



FAMILIES CHANGE TOMORROWS

High Country  
Caregivers



Families Change Tomorrows

Summer 2023

## From Our Director

by Jacob Willis

It is with much excitement that this summer newsletter has been published! We continue to grow, and amazing things are happening at High Country Caregivers. This growth is only possible because of your continued support. The golf tournament was a huge success! Kudos to the coaches, their wives, athletes, celebrities, and sponsors that made this event so successful. This would not have been possible without our Board Members and dedicated staff. You all are such an inspiration to our families and community.

We are currently serving 313 children and 254 caregivers, and we are happy to announce we received a \$70,000 grant from the Dogwood Health Trust to add a social worker in Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey Counties. This grant will provide much-needed services to our clients. We are also working on a model for our program to be considered for replication throughout North Carolina and possibly further. Helping us to accomplish this goal, the Duke Endowment and the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network will be visiting High Country Caregivers. Potential funding and recognition from these two foundations is an honor.

Your generosity is changing the lives of children and elderly people in our communities. You can find highlights of our programs and activities with families on social media and on our website.

Have a blessed summer, and I hope to see you soon!



Jacob Willis  
Director of HCC

## • MISSION •



*The High Country Caregivers mission is to provide advocacy, support, and education for kinship caregivers and their families.*

### OFFICE UPDATE

## Demo Day in Yancey County

High Country Caregivers has received a grant from the Yancey Fund to rent a new office and meeting space in Yancey County. We are excited to announce this opportunity and look forward to hosting Yancey, Mitchell, and Avery County families in this new space.

On June 30th, families helped the HCC staff clean, paint, and make the new space sparkle. The next project is to have children and caregivers paint a mural on the wall. Opening day announcement coming soon.



### BOARD SPOTLIGHT

## All HCC Board Members

For our Summer Board Spotlight, I want to take the time to celebrate all our Board Members. They are an extraordinary group of individuals that make a dynamic team! I have had the opportunity to serve non-profit organizations for 20-plus years in multiple leadership positions, and I can say the High Country Caregivers Board of Directors' dedication, perseverance, teamwork, and expertise are second to none.

We hosted over 250 people at the dinner the night before our Annual Coaches' Invitational Golf Tournament. During the event, I was asked, "How do we execute such wonderful events?" My response consisted of three reasons: a dedicated staff, faithful volunteers, and a committed Board of Directors. Our Board Members are always willing to step up and do what is necessary to accomplish the task.

Our Board guides the organization, but they also pick up and deliver meals, clothes, presents, and essential items to families. They sell sponsorships, ask for donations, plan luncheons, and volunteer. They do all of this without any desire to be recognized. They are doers, but each member is a donor to our organization. Without question, they are all about the mission! To quote Coach Jerry Moore, "Thanks for always doing more than is expected."





# Program & Event Updates

## Eyes in the Wild: Backpacking, Hiking, and Camping

This summer, the children and teens of High Country Caregivers will have the opportunity to participate in two overnight camping trips on Beech Mountain, one overnight backpacking adventure to Black Mountain, and an all-day hike in Mitchell County. Snakeroot Eco Tours' Tal Galton will lead the trips. These excursions give our children outdoor experiences that they have never had before and give our grandparents a respite opportunity. Respite gives our grandparents time to decompress from the many struggles faced by caregiving and allows them to have time to themselves to relax and do things that they enjoy doing without the children they are caring for, so it is a win-win for all!



## River Tubing

One of our most popular field trips is our river tubing adventures. Watauga, Ashe, and Wilkes County families take their trip down the New River with Wahoo's Adventures, while Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey County families take their trips down the South Toe River with Loafers Glory Tubing and Rafting. We look forward to these two trips every year, and we thank our donors for their continued financial support that keep these fun traditions going!

## Jimmy and Jean's Family Entertainment & Arcade Field Trip

To celebrate Ashe County's last day of school, we had the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) meeting at Jimmy and Jean's Family Entertainment and Arcade. Located in West Jefferson, NC, this new entertainment center is committed to giving families in the community a fun and safe place to gather. The arcade has a toddler play area, bumper cars, jungle gyms, and more, and we had an absolute blast at the arcade.



## FAMILY FOCUS

## 2023 High School Graduates

High Country Caregivers (HCC) is so proud of our 2023 High School Graduates, and we cannot wait to see what their futures hold. Below are their accomplishments and further plans.

### Katie Allen

Katie graduated from Mayland Early College High School and moved to Marion, Indiana in December, where she completed classes to be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Katie is currently employed full-time at a senior living facility. At just 18, Katie recently purchased a mobile home.

### Dustin Houck

Dustin graduated from Ashe County High School and will attend Wilkes Community College (WCC) to further his education. Dustin hopes to be a Sports Scout after receiving his associate degree from WCC.

### Donnie Milsaps

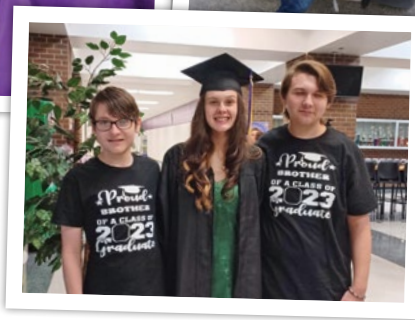
Donnie graduated from Mitchell County High School and got his driver's license a week later. This summer, he will work at a steakhouse in Spruce Pine, and will attend Mayland Community College to study welding in the fall.

### Braeden Ptak

Braeden graduated from Blue Ridge Academy and will attend ABTech to receive his Firefighter 1 & 2 certifications this fall. He plans to join a fire station in Yancey County and attend the police academy to become a police officer.

### Emma Rhodes

Emma graduated from Ashe County Early College High School and will continue working full-time for Little Caesars in West Jefferson to save money for her first car.

*Donnie Milsaps**Dustin Houck**Emma Rhodes*



## EVENT IN REVIEW

## The Coaches' Golf Tournament & Upcoming Events

The second annual two-day Coaches' Invitational Golf Tournament and Dinner was held on May 8 and 9, 2023. The star-studded events were hosted by Coach Jerry Moore, raising over \$110,000 in proceeds. These proceeds will support High Country Caregivers programs and services dedicated to families navigating kinship care. We could not have done it without our sponsors, guests, and community partners that supported the auction. Thank you!


With over 250 people in attendance, the dinner and silent auction were held at the Grandview Ballroom at Appalachian State University. During the evening, guests had the opportunity to mix and mingle with the 18 coaches and celebrities who they would be playing golf with at Blowing Rock Country Club. Head Coach Mack Brown from UNC-Chapel Hill was the keynote speaker, who delivered an entertaining and inspiring presentation.

The next morning, 18 teams played in the tournament, with each team playing alongside a coach or celebrity. Joining former Appalachian State head coach *Jerry Moore* at the tournament was head coach *Scott Satterfield* (University of Cincinnati), head coach *Shawn Clark* (App State), former head coach *Paul Johnson* (Georgia Southern), head coach *Mack Brown* (UNC-Chapel Hill), former head coach *Oval Jaynes* (Gardner-Webb), former head coach *Sparky Woods* (Appalachian State), head coach *Dave Doeren* (NC State), Appalachian State Senior Assistant *Lance Ware*, Appalachian State Quality Control - Offense *Trey Kavanaugh*, head coach *Dustin Kerns* (Appalachian State Basketball), head coach *Clay Hendrix* (Furman), former defensive back *Eric Thomas* (UNC-Chapel Hill), former NBA basketball player *Tommy Burleson*, retired US Marine First Lieutenant *Clebe McClary*, former NFL defensive tackle *Larry Hand*, musician *Adam Church*, and former Appalachian State and NFL player *Dino Hackett*. Visit the High Country Caregivers website to see the photo gallery for both events.

With the golf events behind us, we are excited to announce the 2023 Night at Chetola event will be on Thursday, September 14, lakeside at Chetola Resort. The following Saturday, September 23, join us for the first High Country Clay Championship at Chetola Sporting Reserve. Visit [highcountrycaregivers.org](https://highcountrycaregivers.org) for more details.

Thanks again for your support!





*A Night At*  
**CHETOLA**  
High Country  
Caregivers  
Families Change Tomorrow

**Thursday, September 14, 2023**

Entertainment and Dance Music by  
Nationally Acclaimed, "The Business"

Under the Tent by the Lake at Chetola Resort  
185 Chetola Lake Drive, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Registration Time 5-5:30 | Event Starts 5:30

Dress in your best mountain chic wear

Tickets \$150 per person | RSVP by September 1st  
\$1200 per table of 8 with enclosed card

High Country Caregiver Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization  
(Tax ID #20-4819289). Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

## A Night at Chetola

We are always very excited about our annual flagship fundraiser "A Night at Chetola." This event, held lakeside at Chetola Resort features a five course meal, open bar, silent auction, and live music/dancing entertainment.

Returning by popular demand for the live music is the award-winning 8-piece Motown band, "The Business." Event check-in begins at 5:00pm on September 14th.

Online ticket registration ends August 28, 2023. Sponsorship deadline is August 15, 2023. Scan the QR Codes below to purchase tickets or learn more about sponsorship opportunities.



**PURCHASE  
TICKETS  
TODAY**



**BECOME A  
SPONSOR  
TODAY**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH WITH LOCAL AUTHOR  
**Lisa Novick Goldberg**  
*the author of*  
**The Apple and the Shady Tree:  
The Mafia, My Family, and Me**

Join Lisa as she presents a heartfelt and  
mesmerizing account of her family relations and  
how the Mafia shaped her life.

**08.08.23**  
11AM-2PM

Appalachian View  
1117 Sugar Mountain Rd. #2  
Newland, NC 28657

Tickets are \$100.00, the first  
75 tickets sold will receive  
Lisa's book.

*Reserv*  
highcountrycaregivers.org  
or call 828-832-6366.

High Country  
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AUGUST 8, 2023

## Author Lisa Novick Goldberg Luncheon

High Country Caregivers welcomes Lisa Novick Goldberg as the guest speaker at our luncheon on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at Appalachian View from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Visit our website to learn more and to purchase tickets.



SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

## High Country Clay Championship



HCC is happy to announce the first annual High Country Clay Championship. The clay shooting event will be at the Chetola Sporting Reserve on Saturday, September 23, 2023. The flight starts at 10:00 am, participants receive 100 rounds of ammo, we will have a silent auction, a bourbon pull and lunch, and so much more!

Proceeds from HCC events enable us to stay true to our mission of providing advocacy, support, and education for kinship caregivers and their families. For more information, call us at 828-385-3025.





## ABOUT US

High Country Caregivers is a stand-alone not for profit organization dedicated to relatives, respite, and resources for kinship caregivers, and relatives caring for loved ones with life limiting illnesses and debility. Through a variety of programs HCC comes alongside grandparents to help them improve the lives of these children.

To find out how you can partner with us to change a child's life or to make a donation, contact us at [HighCountryCaregivers.org](http://HighCountryCaregivers.org)



Like Us on Facebook  
@HighCountryCaregivers

## THANK YOU

### Our Funders

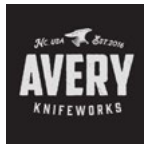
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- Boone ABC
- High Country ABC
- High Country Charitable Foundation
- Kathleen Kennedy Foundation
- North Carolina Community Foundation
- Preyer Family Foundation
- Rumple Memorial Presbyterian
- Spruce Pine ABC
- St. Mary's of the Hills
- The Community Foundation of WNC
- The Kennedy-Herterich Foundation
- The Luke Garrison Foundation
- Valle Country Fair
- WNC Bridge Foundation
- Women's Fund of the Blue Ridge

*Program partners are listed in alphabetical order.*

## EVENT SPONSORS



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



Agent Barry Crawford



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## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



ELK RIVER CLUB



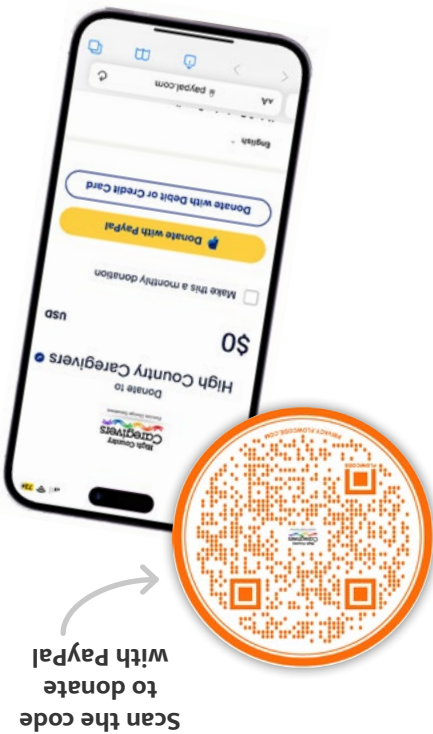
# High Country Caregiver Foundation

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info@highcountrycaregivers.org

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## Gift in Support of the High Country Caregivers

- ☐ Check enclosed for one-time contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Charge my card for one-time contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Charge my card monthly for the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

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High Country Caregivers is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization; all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.