

ALEXANDER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

February 2026 eNews



LETTERS FROM LYNN: FEBRUARY 2026

This month, I was so excited about the Winter Olympics. I stayed up late binge-watching sports I don't truly understand, like curling, and imagined flying down a mountain at 80 mph or gliding around the ice on tiny, little blades. Things I don't have the guts to do in real life, but I get to live vicariously through the lives of these amazing athletes. They have trained their whole lives with the dream of competing at the highest level, hoping to win a gold and be able to say they are the best at their

sport. Can you imagine what that must feel like? The sense of pride and achievement. To know you poured your heart into something and it paid off. You did it, you are the champion.

While I have never won a gold medal or competed on a stage like these athletes did, I am competing in life and working hard to accomplish the goal of making the lives better for children and adolescents struggling with emotional and behavioral challenges. Striving to be that bridge that gives them hope and helps them to heal. At Alexander Youth Network that is what we do, build bridges to hope and healing. Sometimes people will look at the kids we serve and wonder how they could achieve the ultimate success. For our kids it may be the small milestones in life, like learning to read or paying attention in class for 30 minutes. To give themselves grace when they don't handle a situation the right way or to stop and think before reacting. Or it could be to find a home where they are loved and cared for, where there is food security and a warm bed, when conflicts are solved nonviolently, a place to dream, a place to find hope and understanding. Many of our kids stumble and fall as Lindsey Vonn did in her chase for another gold medal, but I hope with your support and generosity, our kids will do as Lindsey did and try against great odds to chase their dream. She sums it up best, "Sometimes we don't achieve the dreams we know we could have. But that is also the beauty of life, we can try."

Together, we can help the children of Alexander Youth Network try at the game of life. We can have that feeling that we worked hard to make someone else's life a little better. I hope you will come out to visit our campus and see firsthand how Alexander Youth Network is giving them a chance at success. To learn more about Alexander In Action: Discover Alexander Youth Network, [please visit our website](#).

Gratefully,
Lynn

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Do you have free time during a weekday lunch hour? If so, please consider spending it with one of the children in our Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility as a Lunch Buddy! We are specifically in need of male volunteers for the boys in our program, many of whom have not had a caring and consistent male role model in their lives. You can help change that simply by showing up, sharing a meal, listening, and offering encouragement during a challenging time.

Lunch Buddies spend an hour each week building connections, modeling healthy social skills, and reminding our kids that they matter. If you're looking for a meaningful way to make a difference in a child's day, and often their entire week, we'd love to welcome you into our volunteer community. Just one lunch break a week can provide a child in our program with the support, encouragement, and connection they need to thrive. Having a lunch buddy helps our kids learn how to build healthy relationships, develop trust, and experience consistency and routine, which many have lacked in the past. It's a little lunch, a lot of fun, and it makes a tremendous impact!

Lunch Buddies are required to complete the Direct Service Volunteer application and attend New Volunteer Orientation before getting started. If you're interested in volunteering as a Lunch Buddy, please reach out to our Volunteer Engagement Officer, Ashley Nieves, at anieves@aynkids.org.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Alexander Youth Network is grateful to the many partnerships we have made within our community! In this edition, we are honored to highlight one of our community partners who has been involved since 2020. Alexander Ricks PLLC is a boutique law firm serving clients across the country, offering sophisticated and strategic legal counsel across a wide range of business practice areas.

Thanks to Jon Goldberg, Member at Alexander Ricks and chair of the Alexander Youth Network Board of Directors, we have developed a wonderful partnership with Alexander Ricks. Not only have they been a sponsor of our annual fundraising luncheon, but have been a partner providing gifts to our children during the holidays. We are grateful to Jon for his leadership as board chair and for fostering our relationship with Alexander Ricks.

When asked why Alexander Youth Network, Jon said "Time is a valuable commodity, so you want any commitment to be worth the time and effort. It's hard to imagine a more worthy commitment than time spent helping the youth served by Alexander Youth Network."

Partners such as Alexander Ricks play such a vital role in Alexander Youth Network's fundamental work to build bridges to hope and healing for the children we serve across the state. Thank you for all you do, Alexander Ricks!



Alexander Ricks PLLC

CELEBRATING OUR KIDS

We are excited to announce that Celebrating Our Kids will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Celebrating Our Kids is our annual fundraiser where we share inspiring stories of the transformative work being done at Alexander Youth Network.

We are actively recruiting Table Captains for the event. If you are interested in hosting a table of 10 guests or to learn more about Celebrating Our Kids, please reach out to Brooks Shelley, Director of Development, at bshelley@aynkids.org.

Save The Date For Celebrating Our Kids

Alexander Youth Network's Annual Fundraiser

Building Bridges: Transforming Tomorrow Together

Join us for lunch and a celebration of the kids we serve,
both past and present. And learn how
together we are building bridges to help kids heal.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

NASCAR Hall of Fame
400 E Martin Luther King Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28202

"Approach life as children do: build bridges, not walls,
and stay curious"



ALEXANDER
YOUTH NETWORK



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Thank you to our generous event sponsors – your commitment to our cause is the cornerstone of our success. Your support empowers us to continue our vital work, and for that, we are eternally grateful. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a sponsor for Celebrating Our Kids 2026, please reach out to our Director of Development, Brooks Shelley.

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CAMPUS TOURS

Join us for a tour of Alexander Youth Network! Tours are scheduled for the first and third Thursday of the month. This is a great opportunity for a personalized, guided tour where you can ask questions and learn about all the amazing programs and services provided by Alexander Youth Network.

All tours of Alexander will take place on the Charlotte campus, located at 6220 Thermal Road, Charlotte, NC. Campus tours are 1 hour long. You can sign up for a tour by visiting our website. If you would like to come for a tour, but are not able to make one of the scheduled dates, please contact Kaitlyn Dixon at kcoppadge@aynkids.org or 704-227-9159.

Tours in March will take place on the 5th at 12:00 pm and the 19th at 4:30 pm. April tours will take place on the 2nd at 12:30 pm and the 16th at 4:30 pm.

BIRDIES FOR BETTER



Birdies for Better

Truist Championship

Alexander Youth Network is participating in Birdies for Better! Birdies for Better is a program that invites local nonprofits to leverage the excitement of the Truist Championship to raise funds for their organization.

From November 12, 2025 until May 6, 2026 individuals who make a minimum \$20 donation to Alexander Youth Network have the opportunity to guess the total number of birdies

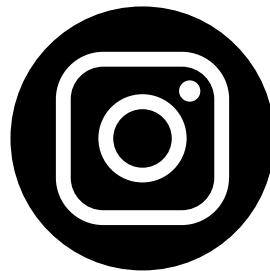
that will be made at this year's Truist Championship. The individual who guesses closest to the total number of birdies will have the chance to win a grand prize of a one-year Audi Q5 lease or \$10,000! Or you can choose the \$10,000 be directed to the charity of your choice. The runner-up will have a VIP Experience for Two at the 2027 Truist Championship.

Alexander Youth Network will receive 100% of every donation designated to us, in addition to a portion of funds from a \$100,000 bonus pool provided by the Truist Championship. If you would like to donate to Alexander Youth Network and have us submit an offline birdie guess on your behalf, please reach out to Kaitlyn Dixon at kcoppadge@aynkids.org for more information.

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