

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation Helps Cancer Patients in Our Area**

In a recent interview, Dolly Wilson, RN, MSN explained how the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation assists cancer patients in our area by providing monetary support for a broad variety of needs. Wilson functions as Breast Cancer Patient Navigator and Community Educator for Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge, providing support and guidance for patients at The Cancer Centers at Morganton and Valdese.

Ms. Wilson stated "The employment rate in Burke County is higher than in most North Carolina counties. This decline in employment has contributed to a rising number of patients who do not have healthcare, and they have no means to cover the cost of their assessments, diagnostics and treatments. That's where, so often, we are able to turn to the Foundation for much-needed funds to help the patients.

The needs of a cancer patient are many, often including specialized mammograms, prosthetics, wigs and hats after hair loss, camisoles and other expensive personal items. Wilson explained how sometimes even the money for gas to drive to multiple weekly treatments can fall outside the reach of lower income patients. "Sometimes we even need funds to help with childcare, so a patient can take time to come for treatments," said Wilson."

With donated funds and grant money obtained by the Foundation, Wilson is able to help these patients navigate through unsettling and sometimes difficult care paths. She described how providing a wig, specialized bra or prosthetic can often brighten a patient's day and give them a sense of normalcy in a world that seems to be turning upside-down.

"We so appreciate the support the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation Provides," Wilson said. "If you could only glimpse the expressions on the faces of the many who are helped - you just wouldn't believe how the lives are changed." She added, "I don't know what I'd do without the Foundation and the monies they provide."

Excerpts from Dolly Wilson's interview can be seen on the Foundation's website: [brhcfoundation.org](http://brhcfoundation.org), under the "News and Media" link.

The Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation, formerly known as the Grace HealthCare Foundation, was created in 1991 with a sole purpose of providing funding for hospital-based projects and programs. Since that time, the Foundation has remained a part of the healthcare system, but has expanded its reach and funding priorities to ensure Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge maintains their mission of "Enhancing Life by Excelling in Care."

The Foundation accepts donations through their website, or by phone at 828-580-5358, or 828-580-5365. Their upcoming Benefit Gala, held on Saturday, November 7, is one of their primary

fundraising events, with proceeds going toward patient and family services, as well as other projects supporting community health. Learn more at [blueridgefoundation.org](http://blueridgefoundation.org).