



## ***Strong Foundations***

Issue 4  
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## 70 Years of Storytelling:

### The Women of the Residents Assistance Fund

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As we prepare to observe Mother's Day, we are called to reflect on the unwavering strength and vital contributions of the women who have been instrumental in shaping the legacy of Deerfield and the Foundation.

The Deerfield Residents Assistance Fund (then known as the Residency Fund) is a testament to the vision, dedication, and perseverance of

the women who ensured that no resident would have to leave their home due to financial hardship. While many contributed to its success, Mary Walter, Sophia Redwood, and the women of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina played pivotal roles in its creation and growth.

Mary Walter was the Residents Assistance Fund most passionate champion. As the Christian Social Relations Secretary for the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, she was already deeply involved in social welfare and charitable initiatives. When Deerfield Home (now Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community) was gifted to the diocese in the mid-1950s, she recognized an immediate need: financial support for residents who could not afford the cost of care.

[Read the full story.](#)

[Donate to the Resident Assistance Fund.](#)

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## Giving Tree Celebration: A Day of Gratitude

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On Wednesday, March 26th, we gathered to honor donors who received new emblems on our Giving Tree, a physical representation of 70 years of generosity. Sharing stories of lives changed as a result of the over 1 million dollars in 2024 gifts, Libby Bush expressed the Foundation's deep appreciation. Board members Chris Dismukes and Tim Kurtz offered a beautiful reading of the emblems, leading into the unveiling of this year's Giving Tree.



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## The 2024 Annual Report is Coming Soon!

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This year's report is packed with fresh stories, powerful partnerships, and bold steps forward. Here's a look inside:





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GROW YOUR IMPACT

[Read last year's report here.](#)

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## Let Us Gather! Habitat for Humanity's Annual Chili LUG

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On Thursday, March 20, the aroma of simmering chili, the sound of laughter, and the warmth of community spirit filled Deerfield's Blue Ridge Room during the Annual Habitat for Humanity Chili LUG (Let Us Gather), hosted by Deerfield

Charitable Foundation. This event brought together Habitat volunteers, organizational leaders, house sponsors, and new homeowners to celebrate the life-changing impact of homeownership.

With ceremonial key passings, we honored seven families who have recently become homeowners through Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity—including two Aging-in-Place homeowners and one of our very own Deerfield employees. The room erupted in applause as each family received their key, marking the culmination of hard work, dedication, and the support of a caring community.



Deerfield Charitable Foundation is proud to provide \$55,000 house sponsorships for each Aging-in-Place home. To date, we've provided 12 seniors with safe affordable housing, ensuring that this life-changing program will continue to be here for older adults in Buncombe County.

To all the new homeowners: welcome home.



Employee Josephat Luvumba receives the key to her new home (above); Resident Jane Knight with new aging-in-place Deerfield model homeowner Teresa Daniels and family (left); Resident John Long with new aging-in-place Deerfield model homeowner Joyce Gilman (right)

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## In Case You Missed It!

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### 2025 Volunteer Engagement Event

Our March 31st Volunteer Engagement Event brought information and opportunities to residents as each participating group gave a brief three-



minute introduction, sharing the mission and impact of their work. Afterwards, residents had the chance to connect one-on-one with the representatives.

If you feel moved to volunteer—or just want to learn more—there's more information about each organization, including contact details for their volunteer coordinators, on MyDeerfield under the Foundation icon.



## Volunteer Engagement FAQ

**Q: I missed the event—can I still get involved?**

**A:** Absolutely! Visit MyDeerfield and click on the Foundation icon to find a list of participating organizations along with contact information for their volunteer coordinators.

**Q: Is there a minimum time commitment for volunteering?**

**A:** That depends on the organization. Many offer flexible opportunities, including one-time or occasional volunteering. You can also visit the Foundation Office or email [foundation@deerfieldwnc.org](mailto:foundation@deerfieldwnc.org) to inquire about our one-time opportunities.

**Q: Can I still volunteer if I have limited mobility?**

**A:** Yes! There are opportunities well-suited for those with limited mobility. Be sure to see the slides on MyDeerfield for these options, including writing thank you notes, making RSVP calls, sewing from home, being an office greeter, and much more!

View the slide deck [HERE!](#)



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Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community | 1617 Hendersonville Road | Asheville, NC 28804 US

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