

# WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

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### Two groups part of 'village' helping local children

One of the current candidates running for president in November's election said, "It takes a village," in reference to the role communities can

**SCENE & HEARD** play in helping children become productive adults. Fortunately, here in our city numerous organizations function as part of the village for local children, and two are front and center in this week's events coverage.

#### Imprints Cares: A Night of Hope

Imprints Cares, established in 1969 as the Association for the Benefit



**Cindy Hodnett**  
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of Child Development, has a stated vision "to unlock the full potential of children and their families for success in school and in life." Driven by a strategy of nurturing children and supporting parents, the staff at Imprints, as well as its supporters, believes that thriving families translate into thriving communities, a philosophy shared by the

late **Mike Britt**, former executive director of The Centers for Exceptional Children. Britt was a key focus of the May 21 Imprints Cares: A Night of Hope gala at the Kimpton Cardinal Hotel. Throughout the evening, guests celebrated Britt's life and legacy to the community while also enjoying food, music and the recently renovated hotel as a backdrop.

Britt's sons, **Matt and Andrew**, were on hand for the evening's festivities. "Our job is to never let children and their families settle for the current ceiling of their hope," said **Matt Britt**, accompanied

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MELISSA PAXTON

Joanna, Ginny and Matt Britt with Michelle Kennedy at the Imprints Cares Night of Hope fundraiser and tribute to Mike Britt

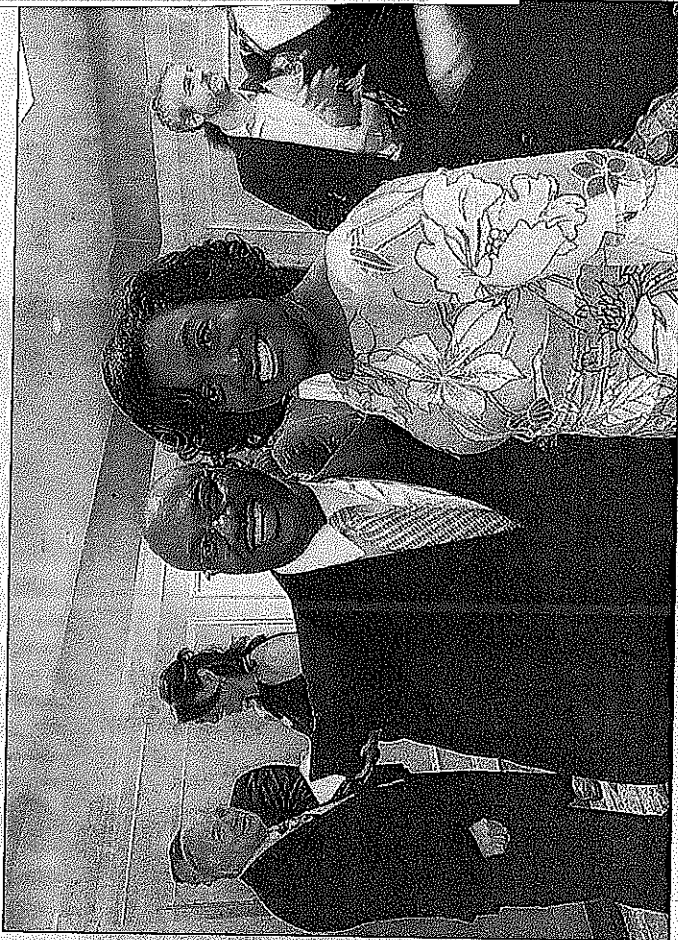
## Scene

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by his wife, **Joanna**, and mother, **Ginny Britt**. "We need to find ways to let them hope and dream bigger and better. This is a hope Dad would want to live inside."

**Anne and Jack Currett**, longtime friends of Britt's who served with him on the Gianni board at UNCSCA attended, as did **Woody Clinard**, winner of the 2015 Winston-Salem Foundation award and husband of the late **Helen Clinard**, one of the original directors of Imprints (ABCD).

**Nancy Griffith**, current executive director for the Centers for Exceptional Children, came out for the evening, as did **Bill Dillard** with Wake Forest Baptist Health Winston-East Pediatrics and **Elizabeth Dampier**, executive director of the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem. Dr. **Marcela Heinrich**, Wake Forest Baptist Health/Westgate Pediatrics, joined Dr. **Karyn Gordon**, also of the Winston-East Pediatrics offices. Imprints Cares family educators are on site at both practices as part of the Ready for School programs.



MELISSA PAYTON

**Dwight and Tamara Thompson at the fundraiser and tribute to Mike Britt.**

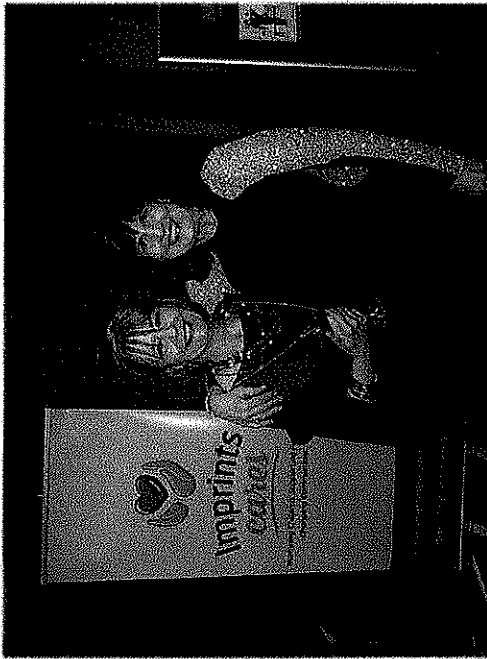
Two retired teachers from the Centers for Exceptional Children — **Carolyn Little** and **Audrey Campbell** — participated in the recognition celebration. Both are now teachers for Imprints Cares exceptional needs program, Downtown on Broad. **Marlon Hunter**, the director of the Forsyth County Health Department, spent some time with **Gene and Karen Blackwelder**. Dr. **Karen and Carlos Roseboro** joined Imprints Cares' **Melissa Payton** for conversation.

WXII's **Briana Connor** and **Michelle Kennedy** joined the celebration, along with **Susan Raymer**, the Imprints board president. **Nikki Byers**, executive director for Imprints, greeted guests, including **Dennis and Martha McNames**.

Along with beer, wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres, guests enjoyed tunes from The Matt Kosma Quartet. Additionally, the ticket for the event entitled the bearer to a special room rate at The Cardinal, one of the city's most recent hot spots gathering place.

Additional guests enjoying the combination of swank setting and soiree included **Robin McKeown**, **Jo A. Peay**, and Hanes Brands' **Dwight Thompson** and his wife, **Tamara**. Also attending from Hanes Brands was **Maria Teza**, who came with her husband, **Dennis**, and **Jaye Powell**, a vice president with the company and Imprints board member. **Elise Whitley** and **Monica Guy**, family law attorneys, offered their support to the night, as did **Rachel Stineheifer**, **Beth Fields** and **Janet Ray**.

"We believe Mike truly witnessed the magic that unfolded last night as you all raised the hope for more children and their families," Matt Britt said. "Together, we can do more."  
— [www.imprintscares.org/history-overview](http://www.imprintscares.org/history-overview)



**Imprints Cares, Nikki Byer-Executive Director and Melissa Payton-Chief Fund Development Officer**