

foundation **FOCUS**

news from your friends at the Methodist Healthcare Foundation

summer 2020



RIISING TO THE CALL: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Inspiring Stories of Methodist Caregivers, Donors, & Partners

Since March, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare has been diligently working to care for patients diagnosed with COVID-19. This extraordinary time has presented many challenges for our healthcare system, our healthcare workers, and our community, but it has also offered endless opportunities for compassion, generosity, ingenuity, teamwork, and faith.

As we continue to push forward, with many unknowns in our path, we are heartened by our team's ability to rise to the call to care for our patients even in the most challenging of circumstances and by our partners and community members who have gone above and beyond to help us in this fight.



COVID-19 SURVIVOR HELPS OTHERS

A Memphis doctor who was diagnosed with COVID-19 and made a full recovery was the

first person to donate convalescent plasma to Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, which is participating in Mayo Clinic's Expanded Access Protocol for Convalescent Plasma Program for treatment of patients with COVID-19.

Dr. Daniel Wakefield, a radiation oncology resident in Memphis, hopes his story will encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

Dr. Wakefield was tested for COVID-19 when he developed a cough after working at a COVID-19 testing site in Memphis. After testing positive,

he self-quarantined at home with his wife, who also contracted the virus. Even in the same household, their experiences fighting the coronavirus were not the same.

"I was almost asymptomatic except for a day, but my wife was very sick for two weeks," he explained. "It was pretty scary. I'm really glad she turned a corner."



CARING FOR OUR CAREGIVERS

When **The Works, Inc.**, a non-profit community development corporation serving South

Memphis, received a donation for COVID-19 relief, they knew that they would use a portion to address food

insecurity and to assist with mortgage payments, but they also felt called to provide support to healthcare workers

Roshun Austin, Executive Director of The Works, shared, "I was watching the news and reading stories about the experiences of healthcare workers in places that saw early surges in cases. The stories were mostly focused on the nursing staff and other members of the medical team, but there was not a lot of focus on the support staff working in healthcare."

"These workers are often the lowest paid, and, with the furloughs and cuts, they would experience the greatest hardships. So, we wanted to help them get through what might be a tough time."

To help meet this need, The Works made a donation to the Methodist Healthcare Foundation to provide food and financial assistance to Methodist Associates who live in their South Memphis service area.



A GIFT OF THANKS

To show their support and appreciation for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, **Nike** donated

newly designed Air Zoom Plus shoes to Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Associates.

The clog-like shoes are designed for easy cleaning and comfort to support healthcare workers during long, busy days on their feet.

A Nike spokesperson shared, "From one athlete to another, Nike athletes recognize the physical and mental resilience of healthcare athletes."

The special shoes were also donated to healthcare organizations in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Barcelona, Berlin, London, Milan and Paris.

GIVE

[www.methodisthealth.org/
COVID19WaystoHelp](http://www.methodisthealth.org/COVID19WaystoHelp)

DONATE BLOOD OR PLASMA

www.vitalant.org

DONATE SUPPLIES

Cameron.Mann@mlh.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ZACH PRETZER

Since the start of this year, so much has dramatically changed in our world. Few could have imagined the tremendous difficulties we would all face together. The healing, brave, and compassionate work of our Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare caregivers has been front and center over the entirety of this pandemic, and our teammates – both on the frontlines and behind the scenes – have been working tirelessly to make sure our community stays as healthy and safe as possible.

In truth, words can't properly express the gratitude that the Methodist Healthcare Foundation and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare have for our incredible supporters, partners, and advocates like you who make our important work possible. Your philanthropy in response to this crisis has been so meaningful. You have responded with financial contributions for vital supplies and protective equipment, food for caregivers, messages of encouragement, and other donations that make it possible for our nurses, physicians, and other team members to provide care for every patient in our community, regardless of their circumstances.

While we respond together to an ever-changing pandemic, your gifts are also 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. Furthermore, the mental health needs of our community both during and after this pandemic will be unprecedented, and our work caring for our underserved communities and patients has become even more important.

In the face of the challenges presented by COVID-19, the mission of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is more alive and vital now than ever before.

I am honored to serve as President of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation alongside our wonderful Foundation team and Board of Directors. Together, we are relentless in our belief that every human deserves access to both high quality and compassionate health care, and this will always be the driving force behind our work.

So much has already been learned over the course of this pandemic, but we have certainly received affirmation that our friends and supporters care deeply about ensuring that every person in our community has access to health, safety, and comfort. Every donation, word of encouragement, or act of service you make means so very much to our patients, families, caregivers, and community.

Please be well and thank you!



Zach Pretzer
President, Methodist Healthcare Foundation



Zach Pretzer

NEW TAX INCENTIVES FOR GIVING

Due to the ongoing economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, through the CARES Act donors can now enjoy expanded incentives for charitable giving in 2020.

"We are grateful for these changes to incentivize charitable giving in 2020. During these challenging and unprecedented times, gifts to the Methodist Healthcare Foundation and other non-profits serving our most vulnerable community members are more important than ever," shared Zach Pretzer, President of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation.

KEY CHANGES INCLUDE:

Tax incentive for giving up to \$300 –

Now, taxpayers can take a deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contributions in 2020 if they do not itemize (must select standard deduction) on their tax return.

Removal of charitable giving deduction limit –

Now, donors may deduct up to 100% of gross income through charitable giving in 2020 – a significant increase from the previous limit of 60%.

Tax incentive for food donations –

In addition to cash donations, individuals who donate food to qualifying non-profits can claim the value of the food as a charitable contribution on their taxes.

If you have any questions or would like to make a contribution, please contact Zach at 901-478-0699 or Zach.Pretzer@mlh.org



New charitable giving guidelines under the CARES Act have expanded tax incentives for those who give to Methodist Healthcare Foundation in 2020.

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

Methodist Healthcare Foundation 2020 Board Members

Nick Bragorgos, *Chair*, Wilson Moore, *Vice Chair*, Michael Drake, *Asst. Secretary*, Sally Aldrich, Dana Armstrong, Roshun Austin, 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*

WE ARE HERE, READY TO CARE FOR YOU

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is ready to care for you and your loved ones.

Methodist hospitals, physician practices, minor medical centers and diagnostic centers are open for well visits, routine follow-ups and elective procedures.

“While the public health crisis presented by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is ongoing, Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare remains in a steady and prepared state to not only meet the new challenges we face but also to provide preventive care and elective procedures to promote the health of our patients and community,” said Michael Ugwueke, President and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

The decision to resume elective procedures and routine care was made with the utmost consideration for patient safety. Delays in elective procedures and well care can impact an individual's health and quality of life. Methodist launched a steady, phased approach to re-opening to ensure patients get the care they need.

As COVID-19 activity continues to escalate in the Mid-South, Methodist is safely providing services while doing everything possible to keep patients safe and healthy, including:

- ▶ Touchless temperature checks and COVID-19 screening questions for all patients, visitors and staff
- ▶ Limiting visitors
- ▶ Respecting social distancing, working to allow six feet of spacing between individuals
- ▶ Requiring masks for everyone and providing masks to patients and visitors if needed
- ▶ Providing hand sanitizer in all public areas
- ▶ Conducting additional cleaning and disinfecting of facilities and equipment
- ▶ Conducting regular testing of healthcare providers
- ▶ Testing all patients for COVID-19 prior to elective procedures
- ▶ Providing a virtual and in-person COVID-19 clinic to safely monitor and offer specialized care for patients diagnosed with COVID-19, including patients discharged from the hospital



Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare is taking every precaution to safely care for our patients and community.

- ▶ Offering virtual appointments and post-operative home monitoring via telehealth.

As always, Methodist caregivers wear appropriate personal protective equipment and follow strict guidelines for handwashing.

Whether treating serious illness or fostering everyday wellness, Methodist is committed to our more than 100-year, faith-based mission of providing quality, holistic, equitable care to every member of our community.

To learn more about our services, safety procedures, visitor policy, and to access our COVID-19 Resource Center, visit www.methodisthealth.org/coronavirus.

LIVING AWARDS HONOREES SELECTED, 2021 DATE SET



The 2021 Living Awards Honorees are (LEFT TO RIGHT) Jack A. Belz, Susan and Alan Graf, Dr. John “Mac” Hodges, MD, Families Matter, and Project Transformation

The **Living Award** is Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare's most prestigious honor bestowed upon individuals and organizations for their commitment to improving the health and well-being of their community, which is representative of the faith-based, healing mission of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

THE HONOREES OF THE 38TH LIVING AWARDS BENEFIT ARE:

- ▶ **Jack A. Belz**, for his commitment to the revitalization and continued improvement of the Memphis community, service on charitable boards, generous contributions to many worthy causes, commitment to his faith, and dedication to his family.
- ▶ **Susan and Alan Graf**, for their commitment to the health of the

Mid-South community, including service on Methodist's Board of Directors, dedication to the construction and expansion of the FedEx Family House, and generous support of many meaningful organizations.

- ▶ **Dr. John “Mac” Hodges, MD**, for his more than 50 years of service as an Otolaryngology Physician and Professor whose achievements include: establishing the Methodist Otolaryngology Teaching Practice to care for the working poor, creating the UTMP Head and Neck Surgery Clinic, and participating in over 80 medical missions.
- ▶ **Families Matter**, for their efforts to foster young men and adult males into faithful members of their families and involved fathers through programs offered in Shelby

County Schools, at churches, and at Methodist hospitals.

- ▶ **Project Transformation**, for their congregation-based, student mentor-driven, summer reading tutoring program serving the Memphis community.

To ensure the safety of honorees, sponsor partners, and guests, the 38th Living Awards Benefit will take place in 2021 on Tuesday, May 11 at the Peabody Hotel.

Proceeds from the Living Awards Benefit will benefit the faith-based healing mission of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

To learn more, visit www.methodisthealth.org/livingawards or call 901.478.0704.

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:

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Methodist Healthcare
Foundation

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PARTNER WITH METHODIST



Honor MLH Caregivers

As we continue to face unprecedented challenges presented by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), gifts to provide meals, supplies, and other resources to our caregivers will show your support and gratitude and also uplift their spirits. To make a gift for our caregivers, contact **Cameron Mann at Cameron.Mann@mlh.org**.

Give to COVID-19 Relief The novel coronavirus has caused many of our most vulnerable community members to face additional barriers to accessing basic needs, including: food, household and hygiene supplies, and mortgage, rent, and utility assistance. To help meet these and other urgent needs among the patients and families we serve, donate to Methodist's COVID-19 Relief Fund at www.methodisthealth.org/COVIDRELIEF.



Participate in Events To promote the safety of event guests and sponsor partners, Methodist Healthcare Foundation is working to reimagine our annual fundraising events, including the Living Awards Benefit, Night Life for Methodist Hospice, and the Methodist Healthcare Luncheon. To learn how you can be a part of these events while supporting areas of great need, visit www.methodisthealth.org/events.

Shop & Support Methodist's mission When you shop at Kroger and Amazon, 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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**community
rewards**