

# The HOST Post

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOST



## Table of Contents

1. Opening Page  
2. Information Sessions & Wishlist  
3. HOST Happenings

4. Meet June Taylor  
5. Meet Vonda Easterling  
6. Gratitude & News Highlight

7. Host Spotlight  
8. A Message from Libby  
9. Get Involved with HOST



# Information Sessions



## Upcoming Dates

June 13 11:30-12:30 PM

- Virtual; a link will be sent after registration

July 11 6:00-7:00 PM

- Virtual; a link will be sent after registration

August 8 11:30-12:30 PM

- At the HOST office;
- 1801 Hillsborough St. Raleigh, NC



## HOST Wishlist



HOST is in need of gift cards for students when they move into a HOST home. To help make this dream a reality, please consider donating one of the gift card items listed.



### GIFT CARDS FROM:

-  Uber
-  Lyft
-  Harris Teeter
-  Food Lion
-  Publix
-  Door Dash
-  Grub Hub
-  Instacart
-  Gas cards

# HOST Happenings

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## Fundraising Campaign to Honor Dr. Mary Haskett

Mary Haskett, Ph.D., one of the founding members of the HOST (Housing Opportunities for Students Today), has recently received The Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by NC State and the university's Board of Trustees. Mary is recognized as one of the most accomplished faculty at NC State for her outstanding and sustained contributions to the university through achievements in research, teaching, or extension and engagement.

Former Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and long-time Psychology Department colleague of Mary's states, "Mary is uncomfortable with being recognized and is quick to point to all the others who shared the work she's done. She's right--but let's not forget that without her leadership in research, teaching, and community engagement, the many wonderful things her work has wouldn't have happened." At HOST we know this to be true. Her research, extension, and engagement devoted to college student hunger and homelessness played a critical role in the creation of HOST.



(Mary is photographed 2nd from left)

In honor of Mary's legacy leading to this award, the HOST Board of Directors has launched a campaign to raise \$10,000 in new contributions to prepare for a significant number of student placements in the coming year. We have ten new HOST families ready to welcome students into their homes, and funds are needed to provide hygiene items, coupons for transportation, and other personal necessities. Will you donate to HOST to help ensure our students facing hardship have the resources and support to thrive? Simply click [here](#) to make your donation.

To learn more about Mary's work beyond HOST, please visit, <https://news.ncsu.edu/2023/03/two-faculty-win-holladay-medal-2/>

# Meet Our Board Member

## June Taylor

### Why were you inspired to become a Board Member for HOST?

I experienced homelessness shortly before I was hired by University Student Legal Services, (a non-profit organization providing legal services to NC State students on campus). I witnessed the type of situations that put students at risk for homelessness and began working with Mike Giancola in the Division of Academic and Student Affairs at NC State University, and other departments to coordinate support for those students. When Dr. Mary Haskett and Sarah Wright presented the results of the first student survey on homelessness I volunteered immediately to help. Later, I joined the committee tasked with researching and evaluating practical and affordable answers. This committee led to the establishment of HOST.

### How can others become involved in the HOST home program?

Becoming involved in the HOST Home Program is simple. Money donations can be made on our [website](#). Items for students can be dropped off at HOST's office. Also, I am adding a program that coordinates volunteers to drive students to doctor appointments and other necessary places. If interested in helping, feel free to contact me through my email address [taylorjuneellen@gmail.com](mailto:taylorjuneellen@gmail.com).



### What do you do when you aren't supporting HOST?

I am now employed by the legal firm Ogletree Deakins in their Immigration Department. When I'm not working, I spend my free time researching for fun and listening to K-Pop. I also actively support Wounded Warriors and several animal rescues.



# Meet Our Board Member

## Vonda Easterling

### Why were you inspired to become a Board Member for HOST?

I was inspired to become a board member for HOST after being introduced to the HOST program while serving as the Director of Housing and Residence Life at Shaw University. It didn't take much convincing when I was asked to join the board. The housing challenges were widespread and affected many of the students who attended Shaw University. Each year we worked to assist students with finding adequate housing when the residence halls closed during breaks. I saw the HOST program as an answer to an unfortunate, yet prevalent situation that many students were facing. I also wanted to make sure that our HOST families were diverse and represented all student populations.

### How can others become involved in the HOST home program?

Others can become involved by spreading the word about the HOST program. Even if being a HOST family is not feasible for you, you can still support HOST by spreading the word, inviting HOST representatives to speak at your local churches and organizations, and certainly by donating to the HOST program. I recently presented at the National Association of Student Personnel (NASPA) conference in Boston; My presentation was about the HOST program. I was surprised by how many people were interested in what we were doing and how it might work at their universities. Word of mouth can be so impactful. What we are doing in Raleigh, NC has now traveled across the country because of one 50-minute conversation.



### What do you do when you aren't supporting HOST?

I am the Executive Director of Student Engagement and Leadership at Elizabeth City State University. You can always find me at an ECSU function supporting my student Vikings. When I am not at ECSU or supporting HOST, you can find me on the tennis court or traveling to a new destination. I just recently returned from South Africa and am currently planning my next excursion to Egypt!



# Gratitude and News Highlights

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## Board Member Contributions

We would like to share our gratitude and appreciation to all of our board members and their service to HOST! Additionally, we want to give a huge shoutout and special recognition to our board members that will be transitioning out at the end of June.. Thank you for your time in supporting the mission of HOST!

## NCSU Student Partnership

We want to offer our thanks to the NCSU students who partnered with HOST during the 2022-2023 school year to develop marketing materials and a PR plan for social media.

Diana Cahill, Jackson Garrett, Katie Gray, Carter McDermott, Saraiya Mills, Cameron Rhinehardt, and Taylor Ryan

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## HOST in the News

We are constantly thinking of creative ways and platforms in bringing awareness to student homelessness and HOST. Check out the links to our features below:

- Link to a podcast about HOST, featuring Libby Stephens & Mary Haskett  
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1896915/12814513>
- Vonda Eastrling's NASPA Presentation on HOST featured in Student Affairs Today  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/share/BB9YHBJMCHMTSQIPJDYS?target=10.1002/say.31241>
- Raleigh Magazine  
<https://raleighmag.com/2023/05/raleigh-homeless/>





# Host Spotlight

## Sarah & Chris Wyne

We are Sarah and Chris Wyne, both retired but busy. Sarah is a substitute teacher and volunteer for Wake County Public Schools, while Chris volunteers at Prairie Ridge, an eco station associated with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Before retiring in 2013 and 2011, Chris had a private law practice where he specialized in real estate, and Sarah did clinical research in drug trials at Duke Medical Center. We both enjoy gardening and Sarah biking. The best part of our lives is our two local daughters and four grandchildren (13,9,6,5), who can keep us quite busy and very happy.

In the winter of 2022, WALTER magazine listed nonprofits in our area, one being the HOST program. Sarah wanted to be involved with the program, Chris agreed, and together we started the process. We both have the belief that no one should ever be without a place to call "home." We are empty nesters and have three bedrooms available.

We feel that the HOST program has been a gift to us by bringing a new friend into our lives. Our first guest has been with us for seven weeks. HOST has done an exceptional job of working with both the student and us to match our common interests and needs. His presence in our home has brought an invigorating perspective into our lives. We feel he has truly become part of our family. We hope our experience encourages you to consider participating in such a worthy and much-needed program.



# A Message From Libby



HOST staff have been busy over the last few months. As we suspected, our referrals increased significantly as the spring semester ended, and we currently have thirteen students enrolled in our program.

- Three students have transitioned from host homes into permanent housing. They are currently receiving rental assistance through HOST's partnership with Passage Home and the Wake County Bridge to Home grant program.
- Three students are currently living with hosts. Two students will return to on-campus housing in the fall semester, and the third student is working with the HOST Student Advocate to find permanent housing for the fall.
- Seven students are receiving rental assistance and other financial support from the Bridge to Home grant from Wake County. Some of these students were able to secure housing; others have maintained their current housing with financial assistance from our grant program.

Each student has different struggles, dreams, and needs, and HOST is committed to providing the best support possible for each of them. Here are three ways that you can help HOST and these students.

- Sign up to attend an information session. [www.hostnc.org/calendar](http://www.hostnc.org/calendar). You may not be ready or able to host a student, but you can learn more about hosting and share the information with your friends, coworkers, and family. If you are interested in hosting, this is the first step to becoming a host.



- Donate to HOST. Join our current fundraising effort in honor of Dr. Mary Haskett, or send us items from our wishlist.
- Spread the word about HOST. Help HOST register for matching funds from your employer. Recruit hosts through social media, company/organization newsletters, and neighborhood listservs. Buy a HOST t-shirt and be ready to answer questions at the grocery store, exercise class, and family cookout. (Contact me at [libbystephens@hostnc.org](mailto:libbystephens@hostnc.org) for details about buying a t-shirt.





# Get Involved with HOST



## PARTICIPATE

Volunteer to become a host family by opening your home to a student who is experiencing homelessness, serve on our Advisory Council, or host a fundraising event!

## COMMUNICATE

Pass the word about HOST to your relatives, neighbors, work associates, and friends who may be able to open their homes as volunteer hosts for students in our community.

## DONATE

Make a donation to HOST or contribute items to our student Welcome Kits.

## ADVOCATE

Share information about HOST with your company, place of worship, service club, or corporate foundation and ask them to consider a donation or grant to HOST.

You can make a tax-free contribution via our website  
[www.hostnc.org/donate](http://www.hostnc.org/donate)