



Le Bonheur

Fall 2007

**Upbeat Teen
Awaits
Transplant 4**

**Time Out
For Kids 15**

**Gift From
The Heart 17**

NEPHROLOGY

Advancing Patient Outcomes

A Magazine
For Friends of
Le Bonheur
Children's
Medical Center

Heart of the Matter

Dear Friends of Le Bonheur,



Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour visits with Le Bonheur patient Antwan Nailor.

A promise of tomorrow. That's what Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center has pledged to the children of our region. When construction of the new hospital is complete in 2010, remarkable things will be in store for the thousands of young patients who enter our doors annually.

Our new campus will grow nearly 50 percent over the current facility, with new and improved spaces, technology and amenities. This expansion will enable Le Bonheur to treat the whole family. Our family-centered care initiative will be at the very heart of the new Le Bonheur, bringing family members and medical staff together as partners in all aspects of their child's care.

With families as our focus, the new facility will include large, single-patient rooms, family lounges and abundant natural light. A renovation of the West Patient Tower will provide parent sleep rooms, a sleep lab, dialysis and hospital laboratory. Two-and-a-half floors of research space will accelerate our search for new and better ways to bring healing. But that's not all we promise.

When the new Le Bonheur opens, we will be able to take care of greater numbers of children and provide them with the latest medical treatment and surgical and diagnostic technology available for even the most complicated cases.

These are just some of the promises that will be kept when the new Le Bonheur opens its doors. And many more wonderful and exciting things will be in store for our young patients and their families — things we cannot provide them at our existing facility.

No city can ever be great without a great children's hospital, and the new Le Bonheur will propel us to the next level of excellence in health care. With this said, I hope you'll plan to join us when the new hospital breaks ground on Feb. 14, 2008, and witness the next stage of the dream that became reality in 1952.

The future is very bright for Le Bonheur and, in turn, for the children who come through our doors. The new hospital will be much more than bricks and mortar. It will be a place where countless young lives will be made better, because it means healing and hope to our young patients and to their families and for all the children who follow.

With warm regards,

Meri Armour, M.S.N., M.B.A.
President and CEO
Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center



A Common Thread of Exceptional Care

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It's All About the Kids

Upbeat and optimistic
while awaiting transplant.

4



Putting Patients First

Nephrology advances
patients' outcomes.

8



Champions For Children

Dialysis requires a
very special team.

11



Time Out For Kids

Lessons learned at
camp last a lifetime.

15

Footprints On Our Hearts

Award remembers
Stephen Duncanson.

16

Holiday Happenings & Scrapbook

Donors, patrons and
fundraisers abound.

19



Le Bonheur, the magazine of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, is published three times a year for donors and friends of Le Bonheur. The purpose is to demonstrate how Le Bonheur carries out its mission of service to children and families. Comments are welcome. To share your comments about *Le Bonheur* magazine, please write to Le Bonheur Foundation, P.O. Box 41817, Memphis, TN 38174-1817.

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On the cover:

Jermaine Chamberlain
at camp Okawehna.

PHOTO BY LARRY KUZNIEWSKI

It's all
About
the
Kids



Upbeat and Optimistic While Awaiting Transplant

By Kini Kedigh Plumlee

Jermaine Chamberlain seems much older than his 16 years. The Le Bonheur hemodialysis patient who is awaiting a second kidney transplant jokes that it's because he has a kidney from an adult donor.

"This 45-year-old kidney has me kicked back and relaxed," he wisecracks to his family, Linda and Tony Chamberlain and brother Keonte, 10. "That must be why I dance like an old man. I like to dance to R&B music. I can't help it. And I'm a pretty good dancer, too," he playfully quips.

You'd never know that this high-spirited and upbeat young man with a sunny disposition and cheerful demeanor must undergo hemodialysis three times a week in order to stay alive. "I sometimes miss not being able to do certain things, like swimming or having a pet, but I don't let it bother me," he says with positive determination. "I just stay strong. I've been being strong since I was little."

Top: Jermaine Chamberlain and Kenyatta "Ken" Sherron play cards while receiving dialysis treatment at kidney camp. Center: Jermaine and Ken take a hike following their treatment. Bottom: Jermaine with his camp counselor Drew Walters.





Jermaine, Tony, Keonte and Linda Chamberlain

On Dialysis Since Birth

Jermaine was born with kidney disease and began dialysis when he was only two days old. He has been under the medical care of Le Bonheur's Dr. Deborah Jones and Dr. Robert Wyatt since his birth. He'll turn 17 on Nov. 11.

"Jermaine has one of the most beautiful personalities of any child I've taken care of," says Dr. Jones. "He has no self-pity and such a positive attitude. He never feels sorry for himself or is ever angry. His is the face of the children in our kidney dialysis unit."

When people ask Jermaine what it's like to be on dialysis, he tells them, "you've got to always watch your fluids and eat the right foods and keep your phosphorus low." He says he doesn't want to be treated any differently because of his disease, although he admits he does tire easily, especially when playing. And for a gregarious teenager like Jermaine, keeping his fluids low – only two liters every 48 hours – and following a strict diet is extremely difficult, although he's learned to adjust.

Jermaine says that for him, dialysis is not scary because the nurses at Le Bonheur are so nice and helpful.

"They always joke around and make me smile," he says with a big grin on his face. "I know they love me and they tell me they love me all the time and that they'll do whatever they can to help me. I have a special place in my heart for all the nurses."

The Adoption

When he was an infant, Jermaine was removed from the home of his biological family and placed in custodial care. While the search began to find him a foster family, he was "adopted" into Le Bonheur's dialysis "family." The unit nurses cared for him. They bought him clothes. They dressed him up and took pictures. They knew this fragile child needed a loving family, and that he had no home.

Linda Chamberlain had taken care of her own

Her two young daughters and Tony met Jermaine, then 21 months, at the door when they arrived at the house.

"I love my daughters, but that bond with Jermaine is really something I can't explain," Linda says upon reflection of that day more than 16 years ago. "I get a feeling of joy just knowing how far he's come. He's truly been a blessing."

Jermaine was adopted by the Chamberlains when he was three, not long after he had received

Jermaine's experience points out the need for more kidney donors for children and adults. As of June 2007, there were more than 72,000 people in the United States on the waiting list for a kidney transplant.

parents before they died and had worked as a caregiver at a retirement facility. She and Tony had also cared for other medically fragile foster children until they were able to return to their homes. When she got the call that Jermaine needed a foster family, Linda didn't think she was up to the challenge of dialysis.

"But the minute I put him in my arms, he was so precious that I decided right then I'd take him," recalled Linda. "I brought him home and he's been here ever since."

his first kidney transplant. Keonte, another foster child whom the family also adopted, required special care for chronic asthma, bronchitis and thyroid problems. With Jermaine off dialysis, Linda spent most of her time caring for Keonte, who had a feeding tube and a tracheotomy.

The Setback

Life for Jermaine remained good until he turned 12. Then Linda knew something was seriously wrong. After examining him from head to

toe, Dr. Jones shared the heartbreaking news with her: Jermaine had developed lymphoma B-cell cancer in his stomach, also known as post-transplant lymphoma.

"That was a real setback," Linda thoughtfully recalled. "I was still caring for Keonte and my husband had had a couple of strokes. It was very stressful with three sick people at home."

But like all things up to this point, they worked it out. Tony, unable to continue at his job, cared for Keonte at home so Linda could stay at St. Jude during Jermaine's chemotherapy treatments over eight months.

Cancer can often be a side effect of certain kidney medications, and in Jermaine's case, it was the worst-case scenario. His kidney medicines had to stop during the chemotherapy treatments and this damaged his donor kidney.

"We knew that without his medications he'd have to go back on dialysis because his body would reject the kidney," Linda said. "It was a no-win situation. He had to have the chemotherapy if he was going to live."

Jermaine is now four years in remission from the cancer.

The Return to Dialysis

Two months following his chemotherapy, Jermaine went back on dialysis at Le Bonheur where he's remained since, awaiting another donor. For the past four years, Jermaine has come to Le Bonheur every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for dialysis treatments, a process that removes chemicals and fluid which are usually eliminated by the kidneys. If not removed, patients like Jermaine get sick and may die.

"Dialysis is a poor substitute for normal kidneys," said Dr. Jones. "This is why transplantation of a single kidney is so much better than dialysis."

Because of the numerous blood transfusions Jermaine has received, he is highly sensitized, which makes it very difficult to match him for a new kidney. "That's why he is on a special transplant list," explains Dr. Wyatt, "and if they ever find a kidney anywhere for him, they would send it here." In the four years he has been waiting for a donor match, Jermaine has been disappointed six times.

"In the beginning it was frustrating," said Linda. "You hope and pray that your child gets that kidney, but when the call doesn't come..." she said, her voice trailing off. "But I'm not worried anymore. When God gets ready, Jermaine will be blessed with a kidney."

In the meantime, they pray and keep Jermaine's overnight bag packed and waiting at the front door, ready to grab as soon as the next call comes.

"It's devastating for something like this to happen," says Linda. "If there wasn't a Le Bonheur, I don't know what we'd do. It's scary to think about



How Hemodialysis Works

Dialysis is a process that removes chemicals and fluid which are usually eliminated by the kidneys. When kidneys fail, chemicals and fluid accumulate to dangerously high levels. If not removed, the individual feels sick and may die. Hemodialysis is performed three times weekly in a dialysis center using a special filter called a dialyzer or artificial kidney to clear wastes and extra fluid from the blood. The blood travels through plastic tubing to the dialyzer, where it is cleaned and then returned. Only a small amount of blood is out of the body at any one time. The dialysis machine pumps blood through the dialysis system and controls the treatment time, temperature, fluid removal and pressure. Hemodialysis may take anywhere from 3 to 5 hours. Peritoneal dialysis, which may be performed daily at home, uses the patient's natural peritoneal membrane to remove fluid and toxins.

what will happen when he turns 18. I don't know how we'll adjust. We'll be totally lost, and it will seem like we'll be starting all over again. That's why we continue to pray that he gets a kidney soon."

The Waiting Game

When most pediatric patients turn 18, they are usually transitioned to an adult dialysis center where, according to Dr. Wyatt, there's a universal problem across the country regarding survival rates of younger patients.

"Adult dialysis centers don't always follow up with the patients like we do here," explains Lynn Thomas, patient care coordinator and team leader for Le Bonheur's Dialysis Unit. "We're very particular about where we transition our patients," she said, noting that Le Bonheur thoroughly investigates any issues regarding an adult dialysis clinic and that Dr. Jones will personally select each patient's new physician before they are transferred.

"The entire Le Bonheur nephrology team — including the dialysis unit staff, physicians, transplant coordinator, dietician and social worker — will evaluate every aspect of a patient's situation and make an assessment of whether they are physically, mentally and emotionally ready to transition to an adult facility before this takes place," she added.

For now, it's a waiting game for Jermaine.

"I would love to see someone consider giving an organ or financial donation to save a child's life. That's something you can carry with you forever," said Linda.

Jermaine is an active teenager who loves music, plays guitar, writes his own songs and sings in the choir at Cathedral of Praise church. He enjoys shooting basketball hoops and drawing. This fall he began his junior year as a student at Southside Academy. He says he's thought about becoming a singer or a doctor, like his physician Dr. Jones. And he dreams of spending the day with one of his favorite celebrities — Bill Cosby, Beyonce or Jesse McCartney.

Upbeat and Optimistic

Even though having to leave Le Bonheur someday to begin treatment at an adult dialysis center is a nagging thought, Jermaine remains upbeat and optimistic.

"I've been coming to Le Bonheur since I was a baby," he said. "Everyone knows me and remembers me here. Le Bonheur has always been special to me. If Le Bonheur hadn't saved me, I would be dead."

"I often wish I could go back to the days when I didn't have to be on dialysis," he continued wistfully. "But I just stay strong and follow my heart and my dreams. And no matter how old I get, I will always have a special place in my heart for Le Bonheur." ♥

When Kidneys Fail

Healthy kidneys clean your blood by removing excess fluid, minerals and wastes. They also make hormones that keep your bones strong and your blood healthy. When your kidneys fail, harmful wastes build up in your body, your blood pressure may rise and your body may retain excess fluid and not make enough red blood cells. When this happens, you need dialysis treatment to replace the work of your failed kidneys. There are two types of dialysis: *hemodialysis* and *peritoneal dialysis*.

Hemodialysis literally means “cleaning the blood,” and that is exactly what this treatment does. Blood is circulated and filtered through a machine about the size of a dishwasher. It has three main functions: to pump blood and watch flow for safety; to clean wastes from blood, and to watch blood pressure and the rate of fluid removal from the body. Once wastes and excess water are removed, the cleaned blood is returned to the bloodstream. Peritoneal dialysis uses a filtration process similar to hemodialysis, but the blood is cleaned inside the body rather than in a machine.

Hemodialysis is the most common method used to treat advanced and permanent kidney failure, but it is a complicated and inconvenient therapy that requires a coordinated effort from an entire health care team including a nephrologist, dialysis nurse, dialysis technician, dietitian and social worker.

Dialysis can take as long as 3 to 5 hours or more for each treatment and must be done on a strict schedule three times a week. Aside from the time lost from school and having to give up some activities, most patients must restrict their fluids to two liters every 48 hours and control their potassium levels. Potassium affects how steadily the heart beats, so eating foods with too much potassium can be dangerous. They must avoid foods like oranges, bananas, tomatoes, potatoes and dried fruits. Phosphorus levels must also be controlled as mineral phosphorus can weaken bones. Foods like milk, cheese, dried beans, peas, nuts, peanut butter and colas are high in phosphorus and should be avoided.

“We want to assure that our patients have the opportunity to learn, attend school and have tutors if they need them while receiving their treatments, particularly our young teen patients,” Chesney says. “At a time in their lives when even healthy adolescents are in great turmoil, our dialysis patients are also concerned with their body image and peer group. It’s just not cool to have kidney disease.”

Pediatric Dialysis

Although dialysis is basically the same treatment for adults and children, there are other major differences that only a pediatric medical center such as Le Bonheur can offer these young patients.

“First, there’s attention to growth,” says Dr. Bettina Ault, who completed her nephrology fellowship at UTHSC in 1989 and returned to the program in 1997. “Adult facilities are not keyed into the growth and development issues of children. There’s also a huge range in body sizes of young patients, and drugs and doses are different. To dialyze a baby and a 150-pound teenager is very different.”

Ault notes that bone disease and fluid balances are other issues faced by children. “Unlike adults, they are still growing. Adult facilities aren’t as familiar with pediatric blood pressure ranges and how children’s bodies respond to fluid ranges.”

Chesney agrees that treating young kidney patients is best left to pediatric specialists.

“Kids would feel very isolated and lonely in an adult dialysis center,” he said. “In a large dialysis unit there may be 300 adult patients daily and children can get lost. At Le Bonheur, all our kidney patients have a select group of physicians they see often and who understand their feelings of peer pressure when it comes to taking their medications and receiving treatments.”

“We protect our patients,” adds Ault. “When they don’t show up for a treatment, we call them. We keep track of them. We follow them closely to remind them about the importance of their medications. They wouldn’t get such close monitoring at an adult facility.”

Kidney Transplantation

Sometimes dialysis is a temporary treatment. However, when the loss of kidney function is permanent, as in end-stage kidney failure, dialysis must continue on a regular basis. The only other treatment for kidney failure is a kidney transplant.

The Le Bonheur program averages between 5 and 12 transplants a year. It takes anywhere from six months to two or more years to receive a donor kidney, depending upon blood type, according to Ault. Also, for pediatric patients, physicians look for donor kidneys from adults 35 years or younger. “When you transplant an older kidney in a young recipient it doesn’t make the kidney young again,” Ault says, stressing that it is important that transplanted

continued on page 10



From top to bottom: Dr. Russell Chesney, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC. Dr. Robert Wyatt examines Jackson Thomas. Duran Brown visits with Dr. Bettina Ault. Dr. Noel Delos Santos looks over Rigoberto Zamora.

continued from page 9

organs stay healthy as long as possible.

Children get special treatment when it comes to acquiring donor organs, but there are times when there can be a blood group incompatibility and the transplant is postponed until another donor organ becomes available.

Transitioning Pediatric Patients to Adulthood

Le Bonheur has recognized the need to provide transitional care for our young kidney patients and is putting practices in place so that children who are growing older while awaiting a transplant will be better prepared in the future.

"We teach our patients self care and prepare them to make the transition," Ault says, noting that when a patient turns 12, they learn to use a medicine box and call in their own prescription refills instead of relying on others to do this for them. "When they turn 16, we encourage our patients to come to dialysis without their parents."

Ault says that for transplant patients, the loss rate for organs is "astronomically high" once they reach young adulthood. Going off to college and living on their own means more personal responsibility on their part with regard to their personal health care.

"This is a serious national issue," Ault said. "I like to think Le Bonheur is ahead in this area."

Research and the Future

"Finding new and better ways to do things is always at the top of the list," says Chesney.

"We want to learn new and better ways to put children on dialysis and gain a better understanding of the kinds of congenital diseases that affect the kidney. We want to find out how to slow the progression of kidney disease because if we can do this, we might hold off dialysis for 20 years."

To learn improved methods and techniques for treating patients with kidney disease and transplantation, the Division of Pediatric Nephrology has participated for more than 20 years in the North American Pediatric Renal Transplant Cooperative Study (NAPRTCS). Wyatt is the center principal investigator for this registry that compiles important clinical data and outcomes for pediatric patients who have a kidney transplant, are on chronic dialysis or have chronic renal insufficiency but have not yet progressed to dialysis or transplantation. Wyatt is best known for his research and outcomes on pediatric patients with IgA nephropathy, a kidney disorder caused by deposits of the protein immunoglobulin A (IgA) inside the glomeruli (filters) within the kidney.

CKID (Chronic Kidney Disease in Children) is a study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to determine risk factors for progression of pediatric chronic kidney disease. Jones is the principle investigator and a member of the cardiovascular subcommittee for this study in which five Le Bonheur patients are entered. She has also been a principal investigator on nine industry-sponsored studies on safety and efficacy of anti-hypertension in children. She is a member of the Urinary Tract Task Force for the Late Effects Committee of the Children's Oncology Group and is also studying end organ damage in children with primary hypertension.

Ault is the site principal investigator for clinical trials of a five-year study funded by the NIH on Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), a serious renal disease. On going studies by Dr. Noel Delos Santos will lead to more effective therapies for nephrotic syndrome and acute kidney injury. Chesney, in conjunction with Dr. Xiaobin Han, is studying the role of the amino acid taurine in protecting the kidneys from damage caused by cancer drugs. ♥



Ila McDonald, Lynn Thomas, and Courtney Williams check out the Fresenius 2008 K.

ServiceMaster Clean Helps Dialysis Patients

Dialysis patients at Le Bonheur are sitting more comfortably while receiving their treatments thanks to the help of ServiceMaster Clean. The Memphis-headquartered company donated approximately \$50,000 for the purchase of four new reclining dialysis chairs and four Fresenius 2008 K dialysis machines, the most up-to-date technology available, to assure that Le Bonheur patients receive the best care possible.

"This is life support equipment because, without dialysis, these patients wouldn't be able to survive," explains Ila McDonald about the significance of this generous donation. As Clinical Director of the Dialysis Unit, McDonald says the purchase of the new machines enhances the technology available and enables the unit to provide the best practices and treatment for our dialysis patients.

"The chairs we previously had were hard and not very comfortable, and these new chairs have improved our patients' comfort level tremendously," emphasized McDonald, who noted that each dialysis treatment requires three to four hours of sitting. "The new chairs can also recline into the Trendelenburg position which is necessary if a patient's blood pressure drops during treatment." (When a patient's blood pressure gets low, the Trendelenburg position enables the head to be lowered below the heart so the brain gets more circulating blood than the lower extremities.)

McDonald says the newer machines, with the enhanced technology, have also increased the comfort level of the unit staff.

"They remove a patient's blood, filter it of excessive electrolytes (potassium, sodium, bicarbonate), and take the excess fluid out before returning it to the body," she explained. "Additionally, they automatically register blood pressure, monitor pH balance and the amount of fluid being removed from the patient which helps our nurses tremendously." ♥

Lynn Thomas is at her desk when Dalton Hatley, a young dialysis patient, stops in to report his most recent phosphorous score: 6.7. That's down from his previous score of 7.5. She smiles and tells Dalton he's doing great, but in order to receive his "prize" – a Hot Hoops Basketball game – he must get his level down below 6.

With added praise, Lynn offers Dalton a piece of Laffy Taffy and a Blockbuster certificate for a free movie. Dalton smiles and clutches the coupon and candy tightly while holding the hand of dialysis nurse Violet Meyers.

"Dialysis patients are on low-phosphorus diets," explains Lynn, the patient care coordinator and "team leader" of Le Bonheur's hemodialysis unit. "Elevated phosphorus can lead to severe bone disease and we want to get them focused on doing what is right as early as possible. It's a way to get them to take their medication and to be careful about choosing low-phosphorus foods."

Le Bonheur's dialysis unit, under the direction of Dr. Deborah Jones and Clinical Director of Nursing Ila McDonald, includes dialysis nursing staff Delores Evants, Shirley May, Violet Meyers, Sherry Wallace, Courtney Williams and Thomas. It's this small and devoted group who care for and perform dialysis for the children at Le Bonheur and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"There is high regard for professionalism within this team," says Thomas. "They all have exceptional technical and teaching skills with outstanding bedside manners. Everyone works side-by-side and does every aspect of the job. Among the seven of us, we have more than 40 years of dialysis experience."

When Thomas came to Le Bonheur in August 2004 from an adult dialysis center, she began to build the team. "After the group came together," she states, noting that almost all were working at adult dialysis centers, "the unit became vibrant and alive with laughter and smiles. Everyone uses the best practices, plus we all complement each other. This makes for great attitudes, our patients included."

The unit gives 40 to 50 dialysis treatments each week. It is the only pediatric dialysis unit in the region. The next closest pediatric facility is at least 200 miles away.



Dialysis Unit Team (from left) includes Shirley May, Lynn Thomas, Delores Evants, Courtney Williams, Sherry Wallace and Ila McDonald.

McDonald is most proud of the dialysis team's "Power of One" approach to patient care.

"What I appreciate most is that they all wear many different hats," she says, noting that the team does much more than give care and medicine to our young patients. "Not only do they use highly technical equipment to provide life-sustaining treatment to our patients, they also know the importance of playing a game or singing a song with them. They develop a caring relationship with patients and strive to have a positive impact on their overall well-being."

As an example of this, McDonald says the team hosts parties and celebrations, gives Valentine cards and is always joking with the patients during treatment hours. All the kids know Violet for her special song-and-dance performance when they eat cake on their birthdays. At Christmas, the team shops as a group to buy each patient presents with funds donated by ServiceMaster Clean. During basketball season, they cheer together at Grizzly games with the patients and their families.

"If funds were available, we'd do more outings for the kids who are doing well in school and taking their medications," Thomas remarked, with a sound of hope in her voice. This special group of caregivers hopes to sponsor future outings to the Memphis Zoo, Fire Museum, National Civil Rights Museum and Sun Studio "so the kids can record a CD."

In addition to witnessing the good out-

comes, the best part of the job for Le Bonheur's dialysis team is simple: seeing the results that come from giving care to sick children.

"For us, it's a child's smile, a hug or when one of the kids brings in a good report card that makes us enjoy being here," Thomas said. "There are a lot more rewards than disappointments." ♥

How You Can Give!

Gifts to Le Bonheur enable us to give the highest quality of medical care available to every child who enters our doors. Gifts also make it possible for our physicians and researchers to seek answers for those illnesses and disorders that end young lives far too soon.

By making a contribution of your time, talent or treasure, you will safeguard a healthy future for generations to come.

If you wish to make a contribution to Le Bonheur's Dialysis Unit, support nephrology research, send a patient to Kidney Camp, help tutor patients or support *any* of the hospital's units or services, just use the envelope enclosed in this magazine. To volunteer at the hospital, call (901) 287-6284. To volunteer for a special event, call (901) 287-6308. For more information on how you can become involved, go to www.lebonheur.org "Ways to Help."

Dr. Deborah Jones

Knowing Patients Is Important to This Nephrologist

In a cubbyhole office tucked off to the side of a lab on the third floor of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, Dr. Deborah P. Jones discusses dialysis flow rates with Colleen Hastings.

Jones is professor of pediatrics for University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). Hastings, in her third year of fellowship training at Le Bonheur, is focusing on the area of medical care that will help fill the gap between pediatric and adult medical settings as children with kidney disease grow older.

"Many of our dialysis patients are graduating from high school and need to be moved into an adult medical setting, but are not quite ready for this and are having trouble with the transition," Jones explained. "What you want to see is a transplant for every patient, but that's not always possible. In this case, dialysis is provided. Children respond better to dialysis treatment when they are in a child-friendly environment. The procedure is the same as for an adult, but everything is modified to a child's body size and care is aimed at each child's developmental stage."

As Medical Director of the Hemodialysis Unit at Le Bonheur, and as a mentor to Hastings, Jones has high expectations that Hastings' research focus will help many future young dialysis patients, possibly even Jermaine Chamberlain, 16, a kidney patient Jones has treated since he was only a few days old. Jermaine is undergoing hemodialysis at Le Bonheur while awaiting his second kidney transplant. (See cover story.)

Shy and studious as a young girl, Jones always wanted to be a teacher. She liked science and math and thought she would pursue a Doctorate of Pharmacy until she realized the course work was the same for pre-med. She says pediatrics fit her personality and the mentors she had while studying at UTHSC – Dr. Shane Roy, III, and Dr. F. Bruden Stapleton – helped form her interest in nephrology. Roy became the first pediatric nephrologist at an academic medical center in the state of Tennessee and began Le Bonheur's pediatric dialysis program in 1974 and the renal transplant program in 1984. Stapleton began the pediatric nephrology training program at UTHSC in 1985. Because of their pioneering



Dr. Deborah Jones checks in with Dalton Hatley.

work, Le Bonheur became the first pediatric dialysis unit in the southeastern United States and one of only five in the country in 1974.

"The physiology of the kidney was very interesting to me," Jones said. "Working with healthy outpatients and the challenge of in-patient practice and getting to know families and transitioning them from one stage to the next, is a closeness you don't get in every field."

A Memphis native, Jones' undergraduate degree was completed at the University of Memphis. She received her medical degree in pediatrics from UTHSC in 1983, followed by a residency at Le Bonheur and postgraduate studies at UTHSC in pediatric nephrology. She was a fellow in the UTHSC Pediatric Nephrology Training Program which solidified her career path. Her clinical interests include dialysis, tubular disorders, acute renal failure, bone and mineral disorders and oncologic nephrology. Jones is currently conducting studies related to ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in children at risk for hypertension funded by the NHLBI (National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute).

In 2006, Jones was awarded a Master of Science in epidemiology by the University of

Tennessee College of Graduate Health Sciences. In addition to her teaching duties and role as Le Bonheur's Medical Director of the Dialysis program, she serves as mentor for clinical research related to pediatric dialysis, in addition to general pediatric nephrology.

Peeking over a mass of papers and pediatric nephrology journals that clutter her desktop are photos of her three adult children. Despite the awards and numerous accolades for her work, she says they are her proudest achievement.

Son Chris, 24, is in the graduate program at Ohio State University, where he'll receive a Ph.D. in biochemistry. Allison, 22, is a law student at Boston University, and Libby, 20, is at Southern Methodist University.

Time off doesn't come often for Jones, but when it does, she and husband, Ron Blankenship, head to the mountains, camping in Utah's canyon lands and the Colorado Rockies.

Debbie and Ron, who is a drummer in the Jason Foree Band in Memphis, will celebrate their first wedding anniversary this fall, but not before they pitch a tent to watch the sun set over those western mesas, mountains and monoliths. ♥

Dr. Robert Wyatt

Third Generation Physician Leads Nephrology Fellowship Program

Be Nice or Leave.”

This colorful, hand-painted wooden sign, crafted by noted New Orleans folk artist Dr. Bob, hangs in the office of Room 306 on the third floor of Le Bonheur. Dr. Robert Wyatt has gifted many friends and associates with these bottle-cap decorated creations, to share both his love of folk art and to express his high regard for their talent and friendship.

This sign speaks volumes about the camaraderie, affection and respect Wyatt has for his staff, not to mention his quirky sense of humor, evidenced by his desktop computer wallpaper: a photo of the UT Vols scoreboard from the 2005 Tennessee-Vanderbilt game when Vandy won 28-24. He says he's the *only* Vanderbilt graduate among the sea of physicians who “bleed orange” at University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). In 1969, he was the team mascot, Mr. Commodore, followed the next season by U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen.

Wyatt is Chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology at UTHSC (since 1999), Director of the Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Training Program and Assistant Director of the General Clinical Research Center at UTHSC. He also serves as Medical Director of Le Bonheur's Kidney Transplant Program. He arrived at UTHSC in 1984, the first year Le Bonheur began performing kidney transplant surgeries at the hospital. Previously, our young patients were sent to UT Bowld hospital for this procedure.

Since his arrival in Memphis 23 years ago, Wyatt has followed every kidney transplant patient at Le Bonheur. He says Le Bonheur averages approximately eight kidney transplants a year (from 5 to 12 annually) and estimates that about 200 kidney transplants have been performed at Le Bonheur since 1984. For transplants performed since 2004, 100 percent of the recipients had a functioning kidney after one-year and 93 percent after two years. “My goal is to not lose any kidney to rejection,” Wyatt states emphatically. Currently, the program is following 60 kidney transplant patients.

Wyatt received his medical degree at the Medical College of Georgia, followed with pediatric residency and pediatric nephrology

fellowship at the University of Kentucky and Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

“We are on the leading edge of nephrology research and have one of the most successful programs here,” says Wyatt. “The fellows we have trained at Le Bonheur have set records with their number of publications and presentations, and many have gone on to very prestigious positions over the years.” As an example, he cites the national accolades heaped upon former UTHSC nephrology fellow Dr. Deborah Jones, who is now Director of Le Bonheur's Hemodialysis Unit and is a noted pediatric nephrology expert on ambulatory blood pressure.

Wyatt is very proud of this fact. He was Jones' mentor during her fellowship. In fact, he has trained 10 other pediatric nephrology fellows in the UT Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Program.

Mentoring medical students, residents and fellows should come easy for Wyatt, who was raised under the watchful eyes of his grandfather, J.B. Collip, a medical research pioneer in endocrinology and one of the discoverers of insulin; his father, C.J. Wyatt, Jr., the second internal medicine practitioner in Rome, Georgia; his mother, Barbara Collip, one of the early practitioners in geriatric medicine, and his younger sister, Joy Jones, who is the program director of Heyman Floyd Hospice Care, also in Rome. His wife, Deede, has a Master of Science in maternal-child nursing and is a nursing instructor at Northwest Mississippi Community College. Deede often instructs her students at Le Bonheur on 5 West.



In 1998, Wyatt was one of eight students in the initial class of the Master's of Science in epidemiology program at UT College of Graduate Health Sciences.

You'd never guess this nationally noted nephrologist enjoys the alternative music of Neko Case, and has a penchant for running in the fast lane. In fact, he finished four marathons, three of them with his daughter Jessica, a civil engineer with a Master of Science in Transportation Design from the University of Washington and is an airport facilities consultant in California. His younger daughter, Laura, is emulating him by pursuing a Master of Public Health degree (epidemiology) at Columbia University in New York. ♥

Nephrology Fellow: Dr. John Sanders

Sanders is in his first year of training in pediatric nephrology at UTHSC. A 2000 graduate of the Broday School of Medicine at East Carolina University, he completed his general pediatric residency at Tripler Army Medical Center at Honolulu in 2003. Sanders served as a staff general pediatrician at Reynolds Army Community Hospital at Fort Sill from 2003 to 2007. In 2005, he was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III as the squadron surgeon of 2nd and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.





Lynn Milton
and Samatha
Rayburn



CAMP Okawehna

Where kids with
kidney problems
go to play.



Jackson Thomas and
Shelton Baker



Ken Sherron and
"Safari Greg"

What's the best part of kidney camp for Le Bonheur's patients?

"All of it!" said an ecstatic Jermaine Chamberlain, as he endured his three-hour hemodialysis treatment while other campers were playing sports, fishing and making crafts. "Everyone is so excited about the camp talent show," he shared. "They all want to hear my new song!"

Jermaine was one of 11 patients from Le Bonheur who attended Camp Okawehna in Lyles, Tenn., this summer. It was his third year to attend the camp which offers dialysis treatments to children with kidney disease.

Nestled in the rolling hills about 40 miles west of Nashville, the camp is a week-long summer experience open to kids between the ages of 6 to 18 on dialysis and 6 to 16 with kidney transplants. Sponsored by Dialysis Clinics, Inc., a not-for-profit chain of dialysis centers based in Nashville, the camp has a temporary, state-certified dialysis unit set up in a screened pavilion on the camp property.

The camp dialysis unit is staffed by pediatric dialysis nurses and nephrologists and offers state-of-the-art monitoring. "Camp O," the only kidney camp located in the state and one of the largest kidney camps in the country, offers Le Bonheur kidney patients the experience of a typical summer camp. During the week, everything is provided including accommodations, food and non-stop fun-filled activities. Hemodialysis is provided three times during the camp and accommodates children with special needs. Le Bonheur's patients receive support to attend camp from the National Kidney Foundation of West Tennessee and contributions from ServiceMaster Clean.

Held annually the first week in June, the camp is staffed by volunteers including physicians, nurses, dialysis technicians, social workers and child life specialists.

"The wonderful thing about Camp O is the opportunity it provides for children with a chronic illness to have a normal summer camp experience," explained Dr. Bettina Ault, a pediatric nephrologist at Le Bonheur. "Often, children with end-stage kidney disease are sheltered and sometimes cannot participate in normal activities. Sometimes they have behavior problems. Camp O is a great socializing experience because everybody has a story and everybody has scars. No one is different from anybody else. Our hope is that the campers will carry this lesson with them when they leave, and it will improve their coping skills in their regular lives."

In spite of their chronic illnesses, campers enjoy arts and crafts, team games, wall-climbing, fishing and canoeing with special activities nightly.

"One of the most heart-warming things I see at Camp O is the compassion and acceptance the campers show for each other," Ault noted. "The kids worry about each other and are supportive of the ones with physical disabilities."

Regardless of the need for therapy and medication on a daily basis, these campers are normal, happy and adventurous, just like Jermaine, who couldn't wait to perform his newly written song at the talent show. He won first prize last year.

"Many of these children talk about camp all year long and really look forward to going again," explains Dr. Deborah Jones, medical director of the dialysis program at Le Bonheur. "They come home from camp and believe they can do anything. All the activities they are able to participate in help them realize they really can do what other kids can." ♥ — *Kini Kedigh Plumlee*

Volunteers Heed Call to Tutor



Volunteering as a tutor for Le Bonheur's Dialysis Unit was a true calling for Pam Seymour. Looking into other worthy opportunities where she could donate her time, Pam says that becoming a volunteer for Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center "was a spiritual desire."

"I had no idea what to do for the hospital, and knew nothing about dialysis," she says, reflecting on that winter day in February when she first contacted Le Bonheur to inquire about lending a hand with the patients. The Collierville wife and mother of two healthy daughters had never even been inside Le Bonheur until she met with Brenda Garner, manager for the hospital's volunteer services, who matched her as a volunteer for the unit.

"It is very humbling to be able to volunteer for these patients," says Pam. "Volunteering at Le Bonheur is not about me. When I put on this blue volunteer coat, it's whatever God wants to do through me."

Pam is one of several volunteers, including Seretha Jones and Rhodes College students Carl Schow and Alex Woods, who tutor dialysis patients. During the school year, they are there three afternoons each week to assist patients with their studies and to help them keep their grades up in history, geography, reading and math. They also entertain patients while they receive treatment. Knowing how to play the patients' favorite games — Backgammon, Scrabble, Uno and Trouble — is a must.

"It's a blessing to see the kids and the spark they

get from wanting to improve their reading skills or learning a new game," Pam says. "Games like Scrabble help them expand their vocabulary. It pushes them to strive harder."

Dialysis patients miss a great deal of regular classroom instruction in order to receive treatment, and the tutors are a terrific help to patients with their education.

"We don't always have the time to help them with reading and their school work," says Lynn Thomas, patient care coordinator and dialysis team leader. "When we can, we help, but clinical duties must come first. It's a blessing to be able to depend upon our volunteers to fill this very important need."

Pam noted that sometimes just being a friend is as important as tutoring with homework. "Some days the kids don't feel like doing much, and just holding their hand, watching a movie with them and showing that you care means a lot. As much as anything, it's nice to just become their friend."

While setting up the Scrabble board to begin a spelling lesson, Pam wishes aloud, "How great it would be for teachers in the summer to assist these kids to bring them up to where they need to be in their studies."

"Our volunteers provide a valuable community service," says Garner. "Having them serve in the dialysis unit is an expression of love, care and concern for children throughout our community."

For information regarding volunteer opportunities at Le Bonheur, call (901) 287- 6190. ♥

The Le Bonheur Challenge

Donors to Le Bonheur's capital campaign now have an opportunity to increase their gift thanks to special matching funds.

As a result of a new matching gift program being made available by the Le Bonheur Foundation, every \$2 a donor gives to the campaign will be matched with an additional \$1. The matching program will apply to gift amounts at a minimum of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$1 million. This exclusive opportunity to enhance a personal gift to Le Bonheur began Sept. 1, and will continue through Dec. 31, 2007.

There are only two qualifiers for interested donors: no gifts and pledges made prior to Sept. 1, 2007, are eligible for the match, and no payments received after Sept. 1, 2007, on pledges initially committed prior to that date will be eligible for the match.

This funding is limited to new campaign gifts only. The match will be added to the donor's gift/pledge for naming opportunities and donor society recognition. For example, if a donor makes a \$50,000 contribution, they will be eligible for naming opportunities and donor society acknowledgement at the \$75,000 level.

"We're investing in ourselves for the greater purpose," said David Stevens, President, Le Bonheur Foundation Board of Directors. "We want to challenge and encourage others to give to the campaign."

For questions or additional information, call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308. ♥



Pam Seymour and Seretha Jones tutor Brandon Pulliam.



Stephen Duncanson was a dialysis patient at Le Bonheur who was known for his Bugs Bunny slippers, a compelling smile, cheerful attitude and heartwarming spirit. At age 7, he was diagnosed with Polly-Cystic Kidney Disease and treated at Le Bonheur for the next two years. In spite of his illness, Stephen remained involved in many activities, maintained excellent grades in school and developed a candy-making business.

When Stephen's kidneys failed in June 2000, physicians discovered he had Wilms Tumor Kidney Cancer, and he was referred to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for treatment.

Stephen was only 12 when he lost his battle to cancer in 2003, yet his spirit and inspiration live on through an annual gathering held at the hospital each May. The Stephen Duncanson Award is presented to a current dialysis or transplant patient who exhibits the same qualities of character for which Stephen is remembered: a positive outlook, determination to fulfill educational obligations and an active participation in his or her medical care. The award is made possible through the generosity of Marge Duncanson, Stephen's aunt.

This year's award nominees were transplant patients Brandon Archer and Ariel Mays, and award-winner Amanda Jones, a dialysis patient.

"We're honored to remember Stephen and recognize a patient who lives in the same spirit," said Pete Duncanson, Stephen's father. "In spite of the challenges he faced, Stephen brought immeasurable joy to his family, caregivers and friends in the unit. Each nominee exhibits the special qualities that continue to remind us today of Stephen." ♥

Looking to the Future

We have mentioned them many times. "Le Bonheur's heroes." Yes, you can often say that about doctors and nurses, yet, the greatest heroes at our place are the children.

The courage they show under enormous adversity, great pain and medical procedures that aren't fun is heroic. While we adults might be caving in, complaining about everything and seeing only the dark side, these courageous youngsters who endure chronic diseases, ongoing treatment and schedules that take them away from their favorite activities, face their treatment with brave smiles and hope in their hearts.

Let me tell you about three of these special Le Bonheur heroes. Each of them has kidney disease, which can have some very unpleasant side effects. The three are Ariel Mays, Brandon Archer and Amanda Jones. They were recently nominated for the Stephen Duncanson Award which is given each year to a kidney patient who has, in spite of his or her illness, served as a wonderful example to other children as to how your life can be lived in spite of the medical challenges you face.

Ariel, a kidney transplant patient, lives out her example on the basketball court and shows you don't have to let kidney disease take you out of the game. Ariel is known to the other kidney campers at Camp O as "the free throw champ." She's not a quitter.

There's Brandon, a renal transplant recipient. "Brandon reminds us why we do what we do – giving kids the chance to lead normal lives and enjoy themselves along the way," said pediatric transplant coordinators Dena Hays and Sandy Powell in their award nomination for Brandon. Jovial, entertaining and a teaser, Brandon's no quitter either.

And then there's Amanda, the 2007 winner of the Duncanson Award. She's a hemodialysis patient currently awaiting a transplant. Amanda is in her senior year at Hamilton High School, and who would blame her if she wanted to sit on the sidelines because of her disease? But instead of letting it get her down, Amanda created a business this summer selling snow cones and candy in her neighborhood to earn extra money. She did quite well, and always



2007 Steven Duncanson Award nominees (front row, from left) Ariel Mays, Amanda Jones and Brandon Archer. (Back row, from left) Jeff Coulter, Vice President of Disaster Restoration for ServiceMaster Clean; Doug Pound, Senior Vice President of Operations for ServiceMaster Clean, Marge Duncanson and Pete Duncanson.

with a smile. Amanda is working hard in school to graduate and is making plans for her future.

Three special young people. All have plenty of excuses to be mad at life. Three young patients with kidney disease who want the best for the other kids that face this sometimes devastating illness, so they are doing something to make life better for themselves and for others.

We happen to think they deserve more, too. We believe they, and countless other children of our region, deserve the very best care to be found at one of the finest medical facilities in the land. And they'll have both when the new Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center opens in late 2010.

If you haven't already, please step forward with a special gift to help us make it happen for them; all of them.

Send a gift today. Call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308 if you would like to discuss giving a special gift to build the new hospital.

We can show our appreciation by giving all of the young heroes at Le Bonheur phenomenal care today, answers tomorrow through research and the new, future Le Bonheur. Because, every hero needs a home.

David Stevens
President, Le Bonheur Foundation
Board of Directors



Putting His Gift Where His Heart Is

By Kini Kedigh Plumlee

Dr. Phillip George has always put his treasure where his heart is. And for more than 40 years, his heart has belonged to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center.

Now in his 70s, George has long been retired from his medical practice and education career at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), but he'll never retire as champion for the young patients at Le Bonheur. Once he arrived in Memphis following his discharge from the U. S. Navy in 1959, this noted pulmonologist spent his career at UTHSC, Le Bonheur and Accredo Health. He was involved in both medical education and patient care and founded the Department of Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine at Le Bonheur in 1978.

"Le Bonheur is not just a hospital," says George emphatically. "It's like the YMCA. It's a part of the community. It's one thing to have all the wonderful talent they have, but to use it not only professionally but in a humanistic way enriches the life of anyone who works at Le Bonheur."

In the early 1960s, George witnessed a series of modernizations, remodelings and expansions at Le Bonheur, coupled with a major educational affiliation between the hospital and the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee, which positioned Le Bonheur to assume a Medical Center status. Subsequently, the founding of the Children's Foundation Research Center and its placement within Le Bonheur allowed the hospital to have an even greater impact on children's care.

"The way Le Bonheur was founded, staffed and became affiliated with UTHSC made it a true medical center," George explains. "The high standards of patient care, combined with health science, education and research, made for an unbelievable career. When I think of all this coming together, I wish I could live another lifetime to see the future. We're on the cutting edge now, and the 'new' Le Bonheur will permit the increasing use of specialized medical teams combined with

technological advances necessary to achieve our goal of making Le Bonheur one of the top children's medical centers in the country."

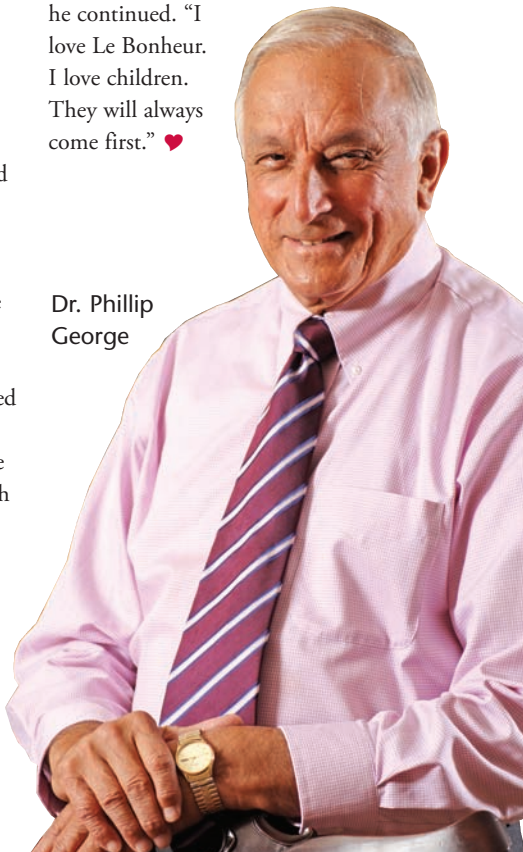
To help Le Bonheur achieve this status, George made a generous gift to the Le Bonheur capital campaign utilizing the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

"I feel honored and privileged to help make this vision happen through a charitable contribution," he says. "The rewards of a planned gift increase over and above a regular contribution."

George selected the resident education room in the new hospital's library as his naming opportunity. "I want my picture to hang where I spent the bulk of my life — in the library — teaching the students who went through UT over a 25-year period," he shares. "This way, I will be at Le Bonheur forever."

"The desire to meet all the medical needs and the human needs of the children and their families is a noble and lofty goal which will enhance the contributions Le Bonheur makes not only to this community and the region, but also to the entire nation for the present and all future generations of children," he continued. "I love Le Bonheur. I love children. They will always come first." ♥

Dr. Phillip George



New Law Lets You Put Your IRA to Work

There is good news for individuals aged 70½ or older with individual retirement accounts. Thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, a new, simple, tax-friendly option is now available.

Under the law, you can now make an outright gift using retirement account or IRA funds without tax complications. Previously you would have had to report money taken from your IRA as taxable income. You could then take a charitable deduction for the gift, but only up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. Some donors actually paid more in income taxes than they would have if they had not made a gift at all.

Now you can easily make a gift while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity. While you will not pay income tax on the amount, you also cannot claim a charitable deduction.

You may contribute funds this way if:

- You are 70½ or older
- The gift is \$100,000 or less
- You make the gift on or before Dec. 31, 2007
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- You transfer the gift outright to one or more public charities (This excludes gifts made to charitable trusts, donor advised funds and supporting organizations.)

Moving Forward

Be sure to contact your tax professional or your IRA custodian if you are considering a gift under the new law. A member of the Le Bonheur Foundation will be happy to provide more details about this opportunity.

Gift Ideas for Practical Philanthropy

IRA — If you are 70½ or older, in 2007 you have an opportunity to make a direct transfer—free of taxes—from your IRA to an eligible charitable organization.

Appreciated securities — At any age, a gift of stock may give you a charitable income tax deduction and capital gains tax savings.

Memorials — Remember a loved one or a special individual with a gift in his or her name. ♥

Scrapbook



▲ **August '07** State Farm agents from the Memphis metro area visited Le Bonheur Aug. 27 to deliver State Farm stuffed animal bears as part of their drive to donate toys to Le Bonheur's Bunny Room. A project of the Le Bonheur Club since 1952, the Bunny Room is a child's last stop before surgery and is a magical place where they are allowed to choose any plaything they wish.

► **June '07** The annual Father-Daughter Gumtree Ball in Tupelo, Miss., raised \$18,000 for Le Bonheur. Held at the Tupelo Furniture Market, the event drew 580 fathers and daughters who twirled around the dance floor to live entertainment. Mickey Mouse and Bernard, Le Bonheur's puppet, were special guests. Pictured is Bobby Richardson with daughter Addison.



▼ **July '07** Hunter Brown, 10, of Rossville, Ga., and DeMario Patton, 10, of Cordova, Tenn., have some fun in the pool at Cardiac Kids Camp for children ages 8 to 16 with cardiac-related diagnoses. Campers have a chance to learn about their heart condition and meet other children just like them, thanks to generous donations from Fred Astaire Dancesmiths' and the community.



▲ **August '07** The 11th Annual Log-a-Load for Kids Golf Tournament in Adamsville, Tenn., raised \$22,000 for Le Bonheur.

▲ **July '07** New friends take a break at Le Bonheur's Camp Wezbegon held in July for children ages 9 to 13 with asthma. The week-long camp in LaGrange, Tenn., is made possible in part through the generosity of Seabrook, Sepacor and Merck Corporations.



► **April '07** Board Member and Tournament Chair Mike Pera and Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour received some sporting advice from Joe Theismann during the 2008 Le Bonheur Golf Classic at Spring Creek Ranch on April 30. The event raised \$114,000.00.



▲ **August '07** *Le Bonheur* magazine was selected the 2007 Clarion Award Winner by the Association for Women in Communications as Best Overall Internal Magazine. This national competition drew 650 entries from across the U.S. and less than 100 Clarions were awarded in more than 20 categories including newspapers, special publications, feature and news writing, radio, television and online media. Among the winning magazines recognized in the external publication categories were *Newsweek*, *Redbook*, *Harvard Medical School Alumni Bulletin*, *SELF*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, *Chicago Reporter* and *American Journal of Nursing*. *Le Bonheur* is the only internal magazine to be recognized in this year's competition and was chosen as the top of its field. Magazine Editor Kini Kedigh Plumlee and Art Director Amy Mathews were honored at the Matrix & Clarion Awards Dinner at the 2007 AWC National Conference in Orlando Oct. 4 - 6. Pictured holding the award-winning magazine is one-year-old Michael Allen McKnight, Jr., and his mother, Revonda. Michael spent the first five weeks of his life at Le Bonheur, and was the cover child on the fall 2006 issue of *Le Bonheur* magazine which captured the award.



▼ **June '07** Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour accepts a check from Sam Commella, general manager of Nucor-Arkansas, raised during the company's annual golf tournament to benefit Le Bonheur. This year's contribution is the second donation toward Nucor's pledge of \$500,000 toward Le Bonheur's capital campaign.



▲ **June '07** More than 200 guests sampled the recipes of 15 area restaurants during the 10th Annual Taste for Le Bonheur at Gibson County High School in Trenton, Tenn., in August. The event raised more than \$5,000 for Le Bonheur.



▲ **June '07** Abby Shook, 8, collected three canisters of coins for Le Bonheur's Change Bandits promotion and presented her gift during the 2007 FM100 Radiothon on Aug. 2 - 3. Abby went door-to-door in her neighborhood and asked members of her family and church to help contribute. She is pictured with her brother, Garrett, 4, and Miss Tennessee 2007 Grace Gore. The 2007 FM100 Radiothon raised \$95,000.



▲ **June '07** Chad Lovelace celebrated his 10th birthday by inviting his friends to make a donation to Le Bonheur in lieu of receiving presents. Party goers raised \$310. Chad, the son of Keith and Debbie Lovelace of Collierville, was diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth and his doctors discovered a heart defect. Chad has had three open heart surgeries, including one to insert a pacemaker. Your children can have a birthday party to benefit Le Bonheur and learn the meaning of philanthropy. Just plan your party and we'll provide donation envelopes to mail with your invitations. When guests arrive, have them drop the envelopes with their donation into a collection canister (also provided by us before hand) decorated by your child. After the party, your child can present the donations to the hospital and truly learn the personal reward that comes from giving to a good cause. For information, call Liz Salton at (901) 287-4440 or email saltone@lebonheur.org.



▲ **May '07** In seven weeks, seven local families raised \$125,000 for Le Bonheur through creative measures including a car wash, soda stand, Easter luncheon, a game booth at a business expo, dinners and a letter-writing campaign for "A Family Affair." On May 10, the Le Bonheur Foundation recognized the families at the circus-themed Miracle Maker Blast held at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum. Named as the "Miracle Maker Family of the Year" were Rev. Paul and Mary Christy and their children Daniella, William and Gabriella. Pictured (from left) is emcee Tom Prestigacombo, Michelle Stubbs of the Le Bonheur Foundation and the Healy-Collier Family (Kathy, Jeff and Alex) along with their campaign managers John, Mary Jo, J.P. and David Healy. Other family candidates included the Alexander Family, the McLellan Family, the Moss Family, the Neal Family and the Sumrall Family.



Le Bonheur Partners with Book Sellers

Le Bonheur has partnered with Davis-Kidd Booksellers locally to raise funds for the hospital. The program rewards Davis-Kidd customers for being loyal shoppers and enables them to support Le Bonheur at the same time.

For a \$25 annual membership, participants in the Davis-Kidd Booksellers Gives Back program will receive a \$25 voucher for the Bronte Bistro, a \$10 gift coupon for every \$200 spent in the store, a 30 percent discount on all hardcover bestsellers, a free birthday lunch or dinner in the Bistro and exclusive member-only discounts and events. In return, Davis-Kidd will donate one percent of all member purchases to Le Bonheur.

To participate, contact Davis-Kidd at (901) 683-9801 or www.daviskidd.com, and specify Le Bonheur as recipient of your membership.



Holiday Happenings

Christmas Cottage

More than 50 vendors from across the U.S. will gather for this season's Christmas Cottage at the Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd., on Nov. 23-25. Presented by the Le Bonheur Club, you'll find gifts galore at this holiday shopping extravaganza. Buy early for the special friends and family members on your gift list. Choose from handcrafted items, gourmet foods and distinctive accessories, with proceeds to benefit the Le Bonheur ClubHouse, a parent resource and living center to be built inside the new Le Bonheur. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6 to 12. Children under 6 are admitted free. Since 2001, the Christmas Cottage has raised more than \$380,000 for the hospital.

For information or reservations for the breakfast, call (901) 287-6308.

Enchanted Forest

Walk through a magical winter wonderland of animated characters, gingerbread houses and creatively decorated Christmas trees during the Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees. Presented by TWIGS of Le Bonheur at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Ave., on Nov. 16 through Dec. 31, all proceeds benefit Le Bonheur.

Special activities include Storytime with Santa from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 and 18; Senior Stroll from 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 3 and the Snowforest Ball, a Daddy-Daughter dance, from 2 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 18. A Preview Party will be held on Nov. 16.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors and children ages 3 to 12. Children 2 and under are free. Group rates are available.

For information, call (901) 525-TREE or go to www.TheEnchantedForest.org.

Holiday Cards from Le Bonheur

Le Bonheur holiday cards are the perfect gift for friends, family members, work associates and teachers. When you give this season's cards, you will not only touch the heart of those special people in your life, but you also help Le Bonheur's young patients.

Just send us the names and addresses on your gift list, and for a suggested donation of \$10 each, a bright, cheerful holiday card will be sent to them stating that a donation to Le Bonheur has been made in their honor. For information, call (901) 287-6308.

Datebook

Ways to Support Le Bonheur

October 5

COPEC's Rollin' On The River
The Cadre Building, Memphis

October 13

Pumpkin Run 5K
Marsh USA/Ridgeway Center
Memphis

October 26

Go Jim, Go! Telethon
Live from Le Bonheur Lobby

November 2

Hershey's Golf Tournament
for Le Bonheur

November 16

Enchanted Forest Pre-view Party
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

November 17 - December 31

Enchanted Forest
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

November 18

Snowforest Ball
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

November 23 - 25

Christmas Cottage
Agricenter International Memphis

December 3

Enchanted Forest Senior Stroll
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

December 14 & 18

Enchanted Forest
Storytime with Santa
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

February 14, 2008

Groundbreaking for the
new Le Bonheur

For more information,
call (901) 287-6308
or visit www.lebonheur.org.



Honorariums

Austin Agee & Susan Agee
Thomas Agee

All Children
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Gammon
Parris Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Lillie Alsobrook's Birthday
Elizabeth J. Benson

Leah Apalodimas
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry G. Couloubaritsis

Sydni K. Aylor
Mary L. Gilmore
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy W. Horton

De'Andra Baillio
Heidi Bartosch

John R. Baker
Harold W. James

Joe W. Bennett
Betty Bennett

Mr. and Mrs. Emile Bizot's 50th Anniversary
David A. Rhodes

Bess Block's Birthday
David Lefkowitz

Will Bomar
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Bomar

Blair Britt
Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Brown

Kenelia Burns
Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Brown
Rosemary Cross
Corinne Smith
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Amy Mays

Kobe Charm
Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Long

Paul Christy
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Bailey K. Coffman
George L. Barnes

Ryan Cole
Jill Cole

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Kate Croft
David J. Croft

Cooper Cromwell
Peter Pan Children's Fund

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hussey

Ethan Darby
Shelba Myers

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Sidon Baptist Ministries

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Mary B. Holder

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Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gordon

Noah Griffin
Cyndi Weeks
Mark Griffin

Cody Gross's Birthday
Robert M. Burriss
Elizabeth M. Garrett
Randy E. Gross
Charles M. Maund
Gregory W. Powers

Karen Hamburger
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Ethel A. Harrell

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Ernest C. Cadden
J. L. Shelton

L'niyah James
Johnny James

Janna R. Jeffcoats
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Taylor McDowell
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Jana Merideth
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Mr. and Mrs. Gregory W. Mauck

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Tyson Rodgers
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Cindy Sands
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Roy B. Scott

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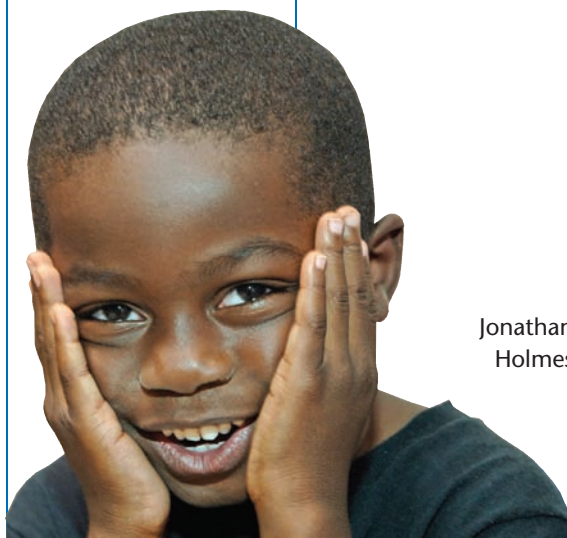
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Remember a special person or occasion or honor the memory of a loved one with a special gift in his or her name to Le Bonheur. Your gift conveys your appreciation, best wishes, congratulations and love to the special people in your life. With sincere appreciation, we notify the appropriate family member(s) of the deceased or the person being honored by your gift. Persons making the gift receive a note of appreciation from Le Bonheur. Gifts may be mailed to Le Bonheur Foundation, P.O. Box 41817, Memphis, TN 38174-1817.

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Leike

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Making a Gift to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center

Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center has been caring for the children of the Memphis area and beyond since its founding in 1952. As the only truly comprehensive pediatric medical center in the region, Le Bonheur served the health care needs of more than 137,000 children last year. Many of the programs and services we provide rely on the generosity of people like you. With your help, Le Bonheur will continue to provide a family-centered care experience for all who enter our doors. If you have made a previous gift to Le Bonheur, we thank you. If you wish to consider making a gift, you may do so in any of the following ways.

Planned Giving

A gift made through your estate will help preserve the future of Le Bonheur and safeguard our role in providing quality children's health care for generations to come. Planned gifts permit Le Bonheur to maintain continuing support for the well-being of patients today and in the future. Such gifts include bequests, life insurance policies and life income plans, such as charitable trusts and gift annuities. Not only can planned gifts provide possible tax savings, but they also can provide increased income for you, your spouse or other members of your family. When you designate all or part of your estate to Le Bonheur, you'll join others as a member of the DreamBuilders Society. For information call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308.



Maykala
Smith

Le Bonheur Leader

Thousands of supporters donate annually to Le Bonheur, which enables us to give children the highest quality medical care available. Gifts also enable our physicians and researchers to aggressively search for answers to diseases and disorders that can leave children with long-term problems or even end their young lives far too soon. By making an annual donation of \$1,000 or more, you will join a generous group of Leaders. Our distinguished Le Bonheur Leaders are dedicated to excellent pediatric health care through our many programs and services. We recognize and acknowledge these leaders for their commitment to Le Bonheur and to the children. To make a gift to Le Bonheur or for more information, call (901) 287-6308 or visit www.lebonheur.org and click on "Ways to Help".

www.lebonheur.org

Endowment Gifts

Provide a legacy of perpetual support to Le Bonheur by making an endowment gift. Your gift is combined with gifts from other donors and invested on a permanent basis and only the income earned annually by your gift is used to support a program of your choosing. Or you can direct it to help fund the hospital's most urgent needs. Gifts made to Le Bonheur's endowment may honor or remember a special person or celebrate an event or personal milestone. For more information, call the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308.

Volunteering & Benefit Events

Volunteers, supporters and friends of Le Bonheur 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 and Christmas Cottage. You support our patients by participating in such events. Please also consider volunteering your time with patients and families. For information call Michelle Stubbs at (901) 287-5688.

Matching Contributions

Many businesses will match all or a portion of their employees' contributions to Le Bonheur. Check with your employer's human resources department for information on matching contributions.



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Three Times the Fund

A trio of sisters is serving as the very first chairs of Le Bonheur's initial Annual Fund Campaign.

Triplets Jean McCommon Peeler, Marty McCommon Turner and Elaine McCommon O'Brien are the spokespersons for the 2007 campaign to help fund five Giraffe Omnibeds for Le Bonheur's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). These beds are critical for the care of the tiny babies who are sent to Le Bonheur for the incredible care provided in the NICU every day.

The McCommon triplets know how important such equipment is at Le Bonheur. When they entered the world, their own future was very uncertain. Born prematurely at 7 months, each girl weighed three pounds or less at birth. This was in the mid-1950s, when triplets were an anomaly and premature babies often didn't make it. Even just 25 years ago, infants weighing two pounds or less had an almost 100 percent mortality rate. But thanks to Le Bonheur, the sisters are alive today.

Neonatal care has come a long way since 1956. With the remarkable medical advances that have been made in just one generation, premature babies now have more than a 90 percent survival rate. Even more astonishing is that 80 percent of these children have no handicaps.

Today, Le Bonheur has one of the most advanced NICU's in our region and will triple the number of NICU beds when the new hospital opens in 2010. But right now, there are only three Giraffe Omnibeds in Le Bonheur's NICU which houses 15 infants at all times. Each Giraffe Omnibed costs \$30,000 and is built to reduce stress by eliminating the need to move or transfer the infants from one setting to another. The beds also feature a weight-controlled system that adjusts to determine the baby's appropriate temperature and humidity level which is so important.

Like all medical equipment today, these Giraffe beds are expensive, and this is why the McCommon triplets agreed to chair the 2007 Annual Fund. "It gives us the opportunity to do something for the hospital that saved our lives," said Elaine, the youngest sister. "The Giraffe bed didn't exist when we were at Le Bonheur, but thank heavens they do today. Fifty years ago Le Bonheur was there to save our lives and now it's our turn to be there for the tiny, critically ill babies of the NICU."

Join the McCommon sisters and support the 2007 Annual Fund. By making a special gift, you'll help buy five of these special Giraffe beds before year's end.

To make a contribution to the 2007 Le Bonheur Annual Fund, please use the envelope enclosed in the magazine, call (901) 287-6305 or go to www.lebonheur.org and click on Ways to Give.



Elaine, Marty and Jean