

find what you *Love,*



& you'll *Love,*
what you do!



"FIND WHAT YOU LOVE, and you'll love what you do." That's the advice Jean Bock's husband, Tom, has told her over the years. She did just that with her volunteer work with the upcoming Cain Center for the Arts, in Cornelius, which is slated to open in late 2022. "I've never had such a strong connection to any organization I've partnered with," says Jean. The \$25 million Cain Center has had over \$17 million in pledges and contributions toward their fundraising goal. The Center will be home to a 400-seat theatre with a balcony, a gallery space, event spaces, classrooms, and much more.

Jean and her family moved to the Lake Norman area from New York many years ago, after realizing that life in New York didn't give them the quantity or quality family time together that they desired. "With Tom's background in banking and our love of the water, we found the perfect home in Cornelius," she describes.

Their three adult children are Matthew, Lauren, and Allison. When the children were young, Jean was a stay-at-home mom. When Tom was diagnosed with stage 4 head and neck cancer five years ago, their lives as they knew them stopped. "For over a year, every ounce of energy, every breath we took had the singular goal of beating his cancer," she emphasized.

Having a career to return to was a blessing for Tom; and for Jean, being able to decide when and with whom she volunteered was also a blessing, except that she didn't have a formal structure that pulled her back. She wanted to find something she loved. "That is when I found Cain Center for the Arts," she says, "or maybe they found me – I just know this will be a place where others will find their own inspiration, self-awareness, growth, and a safe place to express artistic aspirations."

Through her work with the Cain Center, Jean sees a bright future for the community to develop artistic expression. "I hope to witness a child at the Cain Center connect with something they love either through a performance, a class, a speaker, or any experience the arts have to offer," she says.

"My work in fundraising is more than just about raising money to achieve a goal," she continues, "to me, fundraising is about building relationships in our community." Jean believes every person has the ability and desire to serve, but the challenge is in identifying their unique inclination and then channeling and fostering that relationship. "Through these relationships, and the dedication and passion of our board and staff, you can't help but feel the infectious excitement," she smiles. ☺