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by Hospitality House of Charlotte

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Hospitality House of Charlotte, a private, non-profit organization that shelters out-of-town families who have loved ones in Charlotte area hospitals, kicked-off the celebration of its 25th anniversary celebration with a "Full House Casino Night" on Friday, April 16 at Byron's South End.

The event theme tied into Hospitality House, which shelters a full house of guests every day.

"This event was to celebrate 25 years of sheltering more than 36,000 guests from 49 states and more than 30 countries who have needed us when their loved ones were in medical crisis," said Susan Ross, director of development at Hospitality House of Charlotte. "We gathered families and friends to have a fun evening and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. We are truly grateful to our sponsors and those that came out to join us. We simply cannot fulfill our mission without them."

The event venue was filled with more than 150 guests for a night of gaming including

roulette, craps, blackjack and a money wheel. Throughout the evening, more than \$37,000 was raised to support the operation of the 22-room home which allows guests and their families to be together and heal together during a critical time. Sponsors of the event included Goodrich Corporation, Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP and Presbyterian Hospital.

The Celebration Continues

On Apr. 28, Hospitality House of Charlotte will hold a Birthday Bash Open House from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The day signifies the actual day the nonprofit started sheltering guests 25 years ago. The public is welcome to join in for birthday cake, snacks and a tour at 1400 Scott Avenue directly across from Carolinas Medical Center. For more information or directions visit www.hospitalityhouseofcharlotte.org.

About Hospitality House of Charlotte

Founded in 1985 by the Mecklenburg Medical Alliance and Endowment (MMAE), Hospitality House of Charlotte serves approximately 217 guests per month whose average stay is 14 days. The House, open 365 days-a-year, is conveniently located near Presbyterian Hospital and across the street from Carolinas Medical Center at 1400 Scott Avenue.

The financial burden of medical expenses can be devastating to a family, let alone lodging and meals away from home. Hospitality House of Charlotte eases that burden. Each year, guests receive over 8,000 room nights. Hospitality House of Charlotte is not affiliated with a healthcare association or United Way program. The organization is funded entirely through charitable donations. For more information on how to help, please visit www.HospitalityHouseOfCharlotte.org.