

foundation **FOCUS**

news from your friends at the Methodist Healthcare Foundation

summer 2019

SHORB TOWER IS SERVING PATIENTS IN THE HEART OF MEMPHIS

Shorb Tower at Methodist University Hospital opened in May in the heart of Midtown Memphis to provide compassionate, quality care to patients and families from throughout Memphis and the Mid-South region.

The nine-story patient tower is a physical representation of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare's commitment to the 101-year-old, faith-based mission and the generosity and passion of Methodist leaders and Associates, physicians, board members, donors, and partners.

MLH President and CEO, Michael Ugwueke shared, ***"This new state-of-the-art tower will truly elevate healthcare for every patient and family. It's our continued commitment to bring the most advanced treatment options to the communities we serve."***

Shorb Tower, named for former MLH President and CEO, Gary Shorb, offers convenient access to advanced technology and comprehensive care for transplant, cardiology, blood and marrow transplant, and oncology services.

The design and construction of Shorb Tower was guided by the needs of the patients and families served at Methodist



University Hospital.

Highlights of the hospital tower include:

- ▶ 18 large **operating rooms** that support complex surgeries and accommodate care collaboration among multi-disciplinary teams
- ▶ Consolidation of the **Transplant Institute's** inpatient and outpatient services in a single, convenient, state-of-the-art location
- ▶ New, larger **patient rooms** that provide more comfort and technological amenities for patients and families
- ▶ Advanced **technology**, including two linear accelerators that offer targeted radiation to cancer cells
- ▶ Thoughtful **design**, including automatic tinting glass windows that adjust to outside lighting, allowing patients and families to enjoy outside views while regulating temperature efficiently
- ▶ **Peaceful spaces** for patients, family members, and caregivers, including the Reflection Room and two rooftop gardens
- ▶ Positive **visualization and inspiration** through an extensive collection of beautiful artwork from Memphis artists
- ▶ **Convenient access** through the new parking garage that connects directly to the hospital

Roland Cruickshank, President of Methodist University Hospital, shared, "With the modernization of

our University campus and the addition of Shorb Tower, we are able to advance our mission of providing the entire community with exceptional patient-focused, compassionate and innovative care."

Before Shorb Tower opened, Methodist Healthcare Foundation hosted a celebration to recognize donors for their support. Donors and guests toured Shorb Tower and viewed signage recognizing the impact of philanthropy.

To learn more about Shorb Tower and how your philanthropy can continue to elevate care at Methodist University Hospital, contact Zach Pretzer at 901.516.0509 or zach.pretzer@mlh.org.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM LEADER, ZACH PRETZER

Dear friends,

Greetings! It has already been quite an eventful 2019 for Methodist Healthcare and our Foundation. We have launched into a new century of compassionate, quality care by opening the beautiful Shorb Tower at Methodist University Hospital, we've hosted several successful fundraising events, and the continued generosity of our donor partners has been moving and impactful.

I want to take a moment to wish a fond farewell with extreme gratitude to Paula Jacobson, who tirelessly and passionately led the Methodist Healthcare Foundation as President for 18 years. Paula will be missed, but she left our Foundation in a strong position to continue to successfully support the philanthropic mission of Methodist Healthcare for many years to come.

It is a distinct pleasure to serve as our Foundation's Interim Leader. Before joining Methodist Healthcare Foundation in 2017, I enjoyed being able to work with Methodist's physicians, leaders, and Foundation team members in my role directing advancement efforts for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Medicine for seven years.

Just as our Foundation strives to welcome donors, community partners, caregivers, patients, and friends as part of our family, I, too, feel that Methodist Healthcare has become a part of my family from the first day I joined this mission-driven healthcare system and supporting Foundation. Our Foundation is a small, efficient, and hard-working team, which I am proud to lead. It is a joy to us to spend each day advancing relationships, fundraising, and promoting Methodist Healthcare.

I hope you will enjoy the great content of this summer newsletter. These are stories of transformational philanthropy, world-class innovation and care, and the gift of life. I can think of no better representation of the work we do at Methodist Healthcare and the worthiness of our cause.

On behalf of our team at the Methodist Healthcare Foundation and our Foundation Board, thank you for your advocacy, involvement, and philanthropy.

Zach Pretzer, Interim Leader
Methodist Healthcare Foundation



Zach Pretzer pictured with his family (left to right): Zoe (9), Ann, and Jonas (6).

Transplant Institute named in honor of Dr. James Eason

Transplant Institute in Shorb Tower at Methodist University Hospital was named the James D. Eason Transplant Institute in honor of the long-time Memphian and transplant surgeon.

"I am both humbled and honored to be acknowledged in this way, and I am also proud to be part of building a transplant program that has become a shining beacon of care across the diverse population that we serve," said Dr. Eason.

Under Eason's leadership as Program Director of the Institute and University of Tennessee Health Science Center



Dr. James Eason pictured at the announcement of the naming of the Transplant Institute at Methodist University Hospital in his honor.

Chief of Transplantation, Methodist's Transplant Institute performs more than 250 organ transplants a year and ranks nationally among the top 20 liver transplant programs by volume.

The James D. Eason Transplant Institute conveniently consolidated both inpatient and outpatient services to a single location and uses the latest in innovation and advanced technology as part of Methodist's commitment to elevating patient care.

"Dr. Eason has helped to build an impeccable team comprised of the most talented and dedicated medical professionals in the country," said Michael Ugwueke, President and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. "As we look to the future of healthcare, we are honored to continue our commitment to elevating the care our transplant patients receive."

The Foundation Focus is printed two times a year. If you would like to update your contact preferences with Methodist Healthcare Foundation, please contact 901.516.0500.

Methodist Healthcare Foundation 2019 Board Members

Sally Aldrich, Dana Armstrong, Roshun Austin, Wes Barnett, Nicholas Bragorgos, *Chair*, Dr. Jason Chandler, Mary Conley, Michael Drake, Kim Heathcott, Yvonne Madlock, Wilson Moore, *Vice Chair*, James Parker, Demetri Patikas, Zach Pretzer, *Interim Leader Methodist Healthcare Foundation*, Rev. Dr. Shane Stanford, Monica Wharton

YOUR STORY IS OUR STORY

Kidney donor and recipient share inspiring story of life-saving friendship

Al LaRocca is a special person. That fact could be established from the inspiring life he has led, including his service as a Marine Corp. pilot, FedEx pilot, former owner of Star Distributors, founder of Lenny's Sub Shop Franchise Company, generous philanthropist, and so much more.

But, perhaps what distinguishes Al most is what happened when he learned from the team at Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute that he needed a kidney transplant.

Six individuals – comprised of family, friends and colleagues – offered to donate their kidney to him.

The volunteers included John Adams, a former colleague of Al's, who became a close friend to Al and his wife, Carol.

"John insisted he wanted to be the one, and I am so fortunate he did," Al shared.

For John, donating his kidney to Al was the only option. During their time working together, they became very close.

John shared, *"Al and Carol are like*



Al and Carol LaRocca and John Adams attended a celebration before the opening of Shorb Tower where they toured the new Transplant facilities.

family. I did not hesitate to make the offer. I don't know what I would have done if I could not do this for Al."

Years before, when John faced personal challenges, Al and Carol were steadfast in their support for him. John added, ***"They saved my life back then. I am so glad that I was able to return the favor."***

In January 2018, John was notified that he was cleared to serve as Al's kidney donor. He shared the news with his friend through humor, *"I went over to Al's house and knocked on the*

door and said, 'I have good news and bad news. You won't be 100 percent Italian anymore, but you will be a little bit Scotch-Irish now!'"

On February 6th, the two underwent kidney transplantation surgery at Methodist University Hospital. Within days, they were both up and walking around. John even recalls Al offering to race him to the nursing station.

In February 2019, they celebrated the one year anniversary of the surgery that saved Al's life.

Al shared, ***"I cannot imagine getting better treatment anywhere else. If anyone asked me, of any place in the world, where they should go for a transplant, I would definitely say the Methodist Transplant Institute."***

Grateful for the care they received, Al and Carol made a generous donation to support the program.

Al explained, *"We were glad to make a commitment to the Transplant Institute. The care was spectacular. We are so pleased with the results, attention and service. I just don't think I can do enough to thank them for what they have done."*

Mike Conley commits \$500,000 to Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center

In April, Mike Conley announced a donation of \$500,000 to the Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

Since 2011, the former Memphis Grizzlies point guard has served as a tireless advocate and generous supporter of Methodist.

In addition to helping create the Center as a dedicated medical home for patients living with sickle cell disease in Memphis and the Mid-South, he has hosted the annual Mike Conley Bowl N Bash fundraising event for 10 years, made personal contributions, and leveraged his celebrity platform to increase awareness about sickle cell disease.

About his gift Mike shared, ***"It is an honor and privilege to be able to be in a position to utilize my platform as a professional athlete to support the lives of others. Sickle cell disease has personally affected my family. I felt it was only right for me to get involved with Methodist Healthcare to see how I could create more awareness and***



Mike Conley, NBA Star and sickle cell advocate and philanthropist, celebrated the announcement of his gift to the Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center with the Center's team.

make a positive impact on people suffering with this disease."

With this gift, Mike and his wife, Mary, have contributed and helped raise over \$1 Million to support Methodist in delivering innovative, comprehensive care to patients with

sickle cell disease.

The Conley's donation will be used to expand clinical and social support resources for patients while advancing care and curative treatments through research.

Mike explained, ***"It's our hope that this donation will allow Methodist the ability to continue to provide the best medical care available for patients living with sickle cell disease in the Mid-South for years to come."***

In recognition of this commitment and generosity, the Center's clinic space will now be named **The Mike and Mary Conley Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic.**

Although Mike has been traded from the Memphis Grizzlies, he remains committed to his mission to raise awareness and support for those living with sickle cell disease. He will return to Memphis on September 14th to host his 11th annual Mike Conley Bowl N Bash benefitting Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

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 us at:

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PARTNER WITH METHODIST

Summer – Winter 2019 Methodist Healthcare Foundation Events Calendar

Living Awards Benefit – August 8th



Prestigious awards dinner will honor George Cates, Darrell Raber, D.Ph., Alim Khandekar, M.D., Bryan Simmons, M.D., and Good Shepherd Pharmacy for their faith-driven work impacting community health and well-being.

www.methodisthealth.org/livingawards

Mike Conley Bowl N Bash – September 14th



Afternoon of family-friendly fun hosted by NBA star Mike Conley will feature bowling, lunch, and a silent auction – Benefitting Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

www.methodisthealth.org/bowlnbash

Night Life for Methodist Hospice – October 3rd



Unique concert experience will feature an up-close and personal performance by country music singer and songwriter, Caroline Jones – Benefitting Methodist Hospice.
www.methodisthealth.org/nightlife

Methodist Healthcare Luncheon – November 22nd



Inspiring lunch and intimate conversation with Golden Globe nominee and beloved film and television actress, Andie MacDowell – Benefitting the mission of Methodist Healthcare.
www.methodisthealth.org/luncheon

Tickets, tables, and sponsorships are available for all 2019 events. Contact **901.516.0500** or mhfoundation@mlh.org to learn more.

4 donations make our work possible. **thank you!**