

# LIFE MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF  
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE  
CHARLOTTE REGION

**HOSPICE**  
& Palliative Care  
CHARLOTTE REGION

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SPRING 2022

*"The Gifts We Bring"*



## A Message from the President & CEO

# HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE CHARLOTTE REGION

Peter A. Brunnick, CPA  
Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region  
President & CEO



## THE GIFTS WE BRING

We are a family at **Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region**, each one of us unique in our gifts yet united in our commitment to patients and families. The stories that grace the pages of *Life Matters* illustrate that beautiful truth.

John Love's gift is running restaurants. One reason why his Red Rocks Café, Bar & Bakery has been packing them in for 30 years is the restaurant's she crab soup. One spoonful and you'll understand. John's mother and father drew their last breath at our Levine & Dickson Hospice House. What better way to show his gratitude to HPCCR than to donate one of his signature delicacies to our signature fundraising event, Soup on Sunday. He does this in memory of his dear parents. This past January, John was joined by 21 other restaurants, culinary schools, and chefs equally motivated to share their gifts too.

Penny Barr's gift is her presence. For 30 consecutive years she has served as an HPCCR volunteer. Penny is 81. George H.W. Bush was president when she first asked, "How can I help?" What has moved Penny to spend the past 30-plus years at all those bedsides, tending to body and soul? Read on.

### Many gifts, one commitment.

The Lake Norman Yacht Club's gift is sailing. Our friends won the National Hospice Regatta Alliance sailing championship, defeating sailing clubs representing other hospice organizations from around the country. Being crowned national champion is sweet. Even sweeter is the attention that the crew earned for HPCCR. We are blessed with awesome support on land and sea. Anyone with the airlines want to join in?

I hope all the stories in *Life Matters* inspire your support. We invite you to make a financial donation or volunteer your time. Purchase John Love's she crab soup and all the other treats the next time Soup On Sunday rolls around. Please visit one of our restaurant partners or event sponsors. Thank them for sharing their gifts with us. Turn to [www.hpccr.org](http://www.hpccr.org) to learn about the countless ways you can help care for the nearly 2,000 patients we have under care each day across 32 counties in the Carolinas.

### What's your gift?

*Peter A. Brunnick*

*Pictured on Front Cover:  
John Love, local restaurateur, co-owner of  
Red Rocks Café, and supporter of HPCCR*





# Levine & Dickson HOSPICE HOUSE

Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region

HUNTERSVILLE  
ALDRERGATE  
SOUTHMINSTER

## When tomorrow... becomes *today*.

Caring for someone with acute medical needs can feel overwhelming. When faced with difficult decisions about your loved one's care, our hospice house teams are there to support you today and each day after.

**Be sure to ask for us by name.**

*Levine & Dickson Hospice Houses are exclusively for patients of  
Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region.*



*To find out more:*

**704.375.0100 | [www.hpccr.org](http://www.hpccr.org)**



# INSPIRED LOVE



*Photo:  
John Love, local restaurateur, co-owner of  
Red Rocks Café, and supporter of HPCCR*

*Local restaurateur, John Love, Jr., is inspired to give back to the organization that took care of both of his parents during a fragile time in their lives.*

How do you show your gratitude to the organization that comforted your family during the final days of two loved ones? The care your father and mother received merited more than a simple thank you, even though the work itself is reward enough for the doctors, nurses, other staff and volunteers. What's a bereaved son to do?

In John Love's case, you do what you do best. The co-owner of Red Rocks, he prepared his restaurant's signature she crab soup and donated it to Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region for Soup On Sunday. What a perfect gesture! The soup supports the cause and warms the souls of those who purchase it each winter just as HPCCR warms the souls of those it serves.

John is honored to talk about all of this, with one exception. When asked what he puts in the she crab soup to make it sell out each year at Soup On Sunday, he smiles coyly and says, "I can't tell you that."

**Spoken like a true restaurateur.**



John Love has long been a Soup On Sunday stalwart, which helps explain how HPCCR sold all 23 quarts of the donated she crab soup.

A Charlotte native, John has devoted his life to restaurants. With his brother, Dave, he opened Loafers on East Independence Boulevard in 1987. Today, John co-owns (with Ron Herbert) the Charlotte institution, Red Rocks Café, Bar & Bakery. The first one opened in 1992 in the Strawberry Hill shopping center. Thirty years! That's rare for a restaurant, and a testament to the great food (steaks, pasta and such), neighborly atmosphere and John's welcoming presence. Two more Red Rocks have opened in Huntersville and Indian Land, SC. With a smile, because he loves the business, John says he used to think construction workers had the hardest job. Then he started running restaurants.

**Like so many, John's heart for HPCCR was borne of the blend of loss and comfort that defines who we are and what we do.**

His story is ennobled by the memories he clings to from his parents' passing at two of our hospice houses. He was at their bedside each time.

John's father, James Love, was 85 when he died at the Levine & Dickson Hospice House at Southminster on March 2, 2016. It's on the campus of the south Charlotte retirement community. He remembers telling his dad it was OK to let go. He heard his dad's last breath, then a final sigh, then he was gone. Through it all, John was wrapped emotionally in the tender arms of everyone there, including those who placed a prayer shawl over his dad when the time came.

*Continued on Next Page*



## THE ANNUAL EVENT

Since Soup On Sunday began in 2000, this celebration of bisques and chowders has raised \$725,000 to help make sure HPCCR services are available to all regardless of income.

**The concept is inspired:  
Recruit some of Charlotte's best chefs  
to prepare their signature fare.**

Before COVID-19, nearly 1,000 gathered each year to sip, chat and take home enough for the next day (or week). On January 30, mindful of the pandemic, HPCCR filled to-go orders with a drive-through at Central Piedmont Community College. CPCC's Hospitality & Culinary Team was a wonderful partner. Thanks to the 22 participating chefs – and to you! – HPCCR sold 687 quarts of soup to 231 customers, raising \$44,000.

## THIS YEAR'S EXTRA-SPECIAL MEANING

This year's Soup On Sunday honored Charlotte food icon **Catherine Rabb**, the Fenwick's restaurant cofounder and chef who helped launch the event. She was 64 when cancer took her on December 8. In Catherine's honor, her husband Don prepared their famous tomato bisque. It sold out.



*Photo: Catherine Rabb*



## INSPIRED LOVE (CONTINUED)

John's mother, Jane Love, was 86 when she died at the Levine & Dickson Hospice House - Huntersville on December 14, 2018.

The Levine & Dickson Hospice House - Huntersville is set amid a wooded area, and John remembers it snowing that day. "It was like being in a winter wonderland," he says, "Like being in a mountain cabin."

The snow falling on the garden. The warmth of the 16-bed house with its family room and fireplace, interfaith chapel and other quiet spaces. Those are the warm feelings he remembers after having such a difficult day, and those memories remain to this day.

**"I remember it being peaceful, respectful, comfortable, meaningful and individual,"** John says. **"Everything was quiet. You felt like you were the only person there."** He remembers something more. **"The friendliness of the staff. I said to myself, 'I wish I could be like these people.'"**

And that's the story behind why John Love donates she crab soup for Soup On Sunday. It's the best way he knows how to say thank you from the bottom of his heart.



## SOUP ON SUNDAY BY THE NUMBERS

Last January, HPCCR volunteers, partners, and of course, soup lovers came together for the 21st consecutive year to support the HPCCR's patient and family-centered mission through the purchase of delicious gourmet soups and bisques prepared by some of Charlotte's leading chefs, restaurateurs, caterers, and culinary schools.



Photo: 2022 Soup On Sunday volunteers with lots of soup orders





- 22** Participating Restaurants
- 15** Corporate & In-Kind Sponsors
- 687** Quarts of delicious soups sold to our wonderful patrons and supporters
- \$44,000+** Raised in support of our patient and community-centered mission
- 4** Media outlets covering the event

Net proceeds from Soup on Sunday are used to support important initiatives like charity care, investments in innovation, and bereavement care to name a few.

**CHARITY CARE**

Providing compassionate care regardless of the ability to pay.

**BEREAVEMENT CARE**

Providing staff to anyone in the community (at no charge) who has suffered a loss and needs to speak with someone.

**INNOVATION**

Ensuring we have the tools and resources to care for all regardless of medical complexity.

**CORPORATE SPONSORS**



**IN-KIND SPONSORS**







# SAILING FOR A PURPOSE

## Hometown Sailors Win National Hospice Regatta

Steve Shaw was not looking forward to his trip to Charleston, SC, for the 2021 Hospice Regatta's Championship in November.

He grew up sailing on the West Coast with little experience with tidal currents, and Lake Norman, NC, tends to be a light-air venue. Plus, he's not a huge fan of J/22s, the fleet provided by the College of Charleston.

"I didn't have high hopes," he said. But then...

After three days and seven races, never finishing worse than second, Steve Shaw and his crew returned home to Charlotte, NC, as champions, carrying the Virginia Brown Inspiration Trophy.

As the Lake Norman Yacht Club (LNYC) website proudly declares, "Steve is the first North Carolina sailor to win this event." And in doing so, Steve and his crew members, Tim Porter and Andre Boissoneault, also shined a light on the community-driven mission of Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region (HPCCR) which has been serving residents around Lake Norman since the organization was founded in 1978.

Shaw moved to North Carolina to race cars, hoping he might be the next Jeff Gordon. That didn't pan out, but he remains involved in racing as a producer for Fox Sports' coverage of each NASCAR season.

"I cover auto racing, but my true passion is boats," he said. "Many car racers are very good sailors," he adds, pointing to how the sports are similar. "In both, you have to be as efficient as you can and waste as little as you can. Any changes you make can have big consequences."

The Hospice Regatta "is a pretty big event at LNYC," he notes.

**"We do it because it makes you feel better to take part in a charitable event."**

Proceeds from the regatta support programs like HPCCR's Charity Care Program – helping patients pay for the care they need when they are uninsured – and its pediatric grief camp, Chameleon's Journey – a weekend camp designed to help adolescents who have experienced a traumatic loss make sense of their grief and powerful feelings.



The hard work put in by Shaw, Porter, and Boissoneault was measurable but also, in a way, short-lived because the next **Lake Norman Hospice Regatta** was right around the corner on May 14-15, 2022.



Visit [lnc.org](http://lnc.org) or [hpccr.org](http://hpccr.org) for more information about this annual event.



*Photo: 2021 Hospice Regatta's champion Steve Shaw (center) with his crew Tim Porter (left) and Andre Boissoneault, represented the Lake Norman, NC, Hospice Regatta Sunday, November 21 at the National Regatta held at the College of Charleston Sailing Center.*



## About Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region and the National Hospice Regatta Alliance

HPCCR was the first hospice founded in the Carolinas and continues to serve thousands of patients each year. As a non-profit organization, HPCCR seeks public support to help effectuate its patient-centered mission across its 32-county service area.

One way it raises support is through participation in the National Hospice Regatta Alliance (NHRA). The NHRA is an alliance of 20 non-profit hospices, each partnered with a local yacht club, that annually hosts a local regatta (sailing competition) to raise money and awareness. Each Alliance member then sends its local regatta winner to represent the yacht club and hometown hospice in a national championship sailing event.



# PENNY BARR HAS A SERVANT'S HEART

VOLUNTEERING  
**30** YEARS

*As HPCCR's longest serving volunteer, Penny Barr's commitment to patients, families, and the organization's mission is time-tested and profound.*

Photos Penny Barr,  
30 Year Volunteer for HPCCR



## PENNY BARR HAS SERVED FOR 30 YEARS AS A VOLUNTEER WITH HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE REGION.

She is 81. But still she remembers what inspired her to find her place beside the sick and dying. It's this way with many of the 300 volunteers currently serving.

### **Something in their lives stirred them to answer the call.**

Penny was born in Pittsburgh. Four months later, her mother left and never returned. Some kids have memories of family trips to the beach. Penny remembers pulling weeds at a neighbor's house.

"My childhood wasn't memorable," she says.

When Penny was 17, a senior in high school, her father had a heart attack and died. He was 54. On the cusp of adulthood, Penny moved in with her older sister until it was time to take care of herself. She eventually married and settled in Charlotte.

In 2010, Penny lost the oldest of her three children, Suzanne, to lung cancer. She was 49. She died at home in Matthews on a rainy Friday night. Hospice was there at the end to comfort Suzanne and her family.

"My life," Penny says, "has been kind of a mixed situation."

Isn't it so for most of us? Life gives us the bitter and the sweet. In Penny's case, she chose to embrace the sweet. Having forged a bond with hospice during her daughter's passing, she decided to pay it forward. A notary (she worked in a law firm), Penny began volunteering with HPCCR by notarizing wills and other documents for patients and families. Over time – she's been volunteering 30 of the 44 years that HPCCR has existed – she found her place in our hospice houses. Being at the bedside of a dying person doesn't intimidate her.

**"I feel like I'm supposed to be there," she says. "I feel like God is with me."**

Penny currently works two hours each Friday at the Levine & Dickson Hospice House at Southminster, located at the Southminster retirement community in south Charlotte. HPCCR offers end-of-life care at six hospice houses – two in Charlotte, one in Huntersville, one in Shelby, one in Kings Mountain, and one in Clinton, SC.

First thing Penny does when she arrives at Southminster is fold laundry. "Doorbells are ringing, buzzers are going off," she says, explaining that she gets right to work so as not to be a bother to the staff. She spends the rest of her shift with patients and families. She strikes up conversations



with those who find talking therapeutic. She gets a bottle of water for the thirsty. When asked, she will pray or read the Bible.

### Each patient is different.

She recalls a lively conversation with a retired engineer who enjoyed talking about the latest electronic gadget. Then there was a 17-year-old girl who didn't want to talk. Penny adjusted her blankets. She offered to paint her fingernails. The teenager shook her head no. A hard part of Penny's work is that she doesn't always find out what happens with each patient. The outcome may be inevitable. But she wishes she could know when the time comes for those she befriended, if only for a short while.

### Every story is different.

Some families are drowning in distress. Others seem at peace. Penny hopes all draw comfort from the warmth of the staff and the beauty of the hospice house, including the garden outside patients' windows.

Everyone at HPCCR is grateful to Penny, one of the two or three longest-serving volunteers in the organization's history. It's not just her abiding loyalty that sets her apart, it's her grace.

"She's humble," Director of Volunteer Services Elise Hurst says. "She's just a good, genuine person, always willing to help. She's the kind of person who goes, 'Oh, it's nothing.'"

With the six hospice houses, private homes, and retirement communities opening back up after COVID-19, more volunteers are needed to sit with patients, give families and caregivers a break, do yardwork, go to the grocery store, run other errands, work in the HPCCR office and more. Volunteers also offer pet and massage therapy. There's so much a volunteer can do. Just being a presence is often more than enough.

**There were 450 volunteers before COVID-19. There are 300 on the rolls now. HPCCR would love to have 600 to 700.**

Hurst hopes Penny remains one. Not to worry. She has no plans to retire.

"Hospice," Penny says, "has my number."

## HPCCR CELEBRATES ITS VOLUNTEERS

This spring HPCCR celebrates the following volunteers for their consecutive years of service to area patients and families, illuminating the organization's mission across its 32-county service area.



**Kathleen Kaney**

### 20 Years of Service

**Nancy Anheier**

#### 15 Years of Service

William Francis  
Wayne Goode  
Joe Notaro  
Elaine Allman  
Kay Cline  
Vickie Haas

#### 10 Years of Service

Wendi Peters  
Adrienne Chandler  
Colleen Watts  
George Rich  
Fernanda Shamanis  
Robin Lambe  
Jennifer Holofchak  
Barbara Broadway  
Nancy Mark  
Erin Nelson

#### 5 Years of Service

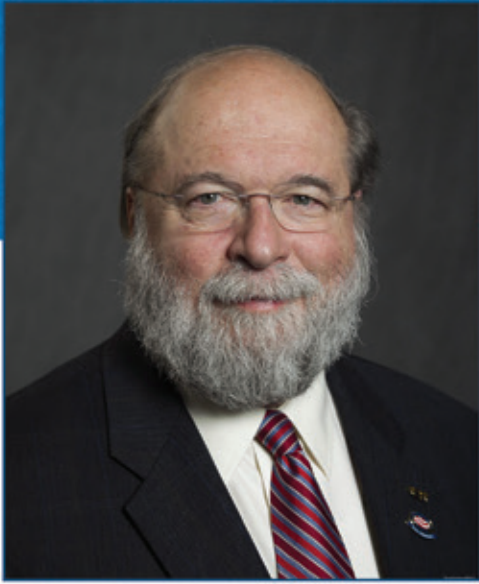
Neal Forney  
Timothy McAward  
Benjamin Chambers  
Patricia Wood  
Pete Crutchfield  
Jeanine Petty  
Nancy Wilson  
Angela Blocker  
Ray Wessmiller  
Jimmy Blackley  
Ruthellen Wise  
Lucy Preyer  
Lisa Feazell  
Ronald Weitze

## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Visit [www.hpccr.org/volunteering](http://www.hpccr.org/volunteering) to learn about opportunities to serve. *Volunteers must be 18 and over.*







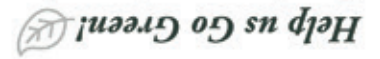
# IN MEMORIUM

## Chris Ullrich, MD

(1950 – 2021)

Last year, HPCCR said goodbye to one of its dedicated board members, Dr. Chris Ullrich. A distinguished radiologist who spent nearly four decades helping patients in the greater Charlotte area, Dr. Ullrich was generous with his time, resources, and keen intellect, helping to advance the field of radiology and the mission of other organizations he cared about deeply. Dr. Ullrich served on the HPCCR Board of Directors for five years, but his impact lives on today.

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 Chinese: 注意：如您能讲普通话，提供免费服务。免费提供普通话服务。  
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