

PRESS RELEASE

LifeSpan held a Philanthropy Luncheon on Wednesday February 11, 2009 to celebrate 35 years of non-profit service for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

CONTACT: Nancy McEneny
(704) 944-5109

Charlotte, NC February 12, 2009 –

LifeSpan began in 1973 when five children were excluded from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools due to their significant developmental disabilities. Today, there are 26 locations between Waynesville and Burlington providing services in the areas of education, employment and enrichment.

Leigh Derby, president and CEO of LifeSpan, shared with a packed audience at The Blake Hotel that LifeSpan has weathered many storms in their 35 years of providing services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Currently, the non-profit is making many cuts, enacting a hiring freeze, and working on ways to grow stronger in the next 35 years. Bob Lucas, director of housekeeping at Charlotte Douglas Airport spoke about his positive experience in hiring eighteen adults with developmental disabilities to clean at the airport.

Jeff and Dana Hay co-chaired the event. Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLC were presenting sponsors at \$10,000. Other sponsors over \$1,000 include: Ballantyne Insurance, Benefit Solutions, Jack and Claire Durkin, Grant Thorton, Jeff and Dana Hay, Jim and Vicki Hafele, Insource, Lance, Larson Allen, Noro-Mosely Partners, Ramsey Chain, Daniel Ratliff and Gerald and Nancy White.

The event and sponsorship raised over \$100,000 for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

For more information, visit <http://www.lifespanservices.org/>.

Persons interested in donating financially to support LifeSpan's 35 years of committed service to support children and adults can donate online at www.lifespanservices.org, send a payment to 200 Clanton Road, Charlotte, NC 28217, or call Celeste Wilson at 704-944-5112 to make a donation via credit card.

Photos:

(1) Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC (left to right they are Jeff Hay, Tricia Snyder, Jolie Tenholder and Scott Anderson)

(2) Bob Lucas, Director of Housekeeping, Charlotte Douglas Airport

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