

We are here because of you.



Each day I reflect on the thousands of individuals Transitions LifeCare is serving that day, the lives we touch in hospice, palliative care, home health, private duty nursing, pediatric care, caregiver support, grief care, educational programs and social outreach. The impacts of one day of care are deep and wide, reverberating through long held relationships and new relationships formed with our first encounter.

“Everybody you see in hospice is ready to go above and beyond to make sure our patients and their families are in a comfortable and peaceful environment.”

JOHN THOMA, CEO

I also reflect on the amazing and dedicated people from all backgrounds, professions, and faiths lifting up Transitions LifeCare and lifting up the community. Employees, volunteers, donors, and community leaders come together to support a common mission with common values – compassion and respect for all, teamwork to achieve broad impact, and commitment to improving care for the most vulnerable.



Transitions LifeCare's team of Physicians



Co-chairs of the Build Hospice campaign, Billy Dunlap and Smedes York, with CEO John Thoma (campaign committee photo in Smedes' hand)

We learn so much from those we serve: what is important and how to respond to changing complex care needs. We also learn from each other: how to support each other and how to innovate and grow.



Tri-Chairs, Power of 10 Campaign; Billy Dunlap, Brenda Gibson, Thad Woodard

Throughout our 40-year history, our community circle has grown as knowledge of our care has spread throughout the Triangle. The Transitions circle of care has expanded as the needs of adults and children become more acute and complex. I am so thankful that the circle of support, which began in 1979 with a few individuals, has grown to thousands of supporters committed to sustaining this sacred work.

Sincerely,

John Thoma, CEO

Since 2015, we have served 25,230 families.

1

We promise to house all those in need of intensive hospice care



Over \$6.25 million was raised to expand our Hospice Home to 30 beds

2

We promise to meet the need of our community's indigent population



In 2018, 8% of our families received indigent care support

3

We promise to meet the need of fragile children at end of life



Over \$4 million was raised to secure this service through 2022

TRANSITIONS LIFE CARE EMPLOYEES

FACING THE CHALLENGE TO

Build this Legacy

This year marks the 40th anniversary of our hospice organization. With all that has happened in those years, it seems an ideal time to take a look back. As we did, it became clear that our story actually began long before our founding, with the formation of a powerful relationship between two men who made us what we are today.

Back in the 50s, two of Raleigh's native sons — Smedes York and Billy Dunlap — were part of a group of boys from adjoining neighborhoods. They got to know each other over the years, though neither realized then that they were cut from the same cloth: young leaders, self-starters, committed to their community.

All of these traits came into play when together they set forth on a challenge far outside their comfort zone.

The summer of 1962.

Smedes, in college, and Billy, in medical school, found themselves in possession of a rarity: spare time.

They decided to build a boat!



Smedes and Billy enjoying the first of many successes together.

They constructed the boat in Billy's parents' backyard, with a plan to travel the length of the Neuse River. The boat happened — and it floated! A voyage on Lake Boone (no longer in existence) happened. And the river trip? Billy's father made sure it never happened.

Accomplishing such a monumental task by working together was the true start of their lifelong friendship and a definite precursor of things to come.

Even as their busy lives took them in different directions — Smedes to business, Billy to medicine — they



To waterproof their boat, Billy Dunlap and Smedes York applied pitch. Their relationship was cemented at the same time.

never lost touch. Individually and as a pair, they tirelessly gave back to the community and, in the process, amassed an amazing array of accomplishments, achievements, civic leadership, board memberships, stints on advisory panels, and more.

1978: the start of something big.

At a time when the hospice movement was in its infancy in the United States, a group of forward-thinking folks began planning for a hospice in the Triangle area. The initial program was to be in Chapel Hill, with plans to start in Raleigh in two years. Billy (Dr. Dunlap, by this point) was invited to the meeting and quickly recognized the value of the concept. In practice as an oncologist, he was keenly aware that end-of-life care could be greatly improved.

He wanted hospice. But he wanted it in Raleigh, and he wanted it sooner than two years.

Along with several others, Billy formed a task force to explore the opportunity, with the first meeting on Sept. 21, 1978. From that group came a board, and it was decided to inform the community through a credibility luncheon, held in May 1979. Area thought and media leaders were invited, as was Smedes, the newly-elected Mayor of Raleigh.

Once they learned the mission and purpose of hospice, the attendees became supporters. Smedes was quick to put his weight behind the concept, and he, his wife Rosemary, and father, Willie, became strong advocates for Hospice Care.

After the grueling work of meeting regulatory standards, Hospice of Wake County was up and running, delivering exceptional home hospice care.

Word spread. More and more people saw what hospice could do for patients and their families and they told others. The program began a steady growth into the eighties.

Funding for care.

Hospice of Wake County served thousands of patients in their homes thanks to a wide variety of fundraising events like Oktoberfest, and allowed us to do something unheard of: serve patients without sending them a bill. Then in 1986, the Medicare Hospice Benefit became permanent, and reimbursement enabled our program to grow almost exponentially.

2004: a huge milestone.

With the organization well established and growing rapidly, it was time to build a hospice home. Billy and Smedes came together again; Billy asked Smedes to be chair of a capital campaign committee. Despite a hectic schedule, he agreed — on one condition: that Billy take on the role of co-chair. With those two at the helm, success was inevitable.

2015 saw the completion of our campus

(and name change to Transitions LifeCare), thanks to \$20 million provided by donations from individuals, families, civic groups and area companies. Every year, we serve more people with more services than was ever thought possible.

2019: broadening the base.

Sustaining the impact of Transitions LifeCare means sustaining our funding from more people every year. With your help, we can broaden our base of supporters to maintain our core promise of never turning anyone away.

For all you have done, for all you have contributed, we thank you. Smedes and Billy thank you. And most important, our patients and families thank you.

Transitions LifeCare

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