

ALEXANDER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

March 2026 eNews



LETTERS FROM LYNN: MARCH 2026

Alexander Youth Network's mission is to transform the lives of children facing emotional and behavioral health challenges. By building bridges to hope and healing, we empower children to grow, families to strengthen and communities to thrive. Every member of our staff, from direct care members to administrative staff, is a bridge builder for our kids' success. You're a bridge builder too, whether you volunteer your time, contribute financially, or just share about the work of Alexander Youth Network with others. With your support, we are providing the hope that

many of our kids need to heal. Thank you!

What is hope? Is it the feeling that everything will work out on its own? Or the belief that you will be able to work through life's challenges with the support of and trust in others? I view hope as that spark or "ah ha" moment that allows me to do the things that feel daunting or hard. Hope allows me to be vulnerable when I am struggling and ask for help because I know I have a support system I can trust. For the kids in our programs, hope is the once shy and reserved child that lights up because their lunch buddy has arrived for their visit. Or the child who hasn't been able to stay in his classroom for a full day due to his behaviors being able to express to his teacher when he's feeling overwhelmed and having multiple "good days" in a row.

I was at a conference just last week and was asked what it would take for our services to no longer be needed. Honestly, I don't see a world where our services aren't needed, but I am filled with the belief that all children can heal from the emotional challenges and trauma they have suffered. Our programs are providing hope to children across the state and helping them heal. With the support of our donors and volunteers, we are creating a space that is filled with love, laughter, and the support they need to thrive.

Consider joining me in attending our annual luncheon where you can see hope in action and hear stories of children and families whose lives were transformed by your kindness and generosity. For more information on our annual Celebrating Our Kids luncheon, or to set up a tour to see Alexander in Action where you can Discover Alexander Youth Network, please email me directly at lcritchfield@aynkids.org.

Gratefully,
Lynn

VOLUNTEER CORNER

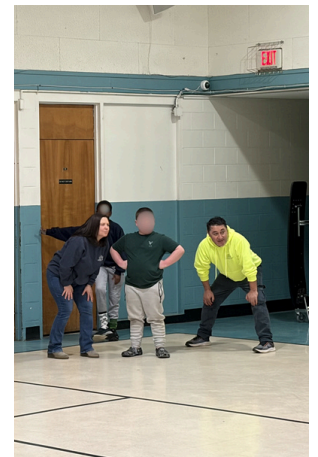
We recently welcome volunteers from The Stone Man to campus for an afternoon of fun with the kids in our Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. The team has contributed to our annual Angel Network holiday giving program for many years, but many of them had never been to campus to see the mission of Alexander Youth Network first hand. It was truly a delight to spend time with the folks who have been supporting our efforts behind the scenes.

Longtime friends of Alexander Youth Network and The Stone Man Owners, Linda and Alan Lochridge, brought their whole team out to host a pizza party followed by a friendly game of kickball. The rain may have ruined our plan to play outside, but that didn't stop the fun! We pivoted to an indoor kickball game, which turned out to be the perfect alternative for a muddy day. The kids, staff, and volunteers had a blast, and many of the kids have already asked when "the kickball guys" are coming back to play!

The Stone Man team's dedication didn't stop there. Wanting to make sure our kids have a wonderful Easter and the chance to create special childhood memories, they also offered to fill and donate eggs for our upcoming Easter egg hunt!

Thank you to the amazing volunteers at The Stone Man for spending the afternoon bringing smiles to our kiddos' faces. We are truly grateful for the time, energy, and heart you put into creating lasting memories for our kids.

If you're interested in learning more about opportunities to bring your team to Alexander Youth Network for an impactful volunteer event, 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 for over 35 years. Hood Hargett & Associates have been providing insurance coverage for more than 40 years to some of Charlotte's and the southeast's highest profile companies and individuals.

Thanks to Chuck Hood, the founder of Hood Hargett and former Alexander Youth Network board member, we have had a long standing relationship with the company. When asked why Alexander Youth Network, Chuck said "For more than 35 years, Hood Hargett has stood beside Alexander Youth Network as a steadfast partner in their mission. Alexander Youth Network's unwavering commitment has helped provide hope, healing, and life-changing care to thousands of children across North Carolinas for many years. We are deeply grateful for their decades of leadership, generosity, and belief in the potential of every child served."

Partners such as Hood Hargett 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 believing in our work!

HOOD HARGETT

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 April will take place on the 2nd at 12:00 pm and the 16th at 4:30 pm. May tours will take place on the 7th at 12:30 pm and the 21st at 4:30 pm.

CELEBRATING OUR KIDS

We are excited for Celebrating Our Kids next month! This annual fundraiser is on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

If you are interested in attending or learning about corporate sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Brooks Shelley, Director of Development, at bshelley@aynkids.org.

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.

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MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS NIGHT

We are excited to participate in the Charlotte Hornets' Mental Health Awareness Night on Friday, April 3rd! The Hornets have joined Alexander Youth Network to highlight the importance of children's mental health and the challenges that individuals may face.

Use our link to purchase tickets for the game and a portion of the proceeds will go directly to Alexander Youth Network! To purchase tickets, [click here](#).

Optional Pre-Game: Mental Health Panel Featuring Brennon Graham

As part of Mental Health Awareness Night, our CEO, Brennon Graham, will take part in a featured panel earlier in the day discussing children's mental health in North Carolina. Ticket holders can attend the panel free of charge as well as participate in pregame fun.

Panel Details:

- Friday, April 3rd at 1:00 pm
- Spectrum Center
- Free for anyone with a ticket to the April 3rd game against the Indiana Pacers

This will be an inspiring conversation focused on children's mental health, hope, resilience, and the power of supportive adults – themes at the heart of our mission.

Arrive Early for Shoot-Arounds and Pregame Fun

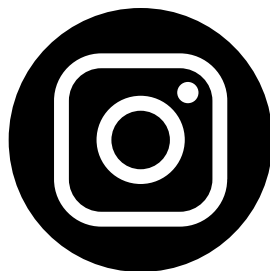
Doors open early for Mental Health Awareness Night! Employees and guests may enter the arena at 5:30 PM to watch player shoot-arounds, enjoy pre-game activities, and explore the arena before tip-off.

We hope you'll join us and help shine a bright light on children's mental health during this special night. Let's fill the arena with Alexander spirit and make it a night to remember!

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