional big bags of candy and still was out of candy by the end of the night. Several other groups reported similar circumstances. So, thank you Richmond County for making this event such a success! Everyone that we talked to with trunks this year said they couldn’t wait until next year and they would be back with even more candy!! We really thank each one of them who participated and set up trunks. If you have a chance, please let them know that you appreciate them giving back to our community as well. They were all amazing, and the event would not have been what it was without them. Those with trunks were: Danielle Garth; Puckered Up Lemonade/Xtreme Rentals; Carolina Hearts Home Care; Watson-King Funeral Homes; Richmond County Aging Services/Ellerbe and East Rockingham Senior Centers; Daymark; NC Forestry Service; LPZ Flooring LLC; Ashley’s Cleaning Solutions LLC; Richmond County Sheriff’s Office - N.C.; Errica Santiago; Cleve Baxley; Dr. Kennedy Stewart Henry; Kimberly Roberts, Register of Deeds ;First Baptist Church of Rockingham; Dieffenbach GM Superstore; Towtime LLC; Dog Bites; Bostick Towing; Sav & Nic Events with Captain Jack; Trish Black; Breanna Bostick; Nia Jones; Corinne Swink; and Fretia Flinchum- The Grinch. Everyone who came through voted for their favorite trunk and all of the trunks were too cute, but there could only be one winner and that was Corinne Swink with her Little Mermaid trunk complete with Ursula and King Triton.

Coming in second place was Richmond County Aging Service- Ellerbe and East Rockingham Senior Centers with their “Rounding up the Dinosaurs” trunk, and third place was the Richmond County Sheriff’s Department with their “Jail Cell”. A special thank you to our Sanderson Sisters- Mia Franco, Kinnley Micklem, and Miranda Watson; Captain Jack- Dylan Gomiller, and The Grinch- Fretia Flinchum. We appreciate you guys enduring the heat in those costumes. Thank you DogBites and Puckered up Lemonade for not only handing out candy but selling hotdogs and lemonade for those in attendance to enjoy. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who worked hard to set up, run, and clean up from this event. You all ROCKED!! Go ahead now and mark your calendars for next year’s event- Thursday October 24th, 2024, we hope to see you all again then!









"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – John F. Kennedy

On Friday, November 3rd, Richmond County Hospice, Inc. tried to live by our words of appreciation as we hosted our 12th Annual Salute to Veterans event. What started out as a bitter cold morning turned into beautiful temps and sunshine by the time of our event and thankfully with very little wind. Those in attendance were welcomed by Lisa O'Neal, Clinical Office Coordinator and event Co-chair. Program highlights included:

- Posting of Colors by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard.
- National Anthem by 82nd Airborne Brass Quintet
- Invocation by Chris Thornton, Richmond County Hospice Chaplain
- Sponsor Recognition by Jessica Mims, Director of Family Services and Event Co-chair
- "Ragged Old Flag" Recitation by John Taylor
- Speaker Introduction by Kristina Leyden, CEO
- Guest Speaker CPT Robert "Scott" Blough (Retired)
- Patriotic Selections/Service Medley 82nd Airborne Brass Quintet
- K9 Demonstration by Richmond County Sheriff's Office
- Vietnam Memorial Tribute- AMVETS Post 316 and Nadine Moss
- 21-gun salute/TAPs by Richmond County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard
- 21-gun salute/TAPs by Richmond County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard and 82nd Airborne Brass Quintet Bugler
- Closing prayer by Rev. Charlie Tyler, Richmond County Sheriff's Office Chaplain
- Catered lunch from Seaboard Station Restaurant and sponsored by Watson King Funeral Homes & Richmond County Memorial Park

This event was made possible by Richmond County Hospice and the following generous sponsors:

- Watson-King Funeral Homes and Richmond County Memorial Park – meal sponsor
- Great Falls Wealth Management
- Mabry's Drug and Home Care
- Armando's Mexican Grill
- Epsilon, Inc.
- REV Federal Credit Union
- Wise Hospice Options
- Cascades Industries
- Everything Pines Partners- Richmond County Real Estate

In addition to those that participated in the program, the following in-kind sponsors also provided support:

- 82nd Airborne Military Band
- Jamie & Missi Boone
- Billy Dunn
- NC Forestry Service
- Richmond County Aging Services
- Richmond County Partnership for Children
- Richmond Senior High School JROTC Cadets
- The Salty Bean Coffee Co.
- Swift Transportation
- John Taylor
- VFW Post 4203 Auxiliary
- AMVETS Post 316 and Nadine Moss
- CPT Robert "Scott" Blough (Retired)
- James Mims Photography
- Outreach for Jesus
- Richmond County Memorial Park
- Richmond County Sheriff's Office
- Commissioner Robin Roberts
- Schneider "Ride of Pride"
- Terry Jordan
- Marvin Taylor

Additionally, we appreciate all the hard work from our committee who made this event possible.

Richmond County Hospice staff and volunteers are honored to host this special day of recognition for our Veterans, and we are grateful for the support from our sponsors to make this day possible each year!

As Veteran's Day approaches, in the words of Dwight D. Eisenhower "Let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom."









Mistletoe Gallery 2023

“Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone.” – Charles M. Schulz

We are thankful that so many shared “Christmas” with Richmond County Hospice by doing all of the little extras for us during our Mistletoe Gallery. From the donors and sponsors, to those who came out to shop, to our team who worked LONG hours to pull it all together- this event would not be possible without each one of you. THANK YOU!!!

The campus looked amazing, the soups and baked goods were delicious, hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles on the faces of those who came out to take part in the festivities was wonderful!

Our hope is that each one of you enjoyed it as much as we did!

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our donors and sponsors and thank them for their continued support and generosity. Donating/Sponsoring Auction Items:

• Family Pharmacy • Frances Ferreira and Joyce Stone • The Moree Family • Page Plantation Shutter Company/ Seaboard Station Restaurant • Grant’s Express Tire & Auto • Jason’s Tire and Auto • JC and Karen Everett • Ruest Realty • Sam and Misty Crouch • J.R. and Crystal Cottle • Ryan Norton-Smith and Friends • Tina Miller with State Farm • McDonald Family • Carolina Spine Center • Sandy Ridge Memory Care & Assisted Living • Lee’s Collision Repair • Simply Hazel • Trinity Manufacturing • Donna Taylor and Family • Scholl Mechanical Company • Rusty Edwards- R/E Premiere Realty • Mark and Holly Howe • Brandon, Tammy, and Bryson Smith • Pee Dee Electric • 1st Baptist Church of Hamlet • Iron Horse Auction • Edwards IGA • Edward and Patricia Vuncannon • Great Falls Wealth Management- Sharon and John Hutchinson • CB Preferred Properties/Debra Parsons • Wilson and Audrey Moore • Roger Staley Family • Lorie McDuffie, Realtor Towering Pines Real Estate Brokered by eXp Realty • Jim and Sandy Terry • Ellerbe Senior Center • Richmond Service League • Linda Arrington • Global Packaging • Justin & Jennifer Wrenn • Gifts for All Seasons • Jack & Jackie Walker • Freedom Baptist Church • Double Vision • Richard & Cierra Robinson • Bent Rail Brewing • Eric and Ryan Norton-Smith • Bennett’s Farm and Grading • Eddie and Susan McDonald • The Family of Retired Hamlet Fire Chief David Fuller • Jamie Moss • Cynthia Little • Nancy Barber • Julius and LaQunda Bowden • Daymark Recovery Services • Our Southern Roots • Teir Autery • Shirley McDuffie and Lorie McDuffie • DeWitt’s Outdoor Sports • Eric Watts and Pat Bland • Leyden Family • Halo Salon- Kelli Barbary, Mindy Hooks Shaw, Leslie Smith, Sanford Caulder and Georgie Adkins • East Rockingham Senior Center • Angela McDonald • Frank, Jessica, and James Mims • Matthew Hotter with East Rockingham Senior Center • Julie Woody and Family • The Gentleman Mobile Bar • Hometown Christmas in Memory of Calvin Gibson • Genny and Brian Baucom • Valeria Lunceford • Carrie Ussery. Donating Baked Goods:

• Stephanie Thornton • Corinne Swink • Lolli’s Sweets • Amy White • 1st Baptist Church- Hamlet • Denise Deter Liss • Margaret Radford • Brenda Peele • Cynthia Morris • Betty Lynn Warnock • Diane Deese • Linda Utter • Cathy Faust • Jonathan Glaze • Judy Roscoe • Mandy Allen • Nancy Many • Robbie Bailey • Sara Wicke • Tonia Denson • Connie Davis • Deane Bullard • Kathy Stroll • Cheryl Speight • CC Cakes- Tara Coggins • and Several Others we didn’t get names for. Thank you, Michelle Parrish and Tracy Ezzell, for sharing your pictures with us!

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air~ W.T. Ellis

We hope that we were able to put Christmas in the air and that everyone who came out to be a part of our event left happier, more in the mood to decorate, prepare for, and just generally ready to celebrate Christmas!





