

foundation **FOCUS**

news from your friends at the Methodist Healthcare Foundation

fall 2022



THE IMPORTANCE OF SHINING A LIGHT: METHODIST HEALTHCARE COMPREHENSIVE **SICKLE CELL CENTER**

Each year, September serves as a challenge to every community member to raise awareness and support for individuals living with sickle cell disease.

In 2022, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare commemorated Sickle Cell Awareness Month with the inaugural Sips for Sickle Cell event featuring Memphis-based interior designer and HGTV star, Carmeon Hamilton.

With support from sponsors, including Orion Federal Credit Union and Vitalant, the event raised over \$71,000 and provided a meaningful platform to increase awareness of sickle cell disease.

During the month, Methodist also participated in blood drives, virtual lunch and learns, media interviews and other community events—all with the purpose to raise awareness and support for individuals impacted by sickle cell disease.

In the United States more than 100,000 individuals are diagnosed with sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder that causes abnormally shaped hemoglobin to form in red blood cells. The disease results in the slowing or interruption of regular blood flow and causes painful symptoms and a myriad of health complications.

To fill the need for expert, dedicated care for adults with sickle cell disease in the Mid-South, the Methodist Healthcare Foundation partnered with donors to create the Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center in 2012, which now serves over 580 patients annually. The center includes a preventive outpatient clinic, dedicated emergency infusion center, social work support and mental health care.

"It's not just about managing the

care. We are focused on making sure every aspect – from physical to psychosocial to mental health – is managed so we can have great patient outcomes,"

Rana Cooper, nurse practitioner at the Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, explained.

Since the Center opened, donor support has helped enhance the care available to patients in the region.

With donor support, Dr. Kenneth Ataga, was recruited to serve as the Plough Foundation Endowed Chair in Sickle Cell Disease and now oversees an evidence-based care model across the Mid-South community and an innovative research program.

Dr. Marquita Nelson was hired as the Belz medical director of the Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

The center now has two full-time nurse practitioners, Rana Cooper, FNP, and Kishana Bell, FNP.

Dr. Randolph Potts, clinical psychologist, was hired to provide mental health support to patients, making mental health a consistent component of their care.

An investigational research pharmacist was hired to support the growing number of innovative research projects.

A unique component of the Center's success is an ongoing collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Regional One Health to provide quality care to all patients and to collaborate on groundbreaking research.

Through this partnership, Methodist and St. Jude established the St. Jude-Methodist Sickle Cell Disease

Transition Clinic to provide navigation support to help young adult patients transition from pediatric to adult care.

Dr. Nelson shared, ***"We try to make the experience as seamless as possible because we know that when patients are lost to care during the 18-25 transition age, they are more likely to experience negative health outcomes."***

As a result, over 88% of patients transitioning out of St. Jude's care come to Methodist for adult care.

"We are proud of to be a part of the great progress within Methodist's sickle cell program. Looking ahead, our team is committed to continuing to partner with donors to support expert, holistic and innovative care that will improve the quality of life for individuals living with sickle cell disease," shared Zach Pretzer, president of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation.

Methodist center was relocated on October 1, 2022 to a prime location in the Shorb Tower at Methodist University Hospital to promote efficiency and improve the care experience for patients.

YOU can help shine a light in support of those living with sickle cell disease!



SHARE

Promote awareness
by sharing information on
social media, via e-mail and in
conversations with others.



PARTICIPATE

Be a part of community activities,
attend events or donate blood.



GIVE

Text "SickleCell" to 91999
to donate to the Methodist
Healthcare Comprehensive
Sickle Cell Center.

To learn more, contact Emily Tipton
at Emily.Tipton@mlh.org.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ZACH PRETZER

As most of you know, recent tragedies in Memphis have many people questioning our fair city's character and resilience. While it's natural to get down on ourselves as we're examined under the social microscope, it is critical for us to remain positively

focused on the elements that reinforce our community's collective greatness. The Methodist Healthcare Foundation is an irrefutable example of the power of people coming together for the greater good of our residents, and I urge all of us to stand united as we work toward a brighter, more inclusive future.

Foremost, I want you to know how honored and humbled I am to lead the Methodist Healthcare Foundation. I am reminded daily of the selfless and generous support of our donors, volunteers and community partners – our Foundation team, Board of Directors and the entire MLH family couldn't be more thankful for and proud of your gifts of time, treasure and hope. Together, we are relentless in our belief that every human deserves access to high quality and compassionate health care, and this will always be the driving force behind our work.

The Methodist Healthcare Foundation is committed to ensuring our work continues to raise awareness and funds for all aspects of the Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare system. We continue to provide not only health-related resources to underserved populations in our community, but also social and emotional support through essential programs such as our food pharmacy, connected literacy tutoring and mental health services.

Please know that your donations and advocacy make a tremendous difference in the health and well-being of our families and patients across the Mid-South. Whether care is needed for cancer, cardiovascular disease, sickle cell disease, transplants, mental health or other health challenges – your gifts enable us to provide access to compassionate, excellent care to everyone, regardless of their circumstances.

I can't thank you enough for your continued pledges, donations and volunteering. Our caregivers and MLH family need your support now, more than ever, to advance our mission and care for all.

Please join us in celebrating our mission at our two remaining signature events in 2022. Night Life for Methodist Hospice at Minglewood Hall on November 3 will showcase the talented Will Hoge, and our Methodist Healthcare Luncheon at the Peabody Hotel on December 16 will feature critically-acclaimed actor, comedian and transplant survivor, George Lopez.

I hope you enjoy the stories in this newsletter that I believe highlight the transformational impact of philanthropy. Thank you for your continued advocacy, involvement and philanthropy!

Zach Pretzer

Zach Pretzer, President
Methodist Healthcare Foundation

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

RUTH GRAVES CELEBRATES 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

If you have ever visited Methodist Hospital Auxiliary Bazaar, a small gift shop located at Methodist University Hospital, chances are, you have met Ruth Graves.

Ruth became a member of the Methodist Hospital Auxiliary in 2000 and has volunteered weekly in the Bazaar for 22 years. Her commitment to supporting Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Associates, patients and



families is unwavering and inspiring.

Ruth shared, ***"Everyone comes in with a smile and is truly just glad we are here. I have made so many meaningful connections during my time here in the Bazaar. It is more than selling candy bars and gifts – It is truly an opportunity for fellowship."***

The Bazaar is a volunteer-run gift shop that is stocked with donated items, including housewares, clothing, books and snacks. Proceeds from sales are given back to Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare through the Auxiliary's annual Wish List program, which offers funding to address needs presented by Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare leaders, including training programs, equipment, technology and support resources for Associates across the healthcare system.

In 2022, the Auxiliary celebrated 87 years of service, providing financial and volunteer support to meet the needs of patients, families and Associates.

Since 1935, the organization has raised and donated more than \$2 million to support the mission of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, which is the direct result of the dedication and generosity of members like Ruth Graves.

To learn more about the Auxiliary and other volunteer opportunities, please contact Joey.Maurizi@mlh.org.

Methodist Healthcare Foundation 2022 Board Members

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

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

METHODIST & BOOKNOOK CLOSE COVID READING GAP

This June, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and BookNook concluded the Connected Literacy tutoring program provided by the Tennessee Department of Education, after serving more than 1,900 Memphis-Shelby County Schools students during the spring 2022 semester.

In response to the negative impacts on learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program expanded access to high-impact literacy tutoring for first- through third-grade students in order to promote reading proficiency and close reading gaps.

“Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is extremely committed to addressing social determinants of health among our community members. Through this program, we are working to promote reading proficiency because we know that third-grade literacy serves as a lifelong determinant of health literacy and also health outcomes,” shared Rev. Dr. Stacy Smith, director of strategic innovation at Methodist

Le Bonheur Healthcare.

BookNook’s cloud-based learning platform and expert virtual tutors provided small-group, after-school, guided reading instruction to students from more than 90 Memphis-Shelby County Schools.

Students met with tutors three to four times per week for a 12-week period, resulting in over 14,000 virtual tutoring sessions focused on core literacy concepts, including comprehension and fluency.

Results were positive across the program, with over 80% of students who participated in as few as 10 tutoring sessions gaining one or more reading levels.

Students who participated in the majority of the 36 available sessions made up a year or more of literacy progress, approaching and even surpassing grade-level standards.

Since 2018, with funding from The Urban Child Institute, the International Paper Foundation, the Pyramid Peak Foundation and other partners,



Methodist and BookNook partner to provide evidence-based reading tutoring to Memphis and Shelby County students as a social determinant of health strategy.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and BookNook have expanded reading tutoring across the Mid-South community, reaching more than 4,000 students through over 130 school, congregation, and community sites.

For the 2022-23 school year donations to the Foundation will help Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and BookNook continue offering reading tutoring to students in after-school programs at community and congregation sites.

To learn more, contact Emily Tipton at Emily.Tipton@mlh.org.

MY SISTER’S KEEPER: TACKLING HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare’s My Sister’s Keeper community health initiative was created to advance the health and well-being of Black women through health education, empowerment and advocacy.

In Memphis, Black women are three times more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. In addition, they face higher rates of heart disease, cervical cancer and mental health issues; and the infant mortality rate among Black babies is nearly three times greater than white babies.

“When it comes to our overall health, we generally think about what we eat and how often we exercise – but those aren’t the only things that have an impact. Social determinants – the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age – also have a major effect on health outcomes, especially for those in vulnerable populations,” explained Dr. Andrea Wills, chief medical officer of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee,



Methodist’s Annual My Sister’s Keeper Summit will bring together women from across the Mid-South for a day of health education, empowerment and community.

regarding their sponsorship of the program.

Through investments by Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and support

from funding partners, My Sister’s Keeper provides a space for advocacy, education and support for Black women that specifically focuses on addressing their unique experiences and needs. The program hosts monthly educational “Kitchen Table Talks” sessions and an annual Summit for women across the Mid-South.

So far, the program has reached more than 700 Mid-South women, with plans to continue and grow.

Katrina Kimble, My Sister’s Keeper program coordinator, shared, ***“We’re all sisters, and we’re all trying to help each other. Even if you’re not a woman of color, I’m quite sure if you come to a My Sister’s Keeper event, you’ll hear something that will help your life. It’s for every woman. And everybody is welcome at the table.”***

Currently planning is underway for the **2022 My Sister’s Keeper Summit**.

To learn more, including how to get involved and support this work, contact Katrina Kimble at Katrina.Kimble@mlh.org.

PLAN FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

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:

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Director of Development
Methodist Healthcare
Foundation

Email: Joey.Maurizi@mlh.org
Phone: 901-478-0694



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WAYS TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY THIS FALL & WINTER

Shop & Support

As you shop for your daily essentials, remember that your purchases from **amazon** and **Kroger** can support the mission of the Methodist Healthcare! Simply register your Kroger Plus card to support the *Methodist Healthcare Foundation* and register on www.smile.amazon.com to support *Methodist Healthcare-Memphis*.



Dine & Support

On **October 15th** The Memphis Food & Wine Festival will return, featuring delicious food and drinks provided by top chefs. Proceeds will benefit Methodist Healthcare's Transplant



Institute at Methodist University Hospital. Support our mission and enjoy this great event by purchasing tickets at www.memphisfoodwinefestival.org.

Celebrate & Support Our Mission

The 10th Annual Night Life for Methodist Hospice concert will take place Thursday, **November 3rd** at Minglewood Hall, featuring Grammy nominated singer and songwriter, **Will Hoge**. Join Methodist on Friday, **December 16th** at the Peabody Hotel for the 20th Annual Methodist Healthcare Luncheon, featuring actor, comedian and transplant recipient, **George Lopez**. Learn more and reserve your tickets to both at www.methodisthealth.org/events.



Honor Loved Ones & Celebrate Great Care

The "Circles of Joy" artistic installations in the lobby and outside the NICU in the Pavilion at Methodist Germantown provide a new giving opportunity for patients, families and community partners to express gratitude to nurses, physicians and other care team members and/or to honor and celebrate new life and growing families. To learn more about how you can support, visit www.methodisthealth.org/circlesofjoy.

