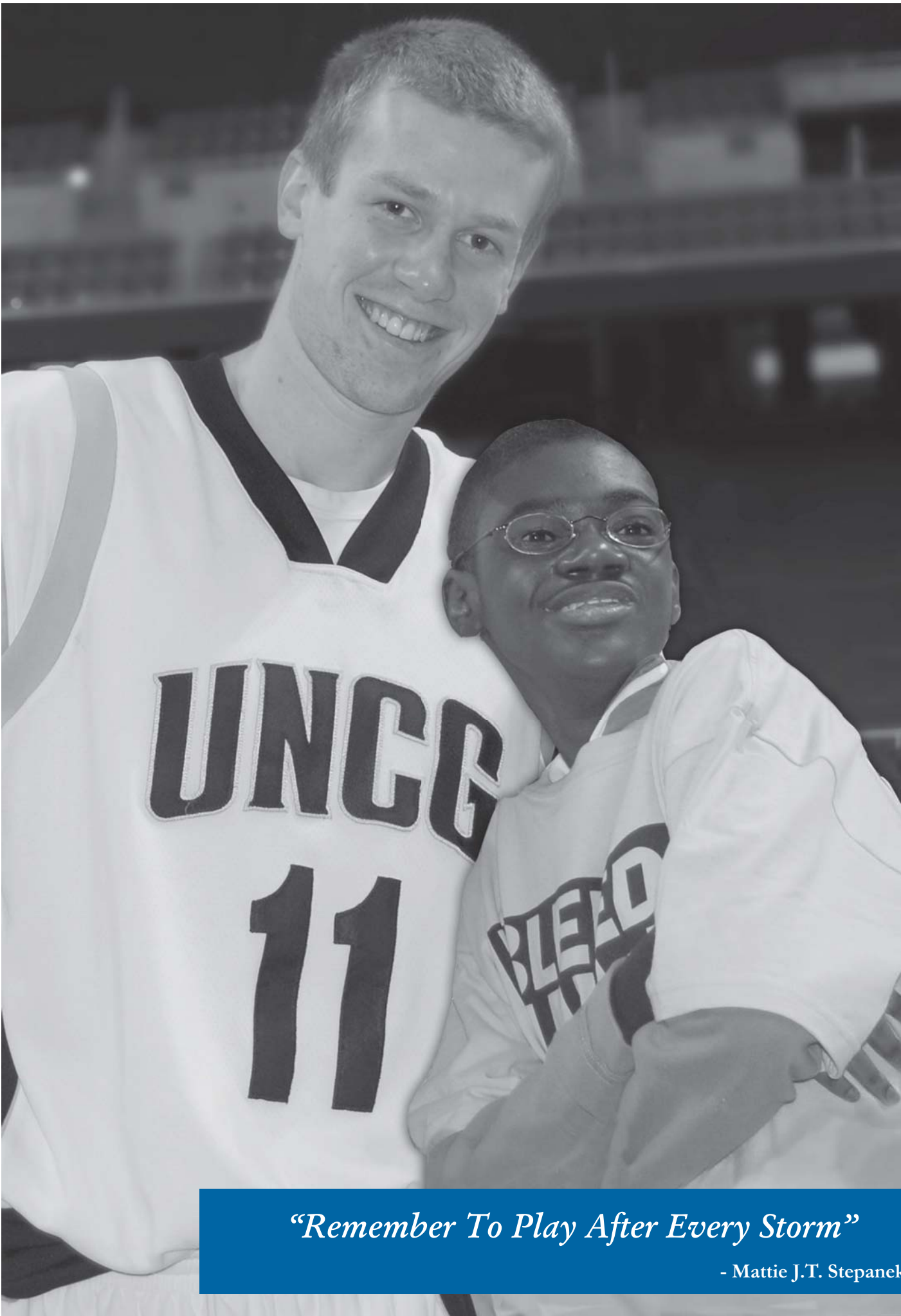


NEWSLINES



“Remember To Play After Every Storm”

- Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Korey Van Dussen, UNCG’s 2nd Leading Scorer, with Anthony McRae

Basketball Centers Kids Path Patient

When you ask Anthony what he loves about basketball, he would tell you, “Everything! I like to watch it... I like to read about it ...and I like to play it!” But after January 8th, 2011, Anthony would add something more to that list. “I really like meeting players too...like Korey and the guys on the UNCG team!”

The opportunity for Anthony and other Kids Path patients and counseling clients to meet these basketball players came as a result of a new leadership initiative by the UNCG Athletic Department which connects student athletes to organizations like Kids Path.

In December, members of the UNCG Men’s Basketball team visited the Kids Path campus and interacted with 18 Kids Path children and teens, talking, hanging out, and of course, playing a little “one-on-one.” Then on January 8, 2011, those same children, along with their families, attended the UNCG–Chattanooga game at the Greensboro Coliseum. All received VIP treatment, including front row seats, shirts, posters, and a chance to meet every player after the game.

“Anthony had a great time,” smiled Cynthia. “He told everyone at church about his front row seat and the autographs he got. We all had a great time.”

Life has been getting brighter for the McRae’s since August 2010, when Anthony received a kidney transplant at Brenner’s Children’s Hospital. Born with multiple medical problems, kidney failure forced Anthony to endure daily dialysis treatments for the two years prior to the transplant.

“Those were difficult years for all of us, Cynthia explained. Anthony was so weak he couldn’t attend school. His medical needs were very complicated and he needed frequent lab testing over at Brenner’s Hospital. Combined

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HOSPICE and PALLIATIVE CARE of GREENSBORO
Hospice • Beacon Place • Kids Path • Counseling and Education Center

A Message from Board Chair Bob Newton



First let me express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the HPCG Board of Directors. I am serving as but one of a group of talented and dedicated directors,

including three new directors: Mary Magrinat, Karin Henderson, and Terry Akin. Welcome to these new directors, and thanks to all who serve HPCG in this important capacity.

Currently, HPCG is engaged in an important process to update its strategic plan. We want to sincerely thank everyone who

contributed to this process by participating in one of six community focus group sessions and an online survey, ably facilitated by consultant, Nancy Hunter. Your ideas and honest feedback will help to shape the future vision for HPCG. The board and the leadership team had a productive retreat in November reviewing the focus group input and providing recommendations about our vision for long term care, growth in the numbers of those served by HPCG and staffing for the future in a tight healthcare labor market. The updated plan will be completed in early 2011 and will serve us well as a road map for 2011 through 2013.

December 5th marked the 26th anniversary of our Light Up A Life memorial service, held this year as in past years at West Market Street United Methodist Church. The Rev. Julie

Peoples from Greensboro's Congregational Church of Christ delivered a wonderfully relevant message, and the musical selections were as meaningful as they were varied. Participation by volunteers and staff as well as all in attendance rounded out another highly successful service of remembrance. Special thanks to all who took part.

As we look forward to spring and its time of renewal, remember and celebrate the quality of life HPCG strives to bring to each person served, and to the community at large.

Sincerely,

On Its 15th Anniversary, Beacon Place Gets An Update

Fifteen years ago, HPCG created a place where people facing the end of their life could find comfort and peace – Beacon Place. It was an exciting project that exemplified the great things that could be accomplished through collaboration and cooperation.

Opened in 1996 with 12 beds, HPCG added office space, meeting space, and two additional beds to Beacon Place in 2005. Other than these changes, no major updates have been made to the décor or space utilization of Beacon Place since its opening. Last month, HPCG launched a renovation project to Beacon Place in order to better meet the needs of patients and their families.

Community volunteer Alan Cone, who co-chaired the initial capital campaign for Beacon Place in 1995 has agreed to chair a program of fundraising activities to raise the capital needed for this project. The effort will include foundation and corporate support, as well as, support from individuals.

Changes to Beacon Place are needed because of the changing needs of patients. In the beginning, Beacon Place's patients tended to have life expectancies measured in months. Beacon Place's home-like features – dining room and family room – were well utilized by the more ambulatory population and their families. Today, however, the average Beacon Place patient is under care for less than 3 weeks. These patients are less mobile and their medical needs and symptoms are more complex.

The renovations will address interior design, functional limitations and under-utilized space. Changes to the interior design will “lift the visual tone” of Beacon Place. New lighting, paint, interior finishes and skylights, will create the open and airy feel that is desired by our patients and their families. Functional limitations to be addressed include replacing traditional bathtubs with “roll-in” showers, allowing patients more ease of bathing without having to step in and out of a tub. Finally, the renovations will re-purpose under-utilized space. For example, the screened porch adjacent to the dining room will be converted into a closed lounge space that can be used year-round.

If you would like to make a gift to help support this project, please contact Paul Russ, VP of Marketing and Development at 336-478-2502 or pruss@hospicegso.org.



Alan Cone

Basketball Centers Kids Path Patient

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with a full-time job I needed to keep, it was just too much. I called our local pediatrician, sobbing as I explained how overwhelmed my husband and I were. A few days later, Dr. Young called to describe the support we would have through Kids Path.”

“Every member of the Kids Path team has been so helpful,” explained Cynthia. “Of course having the nurse come to our home is invaluable, but they’ve also helped us think less about illness and more about normalizing our lives. In fact, my husband and I hadn’t been on a date in years, until Kids Path assigned one of their trained volunteers to our family. Gretchen’s been a big hit, especially since she loves basketball about as much as Anthony does (and she can shoot the ball too).”

Gretchen and other Kids Path team members report they wear comfortable shoes on the days they plan to visit Anthony. They realize at some point in the visit, they will be out in the driveway for a game of “Horse.” And if the weather’s bad, there’s always the nerf ball and net in Anthony’s bedroom—his salvation on those days when his energy levels are low.

“I think basketball has been a key aspect in Anthony’s ability to cope so well with all his medical challenges,” reflected Kids Path Volunteer Gretchen West. “Whether he’s watching a game on TV or staring up at one of his many posters, basketball can transport Anthony past his discomfort. In fact, unless he’s in the hospital, Anthony never complains. And when Anthony has a basketball in his hand, he almost shines. He’s so full of confidence and hopefulness. He never looks at shortcomings and challenges...only the possibilities.”

Anticipated Sell Out For 4th Annual Corks For Kids Path

Based on early ticket sales and sponsor packages, organizers of the 4th Annual *Corks for Kids Path* anticipate the event will be sold out!

The annual fundraiser for Kids Path will take place on **Friday, February 25, 2011** in the Regency Room in downtown Greensboro. “We have been so pleased with the community’s generosity and commitment to this wonderful cause,” Chairperson Misty McCall said. “We have had such great success with our advanced ticket sales and sponsorship packages that we think this year may be a sell out!”

Once again, this tasting event will feature a variety of unique, handcrafted wines from small wineries, locally brewed craft beers, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction.

In addition to the wine and food each year, one highlight of *Corks for Kids Path* is its silent auction. Vice-Chairperson Matt Logan is heading up the auction which is filled with great trips, unique entertainment experiences, fabulous jewelry pieces, and much, much more. “This year we have a trip to Vail, Colorado in the auction and more sports-related items like a team-signed UNC Men’s Team basketball,” Logan said. “But we are most excited that we have a new way to bid on our silent auction items electronically by using a handheld iPod Touch bidding device!”

Bidding this year will be done on a hand-held BidPal device – no more bid sheets! Now, guests won’t have to worry if someone has outbid them on their favorite item. BidPal will automatically notify you! No more hovering over the bid sheets at 9:59 pm before the auction closes. Bid from anywhere in the Ballroom.

“Guests can also use the devices to place their wine orders and make donations directly to Kids Path,” McCall said. “It’s going to bring a new level of fun to the event!”

For more information, visit www.corksforkidspath.org or call 336-478-2502. If you would like to volunteer to work at the event, please contact Kids Path Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Lohr at 336-478-2274 or by email at clohr@hospicegso.org.

