

The Oak Lodge Endowment

established by Mary Ellen Dryden

*Benefitting the Association
for Home & Hospice Care
of North Carolina*

At the Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina, we understand the value, comfort and care that our members bring to critically ill patients and their families each day. We are committed to advocating on their behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TIM ROGERS

AHHC President and CEO

Introducing The Oak Lodge Endowment



Mary Ellen Dryden

In 2016, the Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina learned that it was the beneficiary of an estate gift from Mary Ellen Dryden.

We did not know Mary Ellen. We had never met her before.

And we could have never imagined the lasting impact she would have on all of us who provide home and hospice care.

Like a blessing that fell from the sky, she left a significant portion of her estate to support our work. Her gift — totaling more than \$750,000 — is the largest in our association's history.

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The one thing we know about Mary Ellen Dryden is that she shared a common trait with everyone in our industry.

COMPASSION.

It is perhaps the most meaningful gift we offer patients and their families. Now, thanks to Mary Ellen's generous bequest, we will be able to provide that compassion to more and more people across North Carolina.

Mary Ellen devoted her life to caring for others. Her stepfather was a physician who worked on cancer-related research, and Mary Ellen always had a soft spot for those stricken by the disease.

She spent much of her life in Chatham County and worked in healthcare research at the University of North Carolina. There, Mary Ellen had the opportunity to work with cancer patients herself. She saw their struggle. She felt their pain. And she wanted to help.

It was one of Mary Ellen's final wishes.

That care and concern for others runs deep in Mary Ellen's family.

She was a descendent of George Eastman, the well-known entrepreneur who established Eastman Kodak and ushered in the age of photography.

Eastman himself had a long history of philanthropy. He also had ties to North Carolina — this is where he built a prized hunting lodge. And, according to his biography, he used the Halifax County lodge as a hospice for sick and grieving friends beginning in the 1890s.

It's a blessing that fell from the sky. We were absolutely stunned and incredibly thankful. It is so rewarding when a private citizen recognizes the important work you are doing. And when they say 'thank you, now go out and help more people,' that is a true gift.

TIM ROGERS

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Much like her ancestor, Mary Ellen wanted to support those who were suffering.

She had a special fondness for patients with cancer — especially young children and elderly people — and that will be the focus of the Oak Lodge Endowment.

The association will honor Mary Ellen's legacy by advocating for these patients. We will seek to provide greater access to hospice services for children suffering from terminal cancer, recognizing that such services are currently limited in North Carolina.

And we will work tirelessly to secure government funding so that more cancer patients and their families can benefit from the compassion and care our members provide.



It would mean a lot
to Mary Ellen to know
that this gift will help
so many people in need.

WILLIAM MUSSER

Mary Ellen's brother

In her memory, the Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina will actively promote the use of home health, home care, hospice, and palliative care for children and elderly people with cancer.

And we will advocate for expanding programs that help cover the cost of these services.

Thank you, Mary Ellen, for believing in what we do and providing us with additional resources to carry out our mission.

Your compassion inspires us.

Mary Ellen
Dryden has
given us a
great gift.



AHHC_{of}**NC**

The Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina currently represents more than 750 provider agencies and business partners, including 98% of all home health and hospice providers in North Carolina. It is recognized by colleagues, regulators, and legislators as one of the most active and effective home care and hospice associations in the nation.



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**ASSOCIATION FOR HOME & HOSPICE
CARE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

3101 Industrial Drive, Suite #204

Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

(919) 848-3450

www.ahhcnc.org