

THE STILL PLACE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





For families with
critically ill children



The Still Place Mission

The Still Place offers a peaceful place for rest, relaxation, and enjoyment to individuals and families experiencing serious life-altering illness or loss of a child.

The Still Place Vision

A world where families affected by serious life-altering illness or death of a child experience reprieve from daily burdens of illness, connect and bond together as a family.

Core Values

Compassion
Encouragement
Peacefulness
Positive Attitude
Integrity
Acceptance



The Still Place is a 501(c)3 non-profit with solicitation licenses in the states of North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

We welcome family referrals and donations through our website at www.thestillplace.org.

We are located in Hayesville, North Carolina, and can be reached at 828-209-8021 or info@thestillplace.org.

Executive Director Report

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

As we reflect on the past year at The Still Place, I am filled with deep gratitude for the compassion, resilience, and generosity that continue to define The Still Place. During our last 10 years of serving families, together, we have strengthened our mission of offering a peaceful place for rest, relaxation, and enjoyment to individuals and families experiencing serious life-altering illness or loss of a child.



Lori McClure
Executive
Director

Through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members, and supporters, The Still Place deepened its impact in the lives of those we serve. We witnessed firsthand the power of connection, compassion, and integrity. With each family, every conversation shared, and every life touched reflects our collective commitment to a reprieve from the daily burdens of illness, to connect and bond together as a family.

Over the past year, we focused on strengthening our core programs while responding to the evolving needs of our community. We increased partnerships, and worked intentionally to create an environment that nurtures inner peace and calm, despite the stresses of serious life-altering illnesses. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of donors and supporters who believe in our mission and invest in the future of our work.

On March 24, 2025, Dr. Craig Kitchens, co-founder of The Still Place, passed away. He, along with Dr. Dawn, created TSP to foster independence and encourage adventure in children with severe or chronic illness. I know he is missed by so many who visited TSP over the years.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum with compassion, encouragement, and acceptance. Our vision for the coming year includes expanding our programs to include support for caregivers who have a child with cancer (Still in the Woods). We also will be purchasing the TSP house from Laughing Waterdog, which for the last 10 years has been leased.

On behalf of our board of directors and entire team, thank you for standing with us. Your support makes this work possible, and your belief in our mission inspires us every day.



Typical TSP Family Retreat Week!



Saturday

Arrive and settle in for a great week!

Sunday

Get Out Into Nature

Monday

Arts/Crafts

Tuesday

Farm Visit and Picnic

Wednesday

Adventure Day

Thursday

Parents Day Out/No Parent Party

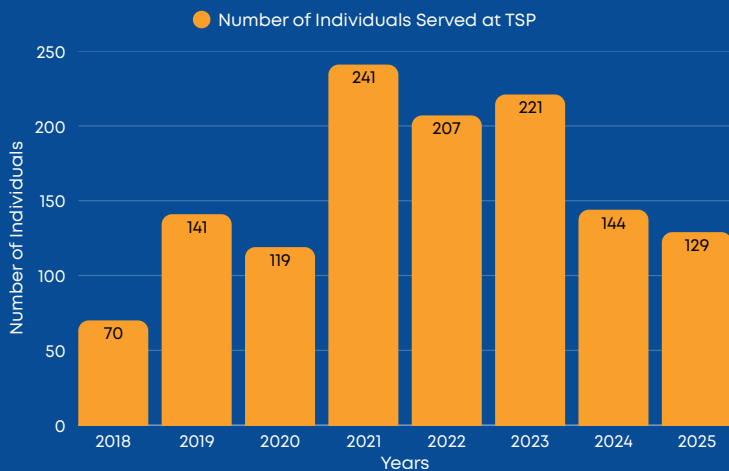
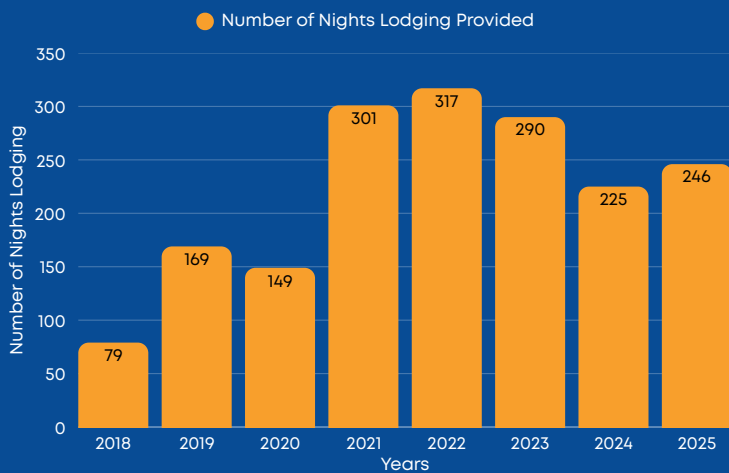
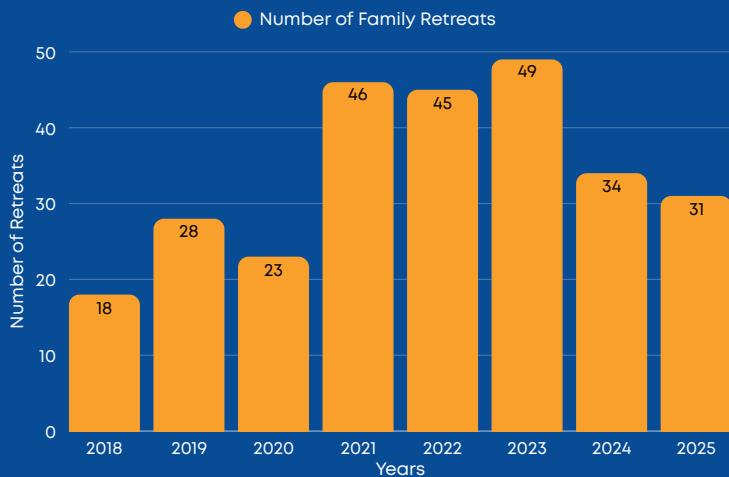
Friday

Gem Mining

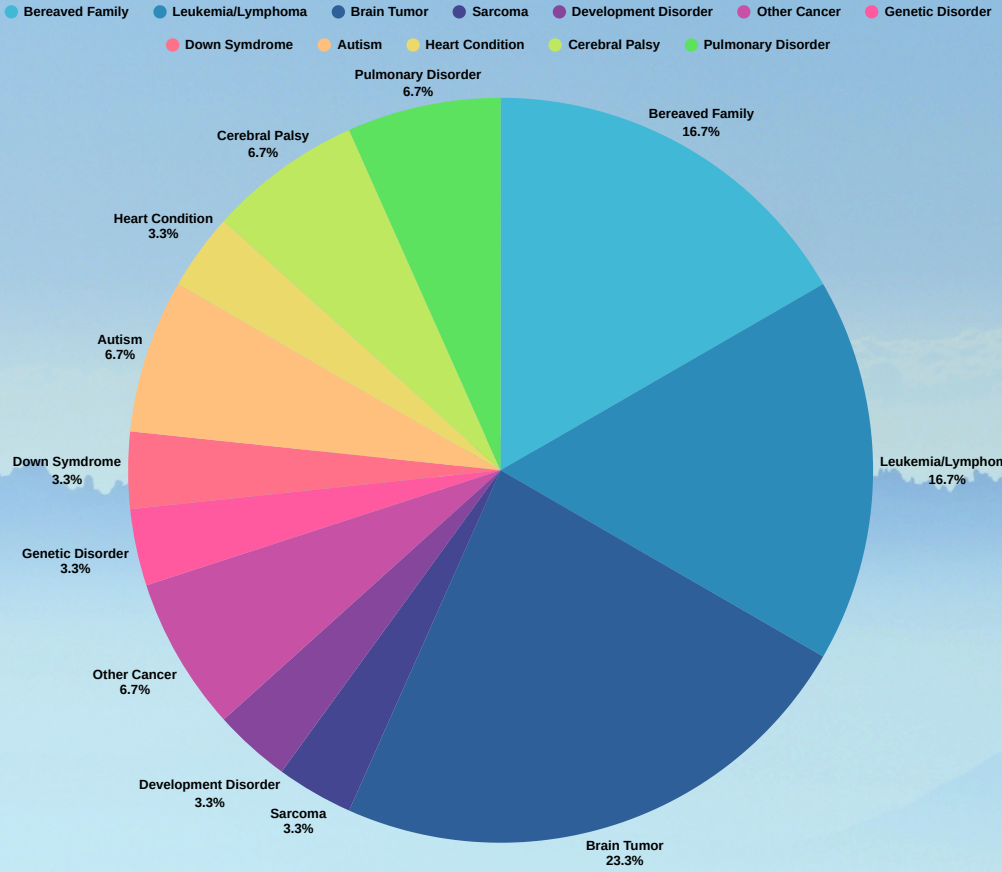
Saturday

Departure





Illnesses Served in 2025



Still Your Mom Retreats

No one understands the unfathomable loss of a child more than another grieving mother. Through the bond that develops during the retreat and follow up group chats, sustained friendships develop. As such, our programming has evolved to emphasize peer-support programming and reflection time that adapts to each unique group of mothers.

Thursday Evening
Sharing our stories

Friday
Examining Grief with Curiosity
Yoga and the body
Being with our grief
Nature
Broken Bowls

Saturday
Celebrating your Child
Sharing your kids superpowers
Ways we grieve
Legacy
Painted Rocks
Spa Day

Sunday
Closing ceremony



"I found the overall experience to exceed my expectations. I am so glad I came. I found it beautiful to hear about other people's grief journeys and get to know their children through their stories."

In 2025, we offered four bereavement retreats for mothers and one for fathers. A total of 20 mothers and 4 fathers participated. We are continually grateful to Charlie's Heart Foundation and Ansley's Rainbows of Hope partnerships in supporting our bereavement programming.

We also held a alumni retreat for 5 mom's who had attended a Still Your Mom retreat.

Our bereaved mothers are now coming back to be a part of our care team in all capacities from facilitators and fire starters to heart tenders and huggers.



Still Your Dad Retreats



Still Your Dad retreats are led by a team of local volunteers.

Each retreat is unique, incorporating the season, Appalachian adventure or culture resulting in shared experiences such as building a mourning bench, trout fishing, golfing or ax throwing.

Surveys report a better sense of well-being, enhanced resilience and hope. Favorite activities include time alone, sharing with other fathers and various activities. The men felt the experience was enhanced by volunteers.



Friday Evening

Sharing Our Stories

Saturday

Examining Grief

Adventure and Team Building Activities

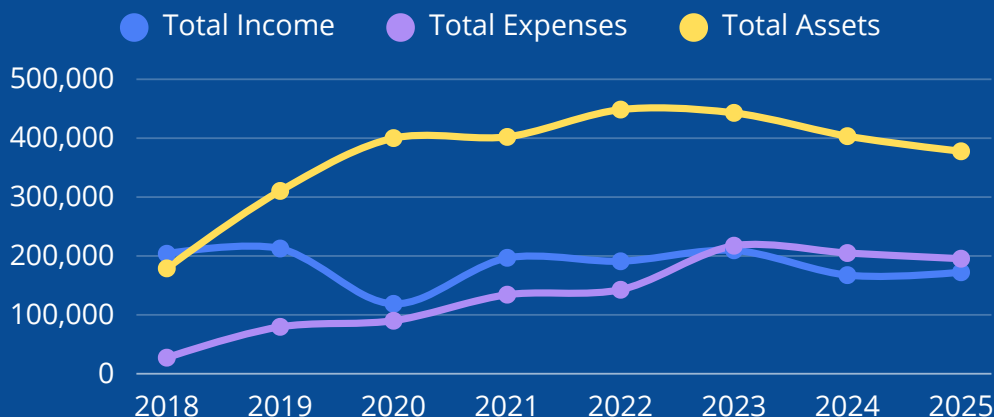
Sunday

Closing Ceremony



“I loved the fly fishing, as it opens the mind and allows it to flow like a river-sometimes calm, sometimes swift and rough, which is true to life when losing a child. Dads need to be allowed to face this mentally as well as emotionally, to effectively progress to betterment.”

Total Income, Expenses, and Assets



All because of our Amazing Donors

THANK YOU FOR SO MANY MOMENTS OF JOY AND LOVE



Foundations and Corporations who donated \$5,000 or more:

Charlie's Heart Foundation
 Dr. Craig Kitchens
 Community Foundation of North Central Florida
 Granny's Attic
 John and Nellie Bastien Memorial Foundation
 Robert Garrett
 KLM LLC

THANK YOU Facebook community for your support in our amazing **#GivingTuesday** campaign. We raised \$10,000 during this campaign and received a dollar for dollar match from one amazing donor!

Financial Statement 2025

Revenue

Individuals/Business	\$103,709
Foundations & Corporations	\$40,300
Fundraisers/Misc	\$28,587
Investments	\$11,516
Total	\$184,112
2500 Volunteer Hours	\$90,350

*at \$36.14/hr per



Operating Expenditures

Program Support	35%
Fundraising/Marketing	.06%
Administrative	59%
Total	100%



"Our time at Still Place allowed us time to slow down, gain strength from the years of cancer treatment my daughter went through and develop a strong sense of acceptance, peace and hope to move forward to a new vision of what the the future looks like."

"This trip helped us slow down and reconnect as a family in a quiet peaceful mountain retreat. The kids loved the zip lining and gem mining and brought them so much joy and excitement."

A Special Thank You to...

Adult Volunteers

Kathy Bozeman
Bonnie Cater
Kriscinda Davis
Amy Gibby
Kathy Gibby
Dawn Grinenko
Marjorie Hobkirk
Rebecca Holt
Tom Landis
Barbara Lang
Kathy Mele
Jacob McClure
Mike McClure
Lynn Mulford
Elaine Pancake
Betsy Parker
Bayne Parker
Brit Nix
Amy Peebles
Nic Pendleton
Wanda Reisinger
Andrea Rix
June Rollins
Cindy Sergot
Julie Shaw
Janet Shively
Carol Stringer
Mike Stringer
Caroline Teal
Susan Warner
Jeanne Winter
Curt Wheeler

Youth Volunteers

Addison McClure
Kya Staples

Board of Directors

Dr. Dawn Grinenko (Member at Large)
John Hindsman
Bayne Parker
Nic Pendleton
Andrea Rix
Katy Russo
Rachael Smith
Jeanne Winter

Excursion Partners

Babyland General
Brothers at Willow Ranch
Better Together Coffee & Donut
Chinquapins Soda Bar & Tiger's Store
Cowee Gift Shop & Mason Mountain Mine
Crafty Mountain Candle Co.
Epic Restaurant
Georgia Mountain Coaster
Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds
Great Smoky Mountain Railroad
Highlands Outpost & Scaly Screamer
John C. Campbell Folk School
Lakeview Tavern
Nacoochee Adventures
Polished Nail Studios
Sunrise Yoga
Still Waters Landing
The Blacksmith Experience
The Incline Railway
The Lost Sea
West Tubing Co.



