

## **BELZ FOUNDATION** COMMITS TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT TO **METHODIST COMPREHENSIVE SICKLE CELL CENTER**



***The Belz family and their Belz Foundation have a long history of commitment to improving the quality of life of all Memphians through their business developments and philanthropy.***

**S**eeking to improve outcomes and the lives of individuals living with sickle cell disease in Memphis and the Mid-South, The Belz Foundation committed \$2 million to the Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

**“Our family has a long history of giving back to our Memphis community. Partnering with the Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center is a natural fit to further our commitment to enhancing the lives of our neighbors through high-quality care,”** said Ron Belz, Chairman of The Belz Foundation.

“With this donation, we hope to assist healthcare leaders at Methodist, St. Jude, and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in developing advanced care for patients with sickle cell disease where it is needed most – in Memphis and the Mid-South – with the Transition Clinic program to include everyone who needs these services.”

The Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center is a collaborative partnership of healthcare allies in the community, including St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the University of Tennessee

Health Science Center, with the goal to develop a cohesive, quality, community-wide approach to sickle cell care and curative treatments for one of the largest and most complex patient populations in the country.

To set evidence-based care models and to oversee collaborative research among the institutions, Dr. Kenneth Ataga was recruited as Director of the Center for Sickle Cell Disease at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Methodist Plough Endowed Chair of Hematology.

To address the challenge of care breakdown for young adult patients, Methodist and St. Jude established the Care Transition Clinic, which has helped more than 90% of St. Jude’s young adult patients transition to Methodist’s center for treatment.

The Belz Foundation’s donation will fund clinical research studies to develop better treatment options, expand resources to address the patients’ social needs, and enhance education and outreach resources to increase the number of physicians and scientists specializing in sickle cell disease.

“Our Foundation and Methodist Healthcare are so excited for this

donation and what it means for our patients. Philanthropy has been the driving force of advancing our Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. We’ve received support from many generous individuals, foundations, and corporate partners, and now the Belz Foundation’s gift will greatly advance the level of care for patients living with sickle cell disease to improve their quality of life and also their life expectancy,” Zach Pretzer, President of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation, said.

Zach added, “This donation will enable us to further elevate research efforts, patient support services,



care navigation, education, and community outreach over the next five years. The gift will also further our strategic efforts with St. Jude to address the challenges around the transition of sickle cell patients from pediatric to adult care, which, when not addressed, can result in increased emergency department visits and hospital admissions.”

Methodist will recognize this transformational gift by creating the Belz Foundation Sickle Cell Fund at the Methodist Healthcare Foundation and naming the Center’s Infusion and Emergency Care Program and its Medical Directorship in the Belz Foundation’s honor.

To learn more, visit [www.methodisthealth.org/sicklecell](http://www.methodisthealth.org/sicklecell) or call 901.478.0699.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ZACH PRETZER



**Zach Pretzer**

**D**espite the many obstacles that we have all faced this year, our Methodist Healthcare Foundation team and Board of Directors are tremendously grateful for many amazing things that have happened in 2020, thanks to the generosity of partners **like you**.

For over nine months, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Associates, physicians, and leaders have risen to the call to care for our patients and community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During that time, your gifts, prayers, and service in support of our faith-based, healing mission have been incredibly impactful.

From the Belz Foundation's transformational donation, which will elevate the level of sickle cell care for patients in our community, to the State of Tennessee Community CARES grant, which helped expand BookNook reading tutoring to thousands of Memphis students at 75 community sites, to the many donations to our COVID-19 Relief Fund, there are so many examples from this year of the incredible philanthropy we have been so proud to be a part of.

Additionally, with your help, our team was able to make changes to our annual events and other fundraising efforts to offer safe and fun ways for our partners to support our mission, including the first-ever virtual Methodist Healthcare Luncheon featuring Leslie Odom, Jr. taking place on Zoom.

We say this time and time again, but it feels more important than ever to restate: **YOU inspire our mission and make it possible.**

Thank you for all that you do to support our healthcare system and the health and well-being of our community.

While our holiday celebrations will certainly look different this year, we wish you and your loved ones a very happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season and New Year!

Sincerely and Gratefully,



Zach Pretzer

President, Methodist Healthcare Foundation

## Methodist Healthcare Foundation 2020 Board Members

Nick Bragorgos, *Chair*, Wilson Moore, *Vice Chair*, Michael Drake, *Asst. Secretary*, Roshun Austin, *Asst. Treasurer*, Sally Aldrich, Dana Armstrong, Wes Barnett, Karen Garner, David Hankins, Yvonne Madlock, Rev. Dr. Shane Stanford | MLH Representatives: Zach Pretzer, *President*, Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley, *Ex-Officio Senior Leader Representative*, Chuck Lane, *Treasurer*, Monica Wharton, *Secretary*

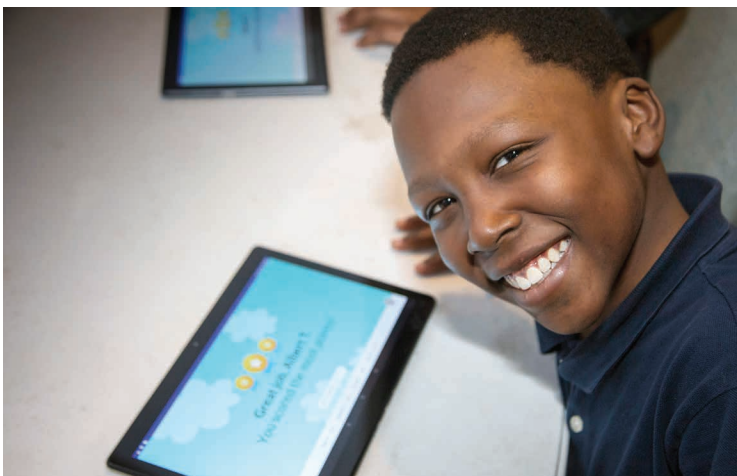
## GRANTS PROVIDE READING TUTORING FOR STUDENTS AT HOME

**A**iming to promote third grade reading attainment as a key social determinant of health, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare partnered with BookNook, an educational technology company, and Urban Child Institute to provide web-based reading literacy tutoring to students.

In 2019, the program launched and successfully provided individual and small group reading support to over 800 students at congregation and community sites in Memphis.

In March, foreseeing the expanded need for the program as students were sent home due to COVID-19, the program partners sought resources to serve more students.

This fall, Urban Child Institute renewed and expanded their support of the program, and Methodist Le Bonheur



Community Outreach and the Methodist Healthcare Foundation secured a grant from the Tennessee Community CARES grant program.

The grants will provide the BookNook reading tutoring software, mobile tablets, internet access, and program support to a total of 75 sites, including 40 Shelby County Schools.

***"Because of the generosity of our grant funders and investments by Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and BookNook, this program is addressing the critical need within our community to support reading learning for the many students who were unable to attend school in the spring and continue to learn remotely,"*** shared Zach Pretzer, President of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation.

Looking ahead to the 2021-22 school year, the need for reading tutoring support will expand because of the anticipated learning losses associated with the educational impact of COVID-19.

Methodist and BookNook are committed to meeting this need through institutional investments and continued efforts to secure philanthropic support from grant funders, companies, and individual donors.

To learn how your gift can directly promote reading literacy as a social determinant of health for students in Memphis and the Mid-South, contact Emily Tipton at 901.478.0695.

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The Foundation Focus is printed two times a year. If you would like to update your contact preferences with the Methodist Healthcare Foundation, please contact 901.478.0704.



## Your Story is Our Story: LUCY MANUEL FROM HOSPICE NURSE TO FAMILY MEMBER

**A**s a Patient Care Coordinator with Methodist Hospice for over seven years, Lucy Manuel thought she understood hospice care. Then, she experienced it on the other side— as a daughter and caregiver to her Mother, Henri Alyce Grantham.

“It was a very life-altering experience. I didn’t know what it was like to not sleep for three nights or sleep in a recliner by the bed. I thought I knew, but you don’t know until you do it,” Lucy explained.

Lucy’s mom was an inspiration to all who knew her.

“My mom was a school teacher for 32 years. She was married to my dad for 30 years. She loved her grandkids. She wanted everybody to know Jesus and God, and she instilled that in her children and

grandkids,” Lucy shared.

In 2018, Henri Alyce was diagnosed with ALS. The disease progressed quickly, and, after a stay in the hospital, she was unable to walk and needed hospice care.

So, Lucy renovated her home so that her mom could move in. During that process, Henri Alyce stayed at the Methodist Hospice Residence.

Lucy explained, “She loved being at the Residence, but she couldn’t wait to come home. She just wanted to be around her family.”

As a leader for hospice nurses serving the Mississippi area where she lives, Lucy’s team of nurses was not eligible to care for her mom. Instead, Rebekah Doe, a hospice nurse who serves the North Memphis area, volunteered to drive

the extra miles to care for Henri Alyce.

“Rebekah took my mom in like she was her own, and she treated me like a daughter and not a nurse, which was really important for me,” Lucy shared.

In 2019, Henri Alyce passed away peacefully at Lucy’s home, surrounded by her loved ones.

Lucy feels that it is important to share her experience. She explained, “It is hard to lose people you love, but I believe that if you don’t share that experience with others and help others, then you went through it for nothing.”

“That is what drew me to hospice as a nurse. I believe Methodist Hospice is different than other hospices. We really live our core values every day. The patient goes to heaven, but the loved one is left here



**Lucy Manuel (right) cherishes memories celebrating holidays with her sister, Molly Grantham Barbieri (left) and their beloved Mom, Henri Alyce Grantham, who passed away in Methodist Hospice’s care.**

with us. So, we strive to give them the tools and support they need to get through it.”

To learn more about Methodist Hospice and how your support can make a difference, please visit, [www.methodisthealth.org/hospice](http://www.methodisthealth.org/hospice) or call Joey Maurizi at 901.478.0694.

## A More Meaningful Way to Spend your Required Minimum Distributions QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS



**Chirag Chauhan, MBA, AIF®, CFP®, Managing Partner of Bluff City Advisory Group (formerly Barnett Financial Group) and supporter of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation, highlights an unique way to support charities through your IRA.**

**W**hen traditional IRA owners reach the age of 72, on top of meeting Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), you are required to pay taxes on the distributions. The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) offers a strategy that will allow you to support a charitable organization through your RMD while incurring tax benefits.

### WHAT IS A QCD?

A QCD is a distribution from IRA owners that’s given directly to a qualified charity or not-for-profit organization. Because you’re using your RMD for a donation, the donated portion is not a part of your taxable income, which can lower your tax bill while still meeting your annual RMD.

# IRA

# QCD

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF QCDs?

- ▶ Your RMD for the year can be satisfied by a QCD. This QCD can exceed your RMD amount for the year, as long as it’s not over the annual cap.
- ▶ QCDs allow for more subtle tax benefits to take place since it won’t be included in your adjusted gross income.
- ▶ Your QCD can provide meaningful support to the charity of your choosing.

### WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT QCDs?

- ▶ QCDs may be made from different types of IRA funds: traditional,

inherited, inactive SEP, or inactive SIMPLE IRAs.

- ▶ QCDs have an annual cap of \$100,000.
- ▶ You must make a direct IRA transfer to the charity. This charity must be eligible to receive tax-deductible, charitable contributions under the IRS guidelines. Charities that cannot accept distributions are private foundations, donor-advised funds, and groups that support tax-exempt charities.

To learn more, please feel free to contact Joey Maurizi at 901.478.0694.

## GIVE A GIFT, LEAVE A LEGACY

Including the Methodist Healthcare Foundation in your will or making a bequest is a simple way to remember what you care about most while keeping your assets available to you during your lifetime.

An unrestricted direct bequest—included in your will or living trust—of a certain sum of money, a percentage of your estate, or a particular asset preserves your wishes forever and strengthens our tomorrow.

We are available to provide you with more information on gifts that fit your financial and philanthropic goals.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Joey Maurizi at 901.478.0694 or [joey.maurizi@mlh.org](mailto:joey.maurizi@mlh.org).



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## PARTNER WITH METHODIST

### A Holiday Gift that Gives

For \$10 per card, the Foundation team will personalize Methodist Hospice Holiday Honorarium Cards to mail to your loved ones, family, and colleagues. In addition to the "Peace on Earth" and dove design,



each card includes a message explaining that your gift in their honor supports the mission of Methodist Hospice. To learn more, visit [www.methodisthealth.org/holidaycards](http://www.methodisthealth.org/holidaycards) or e-mail [Emily.Tipton@mlh.org](mailto:Emily.Tipton@mlh.org).



### Join Us in 2021

Plan to join Methodist Healthcare Foundation at engaging events in 2021 to benefit important areas of care for our community, including the Mental Health Breakfast on June 15th. This event will feature abduction survivor and best-selling author, Elizabeth Smart, as the keynote speaker. To learn more and make your reservation for this and other events, visit [www.methodisthealth.org/events](http://www.methodisthealth.org/events) or e-mail [Kristin.Attaway@mlh.org](mailto:Kristin.Attaway@mlh.org).

### Support Caregivers, Patients & Families

The novel coronavirus has presented endless challenges for our frontline caregivers and increased the social needs of our most vulnerable community members. To provide



supportive resources for caregivers, patients, and families, please donate to our COVID-19 Relief Fund at [www.methodisthealth.org/COVIDRELIEF](http://www.methodisthealth.org/COVIDRELIEF).

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### Shop & Support

As you shop for holiday gifts, household supplies, and food for special meals, remember that your purchases from Amazon and Kroger can support the mission of Methodist Healthcare! Simply register your Kroger Plus card to support Methodist Healthcare Foundation and register on [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) to support Methodist Healthcare-Memphis.