Le Bonheur Club

YESTERDAY
TODAY
TOMORROW
Dear Friends:

As we celebrate our future with the opening of the new Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, we also pause to look at our past. This issue of Le Bonheur magazine highlights the impact and legacy of Le Bonheur Club, its foundational role in the history of the hospital and its promise to our future.

If it were not for this industrious group of women who gathered together in 1923 to sew clothing for orphans, Le Bonheur Children’s may never have been. Their dedication and pledge to help children in need became the vision for who we are today: a world-class hospital that takes care of the world’s children.

Because of the commitment of Le Bonheur Club and other visionaries like you, our readers, we can meet the challenges of tomorrow and continue to reach new heights in patient care. Most of all, your help has provided us with the most important medical advancement of all: hope.

Our outside appearance may be changing, yet the heart of what we do will always remain. We still believe that the children of today and of the future deserve what the children of the 1950s received when Le Bonheur was first built — the most modern hospital and the best medical care available.

As we turn the page on our history and begin a new chapter of our story, we wish to thank Le Bonheur Club and each of you for leading the way.

Warmest Regards,

Meri Armour, M.S.N., M.B.A.
President and CEO
Le Bonheur Children’s
Connect with 
Le Bonheur
Send us your e-mail address to receive announcements and For Kids’ Sake, the Le Bonheur Foundation e-newsletter. Just drop a note to Lori Dale at dalel@lebonheur.org.

Are you a member of Facebook? If so, please become a fan of Le Bonheur to receive news, updates and exclusive information right to your Facebook account.

Tweet Tweet
Le Bonheur is using Twitter, a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question. What’s happening? Just go to twitter.com/lebonheurchild.

Watch Us
You can see construction of the new Le Bonheur, the 2008 groundbreaking ceremony, patient videos and more on YouTube. Visit youtube.com and type in Le Bonheur Children’s.

Get Vocal
If you would like to sign up for Le Bonheur’s grassroots network, go to http://capwiz.com/lebonheur/mlm/signup/. We’ll e-mail instructions on how you can communicate with elected officials and support legislative issues that affect children’s health care.

On the Cover:
Three generations of Le Bonheur Club (from left) Denise Henning, Clara Dean Hope and Morgan Montgomery
Le Bonheur Club President Mrs. Howard Pritchard tied the hospital key to balloons and sent it soaring away. Memphis Mayor Watkins Overton (standing next to Mrs. Pritchard) officially opened Le Bonheur Hospital in 1952.

Denise Henning, Clara Dean Hope and Morgan Montgomery, three generations of Le Bonheur Club
Once upon a time, a group of amazing women shared a common vision: a city in which all children would have what every child needs to grow up strong and healthy. When two young ladies asked their friends to sew clothes for the city’s orphans, their idea and enthusiasm could not be contained. They began sewing clothing and soon were also sewing and mending dolls for them.

The group officially organized in 1923, calling themselves “Le Bonheur,” French for “happiness,” or “the good hour.” The members reasoned that each hour spent sewing for the children would be “a good hour” or “la bonne heure.”

As good things usually go, the name stuck and Le Bonheur Club members soon included some of the most prominent young women in Memphis society. Within two years, their membership totaled 50 and they met at the University Club, paying 25 cents as their monthly dues.

As the Club grew, so did its commitment to all children in the community. Le Bonheur Club moved beyond clothing orphans to attend to their more immediate health care needs by providing transportation to doctors’ appointments. They also embarked upon raising funds for many social services that helped needy children.

In the years 1930 to 1940, Club fundraisers included the sale of Little Theatre programs, a Christmas house lighting contest, a national tennis tournament, the opening of the Skyway rooftop at the Peabody hotel and a charity horse show with none other than internationally renowned comedian Bob Hope as master of ceremonies. The community turned out in droves and more than $6,000 — enough money in those days to purchase a home — was raised by the event.

With these funds, the Le Bonheur Club established the city’s first medical clinic for underprivileged children. Located at Methodist Hospital, the clinic was open two mornings a week and staffed by private pediatricians who donated their time. Within a few years, the clinic had added extra days and the Club went a step further by following up on each patient, providing medicines, special diets, incidental expenses, tests, vaccinations, X-rays, blood counts, tonsillectomies, glasses and dental care as needed.

In just 24 years, the Club was ensuring that more than 1,000 children were being treated annually.

Le Bonheur Club members sewed hospital gowns and blankets for patients.

A Good Name Always Sticks
Elizabeth Jordan Gilliland, a founding member of the Le Bonheur Club, is known as Le Bonheur’s “Grand Dame.” She gained this moniker when she named the club she helped form in 1923.

Gilliland had studied French in college and later visited France, which led her to suggest that the group call itself Le Bonheur. Meaning “happiness” and often translated “the good hour,” the name Le Bonheur (or la bonne heure) was such a good idea with the ladies that it stuck.

In 1924, she married Frank M. Gilliland, a prominent Memphis attorney and they had three sons — Frank, Jr., Jim and Bob. Frank, Jr. and Jim became attorneys like their father and Jim served as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Bob was a military pilot and later a test pilot for Lockheed. The Gillilands were married for 35 years. Frank, Sr. died in 1959.

Until the day she died in 1996, Elizabeth Gilliland, who lived to be 97, was a stickler for Le Bonheur’s proper French pronunciation. And although her lifelong prodding and coaching of how to pronounce the name correctly never caught on in the community, all agree that regardless of the way you say it, Le Bonheur was a good idea and a good name, just as they knew it to be so many years ago.
Chapter Two
LEADING THE WAY

Just after World War II, the Le Bonheur Club was approached by the Memphis Pediatric Society and asked to establish a world-class children’s hospital in Memphis. This project would be an expensive undertaking, yet the ladies were not deterred, even though the cost was estimated around $2 million. Le Bonheur Club members voted unanimously to accept the challenge and it wasn’t long before the community discovered what a group of determined women could do!

A capital fund drive kicked off on Dec. 29, 1949. Headed by Allen Morgan, Sr. of First National Bank (now First Tennessee), the campaign ended in less than two months after raising $50,000 over its goal. Construction on the hospital began with a groundbreaking on July 2, 1950.

When Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital opened June 15, 1952, it was the region’s premier medical facility and provided the area’s only network of health care services devoted specifically to children and their special needs. Memphis was proud of Le Bonheur, which the Memphis Press-Scimitar called “one of the most modern hospitals in the country.” This claim was later confirmed when Le Bonheur was named “Hospital of the Year” by Modern Hospital magazine.

At the dedication, Le Bonheur Club President Mrs. Howard Pritchard tied the hospital’s keys to balloons and released them into the sky. “The doors of Le Bonheur will never be found closed and will forever be open to those who come in need, seeking help,” Pritchard said.

With this symbolic act, the Le Bonheur Club promised their community that the hospital’s doors would never be closed to any ill or injured child. And for the past 58 years, this promise has always been kept.
Building to Last a Lifetime

More than 50 years ago, Sue Cheek Smith Hughes helped her father design the first and only children’s hospital in the region.

Prominent Memphis architect J. Frazer Smith was asked by the Le Bonheur Club to design a new children’s hospital. Smith was the husband of Club member Ada McDonnell Smith and had become involved in the Club’s efforts when he designed and built the Club’s Doll House several years before.

The Le Bonheur Club Doll House, where members sold children’s toys and clothing, opened in the 1930s at the Nineteenth Century Club on Union Avenue.

His daughter, Sue, also an architect and a Le Bonheur Club member, assisted him with the design.

“I started working for my father as soon as I graduated from college in 1948,” Hughes recalls. “We interviewed every medical professional that would have anything to do with children,” she says about the preliminary planning for the hospital.

As the father-daughter architectural team gathered ideas for the new hospital, they enlisted the aid of Memphis physicians Dr. Tom Mitchell, Dr. Barton Etter, Dr. James Etteldorf, Dr. James Hughes and Dr. Walter Ruch to learn what did and did not work. “They traveled the country visiting children’s hospitals and with all this input we started working the plans,” Hughes says.

Hughes has a long history of supporting the hospital. She and her mother both served as president of the Le Bonheur Club, Hughes in 1960-61 and her mother in 1929-31 and again in 1942-43.

In 2007, Sue Cheek Hughes (seated) got a sneak peek at the designs for the new hospital. Pictured with Hughes is Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour.

Gloria Andereck has been a part of Le Bonheur Children’s since before the hospital was even built. “I grew up with Le Bonheur and it has been a part of me all my life,” says Andereck, a Club member since 1951, who attended the original hospital’s opening in 1952. “I can’t ever remember not knowing about Le Bonheur.”

Andereck’s roots to Le Bonheur run deep. Her older sisters, Mary Louise Saxon and Patsy Lorence, were both members of the Le Bonheur Club and Saxon was Club president in 1936-37. Her cousin Jeannette Reber served as Club president in 1931-32 and her father, Patrick A. McPhillips, was instrumental in helping Le Bonheur acquire land from the city to build the hospital for only one dollar.

“The reason my daddy did this was because he was always a lover of children,” Andereck says. “He also thought so much of women and what they could do, even when others were saying we wouldn’t be able to raise the money [to build a children’s hospital].” McPhillips died when he was 90, shortly after attending the grand opening of the original Le Bonheur. Andereck says if her father were alive today, “he would be popping with joy” about the new hospital.

“My daddy would be so proud and pleased to see how successful it has been,” Andereck says, noting that a tree was planted in his honor at the entrance to the original Le Bonheur hospital building at the 1952 opening ceremony.

“I think about what Le Bonheur has done in the past and reflect upon its future,” Andereck adds. “To see its progress from a small hospital to what it is today gives me a great deal of pride.”
Chapter Three

Deepening the Commitment

Once the hospital had opened its doors, Club members found new ways to put their talents to work. There was still plenty of fundraising to do for the hospital’s ongoing needs; however, now there was a real opportunity for members to provide support for the hospital. The Club’s oldest fundraiser — the Tag Drive — kicked off in 1953 and continues to this day as the Children’s Fund Drive. (See story on page 9.)

Also at that time Club members began working 48 shifts a year in the hospital. Many members still sewed gowns and blankets and made toys for the kids. Others soon found themselves not only selling tickets for their next fundraising event but also running the hospital’s elevators, serving coffee to parents, working in the hospital’s snack bar, reading to patients and stocking the Bunny Room. (See story on page 16.) With the new hospital now up and running, the Club’s responsibilities had increased ten-fold and members’ personal involvement with Le Bonheur patients became indelibly etched on their hearts.

Gloria Andereck remembers spending many hours pushing the library cart from room to room. “It was stocked with books for all the ages of patients we were visiting each day,” she recalls. “Children could select as many books from the library cart as they wished and Club members would read to the patients when asked. It was my favorite thing to do,” she says.

Others remember their favorite volunteer activity as meeting patients and their families. “Once I stayed in the room with a child so the mother could go down to the cafeteria to get some lunch,” says Clara Dean Hope, Club president in 1994-95. “All she had eaten that day was the coffee and donuts our coffee-cart volunteer had delivered earlier that morning.”

But it was more than just visiting patients and serving coffee where the Club made its greatest impact.

As in the previous two decades, as soon as one building addition was completed, an even bigger Le Bonheur became necessary to meet the ever-growing needs of the community’s children. The Club found itself leading another building campaign in the 1960s to help pay for extensive remodeling and renovation of the hospital. Members also organized the Le Bonheur Garden Club in 1961. (See story on page 11.)

Le Bonheur Club members pushed the library cart from room to room.
Pat Klinke’s Rum Cake

1 box yellow butter
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup Wesson vegetable oil
1/2 cup white rum
4 eggs (room temperature)
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Pat Klinke’s Rum Cake

Combine cake mix, pudding, water, oil and rum. Beat until blended. Add eggs, one at a time, while beating on medium speed. Once all 4 eggs have been added, continue to beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Stir in 1/4 cup of pecans to batter.

Grease and flour a bundt pan. Add remaining 1/4 cup chopped pecans to bottom of pan. Pour batter over the pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes, until lightly brown on top and tester comes out clean. While cake is still warm, pierce the top with a fork and pour half of the glaze over the hot cake. Cool cake while in pan for 30-40 minutes. When cool, turn cake onto a doily-covered plate and pour remaining glaze on top of cake just before serving.

Glaze:
Melt 1 stick of butter in saucepan. Stir in 1 cup sugar and 1/4 cup water and bring to a boil. Once boiling, add 1/4 cup white rum and boil for an additional 2 minutes.
Chapter Four

RECALLING THE PAST

In the early 1960s, Penny Bailey was raising four children. “I had never worked so hard on a project in my whole life as I did in Le Bonheur Club,” recalls Bailey, Club president in 1965-66. “Maline Prest and I were co-chairs of the season ticket sales for Memphis State football that year. It was a Club fundraiser and we worked from the den of Maline’s home and many nights we’d be up until two o’clock in the morning doing paperwork.” ¶ When Bailey was first invited to join the Club, she thought it would be a “lovely thing to do.”

“My husband said he didn’t have much money but he could volunteer his wife,” Bailey says with laughter when asked how she got involved 48 years ago.

Clara Dean Hope speaks for many of the members who were inspired to join the group after their own children had been patients at the hospital.

“When our son was four weeks old he had surgery at Le Bonheur,” Hope recalls. “My husband and I were so impressed with everyone we came in contact with there and felt everyone was so caring. Some friends of mine from college were members of the Le Bonheur Club and asked me if I wanted them to put my name up for membership. I told them yes for I wanted to give back to Le Bonheur any way I could. How could I not give back to the hospital that saved our son’s life?”

Many members agree that their reason for joining the Club was initially inspired by the kindness of a Club member.

“I was in a state of shock when my son Alex was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when he was six years old,” recalls Sally Perry, a Club member since 2001.

“It was a life-changing situation for us. He was a patient at Le Bonheur for several days and we weren’t going to leave him, not even to go to the cafeteria. Then a Le Bonheur Club member walked into his room with a happy smile and offered us a cup of coffee. It was a tender moment and the best cup of coffee I have ever had. It meant so much to us that I had to become a part of this group and joined the Le Bonheur Club two years later. Alex is now 18 and my favorite Club activity is pushing the coffee cart.”
Garden Club Grows Camaraderie

Le Bonheur Club members who have an interest in gardening and flower arranging can “dig in” to their passion in the Le Bonheur Garden Club. Organized in 1961, the group, which meets in members’ homes from September through May, gets together to share their common interests in gardening and flower arranging as well as “planting seeds” for Le Bonheur’s future.

Currently numbering about 40 active members, the group “has a waiting list so long that we could probably start another club,” jokes Evelyn Gotten, a Garden Club member who is a past president of the group.

“The camaraderie among the members in the Garden Club is what makes this group so much fun,” Gotten explains. Gotten joined the Le Bonheur Club in 1969 and became a member of the Garden Club in the early 1980s. “We all have common interests in Le Bonheur and in gardening, too.”

Guest speakers are invited to deliver programs on a variety of gardening-related topics. Every May, members bring a plant, cutting or seedling from their personal gardens to exchange with other members.

Socializing is another major component of the group. “We’re comprised mostly of Le Bonheur Club sustainers who want to stay in touch with each other,” member Kate Weathersby explains. “Most of us worked together for many years in the Club and developed lifelong friends. Through the Garden Club, we can maintain and grow those friendships.”

Over the years, the Garden Club has helped with a number of projects for Le Bonheur including landscaping and gardening projects on the hospital’s grounds, decorating the outdoor fountain in the lower lobby and funding a stained-glass window in the existing chapel.

“All the members emphasize devotion and compassion to Le Bonheur and have supported Le Bonheur with all their hearts,” says Debra Flannary Razzouk, current president of the group. “We not only have green thumbs but beating hearts. We’re not just about growing flowers. We also grow and nurture children.”

When Jane Hobson joined the Club in 1967, she says “it was a full-time job. I jumped right in and one of my first projects was building the Snoopy Cart.” Hobson recalls this moment vividly: “The cart was a large wooden dog house with Snoopy on top. Inside the dog house were shelves filled with crafts and activities for the kids. I sat in Le Bonheur’s basement for weeks helping one of the hospital’s janitors build the cart. We scrounged to complete the project. We used recycled wood, sanded it, painted it and then added some wheels taken from an old gurney at Campbell Clinic.”

Hobson says Club members even got permission from Peanuts’ creator Charles Schulz to use the beloved cartoon characters throughout the hospital. “We called Mr. Schulz and got verbal permission to use all the Peanuts characters at Le Bonheur,” she recalls. “We painted a mural in the hospital’s hallway with Charlie Brown and the other characters. All the characters were flying kites and the kite strings were different colors. Patients would follow the different colored kite strings to get to X-ray, the lab or the clinics. When he sold the rights to Hallmark, Schulz wrote us a letter giving us permission to use the Peanuts characters as long as we wanted. We still have his letter at Club headquarters.”

For Clara Dean Hope, pushing the Snoopy Cart left an indelible memory on her heart forever. “There was one day I’ll never forget,” Hope says. “I was working a shift pushing the Snoopy Cart around to patient rooms and I met a little girl. When I asked one of the nurses about her condition, she told me her body would not absorb the food and nutrients she needed to live. But this little girl was so perky and friendly and we had the most fun as she picked out a craft activity from the cart. A week later, I was back at the hospital pushing the cart and noticed the little girl was no longer there. I asked the nurse if she had gone home but was told she had not survived. I was just devastated. Every child is supposed to get well and go home. This was not supposed to happen. I knew Le Bonheur had done everything they could for her. That’s when reality hit that it is not a perfect world, even for innocent children. This is one of many reasons I have remained a Club member since 1979.”

2010 Le Bonheur Garden Club

Kaleigh Seagraves
Chapter Five

NEW DREAMS AND VISIONS

In the 1970s, a new addition to the hospital was planned and more fundraising ensued. For Jane Jones, who served as Club president from 1970 to 71, getting the first phase of the new hospital addition under way and establishing a Development Committee at the hospital were among the most important accomplishments achieved during her tenure as the Club’s leader. The Le Bonheur Teens formed in 1971 and the Le Bonheur Travel Study Club was established in 1973. (See stories on pages 17 and 19.)

The 1970s brought great challenges and many changes to the Le Bonheur Club as well as the hospital, according to Jones. "Dynamic growth of the hospital in the '70s was matched by the Club as its fundraising soared over the $250,000 mark," she says. "The hospital’s two new additions were built in 1973 and 1977 and by the end of the decade we had adopted a 12-year plan which would envision a complete Children’s Medical Center that would treat children from Memphis as well as a 250-mile area surrounding the city. By 1980, Le Bonheur was on the threshold of being one of the leading children’s medical centers in the nation," she adds.

When the Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1973, it made a $50,000 gift to the new hospital building fund. Four years later, when the hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1977, ground was broken once again for the new Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center. The new patient wing and auditorium opened two years later and renovation and remodeling of the old building began.

And the Club continued their volunteering and fundraising efforts on behalf of Le Bonheur’s kids.

Le Bonheur was on the threshold of being one of the leading children’s medical centers in the nation.

Lucy Carrington Jones says she has always been inspired by Jane Jones’ commitment to Le Bonheur Children’s. “Jane has never stopped,” says the Club president in 1972-73. “She has kept her interest in Le Bonheur and the Club throughout the years and she is greatly involved even today. During the 1970s when I served as president, she was an inspiration to all of us who served with her in the Club. She is still an inspiration today.”
Jane Jones sat through a lot of meetings during her life. Beginning with Le Bonheur Club meetings, then hospital board meetings, followed by meetings at national conferences and then with legislators in Washington, D.C., you would think she would have had her fill by now. Not this lady. She still attends Le Bonheur Club gatherings as well as Le Bonheur Travel Study Club meetings as often as her schedule permits.

“The secret to sitting through meetings is patience, tolerance and interest,” Jones says with a hint of laughter. “I have always found Le Bonheur interesting and I am still interested today.”

Jones has been a Le Bonheur Club member for almost 50 years and she helped paved the way for much of what the Club and the hospital are today.

When she was invited to join the Club in 1962, Jones worked her shifts at the hospital, just like all members did at the time. It wasn’t long, however, before she moved into leadership positions and took up the reins as Club president. During her presidency in 1970-71, approval was made for phase one of Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center’s new addition and a hospital Development Committee was established. The Le Bonheur Teen Club was also organized.

Before she knew it, her leadership skills had been tapped again. This time, she was elected to the hospital’s board where she served for 12 years. Soon after, Jones was elected as the first woman to chair the board, from 1972 to 1976, and was made an honorary lifetime member of the board in 1982. “I became very involved with the administrative aspect of Le Bonheur,” Jones says. “We were really busy with the new building. I wanted all the paintings and artwork inside to look like a children’s hospital.”

It was also during this time that Jones became interested in NACHRI and it didn’t take long for the National Association for Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions to recognize her organizational skills as well. Jones served as chairman of the NACHRI Board in 1978.

While leading NACHRI, Jones made many visits to Washington to bring national awareness to children’s health care. “We called on Congress every year to get support for Le Bonheur as well as favorable legislation for children’s hospitals,” Jones says, noting that at that time cost containment was the big issue of the day. “We were fighting to get recognition that children’s hospitals required more specialization than other hospitals and because of that, there is a greater cost to pediatric care.”

While leading NACHRI in the charge, the NACHRI Board called a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington to announce the results of a uniqueness study of children’s hospitals. She and others shared the study’s findings to a room full of national reporters and media, which resulted in favorable stories published throughout the U.S.

In 1979, Jones was recognized by the community and was awarded the L.M. Graves Memorial Health Award, given to the person who contributed most significantly to community health.

Now, 40 years and many renovations, remodeling efforts and several hospital additions later, Jones says it’s the Le Bonheur Club that has continued to be a driving force for hospital support.

“When I got into the Le Bonheur Club, I was inspired by the need and the importance of the Club’s work,” Jones says. “For years, Le Bonheur was my life and I wanted to do whatever I could to make it a better place. A city that takes care of its children is the place I want to be. The new Le Bonheur is the culmination of my wildest dreams. Now Le Bonheur really is the kind of hospital we always wanted it to be.”
Chapter Six
CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Fast forward a few decades to see just how much the Le Bonheur Club has accomplished. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the Club took on even more challenges. As members who were active when the hospital first opened reached sustainer status, the Club reached out to new, younger professional working women who wanted to do their share for Le Bonheur. The Club changed requirements for volunteer hours and new bylaws and rules were adopted. There was an increase in volunteer and community service shifts at the hospital as well as the opening of a new Club headquarters at 1047 Cresthaven. The headquarters, or “Clubhouse” as it has come to be called, was dedicated in 1988, in memory of former Club President Beatrice Gerber, whose bequest to the Club enabled the purchase of the house.

For Glenna Flautt, who joined the Club in 1975 and was president in 1992-93, the acquisition of the Clubhouse was not only exciting but a dream-come-true for all Club members, especially those who had worked on Club activities out of their homes for years. “No longer was the Gold Tag chairman’s living room, dining room and telephone taken over by dozens of women coming and going each day,” Flautt recalls. “Instead, the Clubhouse’s upstairs room became an efficient office space for members to drop in at any time. On any given day, there might be a small committee meeting in the living room, a board meeting in another room or food for a breakfast or luncheon meeting being prepared in the kitchen. The Clubhouse gave us an axis from which to become more focused in all of our efforts for the hospital.”
When Ann Creson’s youngest daughter, Laurie, was born in 1964, she required life-saving surgery at Le Bonheur — a procedure that, at that time, wasn’t always successful. “They weren’t sure she would make it,” Creson recalls.

Although Creson, a member of the Le Bonheur Club, knew the Le Bonheur surgeon and the medical team personally through her volunteer work at the hospital, her point of view changed dramatically when the patient being cared for was her own child.

“Seeing Laurie in an incubator gave me a whole new perspective of Le Bonheur,” Creson recalls. “It also gave new meaning to all those volunteer hours I had worked at the hospital.”

Laurie Creson Benton is now a Le Bonheur Club member herself, having followed in the footsteps of her mother. “My interest in joining the Le Bonheur Club was the hospital,” Benton says. “They put me back together when I was only four days old. The hospital’s mission was my inspiration to get involved.”

Creson, whose two older daughters, Jamie Turner and Carye Herbert, joined the Club in 2007, is just one of several mothers who have passed the Le Bonheur Club membership torch to their own daughters who have now taken up the cause as their own.

“I can remember my mom being very involved in the Club when I was a girl,” Turner says. “We grew up knowing the story of how the hospital was started by a group of determined, smart women. In the 1970s, women were deciding that being a housewife wasn’t enough. My mother was an example for me. She had her own business ventures yet also found time to volunteer. Once my children were grown, I decided it was time to join the Club myself.”

When Herbert was asked to join the Club by Mary “Mac” Carrier, Club president in 2008, she was easily sold on the idea — one that her mother had pushed for years. “My membership meant a lot to Mother and also many of Mother’s friends who were involved over the years,” Herbert says, noting that Carrier was also twisting her arm at the same time. “Mac was the conditional chair and you can’t say no to Mac when it comes to Le Bonheur. She is a great cheerleader for the Club.”

For Creson, a past president of the Club who served in 1974-75, seeing her three daughters now active in the Club for which she has volunteered for the last 49 years is somewhat emotional. And all three girls agree that they are “happy to continue the legacy” of volunteering for Le Bonheur.

“I am really thrilled that my daughters have joined the Club,” Creson says. “When the four of us worked a coffee-cart shift together, it brought back a flood of memories. It is rewarding that all of us are now a part of something that will always continue to look after the needs of all the children of Memphis. When I look over what I have done in my life that is most fulfilling to me, I think of the Club. When I think of my daughters and about what our involvement means, it brings tears to my eyes.”
The most talked-about feature of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital when it opened its doors in 1952 was the Bunny Room. The idea, initiated by the Le Bonheur Club, began as a sewing circle with volunteers making hospital gowns and crafting “bunnies” and other stuffed animals by hand for the patients. They were given to each child who was worried and frightened about surgery so they would have something to look forward to after the procedure was over.

This tradition remains a big part of the “new” Le Bonheur today. Located adjacent to the operating rooms, the shelves are lined with colorful toys for all ages — Nerf balls, jump ropes, Barbie dolls, action figures, board games, card games and fun items — as well as the occasional stuffed bunny. As Le Bonheur’s patients go into surgery, they are allowed to select any toy their heart desires. It is the last stop for patients and parents before a brief chat with the surgeon. Returning from surgery, the patients are wheeled into the recovery room where their toy is waiting for them.

“Certainly the Bunny Room stop is a diversion to children before going in to be prepped for surgery but the toy becomes a part of a very memorable moment in a child’s life,” says Susan Graf, a Club member since 1996 and Bunny Room chairman in 2007-08. “Having seen many a patient enter the Bunny Room, I never tired of watching their little eyes gaze at the array of goodies before settling on just the perfect toy for them!”
Teens Light Up Le Bonheur

When Martha Podesta was a teenager in the 1970s, she joined Le Bonheur Teens, a group created for the daughters of Le Bonheur Club members to teach them service to others.

“We wore pink-stripe dresses, like Candy Stripers and did entirely different volunteer activities than the girls do today,” says Podesta, teen club adviser and member of the Le Bonheur Club since 1992. “We did mostly clerical things at that time and there was no patient contact,” she recalls.

That has all changed. Now members create no-sew blankets, make get-well cards and deliver them to patients, push snack carts from room to room, plan special events for occasions such as Valentine’s Day and host game shows on Channel 8, the hospital’s in-house television station.

“We learn responsibility and how to organize an event, which makes us well-rounded individuals,” says Morgan Montgomery, vice president of the teen club. “We also make amazing friends.”

Podesta’s mother, Kathleen McDonnell, who was a Club member from the 1960s until she died in 2002, was instrumental in getting her to join not long after the teen group was first formed. Membership, however, is not limited to daughters of Le Bonheur Club members. Podesta notes that service hours are now required at many private schools and membership in the group fulfills this requirement.

“You start when they are young and volunteering carries over into their adult lives,” Podesta explains. “It is important for them to know they should do for others their entire life.”

For Montgomery, there’s nothing more rewarding than to make the children happy. “It’s so sweet to see the kids’ faces light up. It means the world to all of us.”

Le Bonheur Teens make no-sew blankets for Le Bonheur patients. Pictured (from left) are Olivia Grace Wolfe (treasurer), Martha Podesta (teen adviser), Morgan Montgomery (vice president) and Medgie Adams (president).

Le Bonheur Club past presidents (seated from left): Ann Clark Harris, Pat Klinke, Gail French. Standing from left: Roseann Painter, Sandy Sherman, Patty Johnson, Penny Bailey, Jane Hobson, Kate Weathersby, Mary “Mac” Carrier, Ann Creson, Billie Anne Williams, Clara Dean Hope, Debbie Florendo, Evelyn Gotten, Laurie Monypeny, Jill Crocker.
Today, Le Bonheur Club continues the story they began so many years ago and as their story keeps unfolding, so does the story of Le Bonheur. When ground for the new Le Bonheur was broken on Feb. 14, 2008, it brought about the biggest change in the life of the Club since the hospital first opened in 1952. “It was inspiring and humbling to represent the Club in such a rich year of our history,” says Jill Crocker, president in 2007-08. “With the groundbreaking of the new hospital, we realized all the new challenges that lie ahead of us. The new Le Bonheur is truly a testament to our past, a reminder of our present and a promise for a great future.”

And just as the Club deepened its commitment to Le Bonheur’s children, so have all its members. They have always done whatever it took to make things happen and even today continue to put their heart into every project they undertake. “Our enthusiasm remains high as we tirelessly work to meet the ever-expanding needs of Le Bonheur Children’s,” 2009 Club President Mary “Mac” Carrier says. “Our willingness to adapt our strengths to new ventures keeps our Club vibrant and focused on our vital mission to help Le Bonheur help kids.”

As the Club remains focused on its purpose, members continue to honor the past by remaining steadfast to the projects that are the heart of the Club — the Bunny Room and Gold Tag. They are also taking stock of the future so they may build a strong foundation for the generations that will follow them. “The commitment of the Club’s members to stay on track and remain focused on fulfilling our mission has always been at the heart of what we do,” Crocker says. “It is hard to fit in a moment of mercy, much less an hour of happiness, with the hectic schedules and many commitments and obligations that our Club members have. To know that our Club has such dedicated women always ready and willing to serve regardless of the challenges assures a great future ahead for both the Club and Le Bonheur.”

In 2009, the Club presented a check to Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour for more than a quarter of a million dollars, bringing their total gift for the new hospital to $2.3 million. And if history does indeed repeat itself, then there’s no end to what this group of industrious women can do. “Throughout our Club’s history, we have exhibited a willingness to adapt and change in relation to the ever-expanding needs of the hospital,” says current Le Bonheur Club President Denise Henning. “This ability to be flexible is one of our greatest strengths. Together, we will always remain focused on our mission to serve all the children of the region. “Our work will never be finished,” Henning adds thoughtfully. “It is really just getting started.”
Travel Study Club
Journeys About

Le Bonheur Club members with an interest in traveling got together in 1973 and organized the Le Bonheur Travel Study Club. Ever since, they have met nine times a year for conversation about interesting places and to share their personal adventures of traveling. Once a year, they journey about.

“We want to increase knowledge and understanding of the world and other cultures and to make travel more meaningful and pleasurable for our members,” explains Mary Sharp, Travel Study Club president, who notes the group is so popular that there’s a waiting list for membership.

Between September and May, as they have since organizing, the Travel Study Club explores — literally and figuratively — favorite destinations that the members have visited. Monthly programs are hosted in their homes and once each year the entire group takes in the sights of a nearby spot with a one-day trip within an easy drive of Memphis. Through the years the Travel Study Club has toured antebellum homes in Natchez, Miss., and Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum and Belle Meade Plantation Home in Nashville. This April, the group visited Little Rock to tour the “World of the Pharaohs” exhibition at the Arkansas Arts Center.

“Once members finished their Le Bonheur Club volunteer work, many retired and began to travel with their husbands or other Club members,” Sharp says about the group’s formation 37 years ago. “The Travel Study Club is a wonderful opportunity for members to share their personal travel experiences with other members who are interested in traveling and who are looking for some different places to explore.”

Evelyn Gotten jokes that she was on the waiting list for 18 years before there was an “opening” for her to join the Travel Study Club. A Le Bonheur Club member since 1969, Gotten says the best part of this group is the camaraderie.

“We all have a common interest in Le Bonheur as well as in traveling,” Gotten says about the Travel Study Club. “It’s a learning experience and anywhere you can go and learn something and not have to work a volunteer shift is great!”

Gotten notes that her first year as a conditional member in the Club has always remained dear to her heart.

“Unbeknownst to my mother-in-law who nominated me for Club membership, I was pregnant at the time. My daughter was born in April and died at Le Bonheur in May. Even though my little girl didn’t make it, Le Bonheur will always hold a special place in my life.”
“I absolutely adore children,” Mary Alice Quinn says. “All shapes, sizes and colors. To me, they are gifts from God.”

Quinn, a newspaper journalist for nearly four decades, never had children of her own. However, her compassion, love and concern for all children led her to name Le Bonheur as a beneficiary in her will.

“Children just melt me,” she says. “They really do. So many families can’t afford health care. If giving a little bit of what I can will help a child get the proper medical attention, it makes me feel fulfilled. When you’ve been fortunate enough to have been the beneficiary of God’s loving ways I truly believe it is part of the DNA of those of us who can to reciprocate.”

A professional member of the Le Bonheur Club since 1972, Quinn remembers pushing the coffee cart and the library cart at the hospital during her volunteer shifts. “Le Bonheur was a much smaller hospital then and as volunteers we tried to do anything we could to help the families,” she says. “We would even stay with a child in their room so the parents could take a break.”

Even today, when she hears news of the child who is injured and taken to Le Bonheur for treatment, she worries and wonders if the child survives. “There’s nothing more tragic to me than a child who is injured,” she says.

Quinn found her calling early in life. While still attending college at Vanderbilt she wrote about young collegians on campus from Memphis for The Commercial Appeal. This assignment became a summer internship and then a full-time position was offered.

“I always thought I would teach,” she says. “When they asked me to stay on permanently, I agreed to stick it out for a year.” She retired from the paper after 39 years and 4 months.

To be a journalist she says “you have to love people” and that’s the reason she followed her heart into a career that soon became a passion. “I love the written word, the research and all aspects of the job,” she says, noting that she was fortunate to have worked with some of the most successful and well-known editors in the South including Frank Ahlgren, Gordon Hannah, Michael Grehl, Lionel Linder and Angus McEachran. Each one of them made an indelible impression on her in their own way, especially Ahlgren. “He told me early on that a person’s name is really the one thing he has that is truly theirs,” she recalls. “That being said, he then told me: ‘Those names better be spelled correctly!’”

Quinn believes Memphis is fortunate to have a pediatric hospital such as Le Bonheur. “Every city needs a great children’s hospital,” she says, “and so much of what Le Bonheur does reaches out so far. If God has blessed us with a few extra nickels, we should give it back where it helps. If we’ve been given good lives, good livelihoods and good friends, we have a personal responsibility to care for those who come behind us. For me, that is as much a part of living as learning how to swim or fly a kite. Once you reach a certain age, you can’t fly a kite anymore and you look horrible in a swimming suit. And I sure don’t need another pair of shoes!”
Board Reunites

Former members of the Le Bonheur Foundation Board attended a reunion and new-hospital update hosted by the Le Bonheur Foundation in April. More than 40 guests gathered to learn about Le Bonheur’s programs of distinction including the Neuroscience Institute, Heart Institute, Critical Care and Trauma. Pictured at the program reception are (top photo from left) Gene Cashman, Dr. Kip and Martha Frizzell; Barbara Wilson, Donna Rhodes, Clara Dean Hope; (bottom photo from left) David Stevens, Jane and Bob Jones; Dr. Trey Eubanks, John and Terry Robertson.

Art With Heart

Art enthusiasts may view creations by some of the region’s top artists at “Art with Heart.” The Aug. 26 event offers a look at the new Le Bonheur Children’s art collection and the opportunity to underwrite an individual piece for the hospital. Tickets are $50 and may be purchased by calling (901) 287-6308.

Riding With Jim

For the fifth year, News Channel 3 meteorologist Jim Jaggers will bicycle 333 miles across the roads of the Mid-South for Le Bonheur. To participate in Go Jim Go Sept. 15 through Sept. 22, go to www.lebonheur.org/gojimgo.

Pumpkin Run 5K

The 2010 Le Bonheur Pumpkin Run 5K and Family Walk will be a scream for all ages with a Boo Bash Post-Race Party, costume contest and live music. For more information and to register for the Oct. 9 event, go to www.pumpkinrun.org.

Scouts Collect Toys

Sixteen-year-old Nicholas Villarreal of Millington (far left in photo) discovered a need for games at Le Bonheur Children’s after spending seven days as an inpatient while recovering from pneumonia last fall. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Nicholas and Boy Scout Troop 389 Chicksaw Council collected more than 1,300 movies, games and coloring books for Le Bonheur’s patients.
Team Haiti
The Memphis Grizzlies presented $50,000 to Le Bonheur’s Haiti Medical Relief Mission team to help cover expenses of their two-week trip to provide medical care to hundreds of earthquake victims at the Haiti Medical Missions of Memphis clinic located in Croix des Bouquets near Port-au-Prince.

Grateful Families
Families and friends gathered for the 2010 Miracle Maker Family of the Year events in Memphis and Tupelo during April. In Memphis, five families campaigned in friendly competition to raise contributions for Le Bonheur Children’s. Vying for this year’s title were the Burgess family, Chyka family, Meyer family, Paradise family and Russell family (above left), who collected $28,000 in donations and were named the Memphis Miracle Maker Family of the Year. In Tupelo, the Smith Family (above right) captured the crown from the Young and Hutchins families to be named the Tupelo Miracle Maker Family of the Year. The combined events raised more than $50,000 for the hospital.

GenerosiTEA
Kathryn Pizzurro and her daughter Mary attended the GenerosiTEA Party at the Tower Room in February. The event included a fashion show, crafts and activities, refreshments and tea, raising $10,000 for Le Bonheur.

TWIGS
Kathy Ferrara (left) and Lynn Listes (center), TWIGS board presidents for 2010 and 2009 respectively, presented Le Bonheur Foundation Executive Director Kavanaugh Casey with a check for $187,300 from the organization’s fundraising efforts for the past year. The funds will support the capital campaign, LEAD and Swank TV, the hospital’s new inpatient family movie channel.

Penguin Pals
Arlington Middle School raised $8,000 for Le Bonheur with the school’s 2009 “Pennies for Penguins” annual fundraiser. To date, the school has raised more than $50,000 for the penguin pals project by collecting contributions to purchase plush penguins for Le Bonheur patients hospitalized during the holidays. Members of the AMS student council that presented Le Bonheur with their gift are (from above left) Katie Garrison, Nick Bufalino, Principal Patricia Prescott, Kate Walsh, Sarah Mitchener and Ryan Wilson.

Wigged Out
Krystle Berretta and Angie Hick wigged out at the 3rd annual Big Wig Ball presented by YALL (Young Adult Le Bonheur Leaders) at Minglewood Hall in April. More than 300 party-goers danced to live music by MisUed while raising thousands for Le Bonheur Children’s.
When you give a gift to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, you become a partner with our physicians and caregivers in providing a future full of hope for children. Le Bonheur Children’s is the only hospital in our region with the range and depth of pediatric specialists necessary to care for the sickest and most fragile children. Children are transported daily by helicopter and ambulance to our door from a six-state area for care they can only receive at Le Bonheur Children’s.

Give a gift and see how your investment makes a difference for children. Listed here are some of the ways you can give back to Le Bonheur Children’s. Our Le Bonheur Foundation staff will be happy to work with you to achieve your wishes. A donation envelope can be found inserted in this magazine for your convenience.

## Ways To Give

### Planned Gifts Can Benefit You and Le Bonheur

A planned gift, including a bequest, charitable remainder trust, charitable gift annuity or a gift of real estate or retirement assets allows you to combine your philanthropic interests with your financial needs and tax-planning strategies. Not only can a planned gift provide possible tax savings, a charitable remainder trust and a charitable gift annuity can provide increased income for you and your loved ones. Through the use of a planned gift, you can secure your own financial future as well as ours. For more information, please call Roberta B. Matthews, J.D., at (901) 287-5575 or e-mail matthero@lebonheur.org.

### Annual Gifts for Urgent Needs

There are many opportunities to give unrestricted donations that help Le Bonheur Children’s meet urgent needs on a daily basis. You can make a one-time gift by check, credit card or online donation. Become a DreamMaker monthly donor through credit card or monthly bank draft. You can also make a donation to honor someone in your life, celebrate a special occasion or remember someone who has passed away. Visit www.lebonheur.org to learn more or call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308. (Check with your employer to get information on matching contributions.)

### Endowment Gifts for Cutting-Edge Programs

Provide a legacy of perpetual support to Le Bonheur Children’s by making an endowment gift. Your gift is combined with gifts from other donors and invested on a permanent basis. The income earned annually by your gift is used to support the program of your choosing. Gifts made to Le Bonheur Children’s endowment may honor or remember a special person or celebrate an event or personal milestone. For information, call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-5575.

### Volunteering & Special Events

Volunteers, supporters and friends of Le Bonheur Children’s host more than 120 events each year. Among the special events you are invited to support are gala parties, silent auctions, golf tournaments, walks and runs and the annual Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees. You support our patients by your participation. Also, please consider volunteering your time with patients and families. For information, call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308.

### Contributing to the “New” Le Bonheur

Nothing is more important than ensuring the health of this generation and the next generation of children. Your contributions — large or small — are needed to help us raise $113 million to build the new Le Bonheur Children’s. Make your gift or pledge today and turn dreams into reality. Call (901) 287-4430 or visit www.lebonheur.org.

### Gifts of Securities

A gift of appreciated securities held for more than one year may provide significant benefits to you as a contributor. For wire transfer instructions and other information, please call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-5575.

### Young Philanthropists

Encourage your child or your child’s school to become involved with Le Bonheur Children’s. Learn more about our Kids Caring for Kids programs by visiting www.lebonheur.org or calling Liz Salton at (901) 287-4440.
As a founding member of Le Bonheur Club, Annie Ruth Thompson McCaughan spent at least one day each week sewing clothing for Memphis’ orphans. She, along with 12 friends—Winnie Pritchard, Louise Wilbourn, Mildred Donaldson, Gertrude Coors, Courtney Boswell, Elizabeth Stollenwerck, Anne Phillips, June McDonnell, Josephine Bower, Eleanor Scott, Elizabeth Gilliland and Marguerite Turner—would gather in their “circle” to stitch gowns to help Le Bonheur Club in its commitment to the community’s children.

McCaughan died in 1934, long before the hospital was even a glimmer in the eyes of Club members. Yet her daughter, Ruth Morrison, is sure that she, along with the rest of the founding Club members, “had big dreams of someday building a hospital.”

“My mother died and never got to appreciate all the Club did and has done since,” says Morrison who, along with her sister, Ann Kitts, made a gift to the Le Bonheur Club Family Resource Center that is located in the new facility. “She would have been overwhelmed with the opening of the new hospital.”

When Morrison made her debutante debut in 1948, her mother’s sewing circle presented her with a moonstone ring circled by 12 garnets, representing each of the women in the group, which they had made especially for her in her mother’s memory. Morrison wears the ring to this day.

Morrison regrets she never became a member of the Club that her mother held so dear. She married, moved to Earle, Arkansas, and had children which made it difficult to participate in Club activities, yet she says she’ll always be interested in the Club and Le Bonheur Children’s.

“I never realized when I was a child that Le Bonheur would grow into something so wonderful,” Morrison says. “Le Bonheur has put Memphis on the map. Every time I hear about a child taken to Le Bonheur I’m just so thankful the hospital is here.”