ALEXANDER CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

October 2026 eNews



LETTERS FROM LYNN: OCTOBER 2026

Have you ever had an experience that changes your outlook and reframes your state of mind? Recently, I had one while working on a project that would transform the Charlotte campus of Alexander Youth Network. Intellectually, I know the work my team and I do has an impact and leads to positive change for children across North Carolina who struggle to manage their emotional and behavioral health challenges. Sometimes, though, it's hard to see the change that happens during the course of treatment because I am not in the classrooms, cafeteria, therapy sessions or in the cottages noticing the small wins and healing that is occurring daily. Laying the seeds of change takes time for the kids in our care, just as it did in my recent experience with planning a substantial volunteer day of service.

I am often asked by donors and volunteers "how can we help" and "what can we do." This time, I was ambitious answering this question because we are in the process of pouring into our main campus to help the physical buildings reflect the nurturing and caring transformation that is taking place inside our walls. My team had so many ideas and needs to be filled so we asked for the moon and got the stars. This day of service took months of planning and refining our plan. Not only were the scope of the planned projects large, but the number of volunteers on one day, from across the country and even one from Germany, was grand. It was truly one of the most rewarding experiences I've had, and it made me realize if you don't dream and ask, change will not occur. I felt so proud to work alongside my team and the volunteers that came out to give the children a brighter, more vibrant and welcoming place to call home. And the culmination of the months of planning came to fruition in the course of a day. This experience helped to shift my thinking. I know people are incredibly generous and want to make a difference. Sometimes, they just need a suggestion on how and a direction to head in for that impact to happen.

We have so many generous supporters and donors who help to give the children we serve the resources they need for hope and healing. Planning and executing this day of service made me reflect on how lucky Alexander Youth Network and the children we serve are to have a community of support who want to make a difference in their own unique ways. Experiences of this scale just further highlight the constant, consistent support and love poured on our kids daily by the generosity of our entire donor community. Thank you to all of those who give of their time, treasure and passion to be bridge builders to hope and healing. We could not do what we do without your compassion and generous support.

Gratefully,
Lynn

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS GALVIN MASTERS DAY OF SERVICE

On October 14th, Alexander Youth Network had the incredible honor of hosting the Motorola Solutions Galvin Masters, partnered with the Motorola Solutions Foundation for their annual Day of Service. Sixty Motorola executives from across the country came together to support over 10 projects on our campus for a day dedicated to service, collaboration, and community impact.

Throughout the day, volunteers worked tirelessly to enhance and beautify several areas of our campus, including our pool locker rooms, cafeteria, directional signs, our pavilion and a new entrance to our campus. Their efforts helped create more welcoming and engaging spaces for the children, adolescents, and families we serve.

This project was months in the making from an initial outreach to several presentations, site visits, countless coordination meetings, and finally the crafting of a truly transformational experience for both our staff and the children we serve. The excitement for this project began building in earnest as truckloads of materials arrived on campus and the vision came to life and eventually transformed into visible improvements that will positively impact our community for years to come.

It is hard to put into words how grateful we are for this partnership with the Galvin Masters. Thank you to everyone who had a role in making this project come to life in such a vibrant and thoughtful way. To the amazing folks from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the project manager, all the team leads and volunteers, thank you for sharing a passion for our mission and giving this special gift to Alexander Youth Network.













MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS
GALVIN MASTERS
DAY OF SERVICE





















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Alston & Bird, with offices in 12 US cities, including Charlotte, as well as international offices, provides a full range of services to domestic and international clients who conduct business all over the world. At Alston & Bird, excellence is rooted in service, collaboration, integrity, and a deep commitment to strengthening communities. The firm's culture emphasizes teamwork, client service, diversity, professional development, and community engagement, reflecting a belief that meaningful impact extends beyond the practice of law.

Alston & Bird has been a proud supporter of Alexander Youth Network's Celebrating Our Kids since 2024.

Through their partnership with Alexander Youth Network, Alston & Bird helps ensure that vulnerable children and families have access to the care, support, and resources they need to overcome challenges and build brighter futures.

Alexander Youth Network is grateful for Alston & Bird's continued support and dedication to making a lasting difference in the lives of children and families across North Carolina.

Thank you, Alston & Bird, for helping us build bridges to hope and healing.

ALSTON & BIRD

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: LAURA'S STORY

When Laura first arrived at Alexander Youth Network, she had experienced things no child should ever have to endure. Through no fault of her own, she had suffered to the point of near defeat of the spirit.

For years, her world had been filled with fear, isolation, and longing. She had endured physical abuse, been a victim of sexual abuse, and lived in an environment where substance abuse was a constant presence. Unlike so many of us who were more fortunate, home was not a place of safety or belonging. Instead, it was a place where she witnessed men violently assaulting her mother, her siblings, and sometimes even herself.

Every raised voice made her flinch. Every unexpected noise sent her heart racing. Laura lived in a constant state of anxiety and hypervigilance, always alert for the next threat to her safety. Over time, Laura learned how to survive. But she had lost hope, and without hope, there can be no true healing.

Laura struggled in school. She had learned not to trust adults, and her hypervigilance made it difficult for her to focus in class. Sleep became her only escape, yet she dared not sleep at home, so she was often exhausted and would fall asleep at school. She could not envision a future as bright as the ones she saw other children around her pursuing. Many of the adults in her life wondered why she behaved the way she did but rarely asked what had happened to cause those reactions.

At Alexander Youth Network, we start by asking, "What happened?" and help our children find the bridges they need to move beyond hurt, neglect, and hopelessness. Laura was met by professionals who looked beyond her behavior and recognized her pain.
She had a team of professionals who worked together to create a safe, stable environment where she could begin healing. They helped her understand that the abuse she had experienced was not her fault. They taught her healthy ways to not only express but also process and manage her fear, anxiety, and anger. Her journey toward healing began with a foundation of stability and belonging.

Through time, hard work, and a renewed sense of hope, Laura began speaking openly with her therapist about the experiences she had spent years hiding.
Each step forward made it clear that her past did not have to define her future. Today, Laura's story is no longer defined by abuse. It is defined by hope, healing, and the many bridges of support that helped her get there.
Laura's journey continues, and there are still bad days alongside the good ones, just as there are for all of us. But with hope, Laura knows she can persevere and reach the multitude of good days ahead, supported by the hope, healing, and bridges she never knew were possible.

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.

The November will take place on the 5th at 12:30 pm and the 19th at 4:30 pm. Tours in December will take place on the 3rd at 12:30 pm and the 17th at 4:30 pm.





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