



July 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Charles Leffler to be considered for the Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his tireless efforts and outstanding leadership to improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Charlie has made significant contributions to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities through his professional and personal service to TLC (founded as Tammy Lynn Center for Developmental Disabilities) over the past nearly forty years. In his role as former Vice Chancellor at NC State University he was a strong advocate for TLC's over 40-year partnership with NC State, and he became involved as a volunteer with TLC, championing the mission and vision, working to improve, enhance and expand services as a board member.

Charlie first became involved with TLC in his role as Vice Chancellor at NC State, helping to ensure the long-term stability of the organization and the important services provided through a land lease partnership that provided TLC with its current campus, adjacent to NC State's Centennial Campus. This land lease opportunity provided TLC with the space needed to expand its residential offerings for those with the greatest need and the least access. In 2021, when TLC's first land-lease was expiring, it was Charlie who ensured a continuation of services and negotiated the terms of a second 40-year land lease that secures TLC's future.

After initially learning about TLC through NC State, Charlie and his wife Wanda became formally involved as a volunteer when his daughter, Julia, was diagnosed with Batten Disease. Motivated by the needs he saw in the community and for his own family, Charlie worked to ensure that families would have access to the services they need. He has served on the Tammy Lynn Foundation Board of Directors, the Tammy Lynn Memorial Endowment Board, and most currently as the chair of the Igniting Hope Together 50th Anniversary Campaign Committee.

As a campaign chair, Charlie has led the most ambitious capital plans and vision in TLC's history. His expertise, foresight, and leadership have made this campaign succeed despite CEO leadership transitions and the global pandemic. Under his leadership over the past five years, \$7.3 million has been raised to complete a new residential home and close the Residence Village phase of the capital transformations on TLC's main campus. The totality of the campaign and the donors and partners engaged is truly historic for the 55-year-old organization because of Charlie's leadership, active involvement, and ability to inspire and influence others.

In addition to his most recent volunteerism to support the future of TLC, Charlie is one of TLC's most generous and actively engaged donors, with a nearly 30-year giving history and has raised over \$145,000 through the Julia Ann Leffler Memorial Fund for TLC's endowment in memory of his daughter.

Charlie's service extends well beyond TLC, having served across the country and locally on boards and committees for the Batten Disease Support and Research Association and serving as a founding member of Wake County Parents for Visually Impaired Children, among other engagements.

Simply put, our community is better because of Charlie's contributions to support and uplift the work of TLC. Because of his leadership, Charlie has put TLC in the position not only as a leader in this work in the Triangle, but as a leader in the IDD field in our state. Additionally, Charlie has made incredible contributions across the country through his work with the Batten Disease Support and Research Association, having supported other parents on their journey and raising money that supports research for treatments. Though Charlie's Vice Chancellor role at NC State was enough to fill his week, he always made time to support the work of TLC and other organizations with which he was involved, and never shied away from bringing others in to learn about and support the work as well.

Because of these efforts, Charles Leffler has not only earned this nomination, but also the respect and gratitude of those for whom and with whom we serve. As the CEO who has watched Charlie inspire and motivate others to service, I strongly urge you to award him the Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah R Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Sarah Crawford
CEO



nctlc.org

919.832.3909 | info@nctlc.org | 739 Chappell Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606