I BELIEVE THAT TRANSITIONS LIFECARE IS DOING GOD’S WORK.

Over the course of my career, I’ve been involved with philanthropic efforts on behalf of a number of very worthwhile organizations. But I’ve never advocated and supported one with a purpose as meaningful as hospice.

My experiences with Transitions LifeCare have been both personal and professional.

Well before there was a hospice home, before there was Transitions Kids, my son Zachary received in-home services for a brain tumor. His care, and his passing, were made immeasurably easier by the hospice nurse visits arranged by Billy Dunlap.

Other relatives, friends and business acquaintances — including a key staff member at the bank — were also touched by what was then Hospice of Wake County (before the change to Transitions LifeCare). My daughter volunteered for years, spending time with patients and truly listening to what they had to say. My wife and I started attending fundraisers like Oktoberfest.

And somewhere along the way, hospice just became part of our lives.

It started to bother me that there were hospice homes in many places in our state, but none in our area. So when Billy Dunlap and Smedes York asked me to chair the major gifts committee for the capital campaign, I accepted without a moment’s hesitation.

When I founded North State Bank, the staff chose Transitions LifeCare as the primary cause on which to focus our time, energy and money. Thus was born Summer Salute, our annual fundraising bash. Now, 14 years later, Summer Salute has raised nearly $1.4 million for Transitions LifeCare. Our planning committee meets every month, year-round, to prepare a truly exciting and memorable event for as many as 500 guests.

I’m really proud to be associated with Transitions LifeCare. Helping people transition from this life to the next with dignity, grace, unequaled support and love is a profound responsibility and the people who do that work deserve the very highest level of respect and honor. — LARRY D. BARBOUR, President and CEO of North State Bank