

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE LEON LEVINE FOUNDATION

FALL 2017



The Leon Levine Foundation has been a generous supporter of Pat's Place since 2006. We spoke with members of their staff recently to discuss why they believe in our mission.

## **Why does the Leon Levine Foundation support Pat's Place? What makes the mission of Pat's Place so appealing to the Foundation?**

While we all desire to live in a society where no child is subject to pain, the grim reality is that Mecklenburg County reports an astonishing amount of abuse and/or neglect of children each year. When these incidents occur, we believe every child deserves access to high-quality, trauma-based services as well as the opportunity to recover and lead a fulfilling, productive life.

In addition to strongly aligning with the vision of our Founder, Pat's Place is guided by strong leadership, is engaged in the community, and insists upon collaboration. Additionally, the agency is results-oriented and remains innovative while prioritizing sustainable growth.

## **What do you want others to know about the mission and the work that is done every day at the agency?**

Pat's Place is the only child advocacy center in Mecklenburg County providing specialized, trauma-based medical and counseling services for children who may have been subject to abuse or neglect. Pat's Place continues to grow and expand, while maintaining high quality of its services. They do that by being engaged in conversations around community need – as well as measuring results in a way that fosters continuous improvement. The agency's focus is always on the well-being of children in our community – as evidenced by their extended service hours, targeted therapy options, extension of services to adolescent victims of human trafficking, and increased training and education sessions for law enforcement, social workers and school personnel.

## **What three words would you use to describe Pat's Place?**

**Collaborative** – It is crucial for an organization like Pat's Place to prioritize community engagement and cultivate strong working relationships with key partners and stakeholders. The agency's multi-disciplinary approach is ideal because it significantly lowers the risk of re-traumatization and undue stress on children while still serving them in a comprehensive manner.

**Forward-Thinking** – Pat's Place is willing to utilize its expertise to innovate and fill community gaps. For example, the agency is pushing to provide even more mental health therapy services to ensure long-term recovery well after a child's immediate crisis has been resolved.

**Client-Focused** – Everyone at Pat's Place, from staff to executive leadership, makes it abundantly clear that at Pat's Place, the child comes first. Each case is unique, and Pat's Place insists that each child receive the best care possible.

## **Touch on your first introduction to the organization and why it was so compelling.**

Child abuse and human trafficking are difficult subjects to talk about, but Pat's Place does it in a way that is both factual and positively focused on treatment and prevention. Pat's Place is not content with simply meeting a need; instead, they constantly push themselves and their partners to be better for the sake of the children. As the Foundation has grown and evolved, so has our monetary support of Pat's Place. Each year, we conduct rigorous due diligence and continue to find compelling reasons to increase our support over time.

## **What impact has Pat's Place had on the Foundation?**

The Board and staff at The Leon Levine Foundation are inspired by Pat's Place and its leadership in the child services field. Although we wish the need for Pat's Place did not exist, we are comforted that when a child does walk through their doors, they are taken seriously and treated with urgency and dignity.