

New Serenity House to Provide Exceptional End-of-Life Care

By Suzanne Donati

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Huntersville, NC – Carolina Comfort Coalition’s newest comfort care home, Serenity House of Huntersville, opened its doors on Thursday, July 10, 2013, by admitting its first resident and offering a gift of care for his remaining 3 months of life. Serenity House of Huntersville is the only comfort care home in Mecklenburg County and only the second facility of its kind in the state. Carolina Comfort Coalition also operates the sister facility, Serenity House of Mooresville, in Iredell County.

The opening of Serenity House of Huntersville is the end of a five-year-long journey from conception to completion. Beautifully appointed, the 2,500-square foot home features 2 private patient suites spacious enough to accommodate family and friends; family sitting room, living spaces and screened-in porch; kitchen; and common living room with amenities such as television, games, and fireplace. All furnishings and renovation was provided through the generous support of donors, organizations, churches, and businesses.

“The completion of Serenity House of Huntersville culminates thousands of hours of work and dedication by our volunteers, staff, and community friends,” Cheryl Pletcher, Carolina Comfort Coalition’s Executive Director, said. “Now that it is complete and open to residents, we are eager to continue the work we’ve been doing in the Lake Norman region since 2008: providing compassionate and exceptional end-of-life care.”

Finishing your last days with dignity, surrounded by the comfort of family and friends in your own home, is a luxury that many of us assume we’ll have when the time comes. But not all families are this fortunate. Some may not have the space to accommodate a loved one in their final days nor may they have the physical and emotional strength needed to act as caregivers. Serenity House of Huntersville enables residents to receive care in a comfortable, home-like, family-friendly setting – and families can be together so that they can savor those last, precious moments with their loved ones.

Serenity House of Huntersville’s first resident has lovingly been nicknamed “Mr. Strawberry” because of his love of all things strawberry and his red hair. On Mr. Strawberry’s second night at Serenity House, he enjoyed five scoops of strawberry ice cream, strawberry cake, and strawberry Ensure. “Spoiling our residents is what we do,” said Volunteer Coordinator, Stacie Mounts. “The extra attention that our volunteers lavish on our residents goes a long way to ensuring that their last moments mean as much as their first.”

The Founders Campaign was led by chairs Sam and Liz James and has raised \$80,000 to date of the 100,000 goal. Carolina Comfort Coalition’s board, staff, and campaign chairs felt comfortable opening to bring services to those at risk of dying alone and without appropriate care. Fundraising efforts will continue and organizers feel confident that the community will continue to come forward and invest in the creation of a flourishing ministry.

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