

ALEXANDER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

April 2026 eNews



LETTERS FROM LYNN: APRIL 2026

As the saying goes, April showers (although we haven't had many) bring May flowers, and that is certainly the case for Alexander Youth Network. On April 21st, we hosted our annual fundraising luncheon, Celebrating Our Kids. I was thrilled to see so many familiar faces, as well as some new ones, join us to learn more about the critical work Alexander Youth Network is doing to help children and youth across North Carolina develop the coping skills they need to better manage their emotional and behavioral health challenges.

I am excited that the many faces in the room showered us with generosity and there will be many May flowers for the children we serve.

I must give special thanks to [Julien Franco for courageously sharing his story](#) about how Alexander Youth Network helped him through the trauma he suffered as a young boy and gave him the tools he has today to be an independent young adult. I also want to thank the many volunteers who showed up and made our event a success. Thank you to the team at Alexander Youth Network who work directly with our children and youth every day to give them what they need, when they need it, and for the right amount of time. Malik McCrimmon and Jerome Nelson are two such staff. We had the privilege of having our Charlotte therapeutic drumming group play for us at the luncheon. They were fabulous and our kiddos were able to showcase their new talent, drumming. Malik and Jerome helped to prepare our drummers who showed up in their best dress and shined brightly.

I want to personally thank each person who attended, listened, donated, volunteered or learned more about the mental health crisis among children and youth in North Carolina. Your kindness and generosity have impacted so many already and I have hope for the future of North Carolina's children and youth for healing and strength. Together, we can change the path for this vulnerable population. Our children are our future, and your gifts of time and treasure are making that future bright. Thank you for being bridge builders to hope and healing.

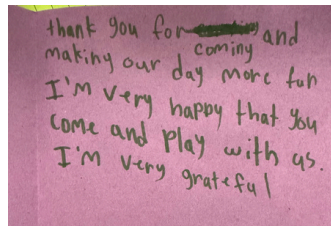
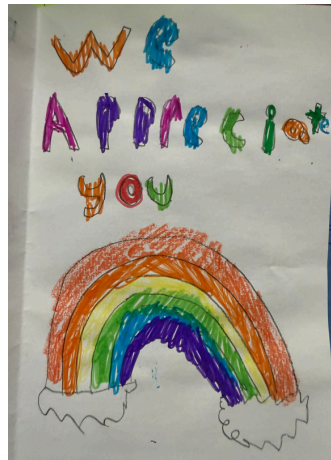
If you haven't already, we invite you to read our [2025 Annual Report](#) to learn more about how the work we do is building bridges to hope and healing for the children and families we serve with the help of our staff and supporters like you.

Gratefully,
Lynn

VOLUNTEER CORNER

This month we celebrated National Volunteer Week, a time to shine a spotlight on the incredible people who pour their time, energy, and hearts into making a difference and supporting our mission. The dedication, compassion, and selflessness our volunteers show is truly inspiring.

To all our amazing volunteers: THANK YOU! Whether you come to campus once a week to spend one-on-one time with a child as a buddy, host a birthday party with coworkers, brighten our hallways with festive bulletin boards, or plant flowers that bring joy to everyone who walks by, YOU make a world of difference. The special memories, encouragement, and support you provide stay with our kids long after your time on campus. We couldn't do this without you!



Don't miss our Volunteer Spotlights featuring two of our standout volunteers, Mr. Bob, our beloved painting teacher, and Ms. Leigh, one of our fantastic lunch buddies. Click the images below!

If you're feeling inspired and want to learn more about getting involved, reach out to our Volunteer Engagement Officer, Ashley Nieves, at anieves@aynkids.org.



CELEBRATING OUR KIDS

On April 21st we had our annual fundraising event, Celebrating Our Kids, at the NASCAR Hall of Fame! We were joined by over 300 community members, donors, and partners to hear more about the mission of Alexander Youth Network and learn how they can help support the children we serve.

This year, we heard from a former client, Julien Franco, and the Alexander Youth Network staff member, Patrick Brown, that played an instrumental role on Julien's path to healing while in our Residential Treatment Center in Greensboro. Todd Carlson, Alexander Youth Network board member, also shared with our guests the journey his family has had with navigating the mental health care system and why our mission is so meaningful to him. Thank you so much for sharing your stories! We were left inspired and in awe of your courage and strength.

We were also joined by a few of our Charlotte Day Treatment and Psychiatric Residential Treatment program kiddos. They greeted guests as they arrived and did a performance demonstrating what they've learned with our therapeutic drumming program! They had a great time getting dressed up and meeting new people.

This year's event raised over \$950,000 to support the programs and services of Alexander Youth Network. We are so grateful to everyone that attended and our staff and volunteers that made this event so successful!



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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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 May will take place on the 7th at 12:30 pm and the 21st at 4:30 pm. June tours will take place on the 4th at 12:30 pm and the 18th at 4:30 pm.

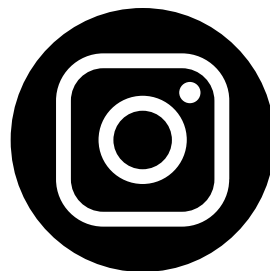
COMMUNITY CORNER

Celebrating Our Kids was at the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Uptown Charlotte this year and we had a wonderful experience with them! While we were working with the staff to coordinate our event, we learned about the NASCAR Hall of Fame Foundation. Their Laps With Legends 5K supports their scholarship program, which helps fuel the future of NASCAR and young minds by ensuring all students have access to their hands-on STRE(A)M-based educational programming at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. The children who benefit from their foundation are those most in need, much like the children we serve at Alexander Youth Network. [To learn more about their 5K on May 23, visit their website.](#)

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