

ALEXANDER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

June 2026 eNews



LETTERS FROM LYNN: JUNE 2026

Hip, hip, hooray – school is out! If you are a student, you look forward to knowing that school is out and summer vacation has begun. I had the privilege of attending the moving up ceremony for the children who attend the Psychiatric Residential Treatment program on our Charlotte campus. The 41 kiddos filed in our gym with music playing, graduation caps on their heads, found their seats with their class and waited

patiently for their turn to be recognized. However, unlike most moving up ceremonies, they are not being promoted to the next grade. They are being recognized for accomplishing goals, like learning to read, staying on task for extended periods of time, and working on their personal plans and goals so they may be able to be discharged and reunited with families, extended family, or a foster home.

While I watched with pride and joy for these kiddos, I felt a sense of excitement building in me for them. I am a reading buddy for a few of these special kids, so I know how hard they have worked to meet their own individual goals. It's hard to focus on school when you are trying to manage your emotional and behavioral challenges. If you are dysregulated, it's almost impossible to stay on task, complete your assignments and get along with your classmates. I felt that sense of dysregulation myself these last two weeks as I tried to manage the last details of my daughter's wedding along with my responsibilities for my job.

Thanks to our amazing staff and donors like you, our kids are able to develop the tools and skills they need to push through their trauma, heal and have hope for a brighter future. The moving up ceremony represents mastery of those skills, the change to go into the summer with a slightly less structured and rigorous schedule. They can practice the skills they have learned. It's one thing to learn something new, but to internalize it and put it into practice is where success comes. Thank you for giving our kiddos the opportunity to practice those skills in a place that accepts them where they are. Your treasure allows our staff to have access to the resources they need to help these kiddos succeed and move up.

Gratefully,
Lynn

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Here at Alexander Youth Network, we are immensely grateful for community partners who generously give their time and energy to our mission. New City Church has been one of those valued partners. From Easter egg hunts and birthday parties to pizza-and-kickball fun, their members have become a wonderful part of our volunteer family. Some even serve weekly as lunch and reading buddies, spending one-on-one time with a child in our program!

This partnership wouldn't have been possible without Beth Swinson, a longtime friend of Alexander Youth Network and current Alexander Children's Foundation board member. When New City Church identified mental health as a major area of need in the community and was looking to engage with organizations doing this work, Beth made the connection to Alexander Youth Network.

To hear Beth's "why," check out her [interview with New City Church here](#).

We're excited for the future events we have planned with New City Church and look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership!



If you're interested in making a meaningful difference in a child's life, consider volunteering at Alexander Youth Network! For more information, please email Ashley Nieves, Volunteer Engagement Officer, at anieves@aynkids.org.

To see our available volunteer opportunities, [visit our website to read more](#).

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 10 years. Carter, P.C. was founded by brothers, Rich and Rob Carter, in 2011. They are a public accounting firm focused on highly personalized client service in the areas of tax, assurance, and accounting. With offices in Asheville, Charlotte, and Greenville, SC they serve clients throughout the Southeast.

In addition to being a corporate sponsor, Rob is on the Alexander Children's Foundation board and volunteers with the middle school youth group that he leads with his wife to wrap presents during our Angel Network program. However, Rob's relationship with Alexander Youth Network began long before he and his brother started Carter, P.C. After spending the majority of his career within the accounting departments at various financial service institutions, he made a brief stop at Alexander Youth Network as our Business Manager in 1997! We are grateful that his time with us was so impactful that he has continued supporting our mission even after continuing on in his career.

When asked why Alexander Youth Network, he said "At Carter, we are proud to support Alexander Youth Network and the extraordinary work they do for children and families in our community and across the state. Partnering with an organization so deeply committed to hope, healing, and building bridges aligns with our values and our belief in investing where it matters most. We are honored to stand with Alexander Youth Network and help strengthen their life-changing mission." Thank you to the entire staff at Carter, P.C. for your continued support of the children we serve!



THE IMPACT YOU MAKE: HOLLY'S STORY

Holly was a vibrant and playful young girl. She enjoyed school and was a good student. She lives in rural North Carolina where there aren't many luxuries that cities have to offer. Holly, her mother, and grandmother live in a small trailer together. They were a loving, close knit trio, without many resources, but they had each other.

When Holly entered middle school, things began to change. Her mother lost her job and they had to begin to make hard decisions about where to spend their meager savings. They chose the roof over their heads and putting food on their table. As middle school went on, Holly began to withdraw from her mother and grandmother, her friends seemed non-existent, she stayed in her room more and more often. She quit doing her homework and began to skip school. Her truancy led to the Department of Human Services becoming involved and Holly started treatment in one of our programs.

It was during one of her sessions with our therapist that she finally revealed that she didn't like going to school because she was being bullied by the kids in her class about her ill-fitting and dirty clothes. She didn't have good hygiene and had to wear the same clothes she had worn for years because her family could not afford new clothes. They were often dirty because they had no washing machine in the home and couldn't make it to the laundromat regularly. Her therapist was able to secure clean, new clothes that fit and relieved some of the embarrassment and insecurity Holly felt at school.

While Holly still has many challenges to work through and obstacles to manage, she is gaining confidence in herself little by little. She is working harder in school and our program to get back on track. Thanks to donors like you, we can help the many Holly's out there who need help developing the coping skills necessary to manage their emotional and behavioral health challenges. Thank you for being a bridge builder to hope and healing for thousands of children across North Carolina.



Together we build bridges
to **hope** and **healing**.

ALEXANDER YOUTH NETWORK

CELEBRATING OUR KIDS

We are excited to announce this year's luncheon has raised \$1 million to support Alexander Youth Network! To see photos from the event, please [visit our Facebook page](#).

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 July will take place on the 2nd at 12:30 pm and the 16th at 4:30 pm. August tours will take place on the 6th at 12:30 pm and the 20th at 4:30 pm.