

ALEXANDER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

July 2026 eNews



LETTERS FROM LYNN: JULY 2026

This past month, the United States, Canada, and Mexico hosted the World Cup. With so many games happening in stadiums across the country, it was an exciting time for many in the United States. If you are a soccer fan, you understood all the rules, the group stage format, what a knockout round was, and how to keep track of how much time was left in the game. For those of us who didn't know much but still watched

because we were caught up in the US Men's National Team and wanted to know what all the excitement was about, it was an exhilarating run for the US. My family and I gathered around the TV to watch with enthusiasm. We rode the wave of excitement and felt the disappointment of their defeat. Our PRTF kids even had a World Cup watch party where they dressed in jerseys and cheered on the USMNT.

Loss, disappointment, and defeat are emotions the children at Alexander Youth Network experience all too often. Luckily, they are not on a public stage where strangers can criticize and judge them on social media and from the stands. They do, however, get judged unfairly because of their life experiences. They are labeled bad, troublemakers, and difficult children. At Alexander, we ask not what's wrong with you, but what has happened to you. Understanding how their experiences shaped the circumstances they find themselves in is key to beginning to heal. Just as the soccer team watches film and digests all the factors that led to a loss so they can work on not being in the same situation again. The staff at Alexander serve as the coaches for these kiddos, you the donors and volunteers are the fans. You all play an important role in helping them grow, trust, heal, and learn how to handle their circumstances differently next time. Your time and treasure are essential pieces to their success.

To learn more about how you can make an impact, [please visit our website](#). In this eNews, we share an impact story that shows you firsthand the difference you make. We are grateful for all the support, love, and care you each give. Thank you for being bridge builders to hope and healing for thousands of North Carolina's most vulnerable children.

Gratefully,
Lynn

VOLUNTEER CORNER

This month, we're thrilled to shine a spotlight on the incredible volunteers from AmWins, who brought joy, energy, and connection to our PRTF kids during a special field day!

Their team led friendly competitions, relay races, and team-building activities that sparked laughter, confidence, and collaboration in every group. From cheering on obstacle course victories to celebrating small wins during cooperative challenges, AmWins created special memories that our kids will remember long after summer ends.

Their visit reminded our kids that they are supported not only by our staff, but by caring partners across the Charlotte community. AmWin's commitment to strengthening communities reflects Alexander Youth Network's mission to provide hope, healing, and meaningful connection for the children in our care. We are deeply grateful for their enthusiasm, heart, and for once again choosing Alexander Youth Network as a site for their annual Summer of Service!



If your company is interested in joining the fun of corporate volunteering, please reach out to Ashley Nieves, Volunteer Engagement Officer, at anieves@aynkids.org.

To see our other 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 new community partners who was a first time sponsor for Celebrating Our Kids. Proskauer is an elite global law firm with more than 900 lawyers in key financial centers in the United State, Europe, South America, and Asia. Their Charlotte team has deep expertise in leveraged loans, syndicated credit, fund finance, structured credit, securitization and direct lending. They provide their clients with forward-looking counsel rooted in strong local connections and extensive community engagement and investment.

When asked what drew them to Alexander Youth Network, Jared Zajac, a Partner at Proskauer, said that "At Proskauer, we believe in the power of partnership, opportunity, and strengthening the communities where we live and work. Alexander Youth Network's mission of building bridges to hope and healing deeply resonates with our commitment to creating a meaningful, lasting impact and helping individuals reach their full potential. We are proud to stand alongside Alexander Youth Network for many years to come and help transform lives, strengthen families, and create brighter futures for children across North Carolina."

We are grateful for their support of the children we serve!

Proskauer >>



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

ALEXANDER YOUTH NETWORK

If your company is interested in sponsoring Celebrating Our Kids in 2027, please reach out to our Director of Development, Brooks Shelley, at bshelley@aynkids.org.

THE IMPACT YOU MAKE: JORDAN'S STORY

Jordan is only a young child, but sometimes it feels like he has faced a lifetime of loss.

One by one, the men he loved most had passed away. First his grandfather, who taught him how to throw a baseball. Then his dad, who always told him he could do hard things. Later, his stepdad, who helped him with homework and made him laugh when he was having a tough day.

After each loss, Jordan struggled more and more with his emotions and how to best navigate them. He didn't know how to talk about the sadness. Or the loneliness. Or the fear. And especially not the hopelessness.

Sometimes it came out as anger. Sometimes he shut down and wouldn't speak at all. Other times, tears would show up when he least expected them.

People often ask, just in our everyday conversation, "How are you doing?" We are trained and conditioned over our lives to respond something like, "I'm fine, hope you are!" and move on. It's not typically meant as a conversation starter or even as an actual question, it's more of a greeting.

At Alexander Youth Network, we ask "So what happened?" when we see emotions swirling around. Oftentimes, the question opens floodgates to many ambiguous and seemingly random items. But processing through the actions to get to the emotions behind them helps lead to continuous healing.

Over the next few months in our program, Jordan began learning that feelings weren't enemies. They are bridges to understanding yourself. When he feels angry, it may be that he was hurt. When he feels frustrated, possibly he misses someone.

When he feels lonely, it's because he misses the loving family he's lost. These aren't quick 'life lessons' to learn, but over time and with support and encouragement, coping and healing are possible.

Building bridges to hope and healing is at the heart of Alexander Youth Network's mission and work. Help us help them, the kids and families who deserve a future of all potentials and possibilities.

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.

CHAMPION SPONSOR



HERO SPONSORS



VISIONARY SPONSOR



ROLE MODEL SPONSORS



FRIEND SPONSORS



ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Alexander Ricks PLLC

Thrift CRES

Matthews Mobile Media

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 August will take place on the 6th at 12:30 pm and the 20th at 4:30 pm. The September tour will be on the 17th at 4:30 pm.