



Strong Foundations

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Report**



70 Years of Storytelling:

Building the Future with Habitat for Humanity



As we celebrate 70 years of community, compassion, and care, we honor not only the stories of our past—but the legacy we are still building, together. One of the most meaningful chapters in Deerfield's ongoing story is our proud partnership with Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity to create "The Deerfield" home model: an award-winning, aging-in-place residence designed to meet the evolving needs of older

adults with dignity, accessibility, and sustainability at its heart.

A Legacy that Began with a Home

Deerfield's story began with the generous gift of a private residence from the Timson family—a single act of giving that became the foundation of our mission and community. Seventy years later, we are honored to continue that legacy by ensuring that the concept of home remains central to our work.

That same spirit of generosity and vision inspired our partnership with Asheville Habitat. Deerfield provided the seed funds to research, design, and develop a new model of home for older adults. This model didn't just meet the needs of a moment in time — it set a new standard.

The Deerfield Model: Where Innovation Meets Inclusion

Named in honor of our community, "The Deerfield" is a thoughtfully designed 744-square-foot townhome that includes:

- Zero-step entries and wide doorframes for ease of mobility
- An accessible bathroom with universal design features
- A layout that allows for a live-in caregiver or companion
- Energy-efficient construction that earned a *Gold Level Green Built* certification

National Recognition and Global Impact

In 2023, "The Deerfield" was awarded "Best in Accessibility" by Habitat for Humanity International and was chosen for inclusion in Habitat's international model guide — making it a blueprint for accessible, sustainable homes around the world.

More Than a Model: A Movement

Our impact didn't stop at design. Thanks to generous gifts from donors like you, Deerfield and the Foundation have sponsored twelve aging-in-place homes to date, with more on the horizon — turning vision into reality for local older adults. It is a powerful reminder that, just as our community was founded by the gift of a home, we now extend that gift to others.

Looking Ahead: A Story Still Being Written

This partnership with Habitat for Humanity embodies the very essence of our 70-year journey: from one home gifted in faith, to a vibrant community rooted in service, to the creation of new homes built for dignity, sustainability, and care.

At Deerfield, we believe in honoring the past by investing in the future. With every story shared, every dollar given, and every door opened—we carry the Timson legacy forward.

We are still building. And this is only the beginning.



[Donate to the Deerfield Cares Fund](#)

[Click to Watch Brick by Brick: Aging in Place Presentation](#)

Calling all Monarchs! A New Season for the Butterfly Garden

Something special is taking shape at the Healthcare Center — vibrant, fragrant, and alive with color.



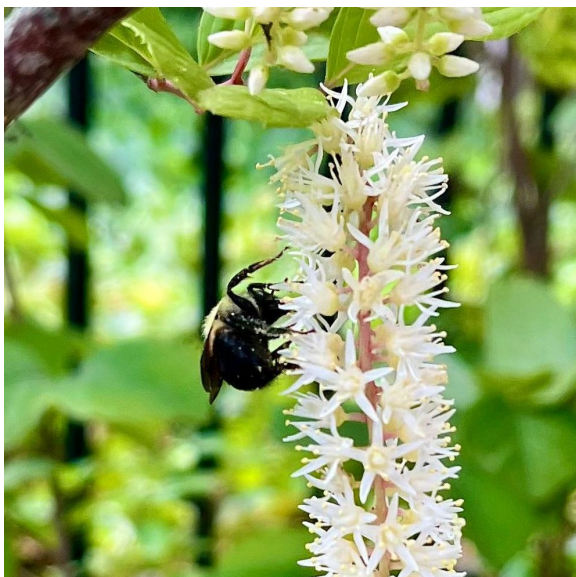
Thanks to the care and creativity of Deerfield residents Norma Beaty, Jane Lesesne, Diane Edwards, and a generous donation to Deerfield Charitable Foundation, the Butterfly Garden is undergoing a full revival. Their efforts are bringing new life to this tucked-away gem, with

more than 50 different plant species and over 200 individual plants being added to create a true pollinator's paradise.

Designed with intention and heart, this garden offers more than a view. It's a welcoming outdoor space where residents in our Healthcare Neighborhoods can be outside, feel the warmth on their skin, and enjoy the quiet surrounded by blooms, birdsong, and the gentle movement of winged visitors.

Beyond its natural beauty, the garden supports well-being in meaningful ways. Studies show that access to outdoor spaces and gardens can ease anxiety, reduce depression, and foster engagement—particularly for those living with dementia-related disease. *BMC Geriatrics* states that time in nature supports emotional health and creates moments of calm and clarity that clinical settings can't always provide.

The transformation of the Butterfly Garden reflects a deeper commitment: to nurture not only the environment, but also the people who call this community home.



Don't Miss It!

Upcoming Resident Education Session



Join us in welcoming Becky Davis, Senior Development Officer at The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, as she presents an informative session on Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs), and Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)—three powerful tools that can help you maximize your charitable giving while optimizing tax benefits. Learn how QCDs can reduce taxable income, how CGAs provide a steady income stream while supporting causes you care about, and how DAFs offer flexibility in charitable contributions. Becky will break down these strategies and answer questions to help you make informed financial and philanthropic decisions.

Guest Speaker: Becky Davis, CFRE

Date: June 18, 2025

Time: 3 PM

Location: Blue Ridge Room

United Way School Supplies Drive



As spring rolls around, you know it's time again for Deerfield to join *United Way* in giving local students a strong start to the school year in the fall!

In honor of Deerfield's 70th anniversary, we're setting a bold new goal: **300 backpacks** filled with essential school supplies *plus* funding for an additional 70 backpacks to be packed by United Way with the help of the greater community!

To help us do this, please consider making a donation in honor of our 70 years of community impact. You might give **\$70** for two backpacks, **\$140** for four, or even **\$250** for seven—any gift makes a difference!

Checks can be made payable to **Deerfield Charitable Foundation** with "School Supplies" in the memo line and dropped off at the front desk or Michelle Wooley's office. You can also give through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from your IRA by making the check payable to **Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community**, with "School Supplies" in the memo. You can also donate by simply clicking on the button below and selecting the fund option for "Deerfield Cares" and writing "School Supplies" in the notes section.

Mark your calendar for our backpack packing event. Beginning with set up on Monday, July 21, followed by a morning of organized chaos on Tuesday, July 22, we hope to see you there! We will share more details about volunteer needs via Doings, flyers and June's Strong Foundations newsletter! Questions? Contact Michelle at 210-4506 or FaithAnne at 210-4244, or email foundation@deerfieldwnc.org.

A Blooming Success! Silent Auction & Mother's Day Celebration



This year's Mother's Day celebration at Deerfield was filled with warmth, connection, and meaningful tribute. Residents and families gathered for a festive brunch, sharing delicious food and cheerful company as we celebrated the women who have helped shape our lives and community.

In a creative show of appreciation, several residents crafted floral bouquets and plant arrangements for a silent auction held in honor of the "Matriarchs of Deerfield," raising over \$500 for the Residents Assistance Fund. A big thank you to Fann Greer, Sharon Miller, and Grace Pless for offering their time and talent to this effort!



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