



# *Strong Foundations*

Issue 2  
February 14, 2025



## Happy Valentine's Day and Heart Health Month!



Dini Pickering addresses the Legacy Society at the recent Deerfield Legacy Society Appreciation Gala. Read the story below.

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## 70 Years of Storytelling

### The Heart of Deerfield: How Exceptional Generosity Created the Space for Exceptional Care

At the heart of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community is a story of kindness, foresight, and lasting influence —the story of **Frances Adams Simonds**. Through an extraordinary \$1 million contribution, Frances demonstrated her dedication to community and played a pivotal role in establishing what is now Deerfield's Healthcare Center, a vital resource for countless residents.



Portrait of Frances Adams Simonds

[Read full story](#)



### Honoring Dr. King's Legacy at the MLK Prayer Breakfast

Each year, the Asheville community gathers to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the annual MLK Prayer Breakfast. This year's event, held on January 20, was a profound reminder of Dr.

Jonathan McCoy, Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) and Instructor of History at Mars Hill University (MHU) gives his keynote speech.

King's enduring message of justice, equality, and service. The Deerfield Charitable Foundation, a Diamond Level Sponsor of the event, was honored to be a part of this powerful morning, bringing together individuals from all walks of life to reflect, connect, and commit to action. A total of 30 Deerfield residents and staff attended, further demonstrating our community's dedication to Dr. King's mission.

The morning began with a warm welcome and an uplifting invocation that set the tone for an inspiring program. Community leaders, faith representatives, and local changemakers took to the stage, each sharing their reflections on Dr. King's vision and how it continues to shape our society today.

[Read full story](#)

## **Habitat for Humanity: Annual Faith Build**

On Friday, February 7, I had the privilege of joining fellow Deerfield staff members and residents for a day of hands-on service with Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build. The crisp morning air quickly gave way to the warmth of camaraderie as we gathered at the construction site of homes sponsored by the Deerfield Charitable Foundation.

Working alongside fellow Deerfield employee, Kerry Strupp, and Deerfield resident, Tim Kurtz, we spent the day



insulating one of the houses—a task that may not seem glamorous but is vital to creating a comfortable, energy-efficient home. As we measured, cut, and carefully fitted the insulation into place, I couldn't help but reflect on how this work parallels the heart of the Foundation: helping to build supportive communities where everyone can thrive.

Read full story



Deerfield resident, Tim Kurtz, and Deerfield Marketing Associate, Kerry Strupp, installing exterior insulation on a house with Habitat for Humanity.



Deerfield Human Resources Manager Amy Roland (left), her daughter EJ (right), and Philanthropy Coordinator FaithAnne Bieschke (middle) in front of one of the homes sponsored by the Foundation.

For information about volunteering with Habitat, contact: [timkurtz@fastmail.com](mailto:timkurtz@fastmail.com)

Annual Deerfield Legacy Society



# Appreciation Gala Highlights



Lorna Anderberg shares a laugh with her table at the Legacy Dinner.

On the evening of January 26, we gathered with gratitude and a shared sense of purpose for our Annual Legacy Dinner. The event was not just a celebration but a testament to the impact of legacy giving and the remarkable individuals who are visionary with their generosity.

The evening began with a delightful cocktail hour featuring passed hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, and the captivating sounds of a live string trio that set the tone for meaningful conversations. As the music faded, guests assembled for the evening's program, highlighted by an inspiring address from our esteemed guest speaker, Dini Pickering, past Chair of the Biltmore Company Board of Directors and great granddaughter of the late George W. Vanderbilt.



Julie Jones and Joanne Brannon join in a happy embrace during cocktail hour.



The string trio plays live music during cocktail hour.

Dini's speech beautifully reflected on the many similarities between Biltmore Estate and Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community—both born from vision and generosity. She shared how these legacies, rooted in thoughtful giving, continue as vibrant communities and places of purpose. Her words served as a sincere reminder that legacy gifts are not just transactional—they are transformative. They are commitments that carry out the dreams and values of those who came before us.

[Read full story](#)

## Mocktails with Michelle: Refreshing Connections

The first Mocktails with Michelle



was a delightful success! We welcomed seven new residents to Canon's Corner. Foundation Executive Director Michelle Wooley, joined by Philanthropy Coordinator FaithAnne Bieschke, shared light bites, refreshing drinks, and meaningful conversation.

Guests enjoyed hearing Michelle's charming story of her

journey to Deerfield —paisley rainboots and all — and learning about the Foundation's mission. We were happy to have the opportunity to chat with and learn about each resident and their own journey to Deerfield. The evening covered how funds are allocated, the impact of community partnerships, insights into upcoming events and campaigns, volunteer engagement, and more. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and learn. We can't wait to meet even more of you!

(Above) Foundation Executive Director, Michelle Wooley, and Deerfield resident, Hughes Roberts enjoying their mocktails prepared by culinary staff member Jennifer Hare.

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