Voices



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LSC staff members win Fabulous 50 awards

Lutheran Services Carolinas has two Fabulous 50 award winners this year, both from Trinity Ridge in Hickory: Crystal Benfield and Jimmy Sigmon.

Begun in 2001, the Fabulous 50 awards program is part of the long-term care community's effort to recognize the extraordinary contributions of all front-line staff to the quality of care and quality of life for residents in skilled nursing facilities.

When Crystal Benfield left the dietary department to become a certified nursing assistant in 2009, she went from quiet and shy to bubbly and energetic, says Trinity Ridge Director of Nursing Kim Price. Known for her generosity, Crystal often brings residents new clothing or treats from a favorite restaurant. She's particularly drawn to residents who have few visitors. "She embodies the true spirit and mission of Trinity Ridge," Kim says.

Also a Fabulous 50 winner, Jimmy Sigmon works in the environmental services department at Trinity Ridge.

"Jimmy has been a breath of fresh air for the staff and residents," Kim says. Always willing to lend a hand, Jimmy goes out of his way to do whatever is needed, whether it's part of his job or not. Quick with a kind word, Jimmy is known for his devotion and dedication to the residents of Trinity Ridge.

Congratulations to Crystal and Jimmy!



Jimmy Sigmon and Crystal Benfield of Trinity Ridge in Hickory have been named Fabulous Fifty award winners.



Are You Connected? Connect-4-Good!

LSC is inviting people across the Carolinas to learn more about its people and programs through its new program of philanthropy, advocacy, and volunteerism: Connect-4-Good.

Developed by LSC staff, the program seeks to build new ministry relationships by enlisting the help of current employees, supporters, and

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By Ted W. Goins, Jr. LSC President



On October 24, I stopped for gas near Concord Mills. If you'd like to know exactly where, ask me. I passed up the older convenience store I usually visit in favor of a brand new superstation. The pump wouldn't read my credit card. When I went inside, I was confronted by a sour-looking man leaning forward on the counter. The exchange as I hold out my card:

Me: The machine won't read my card.

Him: How much you want?

Me: I'd like to fill it up.

Him: How much is that?

Me (exasperated): Till it is full.

Him (deadpan): How much is that?

Me: Can you not hold my card till I fill up?

Him: No.

Me: Then I will take my business elsewhere.

This man was not engaged or satisfied with his job and cared not a bit about his customer. I drove to my old standby, and all was well with the world.

LSC can never fulfill its mission without the full engagement of every one of our 1,626 teammates spread across the Carolinas. If one teammate doesn't monitor a foster child, help an elder to the bathroom, or make sure that spill is cleaned, we cause loss, not abundant life. We are all in this together!

That's why we spend so much time on the team! For the second year in a row we have been measuring team engagement instead of just satisfaction. Satisfaction – how teammates feel about their work, pay, and benefits – is important. But engagement goes beyond, to how committed a teammate is to the mission and work.

You will not be surprised that LSC is blessed with many long-term teammates, like Trinity Village's Nancy London with nearly 46 years of service. An astounding 76 percent of staff completed the survey. LSC scored very high as an organization and against national benchmarks! When compared to organizations with a similar mission, LSC scored 14 points higher than the average on both the overall score and employee engagement. On the quality measure, LSC employees rated LSC at 15 points above average for organizations of a similar size.

LSC no longer has to worry about engagement? Au contraire, mon frere! LSC has to pay even more attention. We can always do better, and change is constant. Thanks to all of my fellow teammates for your engagement. Thank you to our residents, clients, families, donors, and volunteers as you share in our round-the-clock ministry!



Ann Pressly of Trinity Oaks gives a pilot Connect-4-Good tour to LSC employees.

Are You Connected?

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volunteers in recruiting potential supporters to tour the LSC programs and communities to learn more about the growing network of LSC services.

In October, Trinity Oaks Assistant Administrator Steve Drinkard and Director of Sales and Marketing Ann Pressly piloted the first tour by inviting other LSC employees to tour and enjoy the premier of the video "We're Connected." The video, which is also available on YouTube, will be shown during the tours as well as at other educational or awareness events.

If you'd like to tour an LSC community near you or learn more about programs or services in your area, contact LSC Director of Community Relations Mary Ann Johnson at 704-754-8224.



LSC boards welcome new members

Lutheran Services Carolinas has named five new members to its governing boards: Jim Huddle, Donald Bumgarner, the Rev. Pam Cook, Dr. Katrina Weirick, and the Rev. Jeff Shealy.



Jim Huddle

Jim Huddle is a technical accounting director for Duke Energy in Charlotte. He attends Living Saviour Lutheran Church. He has a bachelor's degree in arts philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Along with his wife, Jane, Jim

is a longtime supporter of LSC and says he hopes his accounting background will help him as a board member.



Donald Bumgarner

New board member Donald Bumgarner follows in the footsteps of his brother John, who has also served as a board member. Donald and wife Nancy were among the first recipients of LSC's Philanthropist of the Year award.

After graduating from Lenoir-Rhyne University, Donald became a real estate developer and investor, co-owning

The Spartan Group with John. Donald became involved with LSC through Trinity Village, formerly Lutheran Home-Hickory, where his father was a resident. Donald is a member of St. Stephens Lutheran in Hickory.



Rev. Pam Cook

The Rev. Pamela Cook serves as pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Cook has an undergraduate degree from Meredith College in American civilization and bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the University of South Florida. Her Master of Divinity degree is from

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.



Dr. Katrina Weirick

Dr. Katrina M. Weirick of Greensboro joins the boards as the North Carolina Synod Bishop's representative.
Weirick, who received an undergraduate degree from West Virginia University and a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Georgia, is a veterinarian and an active member of Community

Lutheran Church in Summerfield, N.C. She calls herself a "dyed-in-the-wool" Lutheran – her father served as a Lutheran minister for 60 years and her sister became a Lutheran minister about 10 years ago.



Rev. Jeff Shealy

Joining the board as the
South Carolina Synod Bishop's
representative is the Rev. Jeffrey
W. Shealy, who serves as pastor
of St. Luke Lutheran Church in
Florence, S.C. Shealy has a degree
in management from Southern
Wesleyan University and a Master
of Divinity degree from Lutheran

Theological Southern Seminary. He and wife Ashley make their home in Florence.

LSC welcomes the new members of the boards!

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For more information, contact mjohnson@LSCarolinas.net or call 704-754-8224.

LSC names Philanthropists of the Year for North Carolina

Bryce Hollar, Hans and Sigrid Teich, and Eric and Gail Vaughn have been named LSC Philanthropists of the Year for North Carolina.

The generosity of Bryce Hollar will be felt for years to come through a scholarship that enables Trinity Village employees to further their education in any field advancing their abilities to care for senior adults. Hollar endowed the Bryce and Margie Hollar Scholarship with an initial gift of \$100,000 in honor of his wife, the late Margie Hefner Hollar. The gift was a tribute to the Trinity Village staff who provided care for Margie in her final years.

"I saw the care and love of the employees when I visited my wife twice a day, six days a week for two years, and then experienced it firsthand when I was a resident for seven weeks," Bryce said. He still volunteers regularly at Trinity Village with son Michael and daughter-in-law Sherrill. "Bryce has a tremendous heart with a gentle and generous spirit," says Sharon Benfield, life enrichment coordinator at Trinity Village.

Bryce, who is 88, grew up in the Hickory area. He entered the Navy near the end of World War II, married in 1946 and then rejoined the Navy during the Korean War. On returning to Hickory he worked at a hosiery mill and then took classes at a business college. He had a 30-year career with General Electric in Hickory.

• • •

Long-time LSC supporters Hans and Sigrid Teich of Charlotte have also been named LSC Philanthropists of the Year. Hans and Sigrid have been supporters of senior services for many years, and Hans served as a board member from 2002-2011. In addition to their generous annual support they have created a planned gift.

Hans' passion has been care for the elderly. "The Lord called me to that ministry," he says.

Hans and Sigrid have been active members of Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte since 1985, when they moved from New Jersey, where they attended Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence. Sigrid sings in the choir, is involved in the quilting ministry and is head of the altar guild. Hans, who has audited many courses at Lutheran Seminary in Columbia, leads two Bible classes, makes hospital visits and is head of the usher team for the traditional service.

Hans began working as a textile chemist for Bayer in Germany in 1960, later moving to the U.S. to continue his employment. After retiring from Bayer after 30 years, he began working for Cardinal Container Services in Lexington, N.C., as a consultant.

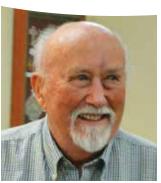
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For their faithful support, including their participation as challenge donors to help close the *Keeping the Promise* campaign and their efforts to develop housing for adults with disabilities, Eric and Gail Vaughn of Raleigh have also been named Philanthropists of the Year.

Gail, who grew up in Pennsylvania, met Eric, an Ohio native, while the two were attending Wittenberg College in Ohio. When the company Eric worked for in Raleigh was sold in 1987, he began his own electronics business. He has served on the board of Lutheran Family Services and, later, on the LSC boards.

In 1992, Gail began a Sunday school class for adults with developmental disabilities at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. That first class was composed largely of residents of LSC's Whittecar House, which had just been built. In 1997, Gail led the effort to start a church coffeehouse for those with developmental disabilities.

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Bryce Hollar Sigrid and Hans Teich





Eric and Gail Vaughn

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Realizing that housing was a huge issue for the coffeehouse participants, Gail formed The Serving Cup in 2000 to address the problem.

In 2010, The Serving Cup, partnering with The Arc and Lutheran Services Carolinas (then Lutheran Family Services), opened Green Level Homes in Cary. That success led The Serving Cup to forge a similar partnership with LSC and Habitat for Humanity. The resulting initiative, the Building Independence project, recently broke ground for three homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

LSC is tremendously grateful for the many contributions of those who have been honored as Philanthropists of the Year. South Carolina Philanthropists of the Year will be announced in the spring.

Steinway gift prompts memories of friendship

While some people might think that her unlikely reunion with an old friend was mere coincidence, you're not going to convince Deanna Boksleitner that the hand of God wasn't at work.

Deanna shared her memories of her good friend Jo Ford at the recent dedication at Trinity Oaks of a Steinway piano, a gift from Jo and her husband, Charles. Jo and Charles died 16 days apart in late 2013 and early 2014.

The women's friendship began in the mid 1960s, when Jo, a musician and native of Gold Hill, N.C., moved to Ohio. Deanna and Jo became acquainted at Roselawn Lutheran Church, where they served together in the music ministry. They often played piano and organ duets and became great friends.

Deanna and her husband, Rudy, eventually moved, and at some point, Deanna and Jo lost track of each other.

In the summer of 2011, Deanna and Rudy left their Raleigh home to move into an apartment at Trinity Oaks in Salisbury. Through a conversation with another resident, Deanna was amazed to discover that Jo and Charles were living just a few miles away, in nearby Granite Quarry.

In short order, the two women reconnected, and before long, Jo and Charles had secured an apartment across the hall from Deanna and Rudy at Trinity Oaks. Jo's Steinway came with her, and nearby residents on the second floor loved to hear her practice. Deanna and Rudy were able to help Jo and Charles as their health declined in the last months of their lives, and at Jo's funeral service, Deanna played the organ.

Jo's musical legacy lives on with her generous gift to Trinity Oaks, and Deanna is happy to be reminded of her friend every time she sits down at the keys.



Deanna Boksleitner plays the Steinway piano at Trinity Oaks, a gift from Jo and Charles Ford.

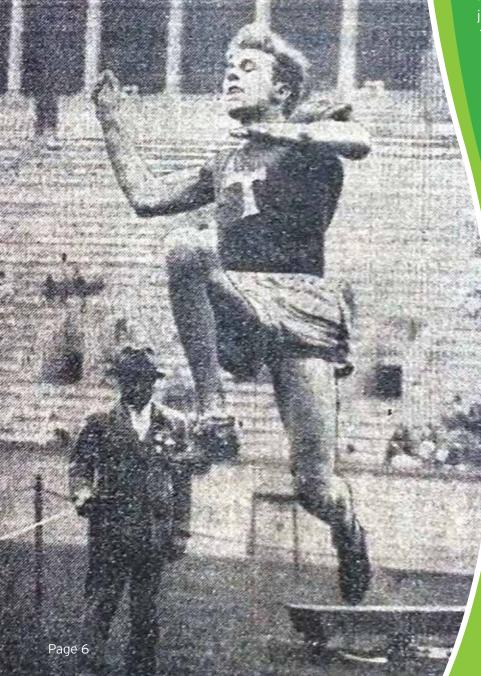


Jo and Deanna reunited after many years apart.



Deanna makes sure the Trinity Oaks Steinway gets a





Trinity View resident shares memories of Jesse Owens

What would it have been like to go up against the legendary Jesse Owens in a track and field event?

Stanley Johnson, a resident of Trinity View in Arden, can tell you.

Johnson, who turned 100 recently, actually beat
Owens once when the two competed in the long
jump – Johnson for the Massachusetts Institute of
Technology and Owens for Ohio State University.
But Johnson is quick to laugh and point out that the
victory only occurred when the legendary track
and field star scratched.

"Owens was so much better than everyone else," says Stanley's son, Steve Johnson, who has heard a lot of stories about his father's athletic career at MIT in the 1930s.

Before the Olympics, Johnson and Owens had competed against one another several times in the long jump at the collegiate national championships. Both men competed at the Olympic trials in 1936, though in different events. Johnson placed a respectable fifth in the triple jump, but his performance wasn't good enough for him to make the Olympic team. Owens, of course, went on to dominate the Berlin Olympics, winning four gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump, and 4 x 100 meter relay.

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Top: Stanley Johnson is shown here celebrating his 100th birthday with his family at Trinity View.

Left: While competing for MIT, Stanley Johnson stretches out for a long jump of more than 24 feet.

Johnson reconnected with Owens early in the 1960s, Steve says. The former competitors ate lunch together in Pittsburgh, talking for hours about the old days. Steve was about 10 at the time and didn't quite grasp the historical significance of his father's lunch companion, who died in 1980.

As a collegiate athlete, Johnson was also acquainted with Louis Zamperini, a University of Southern California track star who competed in the 1936 Olympics and later became a war hero, surviving torture for two years as a Japanese prisoner of war. Zamperini is the subject of an upcoming movie, "Unbroken," directed by Angelina Jolie.

With the death of Zamperini this past July, Stanley Johnson is likely the only athlete remaining who participated in the 1936 U.S. Olympic trials.

Although Johnson didn't make the Olympics, his long jump record at MIT of 24 feet, 2 inches, stood for 74 years until it was broken by a mere quarter of an inch in 2010. Johnson was also an excellent hurdler, breaking a school record his freshman year.

Stanley Johnson graduated from MIT in 1936. Because of his knowledge of metallurgy, he served as a gunnery officer overseeing the refurbishment of machine guns at the Alameda Air Station in California.

After the war he had a long career working for U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh, retiring in the 1980s. He was a United Nations delegate, serving as the premier expert in the United States on the metal tin.

Since 2007, Johnson has been a popular resident of Trinity View, a rental senior living community in Arden operated by Lutheran Services Carolinas. He's known for the respect and gratitude he shows his caregivers, his taste for lobster tail, and for asking, "What's next on my agenda for the day?"

LSC recognized for outstanding resident satisfaction

Two Lutheran Services Carolinas senior living communities, Trinity Oaks health and rehab in Salisbury and Trinity View in Arden, have received the Excellence in Action award from My InnerView by National Research Corporation. This honor recognizes long-term care and senior living organizations that achieve the highest levels of satisfaction excellence, as demonstrated by overall resident or employee satisfaction scores that fall within the top 10 percent of the My InnerView product database, the largest in the U.S.

"We are proud that our residents and families feel good about the care we provide," said Bill Johnson, administrator of Trinity Oaks health and rehab. "We are not perfect all of the time, but we strive to improve and make positive experiences for those we serve."

"Our staff takes great pride in caring for our residents and their families and prioritizes customer service," said Trinity View administrator Sharon Conoley. "We feel honored to have dedicated staff here each and every day who care for our residents."

Trinity View in Arden offers both assisted living residences and independent living apartments for seniors. Trinity Oaks health and rehab, part of the Trinity Oaks campus in Salisbury, provides long-term skilled nursing care and assisted living services as well as short-term rehabilitation services.

God's work. Our hands. ELCA initiative serves Trinity Place

As part of the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." initiative, all four Stanly County Lutheran Churches visited Trinity Place Sunday, Sept. 28, for an afternoon of service and fellowship. Trinity Place is a skilled care nursing home in Albemarle operated by Lutheran Services Carolinas.

With about 75 volunteers participating, the churches included St. Martin's Lutheran, New Bethel Lutheran and First Lutheran, all from Albemarle, and Mt. Zion Lutheran from Richfield. Workers did landscaping around the building, including the courtyard in the back.

After the grounds were spruced up, the churches led and participated in a worship service with Trinity Place residents.

Worship included the live gospel music of Monk's Band, who played songs like "Amazing Grace" and "Keep on the Sunny Side." After

worship, the churches provided a grilled hamburger and hot dog dinner, with homemade ice cream for dessert.



Trinity Place residents enjoyed a grilled hamburger and hot dog dinner, thanks to 'God's work. Our hands,' volunteers.

"'God's work. Our hands.' was

a wonderful day of service, and we appreciate everyone's time and effort," said Trinity Place Administrator Courtney Adams. "The residents are very grateful for the work that was completed, the service that was given, and the great meal that was prepared. Thank you to the churches for their kindness and generosity!"





Be one of 15 in '15!

LSC is looking for at least 15 new planned giving donors who will become part of the Shepherd Legacy Society in 2015. This group includes those who have made plans for the future benefit of LSC by naming LSC as the beneficiary of a will, an annuity, a life insurance policy, an IRA, an ongoing trust distribution or similar giving device, as well as those who have already blessed an LSC

ministry with an estate gift. Planned gifts are thoughtful gifts that come in all shapes and sizes. Do you already have a gift like this in place that LSC may not know about? Please let us know. Not sure how to get started? Contact Betty Kuhn, LSC's chief development officer, at 704-754-7563 or bkuhn@LSCarolinas.net to learn how.

LSC hosts meeting of Lutheran development professionals

A meeting of the Carolinas-Virginia chapter of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives (ALDE) was held Oct. 21 at the Lutheran Services Carolinas administrative office in Salisbury.

Allan Burrows, president of Capital Development Services, spoke on shifting the focus of development staff from "fundraising" to "philanthropy" with an emphasis on relational rather than transactional philanthropy. This approach is consistent with LSC's current development approach, which

seeks to be "donor centered."

Burrows talked about changing demographics and what motivates different generations to give; he also emphasized the importance of having active and engaged board members.

In the afternoon, Phyllis Castens Wiederhoeft, ALDE executive director visiting from Madison, Wisconson, discussed the new structure of ALDE.

Trinity Oaks adds outdoor fireplace

Outdoor parties at Trinity Oaks will now be a little warmer and brighter, thanks to the addition of a handsome new stone fireplace. "It was made possible by our annual golf tournament and the donation of a private donor," said Trinity Oaks Campus Director Bill Johnson. "It's part of our desire to enhance outdoor amenities." Earlier this year, a putting green was built at Trinity Oaks. More than 100 residents celebrated the first fireplace lighting with a patio party Oct. 22.



Double the impact of your gifts of money and time

Did you know that many companies match charitable gifts, dollar for dollar, made by their employees or retirees? Many companies also have volunteer grant programs that provide monetary donations based on the number of hours their employees volunteer at local nonprofits.

Participating in your company's matching gift and/or volunteer grant programs is simple:

Step 1

Contact your Human Resources department for eligibility requirements and matching gift/ volunteer grant forms. Many companies make it easy to access and submit these forms online.

Step 2

Fill out the employee portion of the form and submit online or print a copy and send along with your donation to Lutheran Services Carolinas, PO Box 947, Salisbury, N.C. 28145. You can also scan a copy and email it to CGodbolt@LSCarolinas.net. It's that easy!

Employers who offer matching gifts and/or volunteer grant programs and are already making matching gifts to LSC include Allstate, Bank of America, Covidien, Duke Energy, ExxonMobil, GlaxoSmithKline, RBC Centura, Sara Lee and Thrivent Financial. Many other companies also provide matching gifts.

Please check with your Human Resources office to see if your company offers these programs and maximize your giving power!



Supporters of The Serving Cup, Lutheran Services Carolinas, and Habitat for Humanity joined together Oct. 19 in Raleigh to celebrate the groundbreaking for the Building Independence project.

LSC in innovative partnership to build homes for adults with developmental disabilities

Lutheran Services Carolinas, along with Habitat for Humanity of Wake County and The Serving Cup, met Oct. 19 in Raleigh to celebrate a literal groundbreaking as well as a groundbreaking partnership. The three non-profit organizations are joining forces to raise \$450,000 for the Building Independence project, which is gearing up to build three homes for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities at 2610 Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh.

About one hundred people came to the groundbreaking ceremony to tour the site and hear about the project, which, if successful, could become a model regionally and nationwide.

The Building Independence project will serve nine adults in the three adjacent homes. Each resident will have his or her own bedroom and bathroom, and each home will have a kitchen, dining room, and den. One of the homes will have a larger common space for resident activities. The homes will be accessible to public transportation and shopping, and the homes will be energy efficient and affordable to maintain. Residents will have the daily on-site support needed for them to live safely and independently. This independent living skills coaching, together with additional services coordinated by Lutheran Services Carolinas, will provide each resident with the opportunity to work in a paid job or in a vocational training setting, to increase social skills, and to practice money management.

"Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities deserve to be as independent as possible," says Lutheran Services Carolinas President Ted W. Goins, Jr. "We're excited at the prospect that LSC's partnership with The Serving Cup and Habitat of Humanity of Wake County can serve as a model for others who are called to address the pressing need for supportive housing."

LSC board members complete their terms

LSC owes a debt of gratitude to the four people who have rotated off the LSC boards this year: John Bumgarner, Joyce Ericson, Mary Finklea,







Joyce Ericson



Rev. Mary Finklea



Paige Krier

LSC staff learn about danger of secondary trauma

Workers in some professions wear steel-toed boots to protect themselves from job hazards. But some workers need emotional, rather than physical protection.

"We can't wear steel-covered souls," said Kelli Scurry to her audience of Lutheran Services Carolinas employees. The training was organized by Sarah Quirk, who is the executive clinical director for LSC's child and family services.

Scurry leads the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice's efforts to be a trauma-informed agency and conducts training in "trauma-informed care." If LSC employees are fulfilling the organization's mission statement by truly walking together with those they serve, they are at risk of "secondary trauma," since many of those they serve – from foster children to refugees—have experienced trauma.



Kelli Scurry tells LSC employees that they need to take care of themselves or they won't be able to continue caring for others.

Secondary traumatic stress can happen to those who serve primary trauma victims. And in fact, post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), often thought to be caused by direct trauma, can also be caused by exposure to others' traumatic experiences.

and Paige Krier. LSC appreciates the gifts and

talents they shared during their years of faithful

Vicarious traumatization – which is different from burnout or "compassion fatigue" – can occur as the result of feeling empathy for a traumatized person. Symptoms of secondary trauma include fear, sleeplessness, hypervigilance, chronic exhaustion, physical ailments, feelings of helplessness, an inability to embrace complexity, avoidance of clients, anger, and cynicism.

Scurry praised LSC for being proactive in caring about its work force.

"The training was definitely helpful," said Julie Hood, a regional team manager in LSC's foster care program. Referrals are getting tougher, she said, with more children having histories full of trauma. "Foster care case workers have great empathy for these kids," she says, which puts the workers at risk for secondary trauma. Hearing about ways to cultivate a supportive work environment was helpful, Hood said.

Trinity Senior Living Communities

Trinity Elms (Assisted Living) 3750 Harper Road Clemmons, NC 27012 336-766-2131

Trinity Elms (Health & Rehab) 7449 Fair Oaks Drive Clemmons, NC 27012 336-747-1153

Trinity Glen 849 Waterworks Road Winston-Salem, NC 27101 336-595-2166

Trinity Grove 631 Junction Creek Drive Wilmington, NC 28412 910-442-3000

> Trinity Oaks (Health & Rehab) 820 Klumac Road Salisbury, NC 28144 704-637-3784

Trinity Oaks (Independent Living) 728 Klumac Road Salisbury, NC 28144 704-633-1002

Trinity Place 24724 South Business 52 Albemarle, NC 28001 704-982-8191

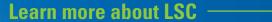
Trinity Ridge 2140 Medical Park Drive Hickory, NC 28602 828-322-6995

Trinity View 2533 Hendersonville Road Arden, NC 28704 828-687-0068

> Trinity Village 1265 21st St., NE Hickory, NC 28601 828-328-2006

Adult Day Services

Trinity Living Center 1416-A S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. Salisbury, NC 28144 704-637-3940





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"Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve."

Hornets Manager Rich Cho honored as Walk of Courage winner

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran Services Carolinas teamed up to honor Charlotte Hornets General Manager Rich Cho, a former refugee from Burma, at the Walk of Courage Award Breakfast Oct. 14 at McGuire Woods in Charlotte. Cho shared a letter written in 1968 in Rangoon, Burma, from his father, thanking an Indiana couple who had offered to take in the Cho family as refugees. A toddler when that letter was written, Cho would soon travel with his family to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to begin a new life.

During opening remarks, LSC President Ted W. Goins, Jr. noted that since 1998, LSC has worked to help resettle 875 Burmese refugees.

Cho has been active in mentoring new immigrant players in the NBA, as well as Asian American law students, and has returned to Burma to put on basketball clinics with the NBA and the U.S. State Department.



Rich Cho, center, poses with LIRS President Linda Hartke and LSC President Ted Goins during a Charlotte event honoring Cho.

"Rich has demonstrated remarkable courage and achievement," said LIRS President and CEO Linda Hartke.

Cho, who became overwhelmed with emotion as he read the letter from his father, says he was in the right place at the right time and was fortunate to be able to learn from a lot of great people.