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Crossings

the newsletter of WNC Bridge Foundation

SUMMER 2023



SHARING MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have found moments this summer that have brought you happiness. This issue of *Crossings* is full of stories that bring me joy and it is my privilege to share them with you.

Here are some of the stories and news we're excited to tell you about:

- Our partnership with Mercy Urgent Care in providing healthcare memberships to 32 families.
- The vital role Rathbun House plays in supporting NICU families across WNC.
- How our You're Special Fund is lifting spirits.
- IMPACT Grant recipient, Pigeon Center, expands its fundraising capacity.
- Our inaugural WNC non-profit yard sale.



TOP | FOOD CONNECTION, A NON-PROFIT WORKING TO EASE HUNGER AND REDUCE WASTE, IS ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ABLE TO UTILIZE A MERCYME HEALTHCARE MEMBERSHIP.

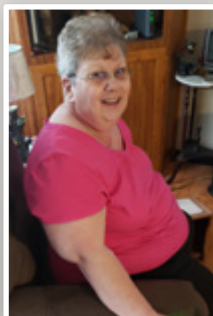
CENTER | IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENT, PIGEON CENTER, CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY, PROVIDING SUMMER ENRICHMENT FOR YOUTH.



ABOVE LEFT | INAUGURAL WNC NON-PROFIT YARD SALE.

ABOVE RIGHT | RATHBUN HOUSE SUPPORTS NICU FAMILIES LIKE HUDSON'S.

LEFT | DEB SNIDER GAINS INDEPENDENCE THROUGH YOU'RE SPECIAL FUND.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Scott W. Buchanan'.

Scott W. Buchanan
President & CEO, WNC Bridge Foundation

WNC Bridge Foundation exists to connect our communities to a healthier future and to create lasting change through local partnerships. Thank you for sharing our stories and supporting our mission.

HEALTHCARE FOR NON-PROFITS

WNC Bridge Partners with Mercy Urgent Care

WNC Bridge Foundation is providing partnership support to Mercy Urgent Care to provide yearlong **MercyMe** healthcare memberships to 32 families in Western North Carolina.

The recipients are primarily employees of non-profit organizations in the five counties where Mercy Urgent Care's eight facilities are located.



"Mercy Urgent Care launched MercyMe in 2022 to provide the lowest cost, highest access healthcare option possible for our patients," said Mercy Urgent Care



LEFT | KEYNON LAKE, FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF MY DADDY TAUGHT ME THAT.

BELOW | MARISHA MACMORRAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FOOD CONNECTION.

CEO Rachel Sossoman. "We're pleased to partner with the WNC Bridge Foundation to build healthier communities across Western North Carolina."

Recipients of the WNC Bridge sponsored MercyMe memberships were chosen based on their ties to area non-profits and the need for healthcare access. Here are some of the organizations represented:

My Daddy Taught Me That

is a youth development program designed to support young men in Asheville through advocacy, education, and mentoring.

Meals on Wheels of Brevard

has been providing nutritious meals, friendly visits, and safety checks to homebound seniors in the region since 1978.

Sharing House connects with residents of Transylvania County to provide crisis assistance.

Food Connection has provided more than 500,000 meals to people in need by rescuing and redistributing freshly prepared food that otherwise would have been thrown away.

"When I received the call to participate in the MercyMe membership program, I was in disbelief. With this membership, I worry less about my son getting hurt as I know I can go to Mercy if he gets injured or becomes sick."

— MARISHA MACMORRAN, FOOD CONNECTION



HEALTHCARE FOR NON-PROFITS



Due to the size of its organization and budget, Food Connection is one of many non-profits that is unable to provide health insurance for employees. Executive Director Marisha MacMorran realizes this can hinder recruiting and retaining

to participate in the MercyMe membership program, I was in disbelief. With this membership, I worry less about my son getting hurt as I know I can go to Mercy if he gets injured or becomes sick.”

The MercyMe memberships sponsored by WNC Bridge Foundation will provide a family of up to six members with six in-person and virtual visits per year, annual wellness checks and flu shots, plus discounts on additional visits and services. “In conversations with non-profits, we often hear



“It made perfect sense for WNC Bridge to partner with Mercy Urgent Care to provide comprehensive healthcare packages for individuals who are doing so much good in their communities.” — SCOTT BUCHANAN, WNC BRIDGE FOUNDATION

a diverse staff. Still, the organization continually works toward solutions to keep its team healthy and happy while serving the community.

“As a single mother with a modest salary, I have struggled for years to find the right healthcare plan that has both an affordable monthly premium and covers necessary medical services,” MacMorran said. “When I received the call

the challenges these hardworking organizations face; providing employee benefits is often a top concern,” said WNC Bridge Foundation CEO Scott Buchanan. “It made perfect sense for WNC Bridge to partner with Mercy Urgent Care to provide comprehensive healthcare packages for individuals who are doing so much good in their communities.”

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SUPPORTING NICU BABIES

Rathbun House Allows Families to Stay Close



DURING HUDSON'S 17-DAY STAY IN MISSION'S NICU, HIS MOTHER WAS ABLE TO REMAIN CLOSE BY AT RATHBUN HOUSE.

When Brittany Faulkner of Shelby, NC, stepped onto the serene, wooded campus of Rathbun House, the mom of four had no idea the hospitality house existed, much less that it was only five minutes from Mission Hospital.

Brittany was diagnosed at 34 weeks with preeclampsia, which causes elevated blood pressure that can be dangerous for the mother and her developing baby. According to Cleveland Clinic, preeclampsia is the cause of about 15% of premature deliveries, which turned out to be the case for Brittany and her baby, Hudson Knox.

Hudson was born on Easter Sunday, 42 days before his due date, and he stayed in Mission Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for 17 days. With Brittany living over an hour away from the hospital,

Rathbun House provided a place for the mom to stay free of charge while only being minutes away from her baby. "Everything about the Rathbun House is so special," Brittany shares. "Rathbun House made it possible so that I did not have to travel over three hours daily, allowing me to spend

51 NICU FAMILIES HAVE STAYED AT RATHBUN HOUSE THIS YEAR AS OF JUNE 26.

as much time as possible with my baby. Rathbun's staff and peaceful setting supported me, and I am so grateful to have stayed at such a caring place." Brittany, Hudson, and the entire Faulkner family are doing well, and Rathbun House will continue to serve NICU families like the Faulkners, thanks to the support of WNC Bridge Foundation and its donors.

Congratulations to Rathbun House on becoming a certified hospitality house through Healthcare Hospitality Network (HHN). HHN is a nationwide professional member association with a mission to support homes that help and heal to be more effective in their service to patients and families.



Every cent donated to Rathbun House supports its mission of providing free lodging for up to 14 days in a peaceful setting close to area hospitals. Donate today by filling out the enclosed envelope or scan this code linked to our website.

[WNCBRIDGE.ORG/GIVE/MAKE-A-GIFT](https://wncbridge.org/give/make-a-gift)



YOU'RE SPECIAL FUND LIFTS SPIRITS

Moving independently in her home was becoming a challenge for Deb Snider of Waynesville. Suffering from osteoarthritis in both knees, Deb found it difficult to get in and out of her recliner without assistance from her husband, "I have always been independent and hate



having to ask for help," she notes, reflecting on her desire to remain independent in her own home. WNC Bridge's Your Special Fund purchased a lift chair for Deb, giving her back some much-needed mobility.

"Thank you, WNC Bridge, for making life easier for me. I can now get up independently without assistance and no longer worry about being home alone. This chair has been a lifesaver. Thank you so much. I love it!" — DEB SNIDER



CONGRATULATIONS 2023 Health Scholarship Recipients

Each year we award \$1,500 scholarships to 36 outstanding high school seniors who are pursuing health related occupations. Health Scholarships are granted throughout the 18 counties we serve in Western North Carolina.

WNC Bridge Foundation is committed to meeting the health challenges that face our region. We believe a crucial component of that commitment is to ensure our communities have exceptional healthcare workers.

Join us in congratulating these outstanding students.

WNC Bridge Foundation **Health Scholarships | 2023**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SUMMER ENRICHMENT

Pigeon Center Focuses on Increasing Fundraising Capacity

Swimming, music, math, field trips to The Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta and the Greensboro Civil Rights Museum, gardening, and building reading skills are all examples of activities that youth in grades kindergarten through ninth grade have enjoyed during Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center's Summer Enrichment Program, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this summer.

Located in Waynesville, NC, the Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center (PCMDC) serves marginalized communities with after-school programs, summer enrichment sessions, and as a gathering place for seniors. The center is in the former Pigeon Street School building, which served as the African-American elementary school in Haywood County from 1957 until desegregation in 1963.

WNC Bridge Foundation has awarded a three-year IMPACT capacity-building grant to the PCMDC to strengthen the organization's fundraising

capabilities. Pigeon Center used grant funds in its first year to hire a volunteer coordinator whose responsibilities include coordinating current volunteers and recruiting new volunteers for the non-profit. "Our organization runs on volunteer support; from church groups to individuals supporting us in many ways, we could not do our work without volunteers," shares PCMDC's executive director, Lin Forney. "Given the opportunity to organize our volunteers' talents, track how they want to help and expand our outreach to the community, we see nothing but continued growth by having our volunteer coordinator as part of the PCMDC team."

Grant funds from WNC Bridge also allowed Pigeon Center to invest in fundraising equipment, including the purchase of a large tent which the organization used at their



Our IMPACT grant is allowing us to develop lasting fundraisers, build on current ideas, put long-awaited plans into action, and create new opportunities to provide our organization with more sustainability. – LIN FORNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ABOVE | THE LARGE CAPACITY TENT MADE POSSIBLE WITH IMPACT GRANT FUNDING.

LEFT | PCMDC USED ITS NEW TENT DURING ITS CINCO DE MAYO FUNDRAISER.

TOP LEFT | PIGEON CENTER'S BUILDING IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser event. The non-profit also plans to rent its tent to other groups as a revenue generator. "The first year of our capacity-building grant from WNC Bridge has been a very exciting time for our organization; we have looked for ways to increase our fundraising capacity in the past, but until receiving this grant, we had not been able to fund this critical need, explains Forney. "We believe this capacity grant is giving us the tools to be successful in our work for years to come."

FORCE FOR GOOD

Volunteers Make a Difference

Are you interested in being a force for good and having fun doing it? Do you find Zen in the art of sorting, organizing, and cleaning? Do you have a proclivity for forgotten treasures, vintage finds, or things they don't make like they used to? Are you looking for community-friendly, driven people looking to make a difference?

If you answered yes to any of these, then volunteering with WNC Bridge Foundation Thrift Store and Estate Sales Services may be just the thing for you!

By joining our volunteer team, you will not only make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve but also have the opportunity to develop new skills, build meaningful connections, and experience the joy of giving back to the community.

To get started, enter the link or use the QR code to the right and fill out the volunteer application form. Our team will contact you once we receive your application to discuss available opportunities.



wncbridge.org/shop/become-a-volunteer



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELPING HANDS OF HAYWOOD

WNC NON-PROFIT YARD SALE

Raising funds and making connections

The turnout was remarkable for our inaugural WNC Non-Profit Community Yard Sale. We hosted the event on Saturday, May 20, in the parking lot of our thrift store in Biltmore Village.

Bargain hunters and treasure seekers piled in to support the fifteen area non-profits selling items to benefit their respective organizations. There was no cost to participate and each group kept their proceeds.

In addition to selling items to raise funds, the event offered non-profits a chance to talk to the community about the work they do and to make useful connections with each other.

Thank you to all participating non-profits, their volunteers,



and yard sale enthusiasts for making this day a success. Plans are in the works to make next year's sale even more spectacular. Stay tuned!



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Estate Sales & SERVICES

CONSIDERING AN ESTATE SALE?

Whether because of downsizing, moving, settling an estate, or eliminating clutter, Estate Sales & Services can make home transitions easier.

Proceeds are split 50/50 between client and WNC Bridge. Our portion supports our 5 Community Initiatives. There are no other charges for our services.

To schedule a free in-home or virtual consultation, call 828.575-2509 and select option 2.

ESTATE SALE SCHEDULE

JUL
13-17
27-29

AUG
10-12
24-26

SEP
7-9
21-23

THURSDAY-SATURDAY
10:00-4:30
WEDNESDAY PREVIEWS
1:00-3:00

OCT
5-7
19-21

NOV
2-4
16-18
30-2

DEC
30-2
14-16

75 FAIRVIEW ROAD
IN BILTMORE VILLAGE

5 Community Initiatives

throughout the **18 Counties**
of Western North Carolina



**WNC
Greatest
Needs Fund**

**Health
Scholarships**

**Rathbun
House**

**You're
Special
Fund**

**Children's
Services
Fund**



[WNCBRIDGE.ORG/GIVE/MAKE-A-GIFT](https://wncbridge.org/give/make-a-gift)

CAN WE HAVE YOUR SUPPORT?

Fill out the envelope tucked inside or scan this QR code linked to our website to make a secure donation.

Be sure to designate the community initiative you wish to support.