

# Crossings

the newsletter of **WNC Bridge Foundation**

## Greetings from WNC Bridge Foundation

It has been an exciting few months for WNC Bridge Foundation as we continue to move forward with our new name and mission. I hope our new identity conveys WNC Bridge Foundation's goal to become a catalyst for change in Western North Carolina by eliminating barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential.

While WNC Bridge Foundation no longer supports the service lines of CarePartners Health Services, I am pleased to share our areas of support will initially focus on elder care, emergency wellness, and youth development. As you will see in this issue, WNC Bridge Foundation is continuing our upward trajectory of improving the quality of life for those in need throughout WNC.

I am also proud of the Foundation's role in providing fundraising support and guidance to MountainCare, which includes Adult Day Services, Grief Support, Music Therapy, and the Rathbun House. I truly believe this partnership will empower

MountainCare to continue caring for our WNC neighbors in very special ways, including Adult Day's Drama Club, which you will read more about in this issue. It is also worth noting that proceeds from WNC Bridge Foundation's Thrift Store and Estate Sales now support MountainCare and their important work.

### MOVING FORWARD

Over the past few months, WNC Bridge Foundation has visited over 50 local non-profits across Western North Carolina with the goal of learning more about these organizations, their successes, and their challenges. Taking what we learned at these meetings into account, WNC Bridge formed our grant guidelines, which we will follow for our 2019 award cycle. We consider this first year of granting our transition year and what we learn during our 2019 grant cycle will affect how we fund in 2020. This year's grant process

will be managed by WNC Bridge Foundation's Grants Committee. Moving forward, WNC Bridge Foundation will be adding members to the Grants Committee that reflect more communities across Western North Carolina to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our region.

I hope you join me in the pride I feel of the work being done at WNC Bridge Foundation. I remain thankful to our supporters, advocates, and volunteers that have accompanied us in our journey. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Until then, keep an eye on WNC Bridge Foundation as we continue to connect and make a difference in Western North Carolina.

Sincerely,



SCOTT W. BUCHANAN  
President & CEO, WNC Bridge Foundation

*Our Goal for 2019 is to be a catalyst for change in Western North Carolina by eliminating barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential.*



**WNC Bridge Foundation**

- Elder Care**
- Emergency Wellness**
- Youth Development**
- MountainCare**
  - Adult Care
  - Grief Support
  - Music Therapy
  - Rathbun House
- WNC Non-profits**

## Donation Drive Benefits Rathbun House

### *Family and congregation honor the memory of Shirley Worley*

It was Christmas Eve 2012 when the Worley family's world was turned upside down. Shirley Worley of Murphy, North Carolina had suffered a massive heart attack and needed to be transferred from Murphy Medical to Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina. With the drive between Murphy and Asheville being over an hour, Teresa Meiss, Shirley's daughter quickly realized it would be impossible for the family to make the trip home daily and be able to stay at her mother's bedside.

A social worker from Mission Hospital, along with church members from Murphy First Baptist, told Teresa and her family about the Rathbun House, the only hospitality house in Western North Carolina (WNC) that provides a place for families and caregivers to stay while their loved one receives treatment at local hospitals. The Worleys were able to stay at the Rathbun House for five weeks while Shirley received care at Mission Hospital until she passed away in late January.

siblings and I could not be with him. We never had to worry about Dad when we were not with him because we knew that he was taken care of while he stayed at the Rathbun House," said Meiss.

provide supplies and financial gifts ensuring our lodging service will continue to assist families in WNC and beyond. I know I speak for so many when I say how grateful we are for these donations," said Dean.



While it has been six years since Shirley Worley passed away, her family and church continue to remember Shirley's legacy through a donation drive benefiting the Rathbun House. The drive is organized by Murphy First Baptist, the church of Shirley and George Worley. Church members donate items often in need by families staying at the Rathbun House including paper products, laundry detergent, nonperishable food, gift cards, and monetary donations.

"It is because of the generosity of those like the Worleys and Murphy First Baptist that kindness and caring is passed forward to benefit families that come to stay at the Rathbun House," notes Caryl Dean, operations manager of Rathbun House. "Having resources available to have a quick meal or grab a snack before going to the hospital to support and care for their family member, can make all the difference for Rathbun guests. Donation drives like the one organized by Murphy First Baptist

One of the more meaningful aspects of the donation drive for Teresa Meiss is her dad's involvement in helping load up all the donations and taking them to the Rathbun House. "Our family really appreciates what the Rathbun House did for us, and this is a meaningful way for us and the church to say thank you," Meiss notes.

*To learn more about the Rathbun House or how to support families like the Worleys visit [mountaincareservices.org](http://mountaincareservices.org) or call 828.251.0595.*

"The Rathbun House was a wonderful place to stay during such a difficult time," said Meiss. "We were provided with a place to stay, somewhere to eat our meals, and to do laundry without having to get a motel. Rathbun also had a shuttle bus that provided transportation to the hospital, which my Dad could use when my



**GEORGE WORLEY (LEFT), DAUGHTERS TERESA WORLEY MEISS (CENTER) AND BRENDA WORLEY MEADOR (RIGHT), ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF MURPHY FIRST BAPTIST DELIVER MUCH NEEDED ITEMS TO RATHBUN HOUSE.**

## You're Special Fund Turns Tragedy into Triumph

Cheyanne is an eleven-year-old with a smile that lights up the room. She attends Enka Intermediate School, enjoys riding her bike, playing with friends and getting her nails done. At first, you might not notice that Cheyanne has limited use of her right-hand due to an accident that happened when she was almost three. Daily challenges Cheyanne faces include bathing and other personal care needs, getting dressed, and writing at school to name a few. These struggles have weighed not only on Cheyanne but her family as well.

Recently, Cheyanne and her family learned that a partial hand prosthesis could greatly improve Cheyanne's independence and make her life easier. The device would allow Cheyanne to hold items such as pencils and utensils more securely. Another advantage would be the prosthetic's realistic appearance. Cheyanne shared that she wanted people to notice her before her

injury. However, the cost for the device was just not possible for Cheyanne's family to purchase on their own. WNC Bridge Foundation learned of Cheyanne's challenges and were able to provide her with the much-needed prosthesis thanks to donations made to WNC Bridge Foundation's *You're Special Fund*.

The *You're Special Fund* was created out of the realization that for those with financial need, small and large challenges present obstacles in living a full life. The *You're Special Fund* exists to help purchase medication, equipment, and other essentials that can make life easier.

"WNC Bridge Foundation and its supporters are life savers," said Jessica Glover, Cheyanne's mom. "The Foundation was there for us when we had no other options." Now with her new hand, Cheyanne says "her life is different, but in a good way." "She is much more

independent and smiles all the time," says Jessica. When asked about those who donate to the *You're Special Fund*, Cheyanne expressed feelings of gratitude, "I can't thank you enough. Your support has been life changing for me and my family."



CHEYANNE THOMPSON REGAINED INDEPENDENCE THANKS TO A PROSTHETIC HAND PROVIDED BY THE YOU'RE SPECIAL FUND.



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MOUNTAINCARE'S  
DRAMA CLUB PERFORMS  
AT RAINBOW COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL, ASHEVILLE, N.C.



## Adult Day Drama Club Makes its Debut

MountainCare's Adult Day Drama Club of Buncombe County debuted their first off-campus production this April, performing for preschool students at Rainbow Community School. The Drama Club performed a fable called, *The Lion and The Mouse*, a tale which encompasses the true meaning of friendship.

*Find out more about Adult Day Services by visiting [mountaincareservices.org](http://mountaincareservices.org) or by calling 828.277.3399.*

Speaking of friendship, we believe it is the relationships formed between the preschoolers and Adult Day participants which makes Adult Day's Drama Club so special. The Drama Club's outing made it possible for both the young and old to have engaging and unifying interactions.

"It was such a wonderful surprise to have the preschoolers join in with our performers as they sang, *You are my Sunshine* and *Hickory Dickory Dock*," stated Bob Jackson, MountainCare's Community Resource Coordinator. "While

practicing for the play, we didn't think the children would know the songs our club selected to sing, all of us were so pleased when our performance became a sing-a-long."

MountainCare's Adult Day Drama Club began in 2017 and is open to all Adult Day participants. Members meet once a week with the goal of creating, practicing, and performing a new production every month. The club provides a space where participants have a chance to be creative, use their imagination, and express their emotions.

The Drama Club serves as one of the many ways MountainCare's Adult Day Centers provide a safe and enjoyable place for aging and impaired adults to stay engaged during the day, while receiving expert care in one of its beautiful, award-winning facilities located in Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties.

"I really enjoy our Drama Club," notes member Susan, whose favorite part of April's performance was interacting with her fellow castmates and hearing the laughter of the children during their performance.



## Local Non-Profits to Benefit from Dragon Boat Race



WNC Bridge Foundation's Drums and Dragons dragon boat race will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at Lake Julian Park located in Arden, North Carolina. Drums and Dragons is WNC Bridge Foundation's premiere fundraising event benefiting local area non-profits. Proceeds from this year's race will benefit MountainCare, Girls on the Run of WNC, The Community Table, Irene Wortham Center, and WNC Bridge Foundation's *You're Special Fund* to name a few.

Now in its third year, Drums and Dragons has built quite the following of not only racing enthusiasts but also spectators. New to Drums and Dragons this year is a beer garden, non-profit row where attendees can learn more about participating non-profits in our region, a pop-up thrift shop, and free hydration stations set up in the park to help

keep guests hydrated. As always, this family-friendly event is free and open to the public and includes a wellness area, kids zone, and food vendors. Parking is located just outside of the park offering free shuttle service during the event.

This annual event has garnered a reputation of being a great team-building experience for local businesses and non-profits. Symmetry Financial, a Platinum Sponsor of Drums and Dragons, has had a team of paddlers since Drums and Dragons inception. Drums and Dragons "offers such a different way to give back as a group. We love the all-day team building aspect and that we can come together using our strength and teamwork to race. We think it is a fun and brilliant event," said Whit Zeh, Director of Community Relations & Well-Being, for Symmetry Financial.

With over twenty teams currently signed up to race on June 22, it is no surprise that volunteers play a key role in the success of Drums and Dragons. Sunny Hall, who is helping coordinate volunteers for the event notes, "over sixty volunteers will be needed to help implement this extraordinary event."



DRUMS & DRAGON VOLUNTEER, GRACE PRICE, GEARING UP FOR THE RACE

*Local non-profits benefiting from Drums and Dragons include MountainCare, Girls on the Run of WNC, The Community Table, Pisgah Legal Service, Irene Wortham Center, Vecinos, Blue Ridge Health, and Mountain Child Advocacy Center.*

Last year, Sunny and her husband Mark, an Adult Day participant, paddled on Adult Day's dragon boat team. "Drums and Dragons is such an eye-opening event full of camaraderie and wonderful people, all cheering one another along," said Hall when speaking of the event. "Volunteers help make this day possible, doing everything from parking assistance, manning the hospitality tent, or helping load the boats. We appreciate our volunteers so much and are very grateful for their time."

ADULT DAY PARTICIPANTS MARK HALL (LEFT), RICHARD ENGELBRECHT (RIGHT), AND JENNIFER THOMAS ENJOYING DRUMS & DRAGONS



# Thrift Store and Estate Sales News & Events



Summer treasures are just waiting to be found at WNC Bridge Foundation's Thrift Store and Estate Sales located at 75 Fairview Road in Asheville, North Carolina. Every time you shop with us you are supporting MountainCare's critical services, including the Rathbun House, Adult Day, and Grief Support.

Here are some of the deals and special events we have lined up this summer. Along with shopping with us, we invite you to get involved by volunteering and donating items to our Thrift Store.

## THRIFT STORE TOTE BAG PROGRAM

In the month of May, 2,400 WNC Bridge Foundation Thrift Store customers snagged a free, reusable tote with their purchases. Every time those lucky customers reuse their totes at our thrift store between now and the end of the year, they will receive an additional 5% off their entire purchase.

## ACCEPTING DONATIONS

While you're cleaning out your closets, the garage, or basement this summer keep in mind our

Thrift Store happily accepts gently used furniture, housewares, clothing, books, music, and tools. The Donation Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9am until 4:30pm. Proceeds benefit MountainCare.

## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Through the extremely generous gift of their time, our volunteers work hard to ensure our customers enjoy their shopping experience and find the treasure they didn't know they even needed. If you would like to join our amazing volunteer team contact us at 828.575.2509 or [info@wncbridge.org](mailto:info@wncbridge.org).

## CONSIDERING AN ESTATE SALE?

Perhaps you are downsizing now that the children have left home. Maybe you are the executor of an estate that needs to be settled. Or perhaps you simply want to eliminate some clutter.

Whatever your circumstances, WNC Bridge Foundation Estate Sales & Services can make the process easier. Our experienced team will help you pack, move, and liquidate furnishings, household items, artwork—even vehicles.

Call 828.575.2509 to arrange a free in-home consultation.



DONATION DROP OFF HOURS ARE MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 9AM-4:30PM

**CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY**

On Wednesday, July 24 we will be having our customer appreciation day! The day-long event will include thrift store raffles, special discounts, a hot dog luncheon, wine and cheese estate sale preview, music, and much more. Mark your calendar and join in the fun!

**NEW BOOTH AT THE GARAGE ON 25**

Check out our Estate Sales booth at **The Garage on 25** in Fletcher, N.C. The Garage offers not only shopping, but a coffee shop, craft and art classes, as well as special evening and weekend events. We feel very fortunate to be a part of such a vibrant and fun establishment. The Garage is located at 3461 Hendersonville Road, Fletcher, N.C. We hope to see you soon!



CHECK OUT THE EVER-CHANGING UNIQUE FINDS AT OUR ESTATE SALES BOOTH AT THE GARAGE ON 25, 3461 HENDERSONVILLE ROAD, FLETCHER, N.C.



*To learn about volunteer opportunities with Estate Sales or our Thrift Store call 828.575.2509*

BI-WEEKLY ESTATE SALES ARE HELD THURSDAY-SATURDAY WITH A FREE WINE & CHEESE PREVIEW RECEPTION 5-6PM WEDNESDAY BEFORE EACH SALE. GO TO WNCBRIDGE.ORG FOR AN ESTATE SALES CALENDAR.

## Contact Us

**WNC BRIDGE FOUNDATION**

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P.O. Box 25338  
Asheville, North Carolina 28813

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**Web** [WNCBRIDGE.ORG](http://WNCBRIDGE.ORG)

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**RETAIL OPERATIONS**

75 Fairview Road  
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

**ESTATE SALES & SERVICES**

**Sale information** 828.575.2509,  
**in-home consultations** extension 100

**THRIFT STORE donation and**

**store information** 828.274.8206

**TO MAKE A GIFT TO WNC BRIDGE**

**FOUNDATION or to include the Foundation in your estate, contact Meg White at 828.274.1498 or email** [mwhite@wncbridge.org](mailto:mwhite@wncbridge.org)

**TO LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER**

**OPPORTUNITIES with WNC Bridge Foundation, its Thrift Store, or Estate Sales call 828.575.2509 or got to** [wncbridge.org](http://wncbridge.org) **and click on the** [Volunteer link](#)

WNC Bridge Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Financial information about WNC Bridge Foundation is available upon request. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us.



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SUMMER 2019

## WNC Bridge Foundation welcomes you to *Crossings*

We are excited to present the premier edition of *Crossings*! In this and upcoming newsletters we will showcase the ways WNC Bridge Foundation is improving the health and wellness within our community. *Crossings* offers an inside look at the vital services and programs supported by WNC Bridge Foundation. Enjoy our good news!