

Facility Open House

May 2013

Hospice and Home Care of Alexander County hosted an Open House at their newly renovated facility at 10 Lucy Echerd Lane in Taylorsville on Sunday, May 19th from 3:00 to 5:00. There was a ribbon cutting around 3:00 and refreshments were provided. Tours of the home were provided and the “wow” factor was very evident. It was a great gathering of former directors, board members and supportive citizens. “Miss Lucy” Echerd blessed the group with her presence, as she and her family have been an integral part of the Hospice program since it’s beginning.



The “Gwaltney House”, which was a long time fixture in the landscape of Taylorsville, NC, was originally the home of John Lemmons Gwaltney and his family around the turn of the century. Throughout his life, J.L. Gwaltney played a leading role in Alexander

County affairs. Over the years he served as Register of Deeds and County Attorney for Alexander County, City Attorney for Taylorsville, attorney for Southern Railway, chairman of the Alexander County Board of Education, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, Presidential Elector in 1908, and Taylorsville Postmaster. The house became a home as Gwaltney and his wife, Emma Eugenia Connolly, raised their children: Maurice, Flora Lee and Milton. According to Lucy Echerd (born 1915), daughter of Flora Lee Gwaltney and Charles Echerd, the house burned when she was quite small, and was rebuilt with the same layout and style.

The house became home to Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County in 1989 after the property was made available for purchase by two of Mr. Gwaltney’s granddaughters, Mary Connolly Echerd Ward and Lucy Echerd. Both Hospice and Home Care offices operated in the house until 1996, when the current brick structure, located behind the house, was built for the Hospice offices. Since that time, the home care staff has enjoyed the entire space.

As with any home, upkeep and maintenance are ongoing concerns. In 2011, the Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County Board of Directors authorized an inspection by structural engineers to determine the wisest course of action for the future of the house. Solid Rock Structural PLLC, of Hiddenite, NC, deemed the structure sound and worthy of investing in some structural renovation to ensure the house’s continued presence on the corner of Hwy 16 South and Lucy Echerd Lane.



50 LUCY ECHERD LANE
TAYLORSVILLE, NC 28681

828.632.5026

www.
HospiceandHomeCareAlexander
.org

Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County accepted bids from local contractors for the renovation. Terry Russell Construction, of Taylorsville, NC, was awarded the contract for the project. Terry Russell Construction specializes in custom homes, small commercial projects, and renovations, and has been in business since 1990.



Extensive renovation to the house have been both interior and exterior. The entire structure was raised three feet-the foundation replaced-and lowered back 8” to 12” above the original level. The house then received new windows, insulation, siding, and roof. The wrap around porch, which was removed for replacement of the foundation, was replaced.

Serving residents of Alexander and surrounding counties in North Carolina since 1985, Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. specializes in easing the physical, emotional and spiritual discomforts that each patient and their family face as the end of life nears. Hospice & Home Care of Alexander County, Inc. is committed to helping both patients and their families live life to the fullest with optimal comfort and support. For more information about quality end of life care in Alexander County, contact us at 828.632.5026 or visit www.hospiceandhomecarealexander.org.

