



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

March 10, 2026

2025-2026 Board Members

President Patrick Baker
Pres Elect Bill Bartee
Past Pres Kim Brattain
Secretary Bill Gill
Treasurer Craig Field
Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

Directors 2024-2026

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John Cantrell
Tish Atkins Charles
Dena Diorio
Jesse Hite
Virginia Owen

Directors 2025-2027

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Karen Calder
J Hill
Ayo Johnson
Lori Keeton
Michael Orzech
Robert Shaw
Elizabeth Teagarden
Mike Wollinger

Membership Co-Chairs:

Linwood Bolles &
Shelley Dean

Programs

Elizabeth Teagarden



KENNY KAHN ***Co-Founder & Chair*** ***Musicland Gift Foundation***

by **Paul Bartholomy**

At this week's meeting, the Rotary Club of Charlotte welcomed Kenny Kahn, Co-Founder and Chair of the Musicland Gift Foundation. Kenny shared a deeply personal story that began in 2021 when he was diagnosed with Stage IV non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. During his treatment at the Levine Cancer Institute, Kenny discovered the powerful role music could play in helping patients cope with the emotional and physical challenges of cancer.

Kenny described the comprehensive supportive oncology care he received, which went beyond traditional medical treatment to address the whole person. Through services such as music therapy, nutritional counseling, psychological support, spiritual care, and physical therapy, the care team helped patients navigate the many dimensions of the cancer journey. One particularly meaningful experience for Kenny was working with a music therapist who used music to provide comfort and distraction during chemotherapy treatments.

Inspired by these experiences, Kenny and his daughter founded the Musicland Gift Foundation. The organization works to bring the healing power of music to cancer patients as well as caregivers and oncology teams through initiatives such as personalized playlists, artist connections, and fundraising events that support oncology programs. Their broader vision is to help expand this model of care so that more patients across the country can benefit from holistic cancer support.

Kenny closed by reminding members that while cancer diagnoses remain common, survival rates continue to improve thanks to advances in treatment and care. As more people live longer after diagnosis, programs that support emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being become even more important. Rotary members engaged in thoughtful questions and reflections, many sharing their own personal experiences with cancer, with a common thread of hope and inspiration emerging as they reflected on Kenny's journey and the meaningful

work of the Musicland Gift Foundation. His story was a moving reminder of the resilience of the human spirit—and the powerful role compassion, community, and music can play in healing.

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1172605893?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1172605742?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program begins at about 26 minutes and 50 seconds.