

Fill Your Bucket List Foundation
PO Box 806
Cary, NC 27512

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Elizabeth Hudson
Editor, Our State Magazine
Elizabeth.Hudson@ourstate.com

Dear Ms. Hudson:

With April being Cancer Awareness Month, I suggest writing a feature story about Fill Your Bucket List Foundation. Located in Cary, North Carolina, this nonprofit organization grants wishes to adult cancer patients in the state. I would like to provide you with information about this organization and why it is important.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the state according to North Carolina Health News. The North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics states that the incidence rate of cancer in North Carolina is 465 per 100,000 people; the death rate is 167 per 100,000. NCSCHS projects 61,000 new cases of cancer and 21,000 deaths from cancer in 2018.

A cancer diagnosis is a physical, emotional, and financial hardship. The average monthly cost for chemotherapy in North Carolina is \$13,828; for radiation therapy, it is \$13,209 per month, according to the National Institutes of Health. A North Carolinian with cancer spends an average of \$256,000 a year on medications, hospitalizations, and doctors.

Fill Your Bucket List Foundation provides relief from some of this strain. Since its founding in 2014, FYBLF has granted almost 70 wishes to North Carolinians suffering from cancer. Peggy Gibson Carroll, founder, came up with the idea when her own father was battling lung cancer. Helping him fulfill a bucket list of things he wanted to do before he died created lasting memories for her family. She decided to re-create this for adult cancer patients in North Carolina. Peggy has agreed to be interviewed for an article in Our State. She may be contacted at peggy@fillyourbucket.org or by calling 919-307-7759.

Wish recipients have very positive things to say about Fill Your Bucket List Foundation and feel the granting of their wishes was something they really needed emotionally and wouldn't have been able to afford without the help of FYBLF. It allowed them to forget their problems for a while and enjoy life and time with their family and friends. Many of them have agreed to be interviewed and may be reached through Marie Otto, Executive Director of FYBLF, marie@fillyourbucket.org.

Fill Your Bucket List Foundation receives no state or federal funding and relies on donations and sponsors. Their annual fundraiser, the Bucket Bash, was recently held on Saturday, March 24 in Raleigh. An evening of fine food, dancing, and silent and live auctions, the event raised over \$185,000 which will grant more than 40 wishes.

I hope to hear from you soon. I will contact you on Monday to follow up. Please email me with questions at april98@live.unc.edu or by calling me at 704-305-7161.

Respectfully,
Bobby Ellis

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Bobby Ellis
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill 2020
Media and Journalism/Public Relations
april98@live.unc.edu
704-305-7161