



A Seed of Hope

*Suffering, loss give roots
to Le Bonheur Green
outdoor space*

- ♥ A Voice for Cooper
- ♥ Bunny Lane Then and Now

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., treats more than 250,000 children each year through community programs, in regional clinics and a 255-bed hospital that features state-of-the-art technology and family-friendly resources. Our medical staff of more than 240 physicians provide care in 45 subspecialties.

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Support Le Bonheur

For more information about ways to support Le Bonheur Children's by volunteering, attending events, developing partnerships and giving financially, please visit lebonheur.org/ways-to-help or call 901-287-6308.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

I joined the Le Bonheur family in April, and I already feel at home. Thank you for the warm welcome you've offered me and my family.

I have long admired Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and I have watched from afar the hospital's rise from a great community hospital to an elite children's hospital. You should be proud of the work you've accomplished and the investments you've made. Your gifts have truly improved the lives of children and families.

When I was looking for my first job after college, I had two offers: one at a bank and another at a hospital. I had a degree in economics and statistics, at the time, hospitals were beginning to use statistics to improve the quality of patient care. Accepting the job at the hospital is one of the best decisions I've made in my life. Working in health care has felt more like a ministry than a job. I know you share my passion – that's why you've made supporting Le Bonheur a priority.

As you know, Le Bonheur is a special place. It's special because you believe that kids matter. I am committed to continuing the vision established by our founders, the Le Bonheur Club, and more recently, former President Meri Armour. Together, we will improve the health status of children, provide the highest quality care, train the next generation of caregivers and scientists and invest in transformative research.

Your support today improves the lives of children. There is no greater need ... and no greater reward than helping children grow and thrive. Thank you for generously giving to Le Bonheur. We are tremendously grateful for you.

Sincerely,



Michael Wiggins, MBA, FACHE
President
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital



A Seed of Hope

Suffering, loss give roots to Le Bonheur Green

Kate and Erik Krull started planning their daughter's funeral – the dress Lucy would wear, the music, the scripture. It seemed that Lucy was losing her battle with brain and spine cancer.

"We were watching Lucy die. For seven days, we passed her back and forth. Each time, we thought it might be the last time we held her," Erik said.

They spent 20 months in and out of multiple hospitals and in what they thought were Lucy's last days, Le Bonheur Neurosurgeon Frederick Boop, MD, encouraged the Krulls to take her outside for some fresh air.

"Get that baby outside," he said.



Lucy Krull's neurosurgeon urged her parents, Erik and Kate, to take their daughter outside during her 2011 hospital stay. With no outdoor space, Erik pushed his wife and daughter along Memphis' busiest street.

Erik pushed a wheelchair holding his wife and daughter along Memphis' busiest street. Lucy, then 8, had dropped to just 26 pounds.

"We were outside, but it was June in Memphis on the asphalt," Erik remembers.

The next day, as her sister stroked her hair, Lucy woke up. After seven days in a coma, Lucy looked up, "Ella," she said, "That's enough."



In 2011, it seemed Lucy Krull was losing her battle with brain and spine cancer. After time outside, Lucy woke from her coma.

Soon after, Lucy made a miraculous recovery. But in the years that followed, the Krulls remembered that moment outside and wanted to give other families the gift of outdoor space in a busy medical district.

The dream of the Le Bonheur Green outdoor space started to take shape. Through their Go Lucy Go Foundation, the Krulls made a gift to the hospital to start the visioning

process.

Le Bonheur Art Director Linda Hill was on board from day one. Hill, who led efforts to bring art to the new hospital in 2010, had long hoped that one day children and families could experience the therapeutic properties of nature on the hospital's campus.

"When children can experience the sights and sounds of nature, they are reminded of their normal life outside

the hospital.

Le Bonheur Green will be a place families can escape the emotional challenges of the hospital and feel renewed," Hill said.

This fall, Le Bonheur will break ground on Le Bonheur

Green, an interactive outdoor space

for children and families. Le Bonheur Green will fill the nearly 2-acre lawn facing Adams Street. The project was designed by Blair Parker Design, landscape architecture, and Krull, through his family business Rose Construction, will serve as a contractor.



Erik, Kate, Ella, Lucy and Jack Krull started a foundation named in honor of Lucy, a former brain tumor patient. Go Lucy Go serves children and families facing the diagnosis of a brain tumor. The foundation made the first gift to start planning for the Le Bonheur Green outdoor space.



Le Bonheur Green is designed to bring the therapeutic powers of nature – the sights, sounds and smells of the outdoors – to hospital families. Le Bonheur Green designs include a prayer labyrinth, which is an ancient practice used to facilitate prayer, meditation and spiritual transformation.

A place to process



Libby Wilson remembers the fog.

"I didn't want to believe that Mac was going to need a liver transplant," she said.

McLean Wilson remembers wanting to leave the four walls of their son's hospital room to process this unreal experience alone, without his son seeing dad's fears on display.

"Many times, we felt the need to be outside to pray, think, be alone, cry, process ... to just have a break," he said.

The world turned upside down pretty quickly for the Wilson family. In 2016 their son, Mac, complained of stomach pain, which in the matter of days turned into vomiting and jaundice. The family cut their beach trip short and drove straight to Le Bonheur. Mac, one of quadruplets, was nearly in critical condition when he arrived back in Memphis.

Mac needed a new liver.

As Libby and McLean took turns going outside for a breath of fresh air, they found themselves wanting more for Le Bonheur families.

"There wasn't really a place at Le Bonheur for us to find refuge outside. We found ourselves walking around the block a

"Many times, we felt the need to be outside to pray, think, be alone, cry, process ... to just have a break."

McLean Wilson

lot, and that was not the prettiest of walks," McLean said. "For us being outside, especially in God's creation, allows us to feel God's presence more," McLean said. "Being outside helps us get into a better head and heart space to be wiser and love more."

Several years after Mac's transplant, the Wilsons learned about plans for the Le Bonheur Green outdoor space for families on the hospital's south lawn.

"We felt very indebted to Le Bonheur for their amazing love and care and diligence around Mac's illness, surgery and post op. This feeling led to a sense of wanting to steward some of our resources over to Le Bonheur in a meaningful way — something both meaningful to our family but also meaningful to and needed by Le Bonheur," McLean said.

The Wilsons came to Le Bonheur with the idea of creating a prayer labyrinth, which is an ancient practice used to facilitate prayer, meditation and spiritual transformation. The idea fit perfectly into the design of Le Bonheur Green's space. It will be adjacent to the heavily landscaped serenity garden, which will offer shade and the meditative sound of water.

"Libby and I are excited to be part of Le Bonheur Green and know it will be an escape and a place for families to regroup, re-energize and find solitude," said McLean.



Libby and McLean Wilson say they felt indebted to Le Bonheur after their son, Mac, had a liver transplant. The couple (photographed above with their children Grey, Mimi, Mac, Yates and Fitz) chose to support the Le Bonheur Green outdoor space to give families a place to be in God's creation during challenging hospital stays.

“Le Bonheur Green is just the latest example of the responsibility Le Bonheur feels for its patients and their families. It is not enough to provide excellent medical care. They believe in comfort and healing beyond the illness or injury and it extends to the families. Every Memphian should be proud of our hospital and the global reputation it has earned.”

Dave North, President and CEO, Sedgwick, Inc.

Blair Parker said it was rewarding to translate the passion his team observed at Le Bonheur into beautiful and functional green space.

“When we walked in the hospital for the first time it was pretty evident this facility was built for children. You just look at the nooks and crannies,” Parker said. “Everyone we met at Le Bonheur is A1-focused on the well-being of the children and families. That’s what we needed to do outdoors – create a space that reflects that passion,” Parker said.



Le Bonheur’s campus is located along one of the busiest streets in Memphis. The Le Bonheur Green serenity garden is designed to give families a place to gather to relax, to share life and to escape the emotional challenges of hospitalization.

Growing Hope

Parents find joy supporting Le Bonheur Green after tremendous loss



Two years ago, Leah and Judson Williford’s 10-month-old daughter, Lucy, died in her sleep of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). There was no explanation. The Willifords’ world crumbled and Judson didn’t know how they’d experience joy again.

Before losing Lucy, Judson and his friends made an annual bike ride from Nashville to their alma mater, Sewanee. When it came time for the ride in 2017, Judson wasn’t up for it.

“The guys came to me and said we’ve already talked about making this a charity ride. They asked what Leah and I wanted to support. We said Le Bonheur without blinking,” Judson said.

The Willifords knew and loved Le Bonheur for the

care their son, Hays, received as an infant. So, the ride became the Lucy 115 and has since raised \$74,000 for Le Bonheur.

“Fundraising for Le Bonheur has been the most motivating aspect of my life,” Judson said. “Two years ago, I didn’t know that was possible. I was really in the dumps.”

When the Willifords heard the vision for the Le Bonheur Green outdoor space, they knew it was a perfect project for the Lucy 115.

“When Hays was in the hospital, we were fortunate to be able to go home and rest. There were so many people who don’t have that option. There is really not a place to get a fresh air,” Judson said. “Le Bonheur Green will be a place patients and families can get therapeutic help outside of the hospital.”



Artist's gift plants seeds for Le Bonheur Green

Iris Harkavy says the heart on top of Le Bonheur is her beacon. It's the place that saved her grandchild's life. It's the place that gives her hope.

When the new hospital opened in 2010, the Memphis artist created a magical space-themed piece of art in the 10th floor lobby. As she worked on the piece, patients would stop by to watch. Harkavy says she was delighted by the interactions with the children and enamored with the miracles happening each day at the hospital.

Harkavy wanted to do more. She asked the hospital if she could donate a series of 16 paintings about love that could be sponsored by donors. Harkavy says it was a magical year creating the series. "Ideas just poured," she said. Each piece is a nod to hope.

"It's a wish list if we could have a perfect city, a perfect world, Harkavy said. "We forget we are our brother's keeper, but Le Bonheur hasn't forgotten that."

The collection hangs in the hospital's Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit now. The funds raised through sponsorship planted the first seeds of the Le Bonheur Green.

"These paintings are prayers and visions that I feel might lead us to better tomorrows for our world based on harmony and love," she said. "The huge heart that rises above Le Bonheur Children's Hospital stands as an inspiration to us all. They are healers calling us all to be healers."




"TruGreen is proud to support Le Bonheur Green and its mission to provide patients and their families greater access to the outdoors. We believe the Green will serve as a place where children not only experience healing benefits, but also find renewed hope."



Wendy Radtke, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, TruGreen

The Green includes a prayer labyrinth and meditation garden for quiet reflection. A walking path in the shape of the heart is a nod to the Le Bonheur heart. A front-porch gathering space for families will feel like home. An open green in the middle leaves space for children to run or play Frisbee – and equally as important for other Le Bonheur traditions – Santa Claus and Easter Bunny's arrival by helicopter.

"Le Bonheur is home for us ... from the moment we walked in the doors in 2011," Krull said. "It's so fulfilling to do something that allows us to meet a need we noticed when we were in the hospital." 



Memphis artist Iris Harkavy created a series of paintings about the power of love and hope.



The Le Bonheur Green outdoor space was designed by Blair Parker Design, landscape architects.

Plant a seed of hope

Help transform the hospital's front lawn into a restorative garden for Le Bonheur patients and their families. Your gift of any size will cultivate healing.



Le Bonheur Green

Giving opportunities:

- Make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one
- Celebrate milestones of your life with a gift
- Honor a doctor, nurse or caregiver
- Set up a planned gift to sustain the garden for generations to come

lebonheur.org/LeBonheurGreen | 901-287-6308

THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

McLean and Libby Wilson • TruGreen • Dave North • Friends and family of Lucy Rives Williford
Iris Harkavy • Go Lucy Go Foundation • Rose Construction



A Voice for Cooper

Le Bonheur surgeons perform first successful airway, voice box reconstruction

The story of Cooper Kilburn's voice is an unlikely one. Because if it wasn't for a car wreck, his parents would have lost their son before he was born.

Cooper was born with no airway,

no larynx and, therefore, no voice. He relied on a tracheostomy in his throat to breathe. He slept on a ventilator to survive the nights. And at 2 years old, he had never made a sound.

Not a cry. Not even a whimper.

That's how this story begins. Lucky for Cooper, his medical team at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital made sure that wasn't the end.

On Feb. 27, 2019, Cooper became the world's first recorded child born with no airway or larynx to successfully undergo voice box reconstruction. The surgery used Cooper's ribs to create a voice box and a brand new airway.

Ten weeks later, Cooper made sounds for the first time — laughing with his mom in the comfort of his home.

"I thought I must be dreaming," said Cooper's mom, Brooke. "I called his doctor to listen over the phone and confirm — we were finally hearing Cooper make his first noises."

All it takes is five percent

Brooke Kilburn of Adamsville, Tenn., was 16 weeks pregnant with Cooper when she was in a car accident. Shaken but unhurt, she went to her obstetrician for an ultrasound to make sure all was well with her child.

"The obstetrician saw something wrong, but didn't know what it was," said Brooke. "A specialist in Jackson, Tenn., told us he had never seen anything like this before. He prepared us for the worst case scenario."

An ultrasound revealed fluid was building in Cooper's chest because of a rare condition — total laryngeal agenesis due to congenital high airway obstruction syndrome (CHAOS).

Cooper had no airway and no way to breathe outside the womb.

"Fluid had started to back up and compress Cooper's heart," said Brooke. "If we hadn't had that wreck it would have been too late for him."

As it was, Cooper had a five percent chance of being born alive.

Beating the odds

Brooke and Brad Kilburn quickly began searching for ways to save Cooper's life.

Their first stop was another children's hospital where a surgeon was able to remove enough fluid out of Cooper's chest in utero to relieve the pressure on his heart. But that was all he was able to do. His recommendation — take Cooper to Memphis and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.



After Otolaryngologist Jerome Thompson, MD, performed the EXIT procedure that allowed Cooper Kilburn to survive birth, he spent 324 days in Le Bonheur's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



Kids with Cooper Kilburn's condition rarely survive birth. The Le Bonheur team prepared for the high-risk delivery and immediate transport to Le Bonheur from his birthing hospital.

"Both our specialist in Jackson and surgeon in St. Louis mentioned Le Bonheur's expertise for Cooper," said Brooke. "We knew Le Bonheur was the only place that Cooper could be born."

The couple met with Le Bonheur Otolaryngologist Jerome Thompson, MD, who along with the Le Bonheur Fetal Center, put together a plan for Cooper to survive delivery. He would be delivered at a neighboring birthing hospital and then transported to Le Bonheur's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

"We knew Le Bonheur was the only place that Cooper could be born."

Brooke Kilburn, Cooper's mom

At birth, Thompson immediately performed an ex utero intrapartum treatment (EXIT) procedure, a partial caesarean section that allowed Cooper to continue to receive oxygen from his mom via the placenta.

"Cooper's lack of airway required that we leave him attached to his mom via the umbilical cord as long as possible," said Thompson. "The EXIT procedure allowed us to remove the fluid from his lungs and perform a tracheostomy prior to his full delivery so that he could receive oxygen after birth."

After delivery, Cooper stayed in the NICU 324 days. Going home was a milestone on a longer journey for the Kilburns. Even at home Cooper remained dependent on a trach at all times and a ventilator at night. If his trach clogged, he would not survive.



Brooke and Brad Kilburn pray over their son, Cooper, before his life-saving surgery to create an airway and voice box.

The Kilburns knew that remaining on a vent was too risky for Cooper.

Cooper needed an airway.

A revolutionary surgery

Cooper had done remarkably well and followed 2-year-old development milestones, said Thompson. But Cooper's progress had plateaued after two years and eight surgeries. The time for the surgery was now.

To date, there have only been a handful of documented attempts to create an airway from scratch — all of which have been unsuccessful. If Cooper's surgery was a success, he would be the first recorded child born with total laryngeal agenesis (a complete lack of airway) to have a reconstructed airway and larynx. During Cooper's previous procedures, Thompson had also seen embryological vocal cords and knew Cooper still had a chance to make sounds.

The four-hour surgery was conducted in tandem with Le Bonheur Pediatric Surgeon Ying Zhuge, MD. Zhuge removed two of Cooper's ribs to use to construct the voice box.

When Thompson made his first incisions, he uncovered more complications. Cartilage and muscles were all in the wrong places or missing entirely.

The surgeons made room for a new airway, created



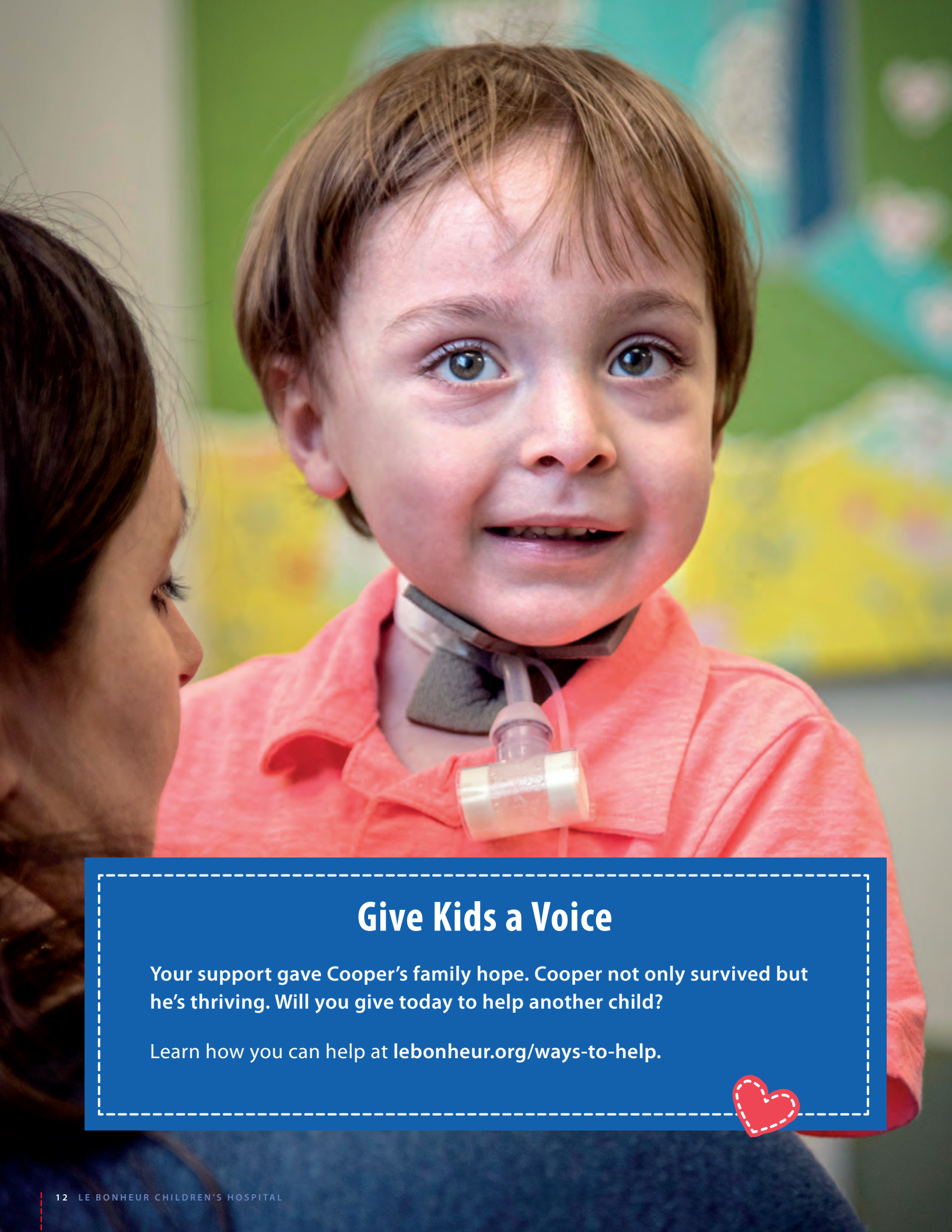
Otolaryngologist Jerome Thompson, MD, and his team began preparing for an airway construction surgery on the day Cooper Kilburn was born. Cooper's care was a collaboration with pediatric surgery, pulmonology, neonatology and critical care.



Otolaryngologist Jerome Thompson, MD, celebrates when he removes the stent to discover Cooper Kilburn's voice box construction surgery was successful.

walls for a voice box using rib bone and placed a stent to hold everything in place while mucous membranes grew around the ribs over the next six weeks.

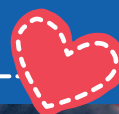
The next step was the hardest — waiting those six long weeks for the stent to be removed to see if Cooper would have an airway.



Give Kids a Voice

Your support gave Cooper's family hope. Cooper not only survived but he's thriving. Will you give today to help another child?

Learn how you can help at lebonheur.org/ways-to-help.



Cooper's future

Six weeks later, Thompson found what he had been hoping for – Cooper's new anatomical airway remained open after removing the stent.

At a recent follow-up appointment, a small piece of string determined if Cooper's airway was viable. A small movement of the string as Thompson held it to Cooper's nose showed that the surgery had been a success. Cooper was breathing through his new airway.

Cooper's journey is ongoing. He undergoes regular procedures to maintain his new airway and still has some follow-up surgeries in his future.

But the benefits of the surgery are already evident. While only the size of a pinky finger, this new airway gives Cooper a better chance at life. Brooke and Brad no longer have to worry about Cooper's trach plugging. He has a new airway.

"He saved our son's life and even gave him a voice we didn't think he would ever have."

Cooper Kilburn's mom, Brooke

And he has even started making sounds for the first time in his life. When crying or laughing, Cooper's family members are finally able to hear his voice. The hope is that, with therapy, he will continue to learn how to push air over his the newly freed vocal cords and new sounds will come.

"We can't thank Dr. Thompson and Le Bonheur enough for what they have done for Cooper," said Brooke. "He saved our son's life and even gave him a voice we didn't think he would ever have." ❤️



Six weeks after airway reconstruction, Otolaryngologist Jerome Thompson, MD, tests to see if Cooper Kilburn is able to breathe through his new airway by simply holding a string in front of his nose and watching for movement.



Watch Cooper use his new airway
at lebonheur.org/cooper.

Bunny Lane

[Then and Now]

It's the oldest and most loved Le Bonheur tradition – selecting a special toy on the way to surgery. The Le Bonheur Club, the group of women who raised the money to build the hospital in 1952, wanted to ease children's fears about surgery.

The volunteers were already sewing clothes, so they expanded their efforts to provide bunnies and other stuffed animals for children. The stop on the way to surgery was called the Bunny Room – now Bunny Lane.

As the hospital has grown in 67 years, this tradition has remained.

Today more than 14,000 children travel through Bunny Lane each year on their way to one of Le Bonheur's 17 operating rooms. Each child selects a toy that will be with them when they wake up from surgery.

Bunny Lane is a key part of the hospital's family-centered care focus



1952

- 6 surgeries per day
- 1,615 surgeries the first full year
- Surgical specialties: general, neuro and orthopedics
- Favorite Bunny Room items: stuffed animals and dolls made by Le Bonheur Club members, Fisher-Price Little People, Matchbox cars, Play-Doh
- Three major and three minor operating rooms



"The Bunny Room was a brilliant thought on the part of the Le Bonheur ladies. It did a whole lot to ease children. They got to pick out a toy and carry it along with them. When they came to in the recovery room they had their toy there. It did a lot to help kids."

— Ray N. Paul, MD, the first pediatrician to open an office at Le Bonheur in 1952. He later specialized in pediatric cardiology.

says Timothy Head, DO, medical director of pediatric anesthesiology.

“It sets a positive tone for the



operating room experience. The child can focus their energy on a toy as opposed to their upcoming surgery. Each child and their family is then visited by the Child Life team and given a preview of a mask (or IV) induction of anesthesia,” Head said.

The Le Bonheur Club receives new toys from drives organized by schools, churches and businesses. Financial contributions also allow the Club to purchase large quantities of toys at a discount. Last year, Le Bonheur Club

spent \$100,000 to purchase toys for Bunny Lane. The members of the Club volunteer twice a week to replenish the shelves.

“When the children go through Bunny Lane, there is a moment before surgery and before they leave their parents arms when they get to focus on the rows and rows of toys,” 2018-19 Le Bonheur Club President Janie Roberts Owens said. “We’ve even created a special basket of toys for siblings.”



2019

- 54 surgeries per day
- 14,088 surgeries in 2018
- Surgical specialties: cardiac, dental, ENT, general, neuro, ophthalmology, orthopedic, reconstructive and urology
- Favorite Bunny Lane items: craft kits, games, Barbie dolls and gift cards
- Four new operating rooms opened in 2019 bringing the total to 17
- Parents walk their children back to the operating rooms
- Home of the region’s only ACS Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center
- Nation’s largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program in partnership with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

“Payton looks forward to picking out a toy from Bunny Lane on surgery day. Each toy she has picked has become a treasure — and a badge of her bravery.”

— Rebecca Childress, Le Bonheur patient Payton Avery’s mom



Parents are encouraged to be with their child on the way to the operating room at Le Bonheur. Parents wear a “bunny” suit and stay with their child until the anesthesia begins to work. Pictured above, Nicole Williams and her son Everett prepare for surgery in June.





HELP KEEP BUNNY LANE STOCKED!

This year, Le Bonheur Club will give away more than 14,000 toys in Bunny Lane. They need your help.

You can donate online at lebonheurclub.org or organize a toy drive. All donations must be new, in original packaging and not gift-wrapped. Please avoid items with small pieces. We are in continual need of items for all ages, genders and cultures.

Some of our most urgent needs:

- Arts and crafts sets
- Lego sets
- Small board games
- Barbies and superhero action figures
- Costume sets
- Target, Walmart or other gift cards in \$10 values
- Grizzlies, University of Memphis & other sports teams apparel

Contact Le Bonheur Club to arrange for delivery or pick-up for large donations.

901-682-9905 lbc@lebonheurclub.org

In the '90s, Le Bonheur Club members sewed dolls representing the hospital's former mascot, Margaret, for Bunny Lane. At left, current Le Bonheur President Janie Roberts Owens and former President Debbie Edmundson (2001-2002) hold one of the dolls by the Bunny Lane mural painted by member Bebe Pinkley.

Unstoppable

ATHLETE'S MISSION TO ENCOURAGE AND HELP OTHERS

Volleyball? Yep.

Travel soccer? Absolutely.

Kicker for the high school football team? Why not?

But what Taylor Hughes, of Pontotoc, Miss., was not planning on was brain surgery.

Just like everything else she does, Taylor, now 18, faced that obstacle head on with grace and sheer determination.

It all started her freshman year of high school. Taylor slipped and fell while kicking the soccer ball during warm-ups. The back of her head hit the ground, and she was unconscious for five minutes. She could hear voices of her teammates and coach around her, but she couldn't respond.

Her mom, Alisha, rushed to the field and found Taylor disoriented. They drove to a local emergency room, where she was diagnosed with a concussion. The routine MRI also revealed a Chiari malformation, a birth defect that causes the base of the skull to be too small or misshaped to cover the brain.





They were referred to Frederick Boop, MD, co-director of Le Bonheur's Neuroscience Institute, and he believed most of her symptoms were due more to the concussion than the Chiari malformation. Treating Chiari can be a bit of a waiting game, as the compression on the brain can increase slowly.



The summer before her senior year, Taylor Hughes was prepared to be the kicker for the Pontotoc High School football team. Little did she know, she'd need brain surgery in September 2018.

headaches, dizziness, fainting spells and concussions, we are seeing lots of radiographic Chiari malformations in patients with no symptoms," Boop said. "If it is an incidental finding in an asymptomatic patient, we don't recommend surgery. We only do surgery if appropriate symptoms fit the MRI findings."

As a precaution, Taylor took a break from sports her freshman year. The following year, she joined the high school soccer and volleyball teams, as well as a travel soccer team.

During her junior year, the varsity football coach asked if she'd share her skills as their kicker. Life was busy for Taylor, but she was grateful to be doing what she loved.

When the summer before her senior year rolled around, Taylor finally let her mom in on a secret. She'd been experiencing Chiari symptoms again – headaches, shaky hands and ringing in her ears, for some time. She was afraid to mention it because she didn't want to give up on sports. It was time to go back to see Boop.

Taylor had no intentions of quitting any of her teams, and Alisha told her that as long as she stayed open and honest

about her symptoms, she could keep playing.

Although they knew that life with Chiari sometimes required a "wait-and-see" type treatment, Taylor and her family also understood that one solid hit could cause complications serious enough to paralyze her.

Powering Through the Odds

Despite these risks, Taylor refused to let her teammates down without a doctor's order. She and Alisha traveled to Le Bonheur with some apprehension about this visit with Boop.

Tests showed her condition had worsened. The pressure on her brain had caused a blockage around the spinal cord, but thankfully a syrinx, or fluid-filled cyst, had not yet developed.

Without surgery, Dr. Boop felt certain that a cyst would develop, which could potentially lead to serious complications.

In true Taylor fashion, she wanted to do the surgery as quickly as possible, but she had one request.

"Can I play in my last volleyball and football games?" she asked Boop.

That night, her volleyball team was playing four hours away

from Memphis, and her final football game of the season was the following night. Boop agreed, as long as she felt up to it, and off they went to wrap up Taylor's high school athletics career.

"After I was diagnosed, I was so upset thinking my sports career was just over. I felt like my entire world was ending."

— Taylor Hughes, Le Bonheur patient



Taylor Hughes had surgery in September 2018 at Le Bonheur to release the pressure caused by Chiari malformation.



Taylor Hughes' surgery involved removing the bottom portion of her skull, brain and C1 vertebrae to relieve pressure from the brain and spine.

Facing Brain Surgery

Two weeks later, Taylor arrived at Le Bonheur for surgery. In many cases, this operation is performed in two parts, the first to remove the bottom portion of the skull and the top part of the vertebrae to see if that alleviates enough pressure from

the brain and spine. If not, then a second more complicated procedure must be performed at another time.

Thanks to cutting-edge technology provided by Le Bonheur donors, Taylor's surgical team had access to an intraoperative MRI. Dr. Boop and his colleagues could immediately see that the first procedure did not remove enough pressure on Taylor's brain. The team then performed a riskier procedure to remove her cerebellar tonsils, a portion of the cerebellum that dips down into the spinal canal for those with Chiari.

During Taylor's six-day hospital stay, her family was overcome with appreciation for the team caring for Taylor.

"We just think Dr. Boop hung the moon," expressed Alisha.

From the Field to the Stage

During her recovery, Taylor asked her mom, what would she

do if she couldn't play sports again?

Alisha told her she'd just have to find something else.

Ever the competitor, Taylor soon decided to try her luck at pageants. She entered the Miss Tupelo pageant, and won.


As Miss Tupelo, her social impact initiative is "Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' Tackling the Toughest Medical Challenges." Because of her athletic background and what she's experienced

firsthand as a patient, Taylor is using her voice to empower young people who are experiencing similar health battles.

"Even though we're so busy these days, this kind of busy comes easy to Taylor. She has no problem talking all day about the importance of Le Bonheur and the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals," Alisha said.

Taylor still has her eye on college sports. Not only will she play soccer for Itawamba Community College this fall, but she'll also be the first female collegiate football player in the state of Mississippi when she takes the field as the kicker for their football team.

Whether she's on the field or the stage, Taylor says she plans to share her story to encourage others and support Children's Miracle Network Hospitals for many years to come.

"I'm so happy I'm a voice for Chiari," Taylor said. "I want to be out there talking about it, even if I feel like maybe I'm talking too much. I just really want to share my story in case it can help others." 



Le Bonheur patient Taylor Hughes traveled to Washington, DC, to advocate for patients suffering from Chiari malformation. She met with U.S. Sen. Robert Wicker (R-MS).



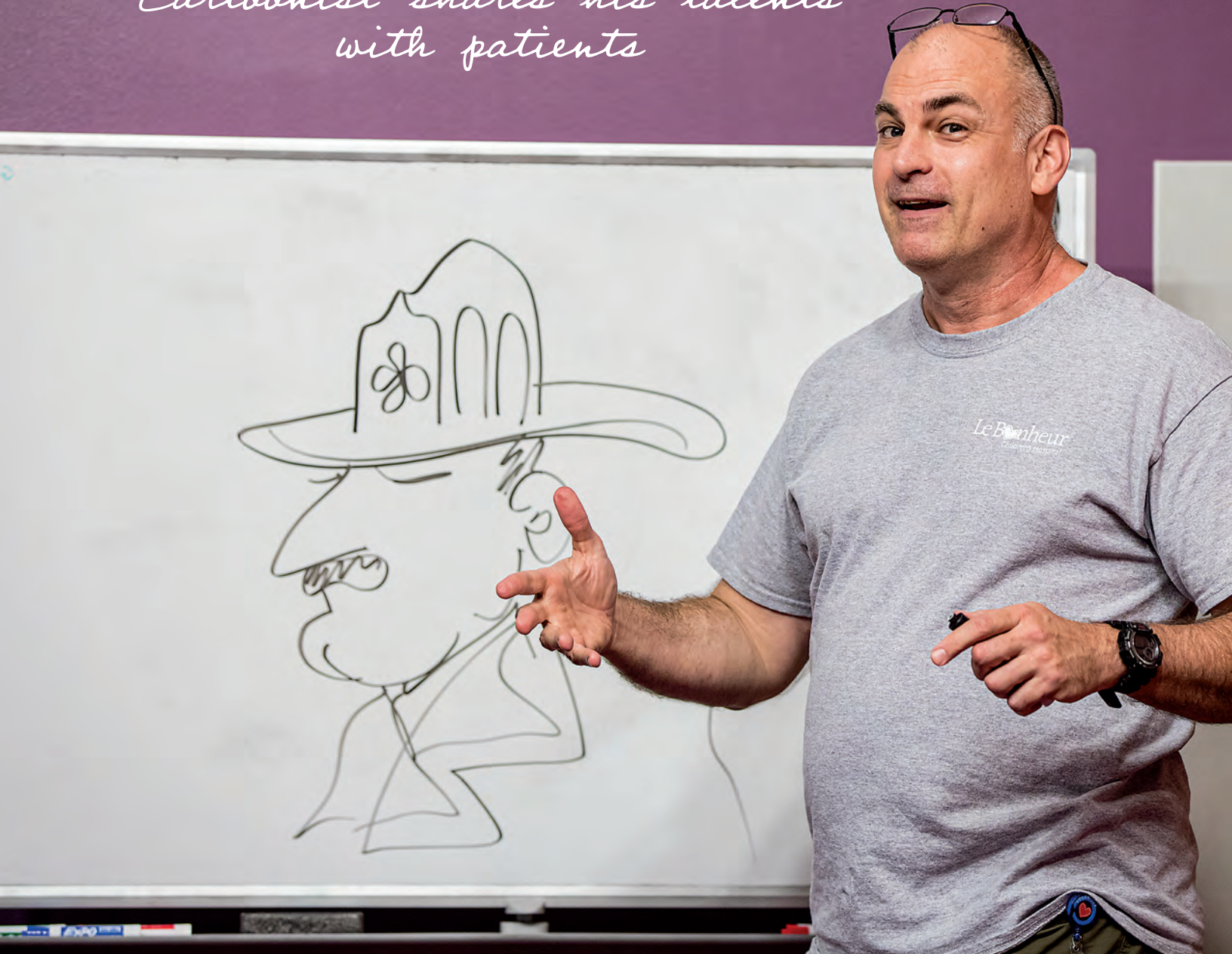
Taylor volunteers at Le Bonheur events, including the first high school Dance Marathon for Le Bonheur at DeSoto Central High School.



Taylor was crowned Miss Tupelo in January 2019, just four months after her surgery. Her platform was supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, including Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

DRAWING HOPE

*Cartoonist shares his talents
with patients*



Greg Cravens may wear a Marvel T-shirt, but he doesn't think of himself as a superhero.

A Memphis-based cartoonist and graphic designer, Cravens has been creating locally for 30

years. His work ranges from the top hat-and-shoes Jim Keras logo to *Memphis Flyer* covers and editorial cartoons. He's even painted a mural inside the Peabody ducks' enclosure. Cravens also runs two syndicated comics and has twice earned Reuben Award nominations for his newspaper illustrations.

Since 1989, he's been making an impact in a different way: volunteering at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

"Everybody draws when they're a kid," he says. "Everybody. Cartoonists and illustrators and graphic designers, those are just the people that never quit. When you've met a cartoonist, you've essentially just met a really large child."

Cravens fosters that same creative spark in Le Bonheur's patients.

In the last year, Cravens' visits have increased. Now every two weeks, he visits Le Bonheur's Room of Magic theatre and breaks out a whiteboard, a pen and a big pad of paper. Next, a camera linked to Studio 8, Le Bonheur's closed-circuit TV channel, starts rolling.

Up first is a hospital-wide game of Pictionary. As Cravens' doodling streams live, families across Le Bonheur tune in. Then the calls begin: excited patients, siblings and family members dial in, eager to nail down whatever zany creation is taking shape on the whiteboard.

Cravens also heads up Doodlemania, when families call in with requests which Cravens sketches live on Studio 8. Patients can watch on TV, or head down to the Room of Magic for a front-row seat. Cravens brings superheroes, polka-dotted caterpillars and silly scenes to life, drawing step-by-step so the kids can follow along.

Sliding little art lessons into Doodlemania, he helps children think in new ways. One of his favorite tricks starts with two dots and a line.

"What's this?" he asks. The answer seems obvious: a happy face. Then he asks another question: Why?

"You engage their heads when you go: Why? And suddenly it opens a whole world," he says. "You get them thinking, hang on, if a happy face is that simple and it works, what else can I draw?"

Two squiggly lines become a fire-breathing dragon with heartburn and a brave doctor, leaping to the rescue with antacids: a fun lesson about line of action.

Art has "healing power," says Amy Ford, Le Bonheur's



Cartoonist Greg Cravens plays Pictionary with Le Bonheur patients via the in-house television station. Call in three times with a correct answer and the patient's name goes on the winner's wheel. Then five patients are selected to receive a special in-room visit by Greg for a custom caricature.

Special Events Coordinator. "Patients learn to communicate their feelings in a new way."

"This spring, Greg came to teach our patients how to draw their emotions through the simple art of cartoon," she said. "From how to draw their anger to their fear, Greg was there."

Soon patients were shouting out emotions, Cravens keeping pace.

With a quick smile and a pun, Cravens makes light of his work.



"I don't have the hard job. I'm here for the comic relief," said Cartoonist Greg Cravens. His caricatures bring joy to Le Bonheur children of all ages.

Memphis Cartoonist Greg Cravens makes a special visit to Jocelyn Ramos' room. She was one of five kids to receive a caricature after winning Pictionary during Le Bonheur's Studio 8 competition.



"I don't have the hard job," he says. "I'm just here for comic relief."

But as he does the rounds after Pictionary, visiting winners in person to hand out prizes, his impact becomes clear.

Toting his sketch pad room to room, he jokes and visits with families. Pictionary winners receive art supplies and an on-the-spot, optional caricature. When the answer is yes, Cravens whips out his pad and starts sketching. He asks what patients would like to be drawn doing; some want to stand next to a favorite cartoon character, others, play outside. He draws standing up; he plops down next to a child, taking his pad to the floor. In each room, he puts patients and families at ease.

"We truly consider Greg a member of our team," says Ford.

Why does he do it?

"I know exactly how it helps out," he says.

He's experienced hospitals from the inside — once, years ago when his child visited Le Bonheur for a procedure, and again last year, during his own short stint at an intensive care unit.

"Suddenly you're told you have to lie there and not

"You get them thinking, hang on, if a happy face is that simple and it works, what else can I draw?"

Cartoonist and Graphic Artist Greg Cravens, a Le Bonheur volunteer

move," he said, reflecting on last year's hospital visit. "So going around to the rooms after Pictionary and giving out prizes, I say, 'Well, I hope we kept you busy for a little while,' and the parents are like, 'We look forward to this every day. It's something to do.' Sitting, worrying, waiting in a hospital room is awful."

Cravens looks forward to his visits.

"A lot of people go, 'drawing's your job,'" he says. "Yeah, but it's not what I'm doing when I'm at work either. Imagine taking the best, silliest, goofiest, most fun part of your job — that's what I do when I come here and volunteer. I'm not kidding — this is what I would do all day, every day." ❤️



Greg Cravens visits patient Cody Holden who won a caricature for playing Pictionary over the hospital's television channel.

♥ Recent Events



FedExFamilyHouse Gala raised \$1.2 million in April to provide a home-away-from-home for the families of Le Bonheur patients. The star-studded night at the Peabody Hotel included a champagne reception, an energetic live auction and concert with country-music superstar Martina McBride. Learn how you can help families who travel long distances for care at Le Bonheur at fedexfamilyhouse.org



Splash Mid-South celebrated 10 years with an Olympic-sized pool party in May. The community coalition hosted the Make a Splash Tour presented by Phillips 66. Each year, the USA Swimming Foundation visits cities across the nation to raise awareness and promote swimming safety, by spreading the life-saving message of learning to swim to children, families and communities. Three Olympic Swimmers – Cullen Jones, Elizabeth Beisel and Rowdy Gaines – spent the day in Memphis. Learn more about Splash Mid-South at www.splashmidsouth.org.



Le Bonheur patient Carter Smith gave high fives and fist bumps to the golfers on their way to the greens at the 11th annual **Gurus of Golf**. The June event raised more than \$360,000, bringing the 11-year event total to nearly \$3.4 million.



The Vinson family (Jessica, Jason and Kayden) present the winnings from the 10th annual **River City for Itty Bitties** to Neuroscience Institute Co-Director Jim Wheless, MD, and his wife Annette. The soccer tournament and 5K has raised more than \$200,000 to support the epilepsy program at Le Bonheur.



This summer, Le Bonheur opened **four new operating rooms**. In the past 10 years, surgical volumes have grown significantly. Le Bonheur is the only American College of Surgeons' Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center in the region and home to the nation's largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program in partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

♥ Recent Events



Dads and daughters put on their fanciest dresses and sharpest suits to dance the night away at the 17th annual **Gumtree Father Daughter Ball** in June. The Tupelo, Miss., event raised more than \$60,000 to help the kids at Le Bonheur.



Golfers enjoyed a full day of fun at the 9th annual **FedExFamilyHouse Golf Tournament**. University of Memphis Basketball Coach Penny Hardaway and Brandon Turk of Mid-South Aerials kicked off the day with drone-guided tee drop. The May event raised more than \$47,000 to provide free housing for families traveling long distance for care at Le Bonheur.

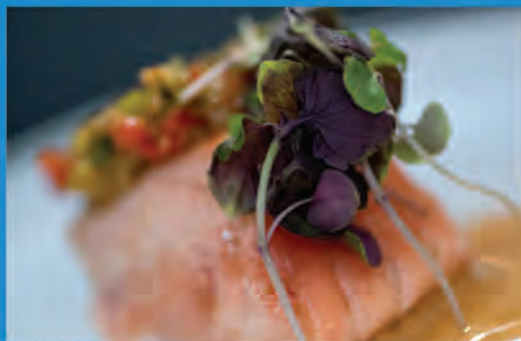
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Big Splash!

This summer two-time gold medalist Cullen Jones helped Splash Mid-South celebrate 10 years of teaching kids to be safe in and around the water.

USA Swimming selected Memphis as one of the four stops on the 2019 Make a Splash Tour presented by Phillips 66. Splash Mid-South is a community coalition founded after the drownings of two Memphis teens in 2008. In Memphis, 78.8 percent of African-American youth and 60 percent of Hispanic/Latino youth are unable to swim or were only comfortable in the shallow end.

Since Splash Mid-South started, more than 7,500 children in the Memphis area have received free or reduced cost swim lessons. Your donation of \$25 provides two weeks of swim lessons to a child. Learn more at splashtmidssouth.org.

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital • Safe Kids Mid-South • City of Memphis • Shelby County • University of Memphis
The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change • Memphis Tiger Swimming • YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South • Memphis Pool