

Charlotte's Legacy–

Tom Jamerson, CancerLINC Volunteer



Around 2012, attorney Tom Jamerson came across a story about CancerLINC. He learned the organization advocated for cancer patients who do not have financial means to access legal and financial advisory services. Tom became a CancerLINC volunteer, participating in CancerLINC seminars and making presentations on estate planning. He provided pro bono estate planning services to CancerLINC clients in various stages of their cancer journey: some in remission, some in active treatment, and some at the end of their lives. “I wanted to provide them with the peace of mind that they were able to create and execute an estate plan that provided for the ones they cared about,” Tom reflected. He expanded his altruism by establishing his Facebook birthday fundraiser to raise funds and awareness for CancerLINC.

Tom Jamerson's commitment to CancerLINC is a direct result of his mom Charlotte's values and he honors her legacy in his philanthropic giving. Charlotte had such a positive impact on her community, guided by the principles she instilled in Tom and his two brothers. “My mom believed in family, public service, and making life better for others through philanthropic efforts,” said Tom.

Charlotte was born in Gladstone, Virginia in 1937, the middle child of the Chief Rail Dispatcher at Richmond's Main Street station and his wife. Charlotte and husband Andrew, an information technology programmer, married in the mid-50's while both were working at Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railroad. They built a family and shared a life together throughout the country, including in Chester, Virginia where Tom grew up.

Charlotte and her husband infused their sons with the love of learning. Charlotte was an active and involved mother, and she also worked for many years in the public school system, retiring as the guidance office secretary at Chester Middle School in the mid-90's.

Charlotte encouraged her children to become proficient in practical life skills. She was an excellent woodworker and painter, and loved crafting clothes, quilts and other sewing projects. When Tom was in middle school, she convinced him to enroll in a home economics class, where he learned sewing, cooking, and other basic skills. Tom proudly said, "I still have the sewing machine Mom gave me, and I think about her every time I thread a needle to start a new sewing project."

Following graduation from Thomas Dale High School, Tom earned a Bachelor of Science from VCU with degree in marketing, with a minor in history. After graduating, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. His service included deployment to Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. In 2003, Tom earned his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Virginia and began his law career in Mississippi. In 2007, Tom moved back to Richmond and added estate planning, real estate, and business services to his areas of legal expertise.

Tom, his wife, Karen, and their two dogs, Blue and Ashby, moved to their current neighborhood in 2015.

He announced he was a notary through a post on the neighborhood Facebook page and soon had many neighbors requesting his services. Continuing his benevolent pursuit, Tom suggested his clients donate to CancerLINC in lieu of paying him for notarizing their documents.

In 2015, Charlotte was diagnosed with kidney cancer. She took her illness in stride, remaining devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren, throughout her diagnosis and treatment. Charlotte passed away on March 25, 2017.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions be made to CancerLINC in her memory. Charlotte never required services from CancerLINC, but her family knew they could build on her wonderful legacy by directing donations to the organization.

To this day, CancerLINC continues to receive donations in Charlotte's memory from Tom's notary clients. Tom said proudly, "While my mom's memory is strong and steady in the hearts and minds of her friends and family, those who never knew her can continue her legacy through donations to CancerLINC for years to come."

If you would like more information about how to become a pro bono volunteer with CancerLINC, please contact us at (804) 562-0371 or visit our website at www.cancerlinc.org.

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