



Le Bonheur

Fall 2006

Ordinary Miracles

Make Happy
Tomorrows

Maternal League
Rocks On

Patients
We Have Known

Footprints
On Our Hearts

NICU

*Where Every
Second Counts*

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

Dear Friends of Le Bonheur,



Larry Woodard and Ginny Cox.

I hope you find all the issues of Le Bonheur magazine interesting and informative. I especially encourage you to read this particular issue. It's about our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the extraordinary people who care each and every day for very tiny and very sick babies.

Of course, you will find the same kind of people in all of our patient care units. They not only offer knowledge and expertise, but give their hearts as well.

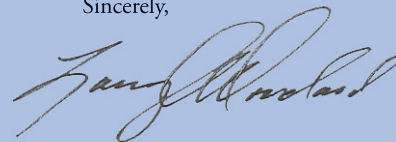
I have visited our NICU many times, and I never leave without saying a quiet prayer for these babies and their parents. I also give thanks for the medical staff who care for these babies each day. You see, these infants are fighting for their very lives. The care they require is incredible. And, as I said, so is our staff.

When I sat down to write this letter, it struck me how tremendously fortunate we are at Le Bonheur to have friends like you...people who support our medical care, research and advocacy programs, which benefit countless children throughout the region. Please know that we never take your contributions for granted. Never.

The babies in the NICU, and the children in all areas of the hospital, are touched every day of every year by the generosity you and others share with Le Bonheur. Your support is evident in so many ways. Sophisticated medical equipment. Remarkable research. Dedicated medical staff. These plus the "little" things that help make Le Bonheur a special place for kids — the tiny blood-pressure cuffs, child-sized beds, red wagons and play areas. All of these play a critical role in our mission, as do you.

We ask you to please continue your support of Le Bonheur and the children, and the new hospital as well. For today and tomorrow, there will always be children that need the very things that you and others can help provide. The next time I walk through the NICU, or one of the other patient units, I'll be sure to say a quiet "thank you" for what you and our other special friends make possible here. I feel certain that the parents express their thanks as well for the care their children are receiving. They just don't know that you, perhaps, made part of it possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Woodard".

Larry Woodard, FAHP
President, Le Bonheur Foundation



A Common Thread of Exceptional Care

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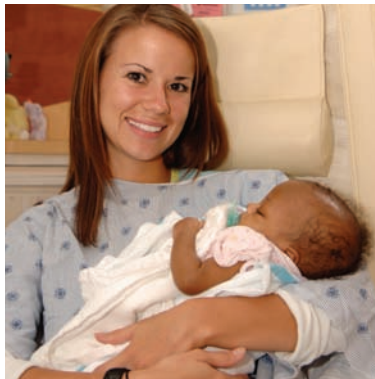
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Le Bonheur, the magazine of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, is published three times a year for donors and friends of Le Bonheur. The purpose is to demonstrate how Le Bonheur carries out its mission of service to children and families. Comments are welcome. To share your comments about *Le Bonheur* magazine, please write to Le Bonheur Foundation, P.O. Box 42048, Memphis, TN 38174.

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Scrapbook:
Arielle and Arthur Rogers of
Guntown, Miss., at the Gumtree Ball.

On the cover:
Upon his birth in Mason, Tenn.,
Michael Allen McKnight was
transported to Le Bonheur's
NICU for treatment.

PHOTO BY LARRY KUZNIEWSKI



Ordinary Miracles

Make Happy Tomorrows

NICU: Where Every Second Counts

It's another ordinary day in Le Bonheur's not-so-ordinary Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the place where miracles happen and real-life 'Miracles' live on.

Visitors marvel at the medical technology available to infants, some weighing less than two pounds. Only 25 years ago, these tiny infants had an almost 100 percent mortality rate. With the remarkable scientific advances that have been made in just one generation, the same babies today have more than a 90 percent survival rate. Even more astonishing is that 80 percent of these children have no handicaps.

The NICU's newest medical frontier?

Doing the same for babies weighing only 400 to 600 grams. (Note: 454 grams equals one pound.)

On the following pages, you will meet some of Le Bonheur's tiniest patients who spent time with us this summer. Their stories are poignant, heartrending and painfully moving, and this brief glance into their fragile young lives reveals just a glimpse of the miracles we are so privileged to witness daily.

Monday

♥ Michael Allen McKnight, Jr. is 10 days old today. The infant son of Revonda and Mike McKnight of Mason, Tenn., was carried to full term and arrived weighing 6 lb. 11 oz. However, a genetic condition unknown to the McKnight family was discovered upon birth and baby Michael was immediately transported to Le Bonheur.

Only 25 hours after his birth, Michael received surgery for an imperforate anus.

"We had no idea," says his maternal grandmother, Gail Blurton, about the hereditary condition.

While Revonda and Gail have maintained a vigil at the hospital, Grandpa Ronnie Blurton and Dad have been busy researching Michael's condition on the Internet. They learned that Michael's condition is not uncommon and can show up in about one out of 500 births. Fortunately, Michael's condition is less complicated than most. During their Web search, they

By
Kini Kedigh
Plumlee

Isabella
Morrow



discovered that the probability of Michael's surgery turning out as well as it has was in 5,000 procedures. "We feel very fortunate," says Grandma Gail.

"He could be so much worse," says Revonda. "When you look around..." her voice trailing off as she nods her head, motioning to all the other babies around her.

♥ At 8:20 a.m. this morning, three-month-old QuDavius "Da Da" Holly was moved from Le Bonheur's NICU to the hospital's surgical suite for his third operation. At 9:45 a.m., physicians called his father, David, who was pacing silently by the NICU phone, waiting for an update. "Vitals are good," he was told.

By 10:45 a.m., surgeons were finishing their work, and at 11:30 a.m., little Da Da (pronounced Day Day) was back in Room 11 of Le Bonheur's NICU.

That afternoon, Da Da was resting comfortably following the reanastomosed ostomy (when two ends of healthy bowel are joined together), which was necessary after developing an intestinal infection. His parents and stepbrothers, Marcus, 6 and David, Jr., 10, rested in the family room down the hall.

The Holly family travels 90-miles round-trip from their home in Mason, Tenn., each day to see Da Da. Today, the whole family is together. On most days, his mother, Kwana, makes the drive in the morning and leaves for home to be with her stepsons in the afternoon, while David makes the trip after his workday at Brimhall Delivery Service. "It's worth it," they agree, of the 180 miles they log to Le Bonheur and back daily.

"You should have seen him when he was born," says David. "You could hold him in one hand." Da Da weighed only 1 lb. 6 oz. at birth.

The Hollies are fortunate. They have strong support from their family and the church members of Pulliam Chapel in Somerville, Tenn., where David is pastor.

Kwana and David readily admit it has been a roller coaster ride. One day, their baby is doing great. The next, not so good. Kwana notes that Da Da wasn't "due" until four days from now. It will be at least another month before "Kwana can mother him all by herself" at home. But that's not her concern right now. "I want him to get well, and as long as he has to stay, we'll stay with him."

♥ Across the hall in Room 5, Sherilena Banks is having a better day than yesterday. Her son, London, 4 months, is awaiting a second surgery at Le Bonheur. An infection continues to keep him in an unstable condition.

Born prematurely at 30 weeks, London was only 3 lb. 3 oz. at birth. He has heart problems, kidney infections and his lungs aren't fully developed. "It's hard to look at your child knowing you can't do anything but love him and pray for him," says Sherilena. "When he opens his eyes and reaches out to me, that's the best feeling in the world. I'm so blessed to have him."

Tuesday

♥ Today we meet baby 'Miracle' Rockiemore White, 41-day-old infant daughter of Twanna and Darrel White. Born 1 lb. 8 oz., Baby Miracle was a true "miracle" for her parents. "She came out crying, and her daddy named her Miracle because she was so early," shared mom.



With two small holes in her intestines and a level 4 brain bleed (the worst), Miracle is recovering from a 7:30 a.m. surgical procedure. Twanna and Darrel sat and prayed in the waiting room until she was returned to them at 9 a.m.

Today, Miracle weighs in at 2 lb. 2 oz. She has been a patient in the NICU for one month. Her mother spends every day with her. "If everything goes well, she may be able to go home on her due date," says Twanna. Miracle was born 19 weeks prematurely.

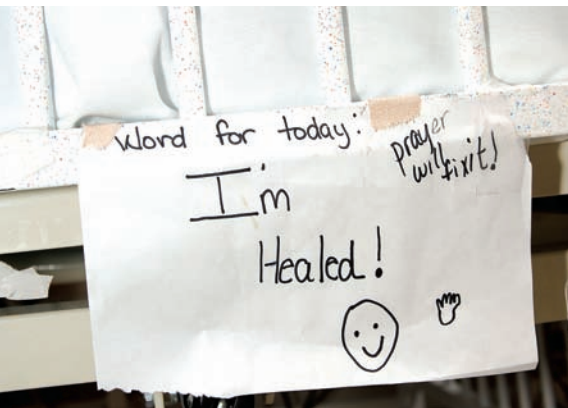
"I have spent many hours here, sitting by her bed and talking to her. I just tell her that I love her, her dad loves her, her sisters love her and God loves her. I've put all my faith in Him. I've given her over to God."

Top: Michael Allen McKnight gets a loving touch from his mother. Above: Anesthesiologist Mohan Karara, M.D., Jack Tipton, CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist), and a student RNA return an infant from surgery to the NICU.





(Left) London Banks with his mother, Sherilena, who decorated his crib with the sign below. (Below) Da Da Holly is attended by his mother, Kwana, and respiratory therapist Brett Vinson.



Faith is essential in the NICU.

"I don't think she'll give me any trouble as a teenager, because she's giving me all the trouble right now," Mom quickly adds with a smile.

It also helps to maintain a sense of humor in the NICU.

♥ Today is another good day for young Mr. Banks and his mother. His nurse increased his Pedialyte NG feeding from 5 to 10 milliliters.

Sherilena has already bathed and dressed him in a matching plaid outfit, complete with cap.

Taped to his crib is: "Word for Today: I'm healed! Prayer will fix it!"

A smiley face is hand-drawn beneath the uplifting missive.

Wednesday

♥ Thankfully, Michael is doing much better today. However, he has had a little setback; an infection developed, and he has become jaundiced.

"He looks like he's been to the Bahamas!" jokes Grandma Gail.

There's that NICU humor again.

♥ Today is another good day for little London. His nurse, Angela Thornton, has

"I don't know what I would have done without Le Bonheur. They've made it easier than I could have ever imagined." — Sherilena Banks

increased his Pedialyte feeding to 11 milliliters. If he can tolerate it, he will continue to receive another milliliter every three hours. By 9 p.m. tonight, he should reach 13 milliliters. This is a blessing for Sherilena.

"Le Bonheur's NICU is absolutely wonderful," she says, with emotion pouring from her voice. "The staff really loves these children. I don't know what I would do without Le Bonheur. It's been a long road, and with their help, they've made it easier than I could have ever imagined."

♥ Today we meet Miss Isabella. All pretty in pink, the baby daughter of Monty and Jamie Morrow of Starkville, Miss., was born at 31 weeks. She was 4 lb. 2 oz. at birth, but complications immediately dropped her weight to 2 lbs. 15 oz.

overnight. When she was only three hours old, she was transported from her birthing hospital after physicians there referred her to Le Bonheur's specialists. She has been here for two weeks.

Among other concerns, Isabella is being treated for hypertension. "We've been assured that everything that is happening is related to her prematurity," her mother Monty tells us by phone. With the responsibilities of three other children — boys all under the age of 6 — Isabella's parents are not only concerned for her welfare, but are also experiencing the emotional challenge of dealing with their daughter's medical condition long distance.

Mom makes the three-hour, 192-mile drive from Starkville to Le Bonheur every weekend, while father Jamie stays with their boys. "Even



Isabella Morrow is attended by her nurse, Karen Nellis.



though she's far away, we know she's getting the best care and has access to all the things she needs," Monty says.

With the emotional ups and downs of not being able to bond with her only daughter, Monty is both worried and anxious. "It breaks my heart every time I have to leave her. I feel like I'm missing so much and that she won't know me. I wish she were home, but I know she is safe at Le Bonheur, and that's a good feeling to have."

Monty talks to Isabella's nurses several times every day. Her physician, Dr. John Ferguson, keeps the Morrow family updated and calls whenever her condition changes. Dr. Ferguson has assured the Morrrows that he will try to get Isabella home soon. He, too, realizes that she needs her family as much as they need her.

Monty's vulnerability flows over the phone line as we speak. "We love her so much," she says, her voice breaking. "She's our first baby girl, and we'll do whatever it takes for as long as it takes to get her through this. I would walk to Memphis just to see her if I had to."

Thursday

♥ Tears are streaming down the cheeks of Sherilena Banks as she hovers over the crib of her son, her face resting gently upon his. Fear and apprehension are taking their toll on mom today.

"I just hate to see him like this," she says, cradling him in her arms.

♥ Michael, Jr. continues to improve. For the second time in his 13 days of life, his mother has dressed him. He's wearing a robin-egg blue cotton gown and matching cap with puppy dog ears.

"He definitely looks better today," says a smiling Revonda. "He's just hungry."

"He's the healthiest sick baby you've ever seen," laughs Grandma Gail. The NICU wit surfaces yet again.

Friday

♥ Michael is two weeks old today. His daddy, Mike, just returned from a business trip to Louisiana. Revonda, just like the parents of Da Da Holly, is driving the 90-mile round-trip from their home in Mason, Tenn., to be with Michael every day.

♥ A downturn for London came this morning. He was unable to hold down the Pedalyte, and his nurse has had to drop his feeding back to 9 millimeters. This is bad news. Mom will be devastated.

Tomorrow will bring continued improvement in some of these babies. Others may need much more time.

Additional surgeries will be scheduled. Parents will wait anxiously for an update from their physicians. Nurses will be ready, tuned in to every physical change the precious little ones under their care experience, good or bad.

Some of these babies may soon be well enough to be transferred back to their birthing hospital. Others may get to go home. But many will still be here another day, another week, another month, to be joined by others who also require the care of Le Bonheur's highly specialized NICU.

Every day, the tiniest of patients — all sons and daughters of parents who never dreamed they would find themselves in this situation or in such dire need of our hospital — will continue to arrive through our doors. Grateful parents, grandparents, siblings and friends remain thankful that Le Bonheur is here for them.

All will continue to hope and pray for more miracles to make happy tomorrows. ♥



Baby Miracle is in one of three giraffe beds purchased for Le Bonheur's NICU by the TWIGS of Le Bonheur. These high tech cribs cost \$30,000 each.



Le Bonheur NICU: A Leader in Neonatal Care

By
Kini Kedigh
Plumlee

In June 2005, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center opened the doors to a 15-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) located on the fourth floor of the hospital. Specially designed to provide care for the most critically ill newborns and young infants, the NICU outgrew its new space almost immediately. Within four days, the NICU was completely full, and by the end of 2005, there had been 249 admissions received from a 100-mile radius of Memphis.

"There is a tremendous need here for the services we provide," said Dr. Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy, Division Chief of Neonatal Services for Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. "As the only Level III-C (highest ranked) NICU in the region, Le Bonheur provides the full spectrum of neonatal care and all the subspecialties not available elsewhere," he added.

"Memphis has a lot of premature babies and we must seize the moment to reduce the infant mortality rate and find ways to accommodate more babies until the new hospital is built."

To meet this immediate growth challenge, the NICU carved out nine beds from the 23-bed Special Care Unit (SCU) for babies who are off ventilators but still need multi-specialty care. Called "Pod B," this expansion enhances Le Bonheur's ability to care for these tiny patients. "It quickly became obvious that Le Bonheur is the place for a baby with critical issues whose needs cannot be met at their birth hospital," said Dr. Marilyn Robinson, medical director of the Le Bonheur NICU and Pod B.

What is a NICU?

A NICU delivers intensive care to newborns within the first 28 days of life (the neonatal period). At the Le Bonheur NICU, all patients are transported in from their birthing hospital, usually directly from another NICU. Typical patients cared for at Le Bonheur's NICU include infants born prematurely or with complications such as underdeveloped lungs, heart

Barbara Wilkey looks in on Isabella Morrow.



defects, GI/GU conditions, respiratory problems, infections, imbalances and other abnormalities. Most patients have either a surgical need or require evaluation by pediatric specialists available only at Le Bonheur.

A NICU patient at Le Bonheur stays in the NICU until discharged home, is transferred back to the birth hospital, to another unit at Le Bonheur or another hospital.

Le Bonheur offers the only NICU of its kind in the region. A neonatologist (a physician who specializes in treating newborns) is on site 24 hours every day. In addition to five in-house neonatologists, the medical staff also includes five neonatal nurse practitioners (NNPs), three patient care coordinators (PCCs), two respiratory therapists and six to eight other care givers on the team. In-house pediatric surgeons and consulting physicians are also available to treat the babies needing the most advanced medical or surgical intervention. With a nurse-patient ratio of one nurse to every two babies, along

with the vast array of multidisciplinary support services, it's no wonder parents drive from a five-state area seeking Le Bonheur's high quality newborn care.

"Parents can rest a little easier knowing there is a facility like this to care for their newborns," said Robinson. "Le Bonheur's multidisciplinary approach to care, along with providing all the input right here, makes our services the best in the country."

The Le Bonheur Model

"Babies have enormous needs, and a NICU is very expensive," said Dr. Dhanireddy. "The technology requires a lot of resources. As innovations advance, it's difficult to stay on top of the newest equipment. Many of our patients come from disadvantaged families, and these children and their mothers don't have lobbyists. It's easy to say this doesn't affect me, but it really affects all of us. Le Bonheur and the community should be the advocates for these children.



Becky Sartini with former NICU patient Kordaé Maples, 9.

Wilkey also notes the NICU's single-room design as something that sets Le Bonheur's unit apart from most other NICUs. While other NICUs usually have all the beds in one large room with many babies, at Le Bonheur every baby has his own room. "The rooms are glassed so we can see, but there are doors for privacy," Wilkey points out. "There is also space in the room for a family member to stay at all times if they desire. We treat not only the baby, but also the whole family. It's what we call family-centered care."

A family-centered approach to care involves the parents as part of the care team, even in critical times. "Parents are encouraged to participate in soothing the babies and are taught the proper way to do so," explained Dr. Robinson. "We talk about soft touch and speaking quietly so the baby will know their voice. This is a

Le Bonheur's current NICU incorporates new technology and is the prototype for the future hospital. Monitors and IV pumps are connected into the nurse call system, and nurses are alerted to alarms through a beeper/unit-based cell phone. Lighting and noise control is incorporated in the design to decrease any negative impact upon patients and their families. A rubberized floor also helps decrease noise and offers comfort for nurses.

Additionally, the Le Bonheur TWIGS (Together We Initiate Growth and Sharing) donated \$90,000 to buy three Giraffe Omnibeds for the NICU. These beds are designed to reduce stress on critically ill infants by eliminating the need to move or transfer them from one setting to another. The beds include a weight-controlled system that adjusts

"Parents can rest a little easier knowing there is a facility like this to care for their newborns."

— Dr. Marilyn Robinson

It's in all of our interests that Le Bonheur be the model NICU for the country."

The average stay of a baby in the NICU is three to four weeks. Because of this, Le Bonheur offers "primary care nursing," explains Barbara Wilkey, R.N., clinical director of the NICU, SCU and Infant Care Unit. "Our nurses get really close to our families, and this vital component makes the care in Le Bonheur's NICU special. Each time a nurse works, they take care of the same baby and family. The families develop a trust and bond with the nurse and the nurse becomes more familiar with the baby's individual cues – why it is crying or not responding as usual."

crisis-oriented time, and we believe Le Bonheur can be a center that will help deliver care in a manner that reduces their stress."

Additionally, Dr. Robinson says parents are encouraged to assist with special care needs such as tracheostomy or gastroenterology care so they can gain a comfort level with those activities before leaving the hospital. Le Bonheur offers classes to parents regarding these special needs.

Facilities & Technology

The proposed NICU facility, to open in the new hospital by 2011, will almost triple the number of existing beds in the current NICU. With more beds will also come more staff and physicians, according to Dr. Dhanireddy.

to determine the baby's appropriate temperature and humidity level.

"Community leaders must recognize it is in all our best interest to maintain superb clinical care, training and teaching opportunities for future generations of doctors, and pursue research interests as well as serve as a model NICU for the country," Dhanireddy said. "It's a partnership and one that is critical for our future."

With the goal to become one of the Top 10 NICUs in the United States and certainly No. 1 in the region, Dhanireddy agrees that the "aim is high."

"We can be a Top 10," Dhanireddy says thoughtfully. "We can get there. Le Bonheur is an investment in the whole community." ♥



Makiya Cole and her grandmother, Geraldine Williams stop in to say hello to NICU nurses Amy Guevara and Mary Catherine Roche.

Happy & Healthy



Makiya Cole

The NICU receives a constant stream of young visitors — former patients who are now healthy and happy at home. Recently, four-month-old Makiya Cole and her grandmother, Geraldine Williams, stopped in to say hello to the nurses on duty. After all, it was only one month ago they were watching over Makiya with all the loving care they now bestow upon the 15 infants under their care on any given day.

"It's amazing to remember how small they were and to see them grow up!" remarked Sandra Wade, NICU utility aid, to Pat Fowler, unit secretary. They both beamed when they saw little Makiya enter the unit.

"It's a blessing to see them come back," Pat said, nodding in agreement. ♥

It Takes A Team

By
Kini Kedigh
Plumlee

Dr. Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy

When Dr. Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy arrived in Memphis on July 1, 2005 as the Medical Director of Neonatal Services for Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, his goal was lofty. He targeted his efforts to bring Le Bonheur's 15-bed NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) – along with the 90-bed Sheldon B. Korones Newborn Center at The Regional Medical Center at Memphis (The MED) and the 10-bed NICU at Methodist South – under one standard of excellence to enhance and provide the highest quality of care for critically ill newborns in the region.

In less than a year, his vision has taken shape and culminated in the current expansion of Le Bonheur's NICU from 15 to 30 beds, with more proposed for the new Le Bonheur hospital's NICU that will open by 2011. As the unit continues to grow, plans call for the hiring of additional neonatologists and medical staff.

"A community is judged by how well it takes care of its children and its mothers," Dr. Dhanireddy shared from his office, adjacent to the neonatal unit located on the fourth floor of the hospital. "No one else in the area can take care of the babies with heart and gut problems. Le Bonheur is the only place, and that's why every neonatologist in the region calls us."

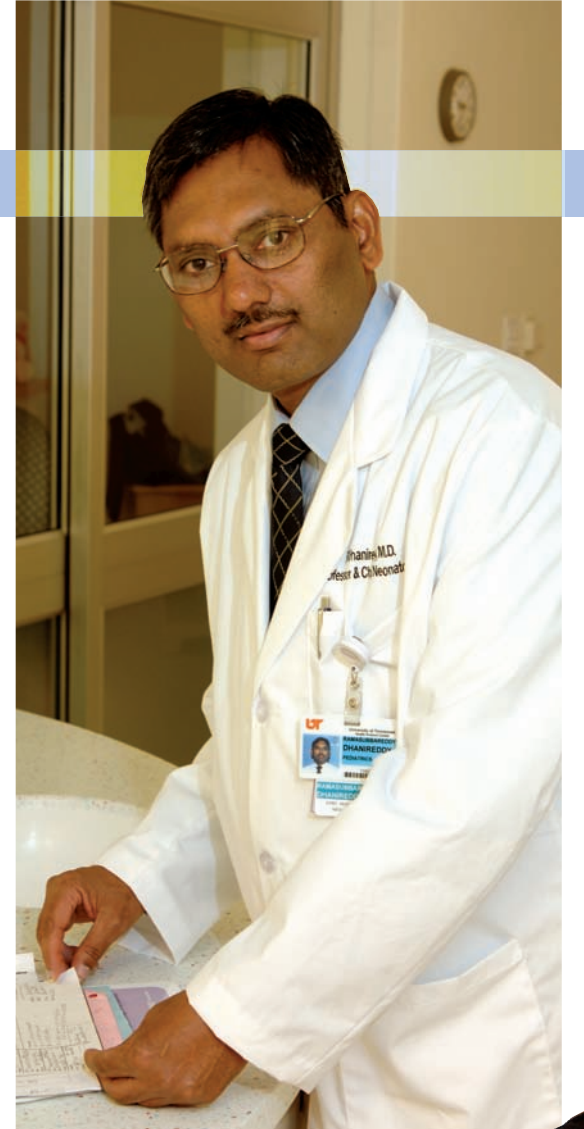
Along with his responsibilities at Le Bonheur, Dr. Reddy, as he is commonly called, is also Division Chief of Neonatology for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) and provides oversight to The

MED's Newborn Center. Previously, he served as division chief of neonatology at Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport (1999-2005), where he completed his pediatric residency at Lafayette Charity Hospital. He also held fellowships at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Maryland. While serving in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve (1983-2004), he was a consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

In 1976, when Dr. Reddy was just beginning his pediatric residency, babies weighing less than 1,000 grams had an almost 100 percent mortality rate. "Today, these same babies have a 90-plus percent survival rate, with 80 percent having no handicap," he says. "Now, with the remarkable advances that have been made in just one generation, we're looking to save 400- to 600-gram babies. They are our new medical frontier."

Dr. Reddy's penchant for study was recognized early. He was born and raised in a thatched-roof hut in the tiny village of Guntha Chiyypadu in the state of Andhra Pradesh, on the southeastern coast of India. In the third grade, he was academically tested and promoted to the fifth grade. As his education continued, so did his desire to learn, and he graduated from high school ranked as the No. 8 student in his state. By age 22, Dr. Reddy had graduated medical school and had started a family.

He came to the U.S. in 1976, with his wife, Brezeetha, and a daughter and son. His son is cur-



rently in training to become a transplant surgeon at Georgetown University, and his daughter is an adult infectious disease specialist at the University of Washington in Seattle. His son-in-law is a family practitioner and his daughter-in-law is a pediatrician. He laughs when asked if it's ever possible to get the entire family together for holidays and celebrations. "We're always on call," he joked.

On a more serious note, he says, "I can't imagine life without dealing day-to-day with these babies. It gives me enormous gratification to care for them. When I save a baby, I've saved a whole life, and I've not only helped the baby, but the family, too. That child will become a productive citizen and have a long life. You can't put a price on that." ♥

Dr. Marilyn Robinson

Her mission is to “save the children,” and Dr. Marilyn Robinson, neonatologist and medical director of Le Bonheur’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), has spent the past 20 years doing just that.

“Despite any medical issues a baby has, the baby is not at fault,” explains Dr. Robinson about her passion for neonatology. “The miracle of their recovery is so exciting. It’s like a fresh start. In the beginning, when the babies first come to us, it’s a mystery until we determine a diagnosis. We get them started.”

It was a discovery during a high school summer science program at Mississippi State University that started Dr. Robinson on the path to medicine that later led to her true calling. The first time she saw a bovine embryo in a laboratory while researching a science project, she was fascinated with the formation of life. After graduating in 1970 from West District High School – renamed R. H. Bearden School for her father, the school’s longtime principal – and with the encouragement of her grandmother, Dr. Robinson headed off to Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., on a full scholarship. She had decided to pursue a degree in zoology until her college advisor suggested that medicine might be a better use of her talent.

Dr. Robinson participated in the biomedical sciences program for three summers at Meharry Medical School in Nashville and graduated in biology/pre-medicine with a Bachelor of Science degree from Jackson State in 1974. That was only the beginning for this career neonatologist who promised her grandmother that her mission in life would be “to save the children.”

“When my grandmother got sick, she asked me what I intended to be and what I was going to contribute,” reflected Dr. Robinson. “I told her my mission was to save the children. Her dying words to me were, ‘Remember to save the children.’ On difficult days, the thought of saving a child helps me to stay focused.”

While still an undergraduate student, Dr. Robinson participated in a special semester program at Brookhaven National Laboratories in Long Island, New York. She graduated from medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, and began her career with a neonatal-perinatal fellowship at the Newborn Center at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Her internship and residency were at Le Bonheur. She joined the staff of Methodist University Newborn Intensive Care in 1984, where she remained until 2004. During this time, she helped plan and open the newborn intensive care units at Methodist North, Methodist South and Methodist University hospitals before being called to Le Bonheur in 2004 to set up the hospital’s new NICU, which opened in June 2005 with 15 beds.

“The thought of saving a child helps me to stay focused.”

— Dr. Marilyn Robinson

“I’ve never been more excited about what I’m doing professionally,” she said. “At Le Bonheur’s NICU, we work hand-in-hand with the specialists. To see a new place unfold and a new program grow is stimulating. We are not in competition with other neonatal wards, but a supplement to them. We all need each other for the babies to survive. It’s a team approach, a multidisciplinary approach to care in the NICU, and it has made our service better. Having all the input right here will make us the best in the country.”

Dr. Robinson says Le Bonheur’s focus on family-centered care now gives parents more control over a lot of medical decisions. “If parents are empowered to be part of their child’s medical decision-making, they will understand better what is going on and will become a long-term advocate for their child. It’s the right thing to do, and I feel good at the end of the day.”

Married to Lloyd Robinson, also a physician, for 27 years, the couple has one daughter, Meredith, 18, who graduated from St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Memphis this past May and is now studying at the Pratt Institute for Fashion Design in Brooklyn. ♥



ALOK KUMAR, M.D., is a neonatologist at Le Bonheur and Methodist South NICU. He is also an Assistant Professor at UTHSC. He was ranked fourth in the U.S. on his board certification. His interests include respiratory care and doing procedures.

RANJIT KYLATHU, M.D., is board certified and joined the neonatal teams at Le Bonheur and Methodist South in August. A clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UTHSC, his interests are in neonatal ventilation and neonatal infections.

CAROLE M. PERRY, M.D., trained at The Newborn Center and opened the NICU at Methodist University. She is board certified and is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UTHSC.



Champions
for **Children**

Maternal League volunteers
Denise Fabian and
Colleen Anderson rock
NICU baby Mikya Turner.

Maternal League 'Rocks On' in Le Bonheur's NICU

“**T**he Maternal League of Memphis exists to help mothers and babies in need,” explains Denise Fabian, League member for 15 years and the immediate past president of the organization that was founded in 1935. “We have survived all these years because our mission is very strong in our hearts.”

League volunteers have spent the past 70-plus years sharing their gifts of time and love for our community’s tiniest children. Three days a week they assist in Le Bonheur’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), holding and rocking the babies. Often they will massage the infants’ backs. Sometimes they sing to them. Other times they read books or just talk to the newborns.

“These babies need human contact and interaction, and that’s our function,” says Denise. “Occasionally, NICU nurses have special things for us to do, like feeding a bottle or lending a compassionate ear to an anxious mother and father.”

Since 1996, the League has volunteered their services to the NICU at Methodist

Central and Methodist South. When Le Bonheur’s NICU opened last year, they were invited by Dr. Marilyn Robinson to come here. Members work in pairs for two-hour shifts three days a week. They offer a loving touch to the infants whose mothers are unable to visit daily because they live far away and must work and care for other children at home.

“All of my five children and three grandchildren were born healthy, and it makes me grateful for what I’ve been given,” said Denise about her involvement with the League’s volunteer ‘rockers.’ “I want to give back to someone else.”

For each of the NICU volunteers, the opportunity to help is extremely rewarding. “It feels very special to be able to give these children a loving environment,” said Colleen Anderson. “You get so attached to them,” added Stephanie Adams. “They are all precious.”

The League donates over 500 layettes (diapers, blankets, sleepers, bottles) to indigent mothers for their babies annually through Le Bonheur’s NICU, Bethany Home and the Shelby County Health Department.

As partners with Le Bonheur Center for

Children and Parents, the League provides volunteers and funding for bus transportation of teen parents to the annual Teen Parenting Workshop. Held at Le Bonheur each April, several hundred teen parents from area high schools spend the day attending seminars that address their challenging situations.

The League also presents new mothers discharged from Memphis-area hospitals a tiny T-shirt to welcome their newly born child into the world. The T-shirt reads “This Side Up,” and serves as a sincere reminder to help prevent SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome).

The Maternal League’s efforts to address the city’s social dilemmas — teen pregnancy, premature birth, infant mortality, child abuse and neglect, drug abuse, school drop-outs and understanding HIV — have been successful in educating parents and the general public. The League’s support of these efforts gives help not only to those in desperate need, but also to the whole city as we strive for a community of healthier families.

For information, call (901) 682-2599 or go to their Web site www.maternalleague.org.

— *Kini Kedigh Plumlee*

Pedi-Flite Emphasizes Neonatal Training



As the NICU at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center has grown, the Pedi-Flite Team has also increased its neonatal capability over the past year. All members of the helicopter transport team have been trained and certified in neonatal resuscitation and STABLE – a course for the pre-transport stabilization of sick newborns. STABLE teaches caregivers how to stabilize the baby's sugar, temperature, airway and blood pressure. Additionally, STABLE certification enables the team to maintain the stability of a neonate once the initial resuscitation efforts have been administered.

"The Pedi-Flite Team has grown tremendously since the NICU opened," said Darlene Hamblen, chief transport nurse and CRPC coordinator. "The team transports almost 300 neonates a year, and this number is growing as our NICU grows."

"Pedi-Flite strives to deliver a continuation of care to all our patients," she added. "Classes such as NRP and STABLE have provided our team with even greater knowledge about the care of the neonates that we transport."

Preventing hypothermia is a concern when transporting babies, and this often requires specific equipment for transport. The Pedi-Flite Team's equipment includes three transport isolettes for monitoring and maintaining a regulated thermal environment for these patients. "The isolette provides the baby with warmth and protection from the noise of transport," explained Hamblen.

Respiratory issues are another special concern when dealing with neonates and infants. Each isolette includes a neonatal/infant ventilator that allows for small airway pressures often crucial in properly ventilating these tiny patients. A Hi-Fi ventilator for transport also enables ventilation at very high rates – a method used often in intensive care units.

"The specialized ventilator enables the team to deliver both conventional ventilation and high frequency ventilation," Hamblen added. "This allows for diversity in treatment as deemed necessary by the patient's condition."

Pedi-Flite can also transport and ventilate with nitric oxide, a therapeutic gas for severe respiratory failure. If a baby is on nitric oxide at the referring hospital, the infant must remain on it during transport. Le Bonheur's Pedi-Flite team is trained to perform lab work and is capable of providing advanced procedures during transport.

"Pedi-Flite offers rapid response to all transport requests," Hamblen said. "Getting children to Le Bonheur is often the first step in obtaining the life-saving treatment that many of these babies need to survive." ♥

Around the Halls

Pedi-Flite crew Summer Sullivan, Danielle Shields, Brandon Spray and Phil Scruggs, chief pilot for Hospital Wing, transport a patient via isolette to Le Bonheur's emergency room.



New Design for Le Bonheur Web Site

If you've logged on to www.lebonheur.org recently, you've received a surprise. After months of planning and implementation, a major transformation of the Web site has been completed. A new graphic design and improved navigation offers more effective search functions and updated content, enabling website visitors to navigate and search for information more easily.

When you log on to our site, be sure to visit "Ways to Help." This section, devoted to Le Bonheur donors and volunteers, offers information on the capital campaign to build the new hospital, patient success stories and testimonials from donors and hospital associates. You'll also learn about a variety of ways to contribute your time, talent and treasures to the hospital including volunteer opportunities and Le Bonheur's grassroots advocacy efforts.

It is now easier than ever to give online, and our secure server offers more options to designate your gift to a specific program or make a gift in honor or memory of someone special.

Check out www.lebonheur.org today and see how you can get involved. ♥

Then and Now: Patients We Have Known

NICU Triplets Turn 50

By
Kini Kedigh
Plumlee

In June, the McCommon girls celebrated a milestone year. The first set of identical triplets to be born in Tipton County spent their 50th birthday together, like they do every year, and this year's festivities included tours of Graceland and the Memphis Zoo, with dinner at the Hard Rock Café on Beale Street. Their older brother, Joey, played chauffeur.

of Burlison, Tenn., not quite 10 miles from Covington, there was no hospital nearby. So Harold called Dr. Norman L. Hyatt, the local physician, who opened his Covington office and turned an examination room into a delivery room. Neither Ann nor Harold expected triplets. Harold's sister, Nellene McCommon Kidd, arrived with the couple and assisted Dr. Hyatt by administering ether to Ann while she gave birth.

home for recovery, Harold, Aunt Nell and the babies were rushed by hearse to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, 40 miles south of Covington. Once the triplets were safely in the care of Le Bonheur medical staff, Harold and Nell returned home. The next three months the family traveled to and from Memphis every couple of days to see their babies. "We couldn't touch them or pick them up," Harold remembers. "We could only look at them through a window."

When the triplets reached five pounds each, they went home for the first time. "They all shared one crib," said Harold. "People didn't get help then. We thank the good Lord that Le Bonheur gave us some help."

Harold recalled that "there was no such thing as a diaper service in the country," and noted that the babies went through about 36 cloth diapers a day. Diapers were washed daily and hung on an outdoor line to dry. To tell the babies apart, each one had a different color diaper pin – green for Jean, blue for Marty and yellow for Elaine. "But we still only changed one diaper at a time," Harold joked.

The family had three high chairs, and at feeding time, the girls were fed from one bowl with one spoon. Brother Joey, who was two-and-a-half, kept them entertained. Ann sewed most of the girls' clothes, and as they grew older they enjoyed dressing alike to confuse people. The brown-eyed, brown-haired identical triplets enjoyed making it difficult for their friends, teachers and even their parents to tell them apart. At times, even their boyfriends got confused!

As mischievous teens, the girls swapped classes without their teachers' knowledge, until schoolmates gave away their secret. Consequently, they were required to wear nametags. On graduation day, Jean remembers that Elaine accepted her diploma, when school officials got the sisters mixed up.

"If it hadn't been for Le Bonheur, we wouldn't be here today," said Marty, looking to her sisters for confirmation. And just like they've done all their life, all three agreed. ♥



Le Bonheur Triplets
Elaine, Marty and Jean
visit after 50 years.

But on June 5, 1956, when Jean, Marty and Elaine were brought into this world, there was less celebration and a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty about their future. They were born prematurely at 7 months, each weighing three pounds or less. (Elaine, at 2 pounds 13 ounces, was the last born and smallest baby of the three.)

Their father, Harold McCommon, recalls that his wife, Margaret Ann, went into labor on a weekend. The local doctor's office was closed. Living in the small rural farm community

As the first, then second, and surprisingly third baby emerged, Dr. Hyatt laid each tiny infant under an old-fashioned crookneck lamp for warmth. After the birth, he wrapped them in blankets and called the local funeral home.

"There was no ambulance in the area, so he asked the hearse driver to turn on the heater as hot as it would go and come pick up the babies," Harold recalled. "It was June, too, and the weather was already very hot."

While Ann was taken to her mother's nearby

Lilly's Life Touched Many

Footprints
on our Hearts

Last September, Elizabeth and John Boler were told the heartbreaking news: their unborn daughter would never live long enough to make it to the nursery. Their baby had severe omphalocele, a defect in her abdominal wall. More than half of all infants born with this condition have other birth defects as well, some serious. With many tears and a strong faith, the couple carried this knowledge with them through the last trimester of Elizabeth's pregnancy.

When Lilly was brought into the world on Dec. 8, 2005, her heart and intestines were visible because, in place of skin, there was only a thin membrane covering her vital organs. Her parents could see Lilly's heart beating through the tissue paper-like covering.

Lilly also was missing her left foot, and her left eye socket was smaller than her right, leaving her blind in that eye. Doctors told her family that she was one of less than 20 children in North America born with a very rare genetic condition known as Goltz Syndrome. They also told her parents that they should prepare for her immediate death.

As John and Elizabeth waited, two hours ticked by, and Lilly continued to hold on. Physicians determined that she might have a chance and suggested Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center as an immediate answer for Lilly and her family.

Just hours after her birth, Lilly was transported to Le Bonheur and became a patient of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The Bolers and Le Bonheur physicians had many difficult and immediate decisions to make. They weren't worried about the cosmetic issues. A prosthetic limb could restore her foot, and eye surgery was available. However, Lilly needed help breathing. This was accomplished with an endotracheal tube connected to a ventilator. In addition to breathing difficulty, Lilly was missing her sternum (breastbone), and her tummy was abnormally small because her organs had developed outside the abdomen.

Omphaloceles can be surgically repaired,



although not always immediately. In Lilly's case, she needed time for the membrane to thicken before she could endure surgery. Her life was a day-to-day, hour-by-hour, minute-by-minute existence, with the assistance of trained specialists of the Le Bonheur NICU medical staff.

Lilly's condition made it difficult for Elizabeth to hold her newborn daughter in her arms. Just picking Lilly up required the help of many nurses. Lilly was three weeks old before her mother could hold her for the first time. Even then this simple act required treatment with a special burn cream to help strengthen Lilly's membrane.

When representatives of Tempur-Pedic Medical of Lexington, Kentucky, visited Le Bonheur and learned of Lilly's complex problem, the mattress company offered to donate materials for creating a foam "life vest" for Lilly that would allow her parents to hold her more comfortably and safely.

AMF Support Services in California also offered assistance to design and produce the pioneering medical vest as a gift for the family. "From Kentucky to Atlanta to California

and Tennessee, people got together to go out on a limb to give a mother a chance to hold her baby," said Becky Sartini, Patient Care Coordinator for Le Bonheur's NICU.

On March 30, physicians closed Lilly's abdomen and repaired her bladder. That morning, before her surgery, hundreds of employees at AMF – more than 1,800 miles west of Le Bonheur – held a moment of silent prayer for the child they had never met, but for whom they had worked so diligently. Lilly lived a miraculous seven days after her surgery; unfortunately, the vest arrived on the eighth day – the morning after Lilly died.

"God blessed our lives by choosing us to be Lilly's family," Elizabeth said. "Every moment with her was a gift."

Although Lilly Boler never left Le Bonheur, her tiny, brief life touched hundreds of caring supporters who never met her or her parents. "When she was born, they only gave her two days to live," said Sartini. "She survived 3 months and 28 days. She won't be forgotten. Every day is a gift and Elizabeth treated every day with Lilly as her first and her last." ♥

— Kini Kedigh Plumlee

Looking to the Future

Pension Protection Act Becomes Law

On Aug. 17, President Bush signed into law the long-awaited Pension Protection Act of 2006, which provides eligible donors with new tax incentives for gifts made to qualified charities. Under the new law, certain donors can make lifetime gifts with funds from individual retirement accounts without undesirable tax effects.

The pension reform bill includes a two-year provision that allows people age 70 1/2 or older to exclude up to \$100,000 from their gross income for outright cash gifts made directly to a qualified charity from traditional or Roth IRAs.

"The new IRA charitable rollover law provides a great gifting opportunity for friends and supporters of Le Bonheur," said Bethany Goolsby, J.D., director of planned giving for Le Bonheur Foundation. "Interested donors should contact their financial advisor to determine the best way to take advantage of this new legislation."

To learn more about how this new law can help you support Le Bonheur, call Bethany Goolsby at (901) 287-5575.

Planned Giving Director Looks to Le Bonheur's Future

Le Bonheur welcomed Bethany Goolsby in July as the Foundation's director of planned giving. In this role, Bethany is responsible for securing and administering deferred gifts for Le Bonheur. This includes cultivating and working with Le Bonheur's donors and prospective donors, and planning, organizing, and implementing activities to generate awareness of planned gift opportunities. She will also provide stewardship for current planned gift donors.

"While every gift is 'planned', a planned gift often represents the ultimate gift from one's estate," explained Bethany, noting that planned gifts are directly tied to an individual's financial or estate plans. "Planned gifts are sometimes referred to as 'deferred' gifts because even though they are given today, the charity will often not realize the full benefit of the gift until some time in the future," she added.

Planned gifts include bequests, charitable remainder and lead trusts, charitable gift annuities and insurance. These gift vehicles offer attractive benefits, which may include income for life for the donor or a designated beneficiary, or the ability to unlock the income potential from a low-yielding asset.

"Planned giving enables our supporters to arrange their charitable contributions in a manner that maximizes their personal objectives while minimizing the after-tax cost," Bethany said. "Most planned gifts receive favorable tax treatment, and all give donors the satisfaction of investing in the future of Le Bonheur and its young patients."

A native of Memphis, Bethany holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and a law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law. She previously served as the director of planned giving for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Prior to joining UT, she worked as an associate attorney at Waring Cox, PLC and as a vice president and trust officer at NBC Wealth Management.

Bethany currently serves as secretary of the Planned Giving Council of Greater Memphis, a local professional group whose work includes developing, marketing and administering charitable planned gifts. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Memphis East and serves as president of the board of directors of Grace House of Memphis, a residential substance abuse treatment facility for women.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Le Bonheur team," she said. "My own family has been touched by the wonderful care offered here, for which we will always be grateful. To be a small part of building the future of this important organization is both humbling and exciting, and I look forward to contributing to our vision of making Le Bonheur a top 10 children's hospital." ♥



Kitty Cannon's 40-Year Legacy at Le Bonheur



By Kini Kedigh Plumlee

They grew up on the same street, just a few doors from each other. Main Street, Covington, Tenn., north of Memphis about 40 miles, is where they both called home. In fact, their parents were friends before these two were even a glimmer in their eyes.

Kitty and Bob Cannon weren't high school sweethearts, although they were the next best thing, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 28. Always community minded, their dedication to Memphis has been virtually unmatched. Through the years, Bob has served on the boards of, or has had active roles in projects for, the Greater Memphis Arts Council, Memphis Orchestral Society, United Way of the Greater Mid-South, Future Memphis, Junior Achievement and the Boy Scouts of America.

Kitty, on the other hand, has delved into her favorite passions – Theatre Memphis, United Way, Memphis Arts Council and Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. In 2001, the couple made a \$5 million gift to the Memphis Arts Council. Their gift made possible the construction of Memphis' Cannon Center for the Performing Arts, named in honor of Kitty and Bob and their family.

It all began with the Snoopy Cart

Little did Kitty realize almost 40 years ago, when she first pushed the hospital's "Snoopy Cart" loaded with craft activities and story books through the halls to patient rooms, that four decades later she would still be actively lending Le Bonheur a hand. More recently, instead of pushing the cart, Kitty served on the Le Bonheur Foundation Board of Directors. In this role, she continued to support the hospital with its mission

to become a nationally renowned children's health care center.

In the mid-1960s, Kitty was invited to become a Le Bonheur Club member. "I remember how excited I was when I was accepted into the Club," she recalled with a twinkling smile. Once she was initiated into the Club, Kitty became so actively involved that she was asked to chair the Club's Gold Tag fund-raising project, generating donations of more than \$500,000 that year.

"We're both very fond of children," Kitty explained, regarding her 40-plus years of active volunteerism at Le Bonheur. "And it would be a disaster if Le Bonheur were not here for the children of Memphis."

Kitty added, "At Le Bonheur, everything is geared just for children. Looking at the license plates in the parking lot you'll see people come here from all over. No matter who you are, you will be cared for and that's very comforting for a lot of folks."

Bob enthusiastically agrees.

"A city the size and importance of Memphis needs and deserves a special children's hospital," he said. "We have a lot of children in Memphis, and without Le Bonheur, they wouldn't have access to the same children's specialists that Le Bonheur provides."

Giving back is the key to happiness

This humble couple says they are grateful for what Memphis has given them. "Both of

us feel like the community has been wonderful to us, and we want to share," says Kitty.

"You support what's dear to your heart."

"It's a healthy thing for people to give to things they love and are involved in," added Bob. "If you keep a child healthy, they will have a better chance to succeed in the long run."

Looking to Le Bonheur's future, the Cannons see only success for the hospital and most importantly, the children.

"The more you are known, the more that translates into awareness," says Bob, noting that awareness helps in the funding effort. "What we hope is that young people will pick up the gavel with enthusiasm, just like Kitty did 40 years ago. When you see this happen, it makes you happy." ♥



Scrapbook



▲ **July '06** Children from Le Bonheur's LEAD helped Peggy Troy, Chief Operating Officer of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, announce that \$1.3 million had been donated by Associates for the "Let's Pull Together" campaign. These pledges have been designated for the Room of Magic in the new hospital, a state-of-the-art movie theatre that will show first-run movies for patients and their families. Complete with surround-sound and high-definition projection system, the theatre will be designed to accommodate IV equipment, wheelchairs and other needs so that children can have a welcome break from their hospital routine.

▶ June '06

The annual Father-Daughter Gumtree Ball in Tupelo, Miss., raised over \$11,000 for Le Bonheur. Held at the Tupelo Furniture Market, the event drew a crowd of over 400 fathers and daughters who twirled around the dance floor to live entertainment. Celebrity guests attending included Cinderella, Snow White and Raggedy Ann. Activities included a silent auction, Barbie Beauty station and carriage rides. Keeping step to the music were Katie Sumner and her dad, Charles Sumner, of Saltillo, Miss.



▲ **June '06** Nucor Steel-Hickman Division, located in Arkansas, had a record-breaking year with their golf tournament to benefit Le Bonheur. Held annually as a way to bring together customers, vendors and employees, Nucor's tournament hosts more than 250 participants from across the U.S. This year's event raised \$168,000 and was Nucor's first donation in their five-year, \$500,000 pledge toward building our new hospital. Pictured (from left) is Sam Comella, General Manager for Nucor-Hickman, Kellie Crain, Human Resource Administrator for Nucor-Hickman, Kavanaugh Casey, Director of Development for the Le Bonheur Foundation, and Chuck Ryan, purchasing agent for Nucor-Hickman.



◀ **May '06** The 11th Annual Loren Roberts Celebrity Pro-Am golf tournament at Spring Creek Ranch Golf Course raised approximately \$60,000 for Le Bonheur. Pictured with Loren (left) is Reggie Barnes of Morgan Keegan, this year's presenting sponsor of the tournament.

▼ **August '06** WMC-FM 100 hosted the 8th Annual Radiothon to benefit Le Bonheur on Aug. 3 and 4. The two-day fundraiser, staged in the hospital lobby, featured Le Bonheur Associates, volunteers, patients and their families sharing their experiences and the miracles that happen each day at Le Bonheur. The event raised over \$86,000 for patient services, equipment needs and research. Pictured is deejay Jill Bucko interviewing Le Bonheur patient Austin Abbott and his mother, Sara.



▶ **July '06** Former NBA players Charles Barkley and Elliot Perry visited Le Bonheur's NICU (pictured) and patients on 5 South on the morning of the 2nd Annual SOCKS (Supporting Our Community and Kids) Banquet. Proceeds from the event, founded by Perry, were \$40,000, which purchased equipment for Le Bonheur's coordinated school health program.



▶ **The bicycle** that Jim Jagers rode for 333 miles. This bike, along with a second bike, was auctioned off after the event and proceeds were donated to Le Bonheur. Jim's wife, Cindy, purchased one of the bikes for him.



▶ **October '06** Channel 3 weatherman Jim Jagers embarked on a week-long, 333-mile bike ride that crossed through Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee to raise support for Le Bonheur. Beginning at Peabody Place in Downtown Memphis, he biked 333 miles, ending his bike trek by riding into Le Bonheur's lobby on Oct. 6. A 30-minute telethon followed, and viewers were asked to donate to help the hospital grow. The "Go Jim Go" event raised more than \$16,000 for the hospital. Pictured with Jim is his wife, Cindy (left), and Live at 9 anchor Marybeth Conley.

▶ **July '06** About 100 participants from 15 states departed from Volunteer Landing Marina in Knoxville on July 22 to participate in the 10th Annual Tennessee River 600. The event benefited the Children's Miracle Network and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency while promoting Personal Watercraft safety and awareness. Traveling the Tennessee River from Knoxville to Paris, Tenn. on personal watercrafts, participants raised nearly \$20,000.

Datebook

Ways to Support Le Bonheur

Holiday Cards from Le Bonheur

Let Le Bonheur do your holiday shopping! Le Bonheur holiday cards are the perfect gift for friends, family members, work associates, teachers and even the postman. When you give this season's cards, you will not only touch the hearts of those special people in your life, but you also help the young patients at Le Bonheur. 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 stating that a donation to Le Bonheur has been given in their honor. The cards may be personalized with your own special greeting. For information, call Finy Shirley at (901) 287-5988.



Upcoming 2007 Events

January 19 & 20
Northeast Mississippi Championship Rodeo,
BancorpSouth Center, Tupelo, Mississippi

February 9
Gumtree TWIGS Bunko Tournament,
St. James Catholic Church,
Tupelo, Mississippi

February 16
Le Bonheur Club Fashion Show
Memphis, Tennessee

February 24
Holly TWIGS Mother-Daughter Tea
Ridgeway Country Club, Memphis, Tennessee

Honorariums and Memorials • April 1 - July 31, 2006

In an effort to feature more stories about Le Bonheur patients, physicians and donors, listed are only Honorariums and Memorials received from April 1-July 31, 2006. Each year's spring issue will become an annual donor report, including a more complete donor listing.

Honorariums

Dr. Abdul Aldousany
Mr. Denton Sparks

All Children Treated at Le Bonheur
Ms. Mabel Kiinhl

Harper Armor
First Baptist Church

Bryant Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip O. Campbell

Joseph Neal Ary
Ary Tool & Die

Shelton Baker
Mr. James Baker

Reid Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Benson

Mrs. Floy Blustein's birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Dermon, II

Blair Britt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Brown

Ben Brown
Mr. & Mrs. David Crighton Jr.

Alicia Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis W. Fry

Birth of John Carroll Bush & Henry A. Bush
Dr. Chloee K. Poag

Alexis Butler
Ms. Michelle Montgomery

Bria Carey
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Carey, Jr.

Patricia Cheshire
Mr. Carlton E. Abbott

My 4 Healthy Children
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory W. Mauck

Jesus Christ
Davis Used Cars
Ms. Mary Snyder

Mrs. Julia Clarke's birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Montgomery

Shawna Marie Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Cole

James Hunter Collins
Mr. Clifford Hunter

Chardae D. Cousin
Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Cousin

Betty & Alfred Cowles
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Dermon, II

Joe & Frances Crews
Mr. Carlton E. Abbott

Joe Crighton
Mr. & Mrs. David Crighton Jr.

Emily Cross
Ms. Laura T. Terrell

Jaleesha Dandridge
Mr. Gregory Dandridge

Mr. Matthew Darling
Mrs. Gail Speck

Keegan Eller
Ms. Allison Eller

David England
Mr. & Mrs. David England

Madeline Flack
Leslie B. Epstein
Ms. Megan C. Ford
Hanley & Cam Hasseltine
Ms. Jennifer Kaburick
Rachael Yearwood

Debbie Florendo
Dr. Erika L. Stalets

Ryan & Ivy Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. David Gibson

Aubrey Glass & Carley Glass
Mrs. Betty J. Glass

Johnny & Christine Glover
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Montgomery

Nichols James Gonzalez
Bugmobile of Arkansas

Susan and Alan Graf
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth B. Glenn

3 Grandchildren
Ms. Sue Tidwell

My Great-Grandchildren
Mrs. Mary S. Edmonds

Menden, Bryce, Aubrey Groeschell
Mr. Colie L. Jenkins

Ashley Grulke
Ms. Addie Pace

John William Hagerman
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Lovell
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Rhodes

Clay Harris
Mrs. Ann Clark Harris

Miss Sarah Harris
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Harris, Jr.

Mr. Jacob Harrison
Mrs. Casey Harrison

Hayden, Emily & Gannon
Ms. Angie Searcy

Pamela & Sherman Helton, Sr.
Mr. Sherman L. Helton

Chelsie Hollimon
Ms. April McMaster

Ms. Lexus Holman
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Watson

Cooper Hughes
Ms. Mollye W. Walsh

Hadley Hunt
Mrs. June McDonald

J.R.'s Birthday
Ms. Sara Brown

Mr. Jeff Johnson
Southern Cotton Association

Quinn Augusto Jones
John & Tara Burton

Mr. David O. Jourdan, IV
Mr. David O. Jourdan

Allison Kail
Ms. Laura T. Terrell

Xander Kimes
Ms. Lisa Veigler

Brittney Kirk
Ms. Cindy Kirk

Mrs. Patricia G. Klinke
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Clay & Ginger Lewis' 40th Wedding Anniversary
Susan and Alan Graf

Ms. Madison Long
Woman's Clinic

Margaret Longino
Mr. Anthony Steinreed

Samantha Star Lowery & all the wonderful kids at Le Bonheur
Ms. Candace L. Robbins

Marleigh Malone
Ms. Susan Malone

Colton Marbry
Mrs. Brandi Marbry

Ms. Robin Mayhall, RN
Mr. David H. Mayhall

Mr. & Mrs. Chris McCall
First Response, Inc.

Henry & Willie M. McClinton
Ms. Eva M. Gorman

Conrad & Yvonne McCrary's 50th Anniversary
Ed & Nancy Barnett

Jason Lee McCutcheon
Mr. Terry McCutcheon

David McDonald
Ms. Delia McDonald

The Birth of Parker & Griffin Mednikow
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Rhodes

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Dr. & Mrs. Robert T. Peterson

Rick & Janet Phillips
Rev. Debora Christiansen

Mrs. Carol Plesofsky's birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Dermon, II

Christian, Drew, Zach Porterfield
Mrs. Sharon Porterfield

Ashlie & Sara Pruitt
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Pruitt

Ms. Bayleigh Rayburn
Ms. Lana L. Gann

Donna Rhodes
Mr. Norval D. Wolfe, Jr.

Tyson & Hunter Rodgers
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Rodgers

Ray & Julia Russell's 60th Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Dustin Brandon

Connie Sanders
Mr. Carlton E. Abbott

Eliza Sanders
Ms. Lauren Sanders

Murell Sanders
Mr. Carlton E. Abbott

Dr. Cindy Sands
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Webb

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Harry B. Solmson's 95th Birthday
Ms. Barbara B. Zwick

Kristin Stahlman
Ms. Laura T. Terrell

Carlianna Cole & Clayton Stevens
Mrs. Christy Stevens

Shelby Grace Swinford's birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Toby Swinford

Karlee Tackett
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Tackett

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John, Lynn & Rachel Thompson
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Shannon VanCleave
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. Conte

Honorariums & Memorials

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 immediately notify the appropriate family members of the deceased regarding your thoughtfulness. We also notify the person being honored by your gift. In each case, those persons making the gift receive a note of appreciation from Le Bonheur.



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Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees

Walk through a magical winter wonderland of animated characters, gingerbread houses and creatively decorated Christmas trees at The Enchanted Forest and Festival of Trees presented by TWIGS of Le Bonheur at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central Ave., on Nov. 18 through Dec. 31. 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.

Special activities include Story Time with Santa from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 and 19; Senior Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 4 and the Snowforest Ball, a Daddy-Daughter dance, from 3 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 19. A Preview Party will be held on Nov. 17.



November 17

Enchanted Forest Preview Party

November 18 - December 31

Enchanted Forest & Festival of Trees Presented by TWIGS of Le Bonheur

November 19

Snowforest Ball, Enchanted Forest

December 1 & 19

Storytime with Santa, Enchanted Forest

December 4

Senior Stroll, Enchanted Forest

All Enchanted Forest events will be held at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum

Christmas Cottage

Vendors from across the U.S. will gather at the Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd., on Nov. 24-26 for this season's Christmas Cottage presented by the Le Bonheur Club. Shop early for the special friends and family on your list for gift items, gourmet foods and distinctive accessories. All proceeds benefit the Le Bonheur ClubHouse, a parent resource center to be built as part of the new hospital. A special breakfast with Santa will be held on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 24 and 25. Reservations are required and include admission to the shopping area. 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 \$5 for children ages 6 to 12. Children under 6 are admitted free. For information or reservations for the breakfast, call (901) 682-9905.

November 24-26

Christmas Cottage

Presented by the Le Bonheur Club
Agricenter International, Memphis



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 serves the health care needs of more than 132,000 patients annually. Many programs and services that we provide rely on the generosity of individuals 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.



Linda Gomez

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 valuable 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 Dream Builders Society.

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 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.

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. Also, please consider volunteering your time with patients and families. For information call (901) 287-6308.

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.

Red Wagon Society

Thousands of supporters donate to Le Bonheur annually, which enables us to give children the highest quality health care and medical services available. Gifts also enable our physicians and researchers to aggressively search for answers for diseases and disorders that can leave children with long-term problems or even threaten their lives. By making an annual donation of \$1,000 or more, you'll join a generous group of donors we call The Red Wagon Society. The name reflects the many red wagons that transport little patients throughout the hospital. Our distinguished Red Wagon patrons are dedicated to quality pediatric health care through our many programs and services, and we recognize and acknowledge them for their commitment to Le Bonheur and 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



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Gift of 'Radio Flyer' Honors Former NICU Patient

The day Courtland Gray turned one, his family had a big surprise for him. His paternal grandparents, Ron and Wanda Gray of Bartlett, gave him a Radio Flyer Red Wagon.

To honor this special occasion, his parents, Robyn and Ryan, donated the very same model wagon to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. This one included a brass plaque reading: "In honor of Courtland Ron Gray."

"We plan to donate a red wagon every year on his birthday," explained Robyn.

The Gray family visited Le Bonheur on July 24 to present the wagon, and to visit the NICU, where Courtland spent the first 16 days of his life. "After our stay at Le Bonheur, he left the hospital in a red wagon, and we decided then that we would donate a wagon in his honor."

The Gray family lives in Knoxville. When Robyn learned five months into her pregnancy that their baby would be born with congenital lung disease, she and Ryan knew they had to find the best medical care available to them upon his birth. After talking with physicians and touring other NICU facilities in Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky, there was no doubt in their minds: they were coming to Memphis so their baby could be cared for at Le Bonheur.

"We learned that Le Bonheur would have everything we needed," said Robyn, with emphasis on 'would.' When the couple met with Dr. Marilyn Robinson, medical director of Le Bonheur's NICU, the unit was not even open yet. But they were so impressed with the medical staff, and the plans for the future facility, that they arranged to have their child delivered at The MED for ease of transport to Le Bonheur. Twenty-five hours after Courtland was born, Le Bonheur surgeons removed two-thirds of his left lung.

"We felt comfortable with the doctors and at peace with our decision," said Robyn. "The doctors were so good at telling us what was going on every step of the way. We came here for the care. We knew it would be so much easier with all of us in the same room together. All the other hospital NICUs were just rooms full of cribs."

And Le Bonheur delivered on their promise to the Grays.

"There was much more laughter than there were tears," added Ryan. "They made it as good as it could possibly be." — *Kini Kedigh Plumlee*

Ryan and Robyn Gray plan to donate a wagon to Le Bonheur in honor of their son, Courtland, every year on his birthday.

