

foundation **FOCUS**

news from your friends at the Methodist Healthcare Foundation

fall 2021



PROGRESS AND RESILIENCE: Year 2 of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, so much in our world has changed. Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare's commitment to accessible and compassionate care for all has not.

Our institutional vision to improve every life we touch and deep dedication to patient- and family-centered healthcare is only possible if we can engage safely with everyone who passes through our doors. We are continuously adapting policies and treatment plans in order to meet our community's needs during the pandemic.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare President and CEO, Dr. Michael Ugwueke, shared, *"When I reflect on the last 18+ months, I am struck by the fearless way this team faced a global pandemic. I am especially grateful for the flexibility they demonstrated as evolving scientific evidence about this novel virus required us to make rapid changes in everything from infection prevention measures to COVID treatment best practices."*

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is committed to protecting the health and lives of our patients, their family members, Associates and our community. Without a doubt, the COVID-19 vaccine is our most potent tool in the fight against the ongoing pandemic, protecting people from serious illness and death.

Despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic, our mission is thriving due to the continued generosity and compassion of our philanthropic partners, trusting patients and families, and brave, dedicated caregivers.

▶ **MLH has provided over 42,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses.**

▶ **With the assistance of the National Guard, MLH has set up multiple monoclonal antibody infusion treatment centers across our area. Moving quickly, this team is providing infusion treatment to positive patients within 24 hours of referral.**

▶ **To address the mental health burden in our community, MLH expanded mental health services for caregivers, including support groups, an EAP call center, and spiritual care line. We are also working to expand access to mental health support for our community members.**

▶ **In support of our resilient staff on the frontlines, we have increased pay for nurses and implemented a new bonus structure to promote retention.**

▶ **To promote vaccination across the community, MLH launched a COVID-19 vaccine awareness and education campaign, which was supported by sponsor partners, including AutoZone, Sedgewick, and Lamar Outdoor.**

Our mission is sustained and enhanced through the gifts and support provided by community partners. As we look toward the holiday season, there are many ways that individual donors and organizations can give back and get involved.

GIVE

visit www.methodisthealth.org/COVIDRELIEF

LEARN MORE

contact
Bailey.Curtright@mlh.org

DONATE SUPPLIES OR GIFTS

contact Cameron.Mann@mlh.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

We are honored to lead the Methodist Healthcare Foundation alongside our families, Foundation team, and Board of Directors. We are so grateful for the leadership of our immediate past Chair, Nick Bragorgos, who dedicated seven years of incredible service to our Foundation's Board. Our Foundation will continue to be relentless in our belief that every human deserves access to both high quality and compassionate healthcare, and this will always be the driving force behind our work.



The Pretzer Family

While we continue to respond together to an ever-changing pandemic, your gifts are keeping other crucial areas of care moving forward. Gifts to support patients facing cancer, organ transplantation, neurological and heart issues, sickle cell disease, and end of life are so critical in this time of greater needs and fewer resources. We are continuing our work to provide health resources to underserved populations in our community as well as social and emotional support through our community outreach and social programs.

Our team is honored to continue to partner with our donors to raise support to further the holistic mission of MLH. We hope you will join us for our 2021 year-end events, Night Life for Hospice on October 29th and the Methodist Healthcare Luncheon on December 10th, and for our re-scheduled Living Awards Benefit in March of 2022.

Thank you for your continued support of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. Every donation, word of encouragement, and acts of service you make truly means so very much to our patients, families, caregivers, and community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a season of safety and good health!

Zach Pretzer
President, Methodist
Healthcare Foundation

Wilson Moore
Chair, Methodist Healthcare
Foundation Board of Directors

We are humbled to think of the thousands of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Associates working tirelessly to provide compassionate care to all in such trying times. Truly, our mission is only possible because of their commitment and sacrifice. In the face of the unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19, the mission of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is more vital than ever before. Your support of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation ensures that all patients can receive quality, compassionate care, regardless of their circumstances.

While we continue to respond together to an



The Moore Family

HOSPICE RESIDENCE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

This November marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the beautiful Methodist Hospice Residence.



Made possible because of the vision and generosity of many donors, the Hospice Residence was created to meet

an important need in our community. The facility is dedicated to the physical and spiritual wellbeing of terminally ill patients and their families.

Inspired by the founding mission of the Hospice Residence and the vision of the many donors who made it possible, our incredible team of caregivers work every day to give their patients and their loved ones peace, comfort and dignity.



The courtyard at the Methodist Hospice Residence

With the generous support of donors and corporate partners over the past 10 years, Methodist has provided over **60,631 days** of care to patients in need, totaling over **\$3.8 million** in care costs. It is our goal to continue this tremendous level of care over the next decade.

To learn how you can support the mission of Methodist Hospice, please contact Joey Maurizi at Joey.Maurizi@mlh.org or call 901.478.0694.

If you would like to update your contact preferences with Methodist Healthcare Foundation, please contact 901.478.0704 or mhfoundation@mlh.org.

Methodist Healthcare Foundation 2021 Board Members

Wilson Moore (Chair), Michael Drake (Vice Chair), Roshun Austin (Secretary), Sally Aldrich (Treasurer), Zach Pretzer (President), Rev. Dr. Albert Mosley (MLH Senior Leader Representative), Dana Armstrong, Wes Barnett, Dr. Schorr Behnke, Karen Garner, Jane George, David Hankins, Yvonne Madlock, Rev. Dr. Shane Stanford | MLH Ex-Officio Members: Chuck Lane, Monica Wharton

YOUR STORY IS OUR STORY

WAYNE FERGUSON: A PLANNED GIFT FOR GREATER COMMUNITY IMPACT

When Wayne Ferguson's mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 1999, the compassionate care she received from Methodist University Hospital made a lasting impression on him.

Wayne began making donations in honor of his mother's birthday in December of that year and has given to the Methodist Healthcare Foundation consecutively for the 21 years since.

After his own short stay at Methodist Olive Branch and a guided tour of the newly opened Shorb Tower at Methodist University Hospital, Wayne felt compelled to make a commitment to further support the system that had provided him such excellent care and continues to make a positive impact on the community he loves so dearly.

Mr. Ferguson made the generous decision to include the Methodist Healthcare Foundation as a partial beneficiary of his estate in order to

continue his support of Methodist's Oncology and Hospice programs even after he has passed.

"I want a portion of my estate to go to an organization that truly serves everyone in the Mid-South and that will use it for good."

He is continually impressed by Methodist's commitment to serve all members of our community, especially through the Foundation's Fund for the Underserved. Donations to this Fund are used to address the many social barriers faced by at-risk and underserved patients, such as: financial assistance to patients for medical costs and prescription needs, transportation to and from health care appointments, basic hygiene supplies, and food and housing needs. This important work is made possible by the philanthropic support of Foundation donors like Wayne.

There are many meaningful planned giving options that allow donors to support important causes at



Inspired by the care provided to his mother, Wayne Ferguson has supported Methodist Healthcare for over 21 years.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, including gifts that can be made today, gifts that will impact the health of our community in the future, and gifts that will provide for the donor and their family.

For more information and to explore which planned gift option is best for you, contact Joey Maurizi at 901.478.0694 or Joey.Maurizi@mlh.org.

DAUGHTER GIVES FATHER THE GIFT OF LIFE THROUGH LIVE DONOR TRANSPLANT

Denisea Cartwright's 2021 Father's Day gift to her dad, Robert, arrived a couple months early, but neither minded because it was truly a one-of-a-kind gift of love and life.

After months of tests and preparation, Robert received a liver transplant from Denisea during a 12-hour procedure at Methodist University Hospital performed by a medical team led by Dr. James D. Eason, MD., Director of the James D. Eason Transplant Institute. The successful surgery offered Robert a chance for a bright, healthy future that he'd all but given up on.

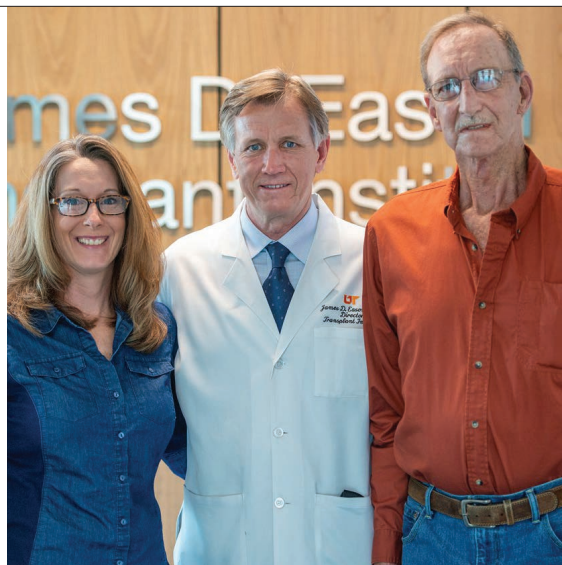
"I was put on a donor list, but sometimes that can take a while and I didn't know if they'd ever be able to find a match for me." Fortunately for Robert, a friend suggested that he reach out to his daughter to see if she might be a match. Reluctant at first, Robert said he didn't want Denisea to feel obligated to get tested to determine if she could be a

donor. However, when asked if she'd consider undergoing the tests, she immediately said yes.

For the Cartwright family, the life-saving surgery has been an answer to their prayers. Robert and Denisea offered enthusiastic praise for the entire Methodist family and said they'd grown close to so many caregivers who gave them comfort and hope.

"I really don't know what else to say except that I'm the luckiest man in the world," Robert said. "I've got a wonderful daughter who's willing to do this for me and the best doctor and medical team in the world to make it happen. I'm blessed."

The James D. Eason Transplant Institute performs more than 120 liver and over 140 kidney transplants each year with dedicated teams of medical personnel assisting in the procedures. In 2021, the Institute has already completed 211 transplants and is on track to perform 100



Denisea Cartwright with Dr. James D. Eason and her father, Robert Cartwright.

more by year-end.

To learn more about the James D. Eason Transplant Institute and how you can support their work, please contact Leanne McQuown at 901.478.0699 or Leanne.McQuown@mlh.org.

Make your wishes known and make a difference at the same time

Including us in your will and making a bequest is one of the simplest ways to remember what you care about most—while keeping your assets available to you throughout 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.

Please contact:

Joey Maurizi
Planned Giving Specialist
Methodist Healthcare
Foundation

Email: Joey.Maurizi@mlh.org

Phone: 901-478-0694



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PARTNER WITH METHODIST

Meaningful ways to support the health of our community with the Methodist Healthcare Foundation



Night Life for Methodist Hospice – October 29th

A unique concert experience presented by Cigna at the Grove at GPAC, featuring country music group—**Runaway June**. \$50 virtual tickets and sponsorship info can be found at www.methodisthealth.org/nightlife

Show Your MLH Pride

The MLH specialty license plate is an easy way to support our mission while showing your MLH pride. \$35 from each specialty license plate will directly benefit the Methodist Healthcare Foundation's Fund for the Underserved to help address barriers and social needs of our patients to help them access healthcare and stay well.



Methodist Healthcare Luncheon – December 10th

Inspiring lunch and intimate conversation with sisters, former First Children, award-winning authors, and health equity advocates, **Jenna Bush Hager** and **Barbara Pierce Bush**. In person & virtual tickets and sponsorships available at www.methodisthealth.org/luncheon

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 to support Methodist Healthcare-Memphis.

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You shop. Amazon gives.



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rewards