



HOLY ANGELS

Loving, living and learning for the differently able.®

HEARTLINE

SPRING 2023

Holy Angels “Wonder Woman” Celebrates Her 60th Birthday



A young Lorraine visits with her mother in 1966.

When Lorraine’s parents stepped off a 15-hour train ride from New York to Belmont in 1962, they had no idea what was in store for their beautiful baby girl who was born with Down syndrome. Within minutes of arriving at Holy Angels, they knew this was the perfect home for their angel. Never in their wildest imaginations could they believe she would celebrate her 60th birthday.

“It’s a miracle,” joyfully praised Jean, Lorraine’s mother. “Since day one at Holy Angels, that child has been happy. Lorraine has prospered all of these years because of the amazing people at Holy Angels. I still cannot believe she is 60 years old. It truly is a miracle.”

In 1960, someone born with Lorraine’s condition was given a lifespan of only ten years. But not our Wonder Woman (her favorite

super hero)! Lorraine not only beat the odds, but with the loving care at Holy Angels, she has developed her many talents to thrive and have an exceptional quality of life.

Lorraine was among the first residents to move into the Morrow Center, more than half a century ago. She helped to start our Community Group Home program and began working at Cherubs Cafe when it opened 26 years ago, where she has remained a valuable team member and beloved friend of the Belmont community.

Possibly the most inspirational part of Lorraine’s life is her ability to love others. Over her 60 years, Lorraine developed countless friendships with staff and her fellow residents. Her heart is as big as her beautiful smile.

At her 60th birthday party, her Holy Angels friends spoke one after another sharing stories of their friendships. Then they gave her the biggest of hugs - lifelong friends connected by their unconditional love of each other.

Lorraine exemplifies the Holy Angels mission of providing compassionate care and meaningful quality-of-life experiences in a loving environment. Her story is a testament to the organization’s commitment to nurturing the unique talents and abilities that enable each of our resident angels to achieve their highest potential.

Congratulations, Lorraine, on your milestone birthday and all the successes you have achieved at Holy Angels. You have captured our hearts. We can’t wait to see what the future holds for you!



One of Lorraine’s best friends throughout the years is Sr. Nancy Nance. They have spent the better part of four decades together living in the same home, working in the same café, taking many trips together and eating lots of “noodles

with white gravy.” Their friendship was just featured in a recent news story. It shows the power of friendship and connection filled with countless Mercy Moments.



Meet Holy Angels Oldest And Youngest Residents



Butch (81) played music for Cameron (3).

and purpose as his fingers bring piano keys to life with popular songs for all to enjoy. Butch played at the White House in front of President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush, performed a duet with a young Broadway actress and recorded his own CD. He continues to fill our halls and hearts with musical joy as he plays for our residents and staff every day. The only thing more impressive than his musical abilities is the size of his kind heart.

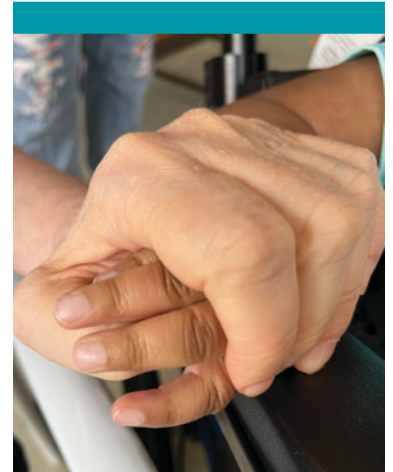
Our youngest resident, Cameron, is three and thriving. This handsome little guy is healthier than ever, thanks to the loving care of our nursing and direct support professionals. Cameron is opening hearts with his cuteness and has no shortage of volunteers offering to snuggle with him.

Each and every one of our residents has her or his own story. They continue to defy the odds and live long, meaningful lives, thanks to the individualized personal, loving care and support they receive at Holy Angels. Once called “The Nursery,” Holy Angels is now a home of loving, living and learning for the differently able – of all ages!

The story of Holy Angels began with an infant child who wasn’t supposed to see her first birthday. Maria Morrow, dubbed “the littlest angel,” survived and thrived for 54 years beginning our ministry of mercy for those who are differently able.

Holy Angels started caring for infants, and as they aged, the organization evolved to meet their changing needs. As you read in the previous story, Lorraine has now lived at Holy Angels longer than any other resident – 60 years!

With magical musical talents, Butch is our oldest resident at 81 years. His family said he wasn’t expected to live very long. His life is full of meaning



Butch and Cameron holding hands.



Clinical Secretary Fannie Rendleman received our “Golden Angel” award.

Holy Angels Team – Our Golden Angels

The special people who call Holy Angels their work family have some of the biggest and caring hearts you could ever imagine. They share great love for our residents and regularly make sacrifices to help care for them.

This year, we rebranded our employee-of-the-month program, acknowledging our exceptional team members as “Golden Angels”. We’ve honored several Golden Angels, including Fannie Rendleman who has selflessly served our residents for 39 years. She was nominated by her colleagues because of her remarkable work ethic and dedication to our resident angels and her fellow co-workers.

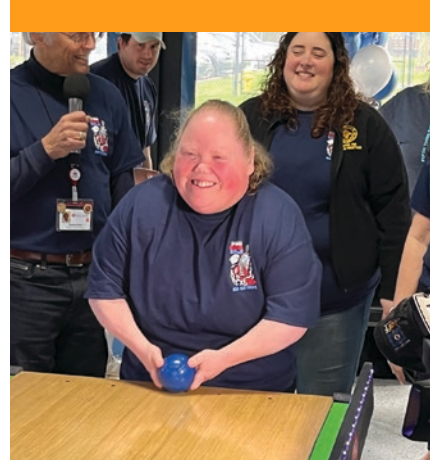
Our team is filled with people with diverse backgrounds, experiences and personalities. They all share one common trait - a BIG heart! And through their caregiving, they positively touch the lives of our residents, creating Mercy Moments of joy and new possibilities. If you have a passion for our mission of serving the differently able, please explore the various opportunities and possibilities available at Holy Angels at www.HolyAngelsNC.org/careers. Maybe YOU could be one of our Golden Angels.



Big smiles during Angel Bowl for Andrew and Rebecca Fox, Gastonia Dodge representative and board member.



Our maintenance team designed and hand-crafted three bowling lanes for Angel Bowl.



Cheryl is not only a good bowler, but a top fundraiser during Angel Bowl.

31st Angel Bowl: Into The Future

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Holy Angels is on a roll. Our 31st annual Angel Bowl flew by our goal of \$85,000 and raised nearly \$100,000 thanks to our community of friends and supporters. All-in-all, it was a perfect score.

Our maintenance team handcrafted three bowling lanes to create this year's "Into the Future" Angel Bowl. They transformed Push Place into a bowling alley where every resident had a chance to bowl. It was a great event for the residents, staff, families and sponsors.

During our month-long campaign, our residents and staff decorated "Galactic-theme" bowling pins; homes competed for Top Fundraising Team; and supporters everywhere raised funds for the differently able.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, fundraisers, and donors who helped make this special event possible and a huge success. One resident, Mark, proclaimed at the end of the day, "I can't wait to bowl next year!" Us too, Mark!

UPCOMING EVENT!

HOLY ANGELS
Love, life and learning for the differently able.™

GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 18

PINE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Visit us online to support our event:
<https://www.HolyAngelsNC.org/golf2023>



Sara, Nolan and Dan enjoying our garden.

A Letter From Nolan’s Mom

Nolan was born with a very rare and life-threatening genetic disease. We didn’t expect him to live past his first birthday. My entire life revolved around trying to keep him alive. Alive in the sense that he would not only keep breathing, but grow and thrive to the best of his abilities. Our weeks revolved around a variety of therapies and doctor appointments, and medications throughout the day and night to stabilize his seizures. All while trying my hardest to make sure Nolan and his siblings had a “normal” childhood. I did not want to fail at the greatest opportunity of my life, motherhood.

When Nolan was about eight years old, Dan (my husband, Nolan’s daddy) and I, realized we would not be able to keep up with what he would need long term. As I contemplated what that meant, I felt like I was going to fail as Nolan’s mommy. I prayed a lot over what I should do. I prayed for help.

A year later I discovered Holy Angels. Lori Hanafin gave us a tour and we talked for hours about the mission and the family of Holy Angels. I knew it was exactly where WE belonged. Not only did they accept Nolan, Holy Angels accepted our whole family with open arms. Nolan has been living and thriving at Holy Angels now for three-and-a-half years. He is making wonderful progress in his growth and learning. He is loved and cared for by the most compassionate people I have ever met. God answered my prayers by sending me to Holy Angels to “take a look” four years ago. I feel in my soul that Holy Angels is the greatest home for Nolan and all of the residents who are differently able. There is laughter, hugs, learning, medical care and so much love here. I will forever be so grateful!

Lovingly Appreciative *-Sara*



Nolan gets a kiss from his little sister, Avery.

Spotlight Angel Turns 13

Our Spotlight Angel, Nolan, recently celebrated his 13th birthday. All of his friends in the Morrow Center threw a big birthday party for him with cake and ice cream. Let’s just say, there was green frosting everywhere!

Nolan is wrapping up his sixth grade year and continues to show progress in school. He worked on a special art project with Legos for our Spring Appeal and managed to make a beautiful card with lots of bugs and insects.

Nolan continues to grow and flourish with his Holy Angels family.

Spring Appeal – Caring For Our Future

As we wrap up the fiscal year, our Spring Appeal is critically important to meet the needs of our resident angels. Your generous gifts help to fund boat rides and nature walks at Camp Hope; music therapy; horticulture and creative arts programs; critically needed specialized equipment and so much more.

You are a part of the Holy Angels family. You are helping to make a difference in the lives of our residents. Would you kindly consider making a gift to support our angels? We are grateful for each and every gift received.



L O V I N G , L I V I N G



The Kines' family when they donated "Big Momma" in 2017.

Donor Spotlight: Kines Family Opens Their Hearts To Holy Angels

The Kines' family truly believes God works in mysterious ways.

"A weaving of God's hands connected us with Holy Angels, and we've received way more than we've given ever since," said Jodi Kines.

The Kines' connection with Holy Angels started four decades ago, but it was one encounter about 10 years ago that made a lasting impression. Their two young boys, Graham and Greyson, were just nine and eight at the time when they first came to Holy Angels. Within minutes, Greyson was tying a shoe of a young resident without fear or worry. It came naturally to him. This turned out to be a symbolic knot that would make the Kines family a part of the Holy Angels family.

"Open your heart, and see what God has in store for you with this organization and to be a part of this family, because it is a family," said John Kines.

The Kines family has been heavily involved, supporting our fundraisers, becoming special friends with residents, creating a garden and much more. One of the "biggest" ways they have shown their love for Holy Angels is their donation of "Big Momma," one of the largest bubble gum machines in the region located at the Cotton Candy Factory.

"I wanted the community to have a chance to make a connection with Holy Angels," said Jodi Kines. "For 25 cents, they could buy a piece of bubble gum and be part of this amazing mission."

Much like the family when they first arrived at Holy Angels, they didn't exactly know how the machine would actually fit into the Cotton Candy Factory. "The delivery man called me up and said it wasn't going to fit in any of the doors, so we took out the century-old front window," laughed Jodi.

Where there's a will, there's a way. The Kines' family found a way to Holy Angels and they hope you will too.

"Find a way for God to change your life with Holy Angels. Give it a chance," said Jodi. "Don't just read this HeartLine. Ask God, why it was in your mailbox? Why am I on the mailing list? What am I being called to do to change someone else's life? Your life will be changed forever at Holy Angels."

Volunteers Make A Huge Difference

Holy Angels is thrilled to bring many of our loving and caring volunteers and volunteers back to campus. In the past few months, several programs have returned, including pet therapy, special friends, landscape projects, special events and many more. The volunteers supporting these programs are making a huge difference in the lives of our resident angels.

Are you interested in volunteering to support our mission of loving, living and learning for the differently able? We could especially use support in professional areas, such as hair dressers, therapists, technology, education and more.

If you're interested in learning more about our volunteer program, please go to our website at www.HolyAngelsNC.org or call 704.825.4161. We promise a life-changing and rewarding experience.



Board member Greg Adams and his daughter, Ally Adams, help drive the boat at Camp Hope.

Mercy Moments



Chris and Tommy attended the "Night to Shine" prom.



Mary Ellen's reaction to her surprise 65th birthday party was a Mercy Moment!



Congratulations to our graduates of the College of Direct Support.



Mercy Moment! Environmental Services Coordinator Nick Hudson pressure washes Push Place with his assistant, Greg.



Katie loves pet therapy.



All of our resident-athletes were champions at the Special Olympics.



Landon enjoys our new Arjo chairs purchased by grants from the Order of Malta and the Gaston Community Foundation.

L O V I N G , L I V I N G

Thanks To You We Had Another Record-Breaking Spring Plant Sale



Director of Horticulture Ed Brogdon packs up some plants during the spring sale.

greenhouse preparing for the plant sale.

One Holy Angels supporter who bought several varieties of plants said, "The flowers are beautiful, much like the overall mission of Holy Angels."

All proceeds go back to the horticulture therapy program.

For the second year in a row, the Spring Plant Sale at Holy Angels broke records!

Crowds packed the two-day long sale as friends and supporters browsed the greenhouse looking for plants and flowers grown by our residents. We also offered original pots and rocks painted by our residents to help brighten up gardens.

Most of our resident angels participate in the horticulture therapy program and help to seed, water and nurture all the plants that were sold. For example, Mike has enthusiastically developed a passion for this program and loves helping in the



Mike carried plants and flowers to supporters' cars during the plant sale.



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Holy Angels President/CEO Kerri Massey gives Dr. Geoff Chapman an award for his service.

Thank You, Dr. Chapman!

We are blessed at Holy Angels to have some of the best, kindest and most generous doctors who dedicate their time to our residents. And Dr. Geoff Chapman, a hematology oncologist, is no exception!

After seven years of extraordinary volunteer service to Holy Angels, he has retired. We thank Dr. Chapman for his special work with our aging residents with chronic illnesses. He always arrived with a bright smile,

a servant heart and his signature bow tie.

A N D L E A R N I N G



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We Need Your Support

Holy Angels relies on the kindness and generosity of our friends and supporters to provide the excellent care and programming for our resident angels. Would you please consider making a gift to support our angels during our Spring Appeal?



Our Mission

The mission of Holy Angels is to provide compassionate, dependable care and opportunities for high-quality living to those with intellectual developmental disabilities and delicate medical conditions through physical, social, spiritual, vocational, educational and emotional support.



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From The Heart

As we welcome the season of spring, it's a time for growth, renewal and beauty.

Every day, we are blessed to see our residents grow and flourish, achieving new goals both large and small. Whether it's celebrating a milestone birthday, like Lorraine and Nolan, or standing for

the first time in years, we marvel at their incredible accomplishments that create our Mercy Moments.

Growth is also evident in the dedication, hard work and selfless service of our team, who continue to go above and beyond to provide compassionate care and support to our residents and their families. Thanks to our dedicated team, Holy Angels continues to celebrate many accolades this year, including:

- 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency Rating from Candid (formerly GuideStar).
- 14 team members graduated from the College of Direct Support program.

- A perfect 4-star rating from Partners, a managed care organization, for our care and programming in the Morrow Center.
- Our four retail Business Enterprises are now averaging 4.83 stars out of five on Google Reviews, Yelp, Trip Advisor and Facebook.

Holy Angels keeps pushing and moving forward striving to be our very best.

In just a couple of weeks, our residents will return to Camp Hope to experience a summer filled with fun activities, like boat rides and nature walks. They will be joined by a group of loving and caring teenagers who are a part of our Volunteer Program, back for the first time in three years.

As we continue to move forward, I am filled with gratitude for the many blessings that surround us. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Holy Angels. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact in the lives of our resident angels, employees and in our community.

Kerri C. Massey
President/CEO

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