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Make-A-Wish Foundation
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Novant Health donates office space to Make-A-Wish following property sale

Make-A-Wish Central & Western North Carolina has settled into a new SouthPark office space following the sale of its former headquarters to a Nashville developer.

The nonprofit recently moved into 4,990 square feet at the Azalea Building, located at 6324 Fairview Road and owned by The Harris Land Co. Novant Health donated the space to Make-A-Wish as a five-year sublease.

The foundation sold its former office space at 217 E. Tremont Ave. to Southern Land Co. in September for \$4 million, according to the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds.

Make-A-Wish purchased the former headquarters for \$1.9 million in 2018. It operated from the yellow, three-story house until late 2023. The 0.17-acre property at the edge of South End and Dilworth will be part of Southern Land's planned redevelopment along South Boulevard.

Southern Land Co. is planning a 300-unit, high-rise multifamily building with ground-floor retail space at 1933 South Blvd. The firm purchased that property, currently home to Tyber Creek, and two other parcels, 1919 and 1923 South Blvd., in March 2022 for \$6.9 million.

Kathy Jetton, president and CEO at Make-A-Wish Central & Western North Carolina, said the developer approached her about buying the 0.17-acre property. Jetton said Southern Land tried for months to buy the property, but the foundation initially had no intention of selling.

"Eventually, the board said, 'Figure out what number you can't say no to,'" she said. "At the time, our Wish pipeline was pretty massive because during the pandemic we were not granting wishes at the level we normally would ... We decided that for us to sell we would need enough money to clear out the pipeline."

The branch granted 430 wishes in 2023 and expects to do even more this year.

Jetton said that while the Make-A-Wish house was special to the foundation, the new office is better suited to both its staff and the hundreds of children whose wishes it grants each year. The foundation spent \$500,000 of its sale profits to upfit the space, which includes individual offices for staff, several meeting rooms, a mail processing room and a conference room large enough to hold its 21-person board.

"The house was super colorful and bright — all the things you want a space to be when you're fully in person, but the shift to remote during the pandemic changed the way we did business," Jetton said. "In the old house we had three or four people sharing an office. We didn't have a large enough meeting room or a remote conferencing system. It just wasn't super functional."

Katie Emmons Design and INTEC Group provided design and architecture services. Doerre Construction was the general contractor.

Tyber Creek's last day of operation in its current space is March 18. The pub will occupy a 4,500-square-foot, street-level space in the Southern Land's development. Construction is set to begin this year and is expected to take 24 to 36 months to complete.





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