

# There's No Place Like Hope

Friday, November 4th at 5:30 pm at Levine Museum of the New South

A Message from our hosts-

Dear Friends,

As the fall season rapidly descends upon us, there is little doubt your calendars are filling up just as quickly. Today, we write to ask you to make room for an altruistic and incredibly important fundraiser to help those in the most desperate of situations – specifically the homeless in our community who are fighting cancer and are on chemotherapy and/or radiation treatments.

Since 2005, the Samaritan House has graciously and expertly provided temporary respite and recuperative care to Mecklenburg County's homeless men and women in need following a hospital stay or emergency room visit. Operating on a shoe-string budget and living largely hand-to-mouth, Samaritan House offers healing hope to medically vulnerable individuals most often displaced through loss of employment or marginalized due to other mitigating life circumstances. Greater than 80% of Samaritan House guests achieve recovery with return to permanent housing, a true testament to the organization's success and dedication.

In recent years, the organization has generously accepted the risk of caring for the patients from Levine Cancer Institute who are homeless and undergoing complex and often lengthy cancer treatments. This courageous act has placed increased burden on the facility as patients stay longer, require increased transportation and additional supportive management services not previously required. Of importance, most of the unfortunate people in this setting have been displaced from their homes through economic circumstances, bankruptcies, loss

of employment and other very unhappy circumstances.

If not for the Samaritan House opening its doors and rooms to our patients, the alternative of recovering from treatment side effects like nausea and fatigue without the benefit of a bed or even protection from the elements is unconscionable.

Thus, we, our staff and our colleagues have taken on the task of helping the Samaritan House achieve financial stability and possible future expansion so they may continue their critical mission of providing priceless care to those in greatest need.

We invite you to join us on this imperative endeavor. After all, there really is no place like home.

Kindest regards,

Rod Wilkes, President, Board of Directors at Samaritan House  
Derek Raghavan MD PhD, President, Levine Cancer  
Institute/Carolinas HealthCare System  
Ashley Sumrall, MD, Head, Medical Neuro-Oncology, Levine  
Cancer Institute  
Mellisa Wheeler, MHA, Senior Social Worker & Outreach  
Coordinator, Levine Cancer Institute.