



# Le Bonheur

Summer 2007

**Kyla's Mission To  
Memphis Ends  
In A Cure 4**

---

**Put Your  
Trust In Us 17**

---

**Story Time  
Motivates  
Minds 24**



**NEUROLOGY** *It Takes  
a Team*

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

## Dear Friends of Le Bonheur,



Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour is surrounded by children in the Le Bonheur Early Intervention and Development Program (LEAD).

Pictured with Meri from left is Jacob Taylor, Gabrielle Huffman and Jackson Adams.

It's been a little over three months since I arrived to serve as the President and CEO of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center and I can truly say that it's been an incredible experience. From day one, I have been graciously welcomed and accepted by our medical staff, our associates, our administrative leadership and the entire Le Bonheur team of volunteers and supporters. The warm reception I've received these first days has validated my decision to come to Memphis and has encouraged me in the challenges ahead to build the Le Bonheur of the future.

I am so pleased to follow in Peggy Troy's footsteps. Le Bonheur has demonstrated integrity and commitment to its mission evidenced by both employees and leadership. It is a place of innovation and acceptance of new people and new ideas. The people of Le Bonheur really value the concepts of teamwork, partnership and shared responsibility. I am proud to be making the move forward with the entire Le Bonheur family.

Many people have asked me, both personally and professionally, why I wanted to lead Le Bonheur. There are many answers to this question. What I can say unequivocally is that Memphis is a wonderful place to live and to raise a family. I share the sense of values that I have seen in the people of Methodist Le Bonheur...family, service, community...and I wanted to serve in an organization committed to living these values. Of course, it didn't hurt that it was 70 degrees in Memphis while it was snowing another three inches in Cleveland!

During the past few months I have listened, talked and developed an understanding of what the community and our hospital staff feel and believe about Le Bonheur. I've been in a fact-finding mode. Now it's time to strategize for Le Bonheur's future.

In this issue of *Le Bonheur* magazine, you'll read about Le Bonheur's neurosurgery program, the largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program in the United States. It is a program that is making a difference in the lives of the children it cares for while contributing to the body of knowledge about the surgical treatment of pediatric brain tumors. This type of nationally recognized program is what we seek to develop in many areas of care and treatment at Le Bonheur.

For the next two years, we'll put our efforts toward building programs and continuing to deliver top-quality care and service. Once we do this, and when the new hospital opens, it will propel us to the next level of excellence in health care. The task is daunting, but exciting, and when the new Le Bonheur is built, it will be the fruition of a dream for all of us.

With great enthusiasm,

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



A Common Thread of Exceptional Care

# Table of Contents

## LE BONHEUR FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Stevens  
Chairman

Charles Burkett  
Vice Chairman

Debbie Florendo  
Secretary

Larry Spratlin  
Treasurer

Steve West  
Assistant Secretary

Chris McLean  
Assistant Treasurer

Donna A. Abney

Meri Armour, M.S.N., M.B.A.

Murray Beard

Ron Belz

Larry Bryan

Robert H. Buckman

Russell Chesney, M.D.

Jill Crocker

Glenna Flautt

Debbie Florendo

Susan Graf

Gary Henley

Hampton Holcomb

Debbie Jones

Gail Kimball

Monica Lemmon

Lynn Listes

William May, M.D., M.B.A.

Larry Papasan

Landon Pendergrass, M.D.

Michael Pera

Dominic Pileggi

Kim Pitts

Richard Robinson

Peggy Troy, R.N., M.S.N.

Jean Tuggle

Ronald Walter

Burnetta Williams

Steven Wishnia

Larry Woodard

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

Larry Woodard, FAHP  
President  
Le Bonheur Foundation

Kini Kedigh Plumlee  
Editor  
Le Bonheur Magazine  
Le Bonheur Foundation

Kelly Jackson  
Editorial Intern

Amy Mathews  
Art Director  
Contemporary Media, Inc.

Larry Kuzniewski  
Photography  
Kuzniewski Productions

## It's All About the Kids

Road to Memphis  
ends with a cure.

4



## Around the Halls

New technology and  
research enhances care.

13

## Putting Patients First

Le Bonheur Neuroscience  
Institute grows nationally.



## Looking to the Future

Neuroscience research offers  
alternative treatments.

14

## Champions For Children

Rehabilitation Services  
helps find solutions.

8



## Scrapbook

Donors, patrons and  
fundraisers abound.

18



*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.

*Le Bonheur* magazine is published in conjunction with Contemporary Media, Inc., publishers of *Memphis* magazine, *Memphis Parent* and *The Memphis Flyer*. For further information, call (901) 521-9000. For more information about Le Bonheur or on how to give to Le Bonheur, visit our Web site at [www.lebonheur.org](http://www.lebonheur.org) or contact the Le Bonheur Foundation at (901) 287-6308.

## On the cover:

Kyla Coughlin  
of Westburg,  
Connecticut,  
found a cure at  
Le Bonheur.

PHOTO BY LARRY KUZNIEWSKI

*It's all*  
**About**  
*the*  
**Kids**



# Kyla's Road to Memphis Ends With a Cure

**C**ourtney and Tim Coughlin received terrifying news last October. After six weeks of worry, frustration and tears, their daughter Kyla was diagnosed at nine months with a brain tumor. Even worse, it was a malignant ependymoma, a rare, aggressive, anaplastic tumor in which cancer cells form in the tissues of the brain and spinal cord. Only about one in 11 childhood brain tumors are ependymomas (ep-en-dih-MOE-mahs). The cause is unknown.

Her parents faced the most devastating decision of their lives. Kyla needed brain surgery, and it had to be done the very next day.

"It was too critical to second guess," said Courtney. "We just had to go with the flow."

By  
Kini Kedigh  
Plumlee

# Le Bonheur's Neurosurgery Program is the best in the country.

## The Symptoms

When Kyla was only nine months old, she developed nausea while on a family vacation. When her condition worsened, her parents rushed her to the local emergency room. For 15 hours the medical staff pumped her full of fluids and instructed the Coughlins to take Kyla to her pediatrician as soon as they returned home.

Once at home, repeated visits to Kyla's doctor brought no answers to the reason for her illness. After four visits in as many weeks, and less than 24 hours after her last appointment, Tim and Courtney rushed Kyla to another emergency room. This time she was lethargic and unresponsive. These were flu-like symptoms, they were told. Perhaps it was acid reflux. Or maybe cyclic vomiting. Regardless, by this time Kyla had lost 20 percent of her body weight and was grossly underweight. She couldn't keep food down, and what she did eat didn't taste good to her.

Returning to the pediatrician the next morning, Courtney was told everything would be okay. Kyla had gastroenteritis and needed time to heal.

"I knew the doctor was wrong," Courtney recalls of hearing this opinion. "I told him I didn't know what was wrong with her, but I knew he was wrong and I asked him to find out what it was."

## The Diagnosis

On Sept. 10, Kyla woke up screaming in the night. "Shut the lights off!" she frantically shouted to her mother. "Shut the lights off!"

It was the middle of the night, and the Coughlin's neigh-

bors had turned on their lights which were shining in through Kyla's bedroom window. Once Courtney pulled down the shade, Kyla went back to sleep.

The next day, the same thing happened again, only this time it was at the store. By now, Kyla was having a difficult time walking and was holding her head and complaining about the lights. In an emotional call to Kyla's physician, Courtney related these new symptoms. The doctor ordered a CT scan for the next day. (Computed tomography, sometimes called CAT scan, uses special x-ray equipment to obtain image data from different angles around the body and then uses computer processing of the information to show a cross-section of body tissues and organs.)

"I asked if I should be worried," Courtney said. "The doctor told me he'd never had one come back positive."

The next afternoon, Tim and Courtney took Kyla for the test. She was still sick to her stomach and was crying. By now, so was Courtney.

"I'll never forget it," Courtney says about that day. "We walked in for the test results and everyone in the office was crying. The doctor took us to his office for some privacy and gave us the horrifying news."

## The Reaction

"I was angry!" Courtney said upon reflection of that horrifying moment when she and Tim were told that Kyla had a brain tumor. "After six weeks of being told Kyla had the flu, gastric problems and cyclic vomiting, I felt like no one had listened to us. I was begging to find out what was wrong with our daughter, and now that I knew, all I could think about was the time we had wasted. But I never, ever thought that she would die."

With Tim's support, Courtney pulled herself together. Oddly, at this point, Kyla suddenly seemed much better. "She perked up and acted normal," Courtney recalled.

They left the pediatrician's office and drove immediately to the children's hospital near their home in Waterbury, Connecticut "It didn't seem real," said Tim.

There, they were told even worse news.



Kyla had a golf-ball-sized tumor that resulted in fluid on her brain. It was so critical that Kyla needed surgery the next morning. Even more threatening was what the surgeon added: there was a chance that Kyla might not be able to talk or walk after the operation.

"The doctor said he was optimistic, because he liked how good Kyla looked," Courtney recalled. "He assured us that two-thirds of children with this tumor recovered to lead normal, healthy lives."

## The Surgery

After three hours, the surgeon reported to them that the tumor had been removed with ease; however, he was unable to get it all. Because of its location on the brain stem, he was unable to determine if the tumor had wrapped around the stem, and wasn't comfortable removing it completely. He had left less than a 5mm piece behind. Doctors were now recommending six to nine months of chemotherapy. Radiation couldn't begin until she turned 3.

"This surgeon was the only one in Connecticut who could do this surgery, and we feel he did an unbelievable job," Courtney said.

But at this point, Courtney and Tim decided to take things into their own hands. They went online and researched ependymoma tumors and treatments. And they didn't like the results of the chemotherapy protocols. "Chemo just didn't look like an option for treating this particular tumor," Courtney explained.

So they got on the phone.

## The Road to Memphis

Courtney and Tim called St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and explained Kyla's situation. A St. Jude physician recommended not using chemotherapy as follow-up treatment for Kyla. He gave them the pros and cons and invited them to come to Memphis.

Still wanting a second opinion, they drove to New York. Physicians there disagreed with the recommendation they got from the physician at St. Jude. So did physicians in Connecticut.

Courtney and Tim were now in a quandary. Wanting only the very best care and treatment for their daughter, they called St. Jude back. Of all the opinions, and the few options available to little Kyla, they liked what they heard from Memphis best.

Le Bonheur's pediatric neurosurgeons are some of the most respected in their field. The Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute, in partnership with St. Jude, has documented some of the world's best survival rates for children with specific types of brain tumors. Advanced technology, combined with specialized surgical techniques, is used by Le Bonheur's neurosurgeons to dramatically improve the chances for survival without serious post-surgery problems.

Children's tumors are difficult to operate on and require surgical procedures different from adults. Sanford has removed more ependymoma tumors than any other practicing pediatric neurosurgeon in the U.S. and has an international reputation for achieving highly successful outcomes.

*"I remember thinking that we made the best decision, and because we were at Le Bonheur, I felt more confident that Kyla would definitely live."* — Courtney Coughlin

## What Came Next

Upon their arrival in Memphis, St. Jude referred them to Dr. Robert Sanford, a neurosurgeon with Semmes-Murphey Neurologic & Spine Institute, and Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center's top neurosurgeon for ependymoma tumors.

Le Bonheur is home to the largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program in the country, and

## Another Decision Awaited

Kyla's tumor was about as thick as an M & M, explained Sanford. He told Tim and Courtney that going back in to remove the rest of Kyla's tumor was very risky but not unsafe. Only two to three percent of patients required a shunt. (A shunt is a catheter or tube that carries cerebrospinal fluid from a ventricle in the brain to another area of the body.)

"He told us if the surgery was a success



Tim, Kyla and Courtney

that the best-case scenario would be for a complete cure,” Courtney said. “Without the second surgery, he wasn’t sure there wouldn’t be a recurrence of the tumor.

“He told us to pray about it, cry about it, do whatever we needed to do to make a decision,” recalled Courtney. “He also told us that if she had this surgery, we would walk her down the aisle.”

“He pushed his glasses on top of his head,” continued Tim. “He was so confident. We knew ependymomas were rare, and very tricky, but it was worth it for a cure. We wanted to give her the best possible chance at life. What else could we do?”

## Mission Completed at Le Bonheur

On Oct. 17, 2005, just two weeks before her first birthday, Kyla underwent a second brain surgery, her first at Le Bonheur.

“We knew that of all the pediatric neurosurgeons in the United States, only about 10 of them would probably recommend going back to remove the rest of the tumor,” Courtney said. “But Dr. Sanford and Le Bonheur had the numbers.”

One-and-a-half hours after her surgery at Le Bonheur began, Sanford gave the Coughlins the news they had been praying for: Kyla’s brain tumor was completely gone.

Two months later, on Dec. 15, after follow-up radiation therapy at St. Jude had ended, Kyla went home for Christmas. Her “mission” at Le Bonheur was completed.

## Grateful Parents

“We’re unbelievably grateful to Le Bonheur and Dr. Sanford and his expertise,” Courtney said. “A total resection means everything when it comes to having a tumor like Kyla’s. Radiation therapy can only go so far. If you can get rid of the tumor, that’s half the battle. The staff at Le Bonheur made it a lot easier to go through.

“How do you ever know what the right decision is when your child is facing something of this magnitude?” Courtney continued. “I remember thinking that we made the best decision, and because we were at Le Bonheur, I felt more confident that Kyla would definitely live. If a tumor were to reoccur, we’d be back at Le Bonheur in a heartbeat, and Dr. Sanford would be the surgeon.”

## Living a Healthy Life

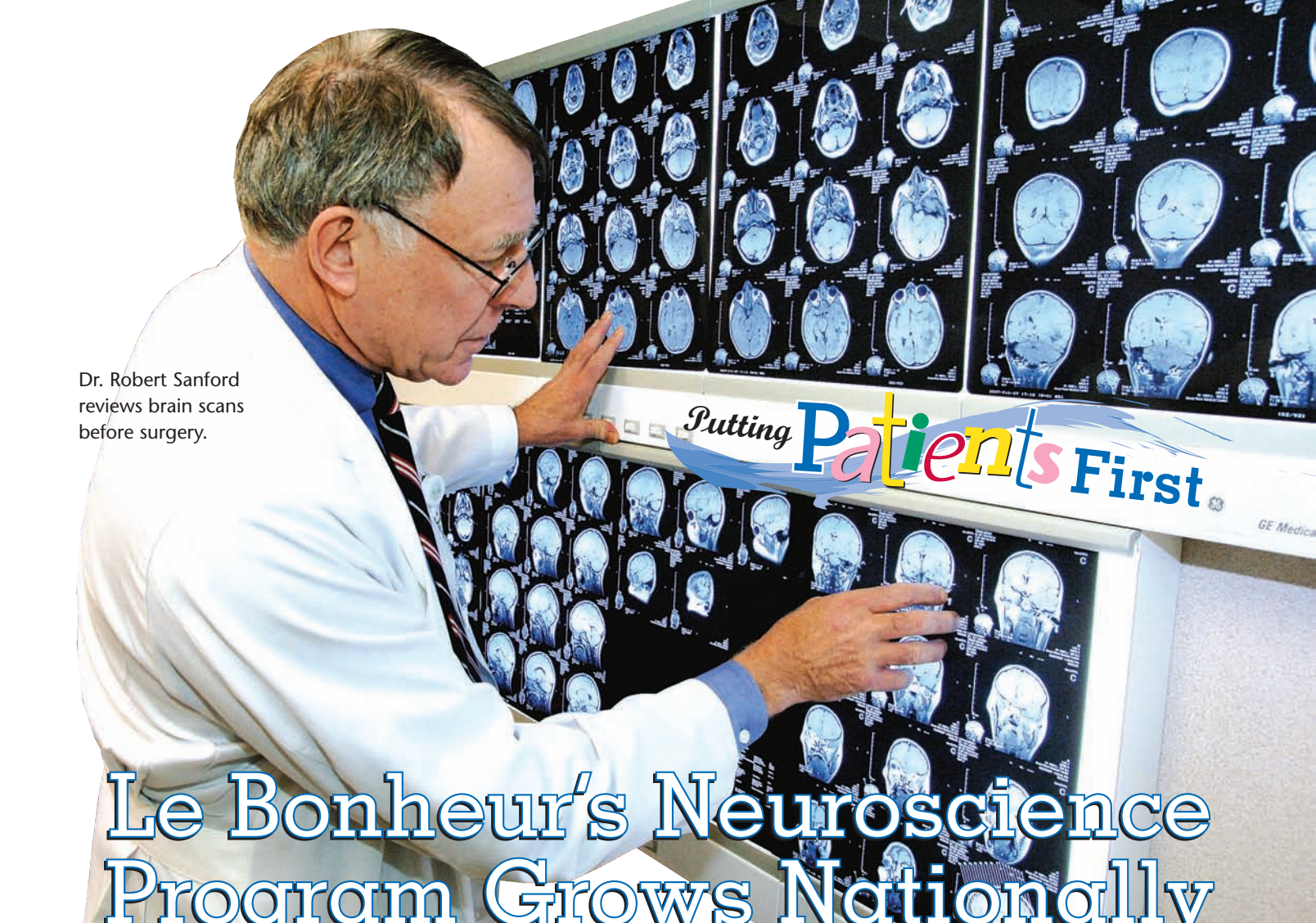
Today, Kyla, now 19 months old, is cured of her brain tumor and is living cancer free. Back at her home in Connecticut, she rocks her favorite baby doll to sleep and plays with “Joo Joo,” her grandparents’ pet dog. Her parents say she’s a real “spitfire.”

“Kyla’s strong-willed, sweet, funny and smart, and I know everyone feels that way about their child,” Courtney says. “She is extremely independent, and she knows what she wants and is determined to get it. She is so energetic, I just call her my wild woman. But most of all, she’s our blessing.” ♥



Since her surgery, Kyla receives follow-up treatment at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



A photograph of Dr. Robert Sanford, a man with glasses and a white lab coat, looking at a large wall of brain scan images. He is pointing at one of the scans. The scans are arranged in a grid on a light-colored wall. A banner with the text "Putting Patients First" is visible in the foreground, partially overlapping the scans. The banner has "Putting" in blue, "Patients" in multi-colored letters, and "First" in blue. The GE Medical logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the banner.

Dr. Robert Sanford reviews brain scans before surgery.

Putting **Patients** First

# Le Bonheur's Neuroscience Program Grows Nationally

By Nellann Mettee

**T**he lemon-size tumor inside 9-year-old Olivia Jones' brain was causing seizures.

Pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Robert Sanford told Olivia's parents that he could remove the tumor, but that it was a risky procedure and she might experience problems like impaired speech as a result.

Today, thanks to Sanford, Olivia is a healthy, active third-grader – and one more success story that's drawing regional and national attention to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center's neuroscience programs.

Le Bonheur has the nation's largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program, and a Level IV epilepsy program. Furthermore, national referrals for neurology and neurosurgery are up 26 percent.

That's not all. Le Bonheur will soon be the third pediatric hospital in the country to have state-of-the-art magnetocephalography (MEG) technology capable of taking images of brain

activity in order to pinpoint problems. Several of its neurologists also recently started using high-density EEG technology to help evaluate children for epilepsy surgery and for other research studies. Moreover, the hospital was approved to start a pediatric neurology residency program for aspiring pediatric neurologists.

## Neuroscience Patient Care Unit

The 20-bed Neuroscience Patient Care Unit is staffed by specially trained nurses including child life specialists who help children cope with the stress of a hospital environment. It features murals of children playing in the park; the lights are camouflaged as street lamps and the nurses' station is a garden gazebo.

## Better Science

"When I started training, the chances of a child living 5 to 10 years with our most common brain tumors was about 25 percent," said Dr. Frederick Boop, medical director of Pediatric Neurosurgery. "Now, 15 years later, 70 percent have long-term success."

That's due largely to better techniques and scientific advances – some of which Le Bonheur doctors pioneered. For example, Sanford and his team originated and developed a national study that started in 1990, required 15 years to complete, and was recently submitted to the *New England Journal of Medicine*. It demonstrates that surgical resection is a cure for low-grade gliomas, the second most common type of brain tumor.

In the most common type of pediatric brain tumor, medulloblastoma, a cure rate of 80 percent has been maintained by complete surgical resection, reducing the dose of radiation and improved chemotherapy.



In fact, about half of the patients Le Bonheur neurosurgeons operate on have been told by another children's hospital that their situation was inoperable, Boop said. This surgery doubles the chances of a cure, Sanford added.

For Sanford, advancing science is just as important as providing great care. "We take care of brain tumors in a way so that when we're finished, we've made advancements in the science, as well," Sanford said.

It was Sanford who helped start the Le Bonheur/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital brain tumor program in 1985. He asked Le Bonheur leaders if they were willing to accept any patient, regardless of their financial situation. The hospital was willing and, with a handshake, a premiere brain tumor program was created.

"The truth is, without Le Bonheur, we wouldn't have anything," Sanford said, noting all St. Jude patients with newly diagnosed tumors have their surgery at Le Bonheur.

To advance even more research, clinicians have started collecting and banking brain tissue in epileptic patients while they continue brain tumor research in conjunction with the University of Tennessee and St. Jude, Boop said.

Research isn't just in surgery, though.

On the neurological side, the new MEG laboratory is expected to enhance research into brain disorders and tumors – and perhaps advance the study of autism, and other disorders of cognition in children.

In addition, Dr. James Wheless, medical director of the Neuroscience Institute, is the Mid-South's primary investigator for a National Institutes of Health program to test new seizure drugs in children with absence epilepsy (the most common seizure type in children between kindergarten and fifth grade).

This multi-centered study is the largest funded study of childhood epilepsy in United States history.

## Great Care

Part of the credit for Le Bonheur's increasing national attention goes to familiarity and customer service, Wheless said. Referring doctors remember hearing a conference lecture, or reading a published paper by a

certain specialist.

Le Bonheur has the resources to provide a type of one-stop shopping experience – where services like neurology, neuropsychology and neurosurgery are offered. Great clinicians – like neuroscience nurses and EEG technicians – enhance the care even more.

It doesn't hurt to have the president-elect of the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons on your team, either. Boop is currently serving a two-year term as president-elect, before taking on the role as president of the society. Furthermore, he's been asked to speak nationally and internationally on epilepsy and brain tumor surgery.

## Did You Know?

*Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute saw national referrals increase 26% in 2006.*

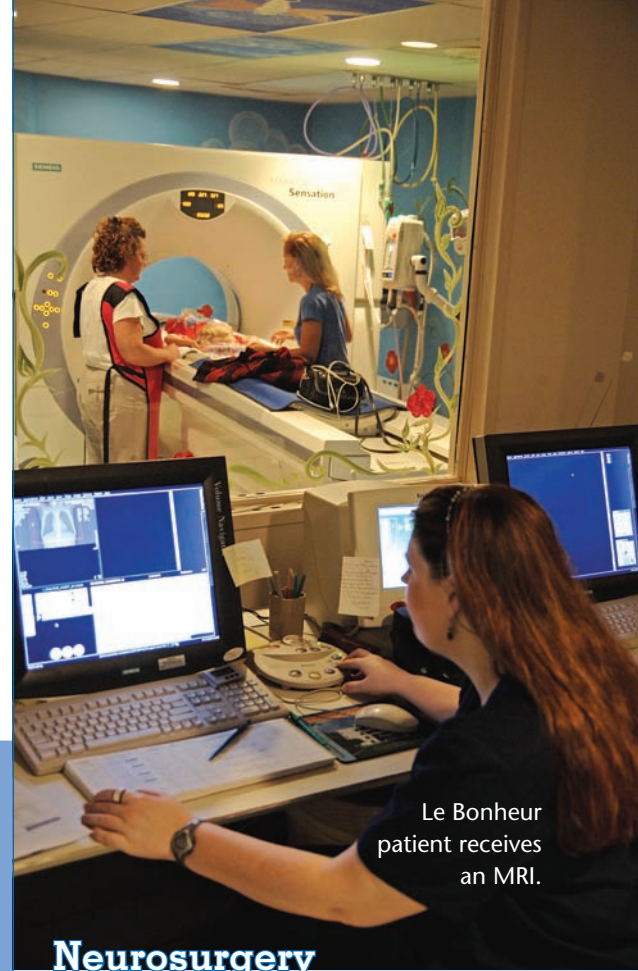
## The Next Generation

As much as Le Bonheur is working to enhance clinical care and research, it's also thinking about educating a new generation of neurologic specialists.

A new child neurology residency program will raise Le Bonheur's profile by putting it on the map as a training center and creating buzz around the country about the medical center as candidates train and move away.

Wheless predicts candidates will be interested to work in a setting where the faculty has differing expertise and a depth of clinical knowledge. Having an established children's hospital with a large referral base and focusing on a good mix of neurological diseases is very appealing to clinicians. Additionally, the option to find nationally recognized experts in subspecialties is a draw.

"A lot of the training programs around the country don't have as strong a pediatric neurosurgery program as we do here," Boop said. "We're hoping to stimulate more interest in pediatric neurosurgery." ♥



Le Bonheur patient receives an MRI.

## Neurosurgery

Le Bonheur is home to the largest pediatric brain tumor program in the United States. The program is a lifeline for children, raising the rate of completely removing posterior fossa tumors from 50 percent nationally to 90 percent at Le Bonheur, thus drastically increasing a child's chance of survival. Children's tumors are difficult to operate on and require surgical procedures that are different from adults. The Le Bonheur Neuroscience team, in conjunction with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, has documented some of the world's best survival rates for children with specific types of brain tumors.

Some of the common diagnoses and procedures for Le Bonheur neurosurgeons are:

- Brain tumors
- Spinal tumors
- Craniofacial anomalies
- Hydrocephalus
- Traumatic brain injury
- Spinal cord trauma
- Myelomeningocele
- Arnold chiari malformations
- Neurofibromatosis
- Brachial plexus injury
- Tumor resection
- Rhizotomy

## Dr. Robert Sanford

### It Takes a Team to Face the Challenges of Neurosurgery

**D**r. Robert Sanford has seen just about every kind of brain tumor known in medicine. Of his nearly 40-year career as a pediatric neurosurgeon, “Alex,” as Sanford is known to his fellow surgeons, has spent the last 27 years at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, and is known as one of the “founding fathers” of Le Bonheur’s Neuroscience Institute.

Renowned as the largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program in the United States, Le Bonheur’s reputation is due, in large part, to Sanford’s expertise and successful approach to treating the patient and “not just the pictures.”

“Surgery is a major component of any brain tumor program,” explains Sanford. “There are five malignant pediatric brain tumors where surgery is the most important treatment. Eighty percent of these tumor types can be cured if the surgery is successful.”

That’s why, when he does see something on a CT scan or MRI that he’s never seen before, he seeks the consultation of other neuro experts before confirming his diagnosis. This is one trait that his resident physicians find particularly significant in their learning process.

“He’s a fantastic teacher and a great person to work with,” said Marike Lee, who is studying with Sanford on a one-year fellowship. “I came here because of Sanford’s reputation. He’s taught me not to jump on the bandwagon with every new technology until the problem has been thoroughly evaluated.”

This, combined with his relaxed bedside manner, great sense of humor and deep sense of compassion for treating children, is what makes him a great neurosurgeon in the eyes of his patients, their parents and his staff.

“Working with Dr. Sanford is much more than a job,” emphasizes Tracy Tidwell, a pediatric nurse practitioner who works closely with Sanford. “It’s an incredible honor to be associated with someone so well respected in the field of pediatric neurosurgery. I am constantly awed by his knowledge and skill, but most importantly, his love for all of his patients. He enters every surgery with the mindset to care



Dr. Jody Helms and Dr. Marike Lee consult with Dr. Robert Sanford during morning rounds. Le Bonheur patient is Summer Runnels.

for each one as his own child. I love to see the glow in his eyes after a difficult surgery when he has once again performed what others said couldn’t be done.”

His self-confidence was perhaps a long time in the making. Growing up on a farm in Dumas, Ark., all Sanford could think about was “getting off the farm and never having to see another gravel road,” he says. His decision to become a neurosurgeon didn’t come lightly, and in fact, his father thought he was crazy.

But in 1963, after graduating from Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., he headed off to Little Rock to attend the University of Arkansas School of Medicine and graduated four years later. An internship followed at the University of Minneapolis Medical Center and then residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, where he practiced until 1973, when he became Chief of Neurosurgery at the U.S. Army Hospital, Camp Kue in Okinawa, Japan.

In 1975, he returned to the University of Mississippi, where he stayed for the next decade. Le Bonheur called in 1985, and he’s

been here ever since.

“I’m here to take care of the kids,” said Sanford during rounds one morning on Le Bonheur’s fifth-floor neuroscience unit.

Sanford performs about 300 surgeries a year. He estimates he’s removed at least 2,000 brain tumors, or, as he jokingly puts it, “about 1,500 more than anyone else.”

Annually, about 40 percent of his surgeries are re-resections. These “do-overs” mean that patients are referred to Sanford after having been operated on at other medical centers. For a variety of reasons, the original neurosurgeon was either unable to completely remove the tumor, or had an outcome that Sanford thought he could improve upon.

“To be a leading Neuroscience Center, you must have the highest quality of care and make advances to improve the subspecialties,” Sanford says. “To have a winning program, you must have a winning team. It takes talent and experience and the willingness to take on a challenge. We are on the cutting edge of the newest and best techniques, and we share them with the world.” ♥

# Dr. Frederick Boop

## Serendipity Led Rick Boop to Neurosurgery

**D**r. Frederick “Rick” Boop says it was “serendipity” when he decided to go into pediatric medicine.

Growing up a Navy brat, he never thought he’d be a doctor, even though as a teenager he had volunteered as a Candy Striper at the base hospital near Chicago. Those long hours in the emergency room and the OR convinced him to give something else a try in college.

So when Boop, Le Bonheur’s Medical Director of Neurosurgery, went to the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, he majored in English, graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After college, the only job he says he could get was delivering newspapers. That’s when his father, a neurosurgeon at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), stepped in.

*“I love taking care of families and watching children with devastating neurological problems survive and grow up and become adults.” — Dr. Rick Boop*

His father got him a job as an EEG technician with a medical partner. A position at Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock soon followed. It was there that he learned the joy of working with children, especially the epilepsy patients that he was monitoring for seizures. This led him to eventually follow his father’s footsteps into the neurosciences field.

Boop attended medical school at UAMS, completed his internship in general surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio; residencies in neurosurgery at Texas, The National Hospital in London and The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Fellowships followed at the University of Minnesota and Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

“Kids are just wonderful,” said Boop from his office at Semmes-Murphey Neurological & Spine Institute in Memphis. “I had a friend with a T-shirt that said: You’re obligated to grow old, but it’s your choice to grow up. Kids are motivated to grow up to play. I love taking

care of families and watching children with devastating neurological problems survive and grow up and become adults. To think that you’ve made a difference in their lives is really exciting.”

Neuroscience Nurse Coordinator Emily Snider, R.N., says it’s the quiet, behind-the-scenes efforts of Boop that make Le Bonheur’s program exceptional.

“He is 100 percent committed to the neuroscience program,” said Snider. “The nursing staff has exposure to the newest and latest information for patient care. There are just so many things Dr. Boop does quietly and without any desire for personal recognition.”

Since Boop arrived at Le Bonheur in 1999, the hospital’s Neuroscience Institute “has grown by leaps and bounds,” according to fellow Le Bonheur neurosurgeon Dr. Robert Sanford.

“Dr. Boop is one of the best technical surgeons you’ll ever meet.”

Boop and his surgical teammates Drs. Sanford, Stephanie Einhaus and Michael Muhlbauer, have generated a national reputation for Le Bonheur with their highly successful pediatric surgical brain and spinal tumor results.

“We’ve already doubled the survival rate, and I would like to get to a 100 percent cure versus the 80 percent we have now,” Boop explained. “My vision would be that we’re able to use our data to further the advances we’ve made over the last 15 years. I would like for Le Bonheur to be known as a center of excellence, and a place that specializes in providing help for families when they need it most.”

### Did You Know?

*Le Bonheur treated children with neurological disorders from 39 different states last year.*



When asked about the current program reaching top-level status, he replied, “I’d like to think we’re there now. There aren’t any other places around the country that are doing what we do,” Boop said, noting that 40 percent of the brain tumor patients that are referred to the Le Bonheur neurosurgery team are re-resections (in layman’s terms, “do-overs”). “Experience is a big part of it, and we have the volume.”

Le Bonheur’s success rate with resections, particularly ependymomas, is 90 percent. Childhood ependymoma is a disease in which malignant cells form in the tissues of the brain and spinal cord. The majority of patients with this disorder are referred from the five-state area serviced by Le Bonheur (Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas, Northwest Mississippi, Kentucky and the Missouri Bootheel) and Mid-America. In actuality, with the Neuroscience Institute’s close working relationship with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Le Bonheur sees patients from literally all over the world. In 2006, patients traveled here from England, Ireland, Germany and the Middle East for neurosurgery at Le Bonheur.

“Nothing can be more terrifying than being told your child has a brain tumor,” Boop said. “Le Bonheur has allowed us to take all kids regardless of whether or not they have insurance coverage. But we still have work to do to offer our patients an even better quality of life in the future.” ♥

## Growing Practice Adds Extra Tier of Care



Dr. Vickie Brewer performs an auditory processing test on Le Bonheur patient Jasmine Corbitt.

**W**hen she started at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center more than a decade ago, Dr. Vickie Brewer operated her neuropsychology practice alone. Today, she has a practice with two post-doctoral and 15 doctoral students.

The growth in her office is indicative of the growth of the neuropsychology field, where clinicians use tests developed by cognitive psychologists to help diagnose neurological disorders.

"I think the way neuropsychology really adds to the neurological process is that it helps add to the diagnosis process and to a child's quality of life," Brewer said. "When you understand how the brain functions, you can make predictions of problems that may occur in the future."

Neurologists and neurosurgeons often

consult with neuropsychologists when diagnosing central nervous system disorders and also in determining what area of the brain is affected by traumatic brain injuries, epilepsy, stroke, dementia and tumors.

An EEG or MRI might show an abnormality in a certain area of the brain and Brewer and her team can evaluate to see if cognitive tests measuring memory, language, motor skills, etc., reinforce that a certain area of the brain is affected.

"It is a team approach. The neurologists and neurosurgeons are looking for collaborative information to aid them in making decisions about treatment of their patients," Brewer stressed.

Moreover, Brewer and her staff can also show parents, teachers and other caregivers how to compensate for some of the problems the abnormality causes and teach the patients

other ways to do the same thing.

The relatively new field of neuropsychology has few training opportunities across the country. Brewer has been able to set up a two-year fellowship program through Le Bonheur's Neuroscience Institute and now has her first Neuroscience Institute post-doctoral student.

Brewer completed her neuroscience training at Baylor College of Medicine, and training in the neuropsychology field from the University of Houston. In addition, she has a degree in psychopharmacology (the study of drug-induced changes in mood, thinking and behavior) and was recently named president of the Tennessee Psychological Association.

Brewer's studies can help her consult with physicians on issues like Attention Deficit Disorder and depression that are secondary to neurological conditions. ♥

— By Nellann Mettee

## The Neurosurgery Team



**STEPHANIE L. EINHAUS, M.D.**, is an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) where she first served as a clinical instructor.

She graduated from Florida State University and received her doctorate from the University of Florida. She completed her general surgery internship, neurosurgery residency and her fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery at UTHSC. In 2000, she was certified by the American

Board of Neurological Surgery and by the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery in 2002. Dr. Einhaus specializes in epilepsy surgery.



**MICHAEL SCOTT MUHLBAUER, M.D.**, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and received his doctorate from the University of Texas Southwestern at Dallas. He completed

his surgical internship and his fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery from UTHSC. He returned to the University of Texas Southwestern as a resident in neurology. He has served as a clinical assistant professor of neurosurgery at UTHSC since 1997, and is certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery. Dr. Muhlbaumer specializes in spinal disorders, brain trauma, cerebral palsy and spasticity, and peripheral nerve injuries.

# Teaching Patients To Live Their Best



Travis Davis practices free-throws with Robert Henderson.

**W**hen you enter the doors of Le Bonheur's Rehabilitation Services Department you'll hear squeals of excitement and satisfaction as patients score a basket or complete a jigsaw puzzle for the first time. It's here, on the hospital's fourth floor, that you'll find a dedicated team of physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists. These highly trained specialists help our young patients with brain tumors, cerebral palsy and those who have been injured in car accidents learn how to live the best life possible.

Travis Davis, an 8-year-old "with a smile that will melt your heart" is doing just that, according to Le Bonheur occupational therapist Robert Henderson.

"Travis lives life to the fullest," Henderson said.

Travis has cerebral palsy and has been coming weekly to Le Bonheur for physical and occupational therapy since his birth. "He's making incredible progress," Henderson notes.

Le Bonheur's Rehab Services staff also works with children diagnosed with burns, orthopedic problems, ADHD, autism, developmental delay and feeding problems. According to Caryline Adkins, Director of Rehabilitation, the department treats on average 50-60 inpatients and 35-40 outpatients daily.

"Our staff is committed to providing comprehensive, coordinated care to all of our patients and their families," Adkins said.

Physical therapists are concerned with a patient's gross motor development. They use therapy balls, an outdoor playground, a therapeutic swing and other age appropriate toys - even

bubbles - to help strengthen muscles and increase range of motion in joints all over the body.

"It is a joy to watch them improve, to play and enjoy life," Le Bonheur physical therapist Lauren McGee said, smiling as she assisted a bright-eyed and eager young patient with cerebral palsy shift her weight while standing to complete a colorful jigsaw puzzle.

Occupational therapists help patients with cognitive disabilities, those needing help with eye and hand coordination and muscle strengthening involving arms, hands and fingers. These therapists assist a child with learning how to feed themselves and other daily living activities such as dressing, bathing, handwriting, functional communication and social skills.

A child with a cognitive disability, such as short-term memory, might have trouble remembering directions or school class schedules, even if he or she has to go to the same place every day. An occupational therapist can help the child remember how to get where they need to go by writing directions down on a note pad and conditioning them to refer to the note everyday.

Speech and language pathologists work with children with oral motor disorders and feeding and/or swallowing disorders. By using various communicative devices, play and learning techniques, pathologists can encourage speech and language development.

"We all work together to find solutions to help our families and enable our kids to be the best they can be," stated Rosalind Madlock, speech-language pathologist.

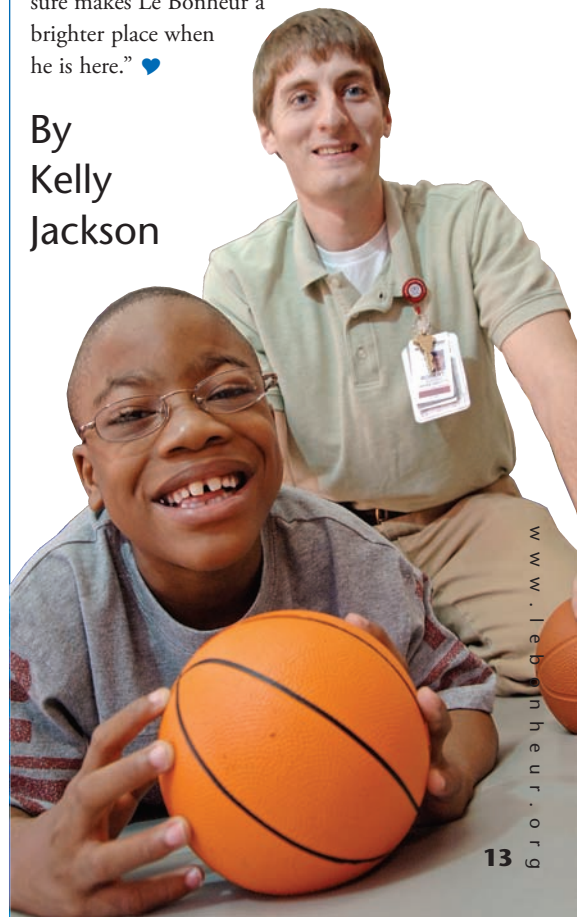
"Our staff genuinely cares about these children and is committed to providing com-

prehensive, family-centered care that allows our patients optimum success," Adkins added.

Le Bonheur Rehabilitation Services staff advise parents and guardians on how to help their children continue therapy at home. They also encourage many of the patients to enroll in extracurricular activities such as swimming, soccer, t-ball and dance.

"Each of us learns a lot from our patients," Henderson said. "If we all had a little Travis in us, this world would be so much brighter. He sure makes Le Bonheur a brighter place when he is here." ♥

By  
Kelly  
Jackson





Abby McManis models the geodesic electrode array cap for her father, Dr. Mark McManis, while her mom, Dale, looks on. The cap helps Dr. McManis map the brain for abnormalities.

# Around the Halls

## High Density EEG

Le Bonheur is one of only three pediatric medical centers in the nation with a high density electroencephalograph (EEG) that enables physicians to understand the relationship between healthy and unhealthy parts of the brain.

“High density EEG gives us the ability to get a more detailed view of where abnormalities are and the changes in brain activity that they cause,” said Dr. Mark McManis, technical director for Le Bonheur’s Neuroscience Institute. “With this technology, we can identify and localize where abnormal brain activity comes from such as tumors and epileptic seizures. We record brain signals and get a better understanding of where

the problem is and what we can and cannot do.”

An EEG is an instrument that measures the waves of electrical activity produced by the brain and generates a record to determine whether a seizure is happening in one part of the brain or the whole brain. An EEG can test for brain abnormalities such as brain tumors or learning disabilities. It evaluates the effects of medicine and any side effects, and monitors the brain during surgery. Depending upon the test, an EEG screening may take 30 minutes or can require up to several hours or even days.

“Le Bonheur has one of the most active pediatric neurological surgery programs in the country,” explained McManis. “We do more brain surgeries than any other center, and this technology helps our neurosurgeons identify where bad things

happen and where the abnormalities are so they can be corrected. We’re pushing the envelope of what we can do. We’re bringing in the toughest cases, and we’re fixing them.”

McManis, a neuroscientist whose special interest is the study of emotions and autism, joined Le Bonheur last fall from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He followed Dr. James Wheless and three pediatric neurologists – Dr. Dave Clarke, Dr. Amy McGregor and Dr. Fred Perkins – from Houston to Le Bonheur to revive the hospital’s clinical neurology research program. Dr. Wheless is Director of Neuroscience at Le Bonheur. As part of this team, McManis is working to secure a grant for a clinical study on autism that he plans to begin before the end of the year.

## New MEG Laboratory Takes Brain Imaging to New Level

Le Bonheur will soon be the third pediatric hospital in the country to have state-of-the-art technology capable of taking images of brain activity in order to pinpoint problems.

The medical center has received state approval for a magnetocephalography laboratory, a clinical first for the five-state area including Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

“The opportunity to have the MEG laboratory based in our growing Neuroscience Institute at Le Bonheur will allow us to take better care of children with complex brain problems in Memphis and all of the surrounding states,” said Dr. James Wheless, director of Le Bonheur’s Neuroscience Institute and Comprehensive Epilepsy Program, and division chief of pediatric neurology at The

University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Specifically, the MEG will perform functional mapping of the eloquent cortices (hearing, sensory, motor, language and vision) for patients with brain lesions such as tumors, according to Jennifer Konieczny, service line administrator for neuroscience at Le Bonheur. It is also helpful in characterizing epileptic activity. The 18,000-pound machine is the first diagnostic imaging

“The combined technology of high density EEG and a magnetocephalography (MEG) laboratory puts Le Bonheur in a very elite class of children’s hospitals,” says McManis, one of only a handful of individuals in the country who maps functional imaging with high density EEG and MEG. “There are only a few pediatric centers in the country with this technology and many don’t have the skilled practitioners to operate the equipment.”

McManis explains that the MEG and high density EEG are complementary technologies, but are not required to work together. They can be used simultaneously or independently, and will provide overlapping information but not identical information. “We see different things from each and can confirm diagnosis with a more complete picture,” he said.

In addition to improving surgical techniques, the high density EEG can be used in planning surgery for the preservation of brain function. “Without functional mapping (of the brain) one can be too overly aggressive in the removal of a tumor, which can wipe out all function,”

he said. “That’s really what this (technology) does: it makes neurosurgeons aware of where not to cut as well as where to cut.”

According to McManis, Le Bonheur has “everything in place” to become the best neuroscience program in the country. “We have the people, the equipment and the patients to do it. There’s no patient we can’t treat now.”

With this state-of-the-art equipment, Le Bonheur patients and their families now have more options than ever before. “They can choose their treatment because there is more information and more choices to consider today, which leads to more satisfying patient outcomes,” he said.

## Neuroscience Research

A goal of Le Bonheur’s Neuroscience Institute is to develop nationally recognized research programs to further the understanding of neurological disorders. By conducting clinical trials in patient care settings, our researchers may someday contribute to preventing and treating such devastating neurological disorders as childhood absence sei-

zures, infantile spasms and refractory epilepsy.

“We are interested in studies which benefit our patient population,” explains Michelle Ellis, a certified clinical research professional and the research study coordinator for Le Bonheur’s Neuroscience Institute. “Television and the media have portrayed researchers as conducting experiments, so people associate research with lab rats and strange medical experiments, but this just isn’t so. The majority of our projects are pharmaceutical studies with treatments in different stages of development, FDA-approved for a controlled environment. We identify patients who may benefit from new investigational products and offer them alternative treatment options, in cases where no current drug available has shown to completely control a special disorder or diagnosis. This allows the parents another treatment option.”

Ellis gives the example of taking Tylenol, Advil or aspirin for a headache. Everyone has their own preference regarding these over-the-counter medications and most individuals know what works best for them. It’s the same with research. “No one drug fits all,” she says. “We constantly seek out new components that will work for each individual child, but we’re not in a lab cooking up mysterious concoctions.”

All studies must be approved by the Institutional Review Board at Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare or the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Federal laws are very strict regarding research, and funding by such organizations as the National Institute of Health (NIH) doesn’t come lightly. “They are very selective about which institutions are asked to do research,” Ellis said. “If the center has no experienced investigators or experts in the field, they won’t be asked to participate.”

Some studies are extremely complicated and  
*continued on page 16*



Research nurse Misha Durmeier (standing) and Michelle Ellis, research study coordinator for Le Bonheur’s Neuroscience Institute, review study data in the lab.

technology approved in the United States to do such mapping.

“Really, this is a new tool to look inside the brain,” Konieczny said.

For epileptic patients who require surgery, the MEG can provide an exact and completely noninvasive method of localizing the seizure onset zone with great precision and accuracy.

For tumor patients, the technology can give the surgeon and patient more information about probable outcomes. In turn, parents can

be better informed regarding the actual risks and benefits of the proposed surgery.

“This allows parents to make more informed decisions about the neurosurgical procedures their children will undergo,” Wheless said.

Le Bonheur is the largest pediatric surgical brain tumor program in the country. Moreover, Wheless is considered one of the premier pediatric neurologists in the country, using this technology, which he helped develop during his tenure in Houston. It’s there that Wheless worked

with — and later recruited to Memphis — Dr. Mark McManis, who will serve as the technical director of the new MEG laboratory at Le Bonheur. McManis, a neuroscientist by training, is one of the few people in the United States who has been trained on the MEG.

The Urban Child Institute, formerly LHS, Inc., former parent company of Le Bonheur, donated \$2.9 million to Le Bonheur to purchase the MEG to promote basic science research for pediatric neurosciences. ♥

continued from page 15

require following for several years, while others can be as simple as a one-time treatment. As in all studies, there is no charge for any medical services to the patient, and the confidentiality of the patient is always guarded, even when data is published.

Patients who enroll in the clinical trials in the Neuroscience Institute are monitored very closely and their well-being is first and foremost. "If a patient participates in a medication study, each patient receives medication," Ellis said. "We make sure the children get correct dose and monitor them very closely. If there are side effects, we take appropriate actions and safely withdraw them from the study drug."

"The patient or parent can withdraw at any time from a study," Ellis continued. "Our primary interest is for the child's well-being. We strive to keep the parents informed."

Current research at Le Bonheur includes seven patients enrolled in an NIH-sponsored study of childhood absence epilepsy; two patients in a study of infantile spasms and, in collaboration with another institution, 15 patients are enrolled in a study of the genetics of epilepsy.

A symptom of absence seizures will present as the child may appear to be staring into space for several seconds. This condition usually affects children between the ages of 2 and 13. In the NIH sponsored childhood absence study, Le Bonheur is "working with other sites across the country to find the gold standard for which drug works best for these patients," Ellis said.

Infantile spasms are very difficult to diagnose and if not treated before one year of age, the outcome for most patients can be devastating. Currently, there is no drug that completely stops this condition.

The genetics of epilepsy study is a collaborative effort to assist in finding the component that contributes to epilepsy so it can be treated more effectively.

"The biggest challenge is to educate the public and parents about treatment alternatives, and what research is really about," Ellis says. "We're on their side and want their child to get the best care available. To do this, we must continue to seek the treatments and medications that will improve our kid's lives." ♥

— By Kini Kedigh Plumlee

## A Promise of Tomorrow

Looking to the Future

**W**hat the future has in store for the children depends largely on what we put in place today. I'll admit it. I changed some words in the original quote. But this now says exactly what I believe about our actions and efforts when it comes to the world's most precious asset — the children. And that's exactly why we are building a "new" Le Bonheur. You will hear words like: incredible, family-centered, bigger and beautiful.

Our new campus, opening in 2011, will be more than 1 million square feet...have larger patient rooms...give mom and dad a place to sleep in their child's room...have incredible new technology for diagnosing and healing the problems...offer special family-oriented facilities...and have *more* parent

sleep rooms...provide *more* and *larger* specialized surgical suites...and room for *more* research.

How about family members being part of the medical team regarding their child's care, because who knows the child better than the parents? (I'm happy to say this has started already.)

Our present Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has 15 beds, but the new NICU will have up to 60 beds. A new and enlarged Emergency Department will meet the needs of our patients in a more modern and efficient design. Some of these rooms will include X-ray capability to expedite care.

Now there are 10 surgical suites. The new Le Bonheur — 15. One will include an iMRI (Intra-operative Magnetic Resonance Imaging). We will be *one of only a handful* of pediatric hospitals in the country to have this remarkable equipment. The

iMRI fully integrates all the surgical and diagnostic tools necessary to treat complicated neurosurgical cases. Plus, one operating room will be reserved for emergency trauma cases. We'll be more than ready!

And, for all types of learning and teaching experiences — a conference and education center as well as a medical library.

There will be so much more when we open the doors of the new Le Bonheur. So many things we simply cannot provide our young patients in our existing facility. Like I said, their future well-being, will depend on what *WE* do today. All of us!

But one thing *will not change*. Our people: physicians, nurses and associates, the people who provide phenomenal medical care and huge doses of loving attention every single day. They give their hearts, their hands and their minds to heal and to give back life itself.

Help us heal tomorrow's children. Your gift can give them the future.



Larry Woodard and Hadley Hunt

Larry Woodard, FAHP  
President, Le Bonheur Foundation



# Charitable Couple Puts Their Trust in Le Bonheur

**L**e Bonheur Children's Medical Center depends upon the enduring support of many individuals. The greatest gift received by those who give is the knowledge that they are helping save the lives of our young patients.

This is exactly what Memphians Linda and Ernie Mannerino expressed when they recently established a charitable trust and named Le Bonheur as a beneficiary. Thanks to their generosity and foresight, future generations of children will receive the best health care available.

"Le Bonheur is the greatest story never told," said Linda.

## What motivated your interest in Le Bonheur?

About two years ago, a friend asked me to participate in a focus group for the hospital. At the time I knew absolutely nothing about Le Bonheur, so I was probably a perfect candidate for this group. We discussed different aspects of the hospital — what we liked and didn't like about different marketing campaigns. Other charities in Memphis receive much more notoriety. We felt that the work Le Bonheur does with children was just as important as that done by other charities. What began as a social luncheon for me turned into a life-changing event. Having been blessed with two healthy daughters, we felt the need to help those families not as fortunate as we've been. After seeing the wide range of work done at Le Bonheur and the need for a new hospital, we wanted to be a part of it.

## How did you decide to become involved?

My husband and I established a charitable remainder trust and we named Le Bonheur as a beneficiary. Soon after, I had the opportunity to tour the hospital as a participant in the Le Bonheur 101 program, which offered me an "inside" look at the hospital's daily activities. I was able to see firsthand the wonderful care the

patients receive and the genuine passion of the staff providing that care. This only validated our decision. We couldn't be more proud to support Le Bonheur.

## Why did you choose a charitable remainder trust to make your gift?

Through the trust, we are able to provide future support for Le Bonheur while enjoying an immediate income stream and tax deduction for ourselves. It provided a "win-win" situation for us.

## What would you tell someone who is considering a similar gift arrangement?

We were surprised at how easy the process is. I would encourage anyone considering a planned gift to work with their legal advisor and the staff of the Le Bonheur Foundation to ensure that the plan is set up correctly. ♥



Linda and Ernie Mannerino

## Charitable Trusts — Flexibility and Security for the Future

Planned giving has been defined as the practice of planning a charitable gift in the context of one's current financial plan, retirement plan or estate plan. In addition to helping ensure a bright future for Le Bonheur and its young patients, a properly planned gift may help you save taxes, increase income and pass on more of your assets to your heirs.

At the same time, planned gifts, such as charitable trusts, can enable you to make more or larger gifts than you ever dreamed possible.

Charitable trusts are one of the most popular types of planned gifts because they also can provide security for you or others, while ultimately benefiting your favorite charity or charities. Hopefully, Le Bonheur is in that category.

### How do they work?

Cash, securities, real property (artwork, antiques, etc.) or other assets are transferred into the trust. The trustee manages the trust assets and pays income for life or for a term of years to you or others you name. When the trust terminates, and if you have named a qualified charity, like Le Bonheur, as the sole beneficiary or one of several charitable beneficiaries, the remaining assets in the trust are then transferred to the named charities or charity.

### Is a charitable remainder trust right for you?

*Yes, if your goals include:*

- Converting property, such as stock or real estate, to a higher income level
- Diversifying assets
- Receiving income payments, often at higher amounts

### What are the benefits of a charitable remainder trust?

- Income for you and/or a loved one
- Avoidance of capital gains tax
- An income tax deduction
- The personal satisfaction of making a gift to a charity, such as Le Bonheur

For information regarding how a planned gift can help you, your family and the young patients at Le Bonheur, please contact Bethany Goolsby, J.D., Director of Planned Giving, at (901) 287-5575 or at [goolsbyb@lebonheur.org](mailto:goolsbyb@lebonheur.org). ♥

# Scrapbook



▲ **February '07** FM-100 deejay Tom Prestigiaco and Bobbi Abdi, area manager for International House of Pancakes, flipped flapjacks at the IHOP on Sycamore View during National Pancake Day for Children's Miracle Network. All eight stores in the Memphis region participated as well as IHOP restaurants in Jackson, Tenn. and Tupelo, Miss. The goal was to raise \$500,000 nationally.



▲ **April '07** Le Bonheur was presented a check for \$198,500 From TWIGS (Together We Initiate Growth and Sharing) of Le Bonheur during TWIGS Day at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum on April 22. The donation reflects the amount raised by the organization's six chapters during 2006 including the Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees. Since the group's founding in 1978, they have raised over \$3.8 million for Le Bonheur. This donation, for the capital campaign, will help fund the Emergency Department and Rehabilitation Services areas within the new hospital. Pictured from left is Lynn Listes, 2006 TWIGS President; Heather Golden, 2006 Enchanted Forest Chairman; Carolyn Jackson, Le Bonheur Emergency Department Director; Coleen Jones, Le Bonheur Rehabilitation Department and Caryline Adkins, Le Bonheur Rehabilitation Director.

▼ **February '07** Hand-stitched quilts and this adorable lab puppy was auctioned off to a large crowd of bidders on the campus of R-3 School in Caruthersville, Mo., on Feb. 9. Barbara Merideth (pictured), chairman of the 53rd annual R-3 Party, said this year's event was dedicated to the late Marie Dunavant, a huge supporter of Le Bonheur and originator of the event. The party included silent and live auctions, a dinner of BBQ and homemade hot tamales and a country store. This event has raised more than \$100,000 for Le Bonheur through the years.



▲ **February '07** The Phi Mu Chapter at the University of Memphis raised \$5,600 at their annual Spaghetti Dinner for Le Bonheur on Feb. 26. As a Children's Miracle Network sponsor, Phi Mu has raised thousands of dollars over the years for the hospital at this event. Pictured are Erica Moore and Kyle Kelley.



▲ **March '07** Every Friday since last fall, employees of Lenny's corporate office paid \$5 for the privilege of wearing jeans to work. Lenny's then matched their donations and contributed a total of \$4,896 to Le Bonheur. The fundraiser continues throughout the year. Bridget Graf, Director of Public Relations and Field Marketing for Lenny's corporate office, presented the check to Le Bonheur patients.

▶ **March '07** The 2nd annual St. Agnes Idol competition was held on March 22, raising more than \$3,700 from the school's rendition of the favorite television show *American Idol*. Proceeds are generated from an admission charge and voting by donations, with all monies donated to Le Bonheur.



◀ **March '07** Dogwood Elementary School students participated in Le Bonheur's Show of Hands safety program and raised \$6,442.39 for the hospital. Participating students completed a three-day safety course that included topics of safety in the kitchen and in the pool. Students then raised money for Le Bonheur during a Volunteer Week of activities with various fundraising events such as selling hand-painted terra cotta flower pots and collecting Coins 4 Kids in classroom canisters. Dogwood was the top achieving elementary school in this year's program.



▶ **March '07** The Hands of Hope organization from Scotts Hill High School in Reagan, Tenn., participated in Le Bonheur's Big Hearts for Little Kids program and raised \$287 for the hospital. Art students also painted ceiling tiles for installation in the hospital and presented them during a tour of Le Bonheur on March 2. The students also collected aluminum pop tabs. Pictured with the students and their art is Thomas Hobson (top center), manager of Le Bonheur's Child Life department.



▲ **March '07** Associates representing 54 Wal-Mart and SAM'S CLUB stores in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri toured Le Bonheur on March 1 during the annual Wal-Mart/SAM'S CLUB Appreciation Day. The event celebrated Wal-Mart and SAM'S CLUBS 20th anniversary with Children's Miracle Network and also recognized the fundraising efforts by each store over the previous year. In 2006, Wal-Mart/SAM'S CLUB raised over \$300,000 for Le Bonheur. During their long-time partnership with the hospital, these stores have raised several million dollars for Le Bonheur. Pictured is Le Bonheur Foundation representative Connie Haygood and Tommy Climer, a CMN representative for Wal-Mart for 20 years.



▲ **April '07** A young professional support group has been organized to raise awareness and educate young leaders in the community about Le Bonheur. Young Adult Le Bonheur Leaders (YALL) held their first general membership meeting on April 12 with 20 members on the steering committee. Pictured is Molli Gooch, who spoke to the group, and Le Bonheur President and CEO Meri Armour. Chairmen for the group are Jennifer and Cliff Sulcer. Co-chairs are Robin and Cort Winsett. The group plans a fall fundraising event. To get involved with YALL, contact Le Bonheur Foundation at 287-6308.



▲ **April '07** Le Bonheur's newest fundraising event, "A Family Affair," kicked off on March 22 with a dinner at The Tower Room American Grille. Families were nominated and the evening began the friendly fundraising "competition" that continued over the next seven weeks. Each "family" was challenged to raise funds for Le Bonheur while having fun. Candidates participated by conducting letter-writing campaigns, hosting parties and special events and presenting creative fundraising opportunities. The family that raised the most money was recognized as the 2007 Miracle Maker Family of the Year during the Miracle Maker Blast, a circus-themed event held at the Memphis Pink Palace Museum Mansion on May 10. Family candidates were the Alexander Family, the Christy Family, the Healy-Collier Family, the McLellan Family, the Moss Family, the Neal Family and the Summerall Family. At press time, the winners had not been announced.





# Datebook

## Ways to Support Le Bonheur

▼ **March '07** Le Bonheur Club Sustainers were invited to the hospital for a luncheon and tour. They were greeted by Peggy Troy and Meri Armour, and shared memories of their volunteer activities through the years.



Kavanaugh  
Casey  
and Jane  
Jones



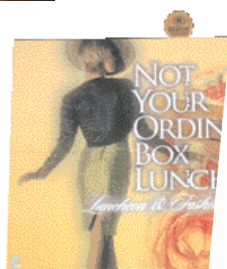
Maggie  
Hollabaugh  
and Ann  
Herrod



Sally  
Thomason  
and  
Margaret  
Askew  
Cooper

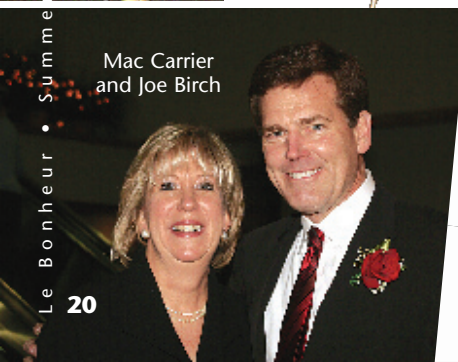


▼ **February '07** Le Bonheur Club hosted the "Not Your Ordinary Box Lunch" and fashion show at the Memphis Hilton. WMC-TV5 News Anchor Joe Birch served as emcee. All proceeds, including funds raised from a silent auction of creatively designed boxes, benefitted the hospital.



Donna  
Flinn

Mac Carrier  
and Joe Birch



**June 30**  
**Father-Daughter Gumtree Ball**  
Tupelo Furniture Market, Tupelo, MS

**August 2 & 3**  
**FM - 100 Radiothon**  
Le Bonheur Lobby, Memphis

**September 5 - 7**  
**WWYN FM-106.9 Radiothon**  
Old Hickory Mall, Jackson, TN

**September 12 - 14**  
**WWZD FM-106.7 Radiothon**  
Mall at Barnes Crossing, Tupelo, MS

**Sept. 15 & 16**  
**Darryl Worley's Tennessee River Run**  
Pickwick Landing State Park Resort

**October 13**  
**Le Bonheur 5K Pumpkin Run and Family Walk**  
Marsh USA/Ridgeway Center, Memphis

**November 16**  
**Enchanted Forest Preview Party**  
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

**November 17 - Dec. 31**  
**Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees**  
Memphis Pink Palace Museum

**November 23 - 25**  
**Christmas Cottage**  
Agricenter International, Memphis

**November 18**  
**Enchanted Forest Snow Forest Ball**  
**A Daddy Daughter Dance**  
Pink Palace Museum

**December 3**  
**Enchanted Forest Senior Day**  
Pink Palace Museum

**December 14 & 18**  
**Enchanted Forest Story Time with Santa**  
Pink Palace Museum

**For more information, call (901) 287-6308  
or visit [www.lebonheur.org](http://www.lebonheur.org).**



**Clarice Ayo**  
Mr. Robert Ayo, Jr.

**Mrs. Catherine Baines**  
Bluff City Electronics

**Dorothy Balant**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Mills

**Kayla Ballard**  
Lula-Rich Educational Foundation, Inc.

**Dakota Bates**  
Ms. Suzanne T. Hill  
Ms. Doris Shields

**H. Francis Bland**  
Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Bland

**Sam & Dorothy Block**  
Dr. & Mrs. David Lefkowitz III

**Baby Girl Boswell**  
Memphis OB/GYN Association, PC

**Robert W. Bounds**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Millard III

**Thomas Bourke**  
Mr. R. M. Bourke

**Nancy Howe Bouvier**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Key

**Eva M. Box**  
Ms. Gloria E. Bonnett

**Allen D. Brady**  
Holmes Community College

**Bob Brock**  
Dr. & Mrs. Larry M. Jones

**Ione W. Brown**  
Ms. Elizabeth W. Flanagan

**Mr. Charles Bunn**  
Rhea & Ivy  
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Rhodes  
Mr. & Mrs. Wally Riffle  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sharp

**Susie Burns**  
Mr. & Mrs. Basil T. Hall  
Ms. Joyce A. Hall

**Melanie Byard**  
Mr. Craig Weiss

**Mrs. Nancy Caldwell**  
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Adsit  
Embury United Methodist Women  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Mc Cutchen  
Ms. Kini Plumlee  
Mr. Frank H. Stephenson  
Harry Stephenson  
Mr. J. F. Williams  
Mr. Jim Williams

**Baby Cannady**  
Memphis OB/GYN Association, PC

**Evelyn Carlton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Porter

**Mrs. Evelyn Casey**  
Mr. Erskine A. Casey

**Mr. Aubrey Chandler**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan E. Carey

**Casey Clay**  
Mr. & Mrs. Claude T. Clay

**Percy Clayton**  
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Carrigan

**Dorthea Clemmons**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fegal

**Bernie L. Coleman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne L. Brown  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Simpson

**Baby Boy Conner**  
Memphis OB/GYN Association, PC

**Mr. Chance Cook**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Cook

**Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Couch**  
Dr. B. L. Couch

**John L. Crafton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Crafton

**James E. Creed**  
Ms. Rosemary Betzelberger  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith M. Ingram

**Mr. Ronnie Cullum**  
Ms. Nicole Clark  
Ms. Judy Cope  
Mr. & Mrs. Gil Starnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Waits

**Mr. Eddie Cupples**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Adams, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William Harris  
Ms. Frances Lane  
Ms. Evelyn Vanderford

**C. D. Curtis**  
Ms. Heather Shelton

**Nancy Carter Dale**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Cornpropst

**Bradley Declark**  
Mr. Darrell Higginbotham

**Comer Dempsey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rowe

**Jennifer Paige Dickey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Dickey  
Ms. Sherry Dickey

**Roy L. Dixon, Jr.**  
Ms. Martha Wilson

**Gayle Dodd**  
Mr. William Dodd

**Jane Donnell**  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny R. Moore

**Mr. Waymond C. Dowdy**  
Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Beard

**Nancy Duggan**  
Mr. Denis Garcia

**Mr. David M. Engelman**  
Mrs. Mary C. Mehaffey

**Rev. Charles Farmer**  
Ms. Vera M. Farmer

**Father of Jeff Feibelman**  
Mrs. John H. Pritchard

**Aarie Forney**  
Ms. Caryline Adkins

**Mr. James W. Franks**  
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Sanders

**Wesley Franks**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Jeter

**W. H. Frazer**  
Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Robinson

**Mr. Calvin E. Freeman**  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Conger

**Fred French**  
Ms. Betty M. Campbell

**Gene Frost**  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Frost

**Kayleigh D. German**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon German  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Gifford  
Ms. Jeanette S. Jennings

**Linda Gibson**  
Ms. Gloria J. Davis

**Larry Gober**  
Mr. & Mrs. Royal N. Gober

**Mr. Herman Goody**  
Mrs. Barbara G. Dagastino

**Mary A. Green**  
Ms. Tonya V. Jones

**Cathy Griffin**  
Mr. Glenn H. Hayes

**Madge G. Hackney**  
Ms. Melba M. Webb

**Charles Haman**  
Ms. Dawn Lampkins

**Mr. B. B. Hamilton**  
Mrs. Nellie E. Hamilton

**Charles L. Hamric III**  
Ms. Ertheleen J. Blanton  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith M. Ingram

**Martha Harville**  
Mr. Adrian P. Harville

**Mrs. Margaret Hensley**  
Mrs. Maxine McCool

**Martha L. Howell**  
Mr. Jimmy Howell

**Mr. Harvey Hudspeth**  
Mr. Warren W. Gray

**Mrs. Florence V. Humphreys**  
Mrs. Linda Adkison

**Mrs. Margaret Isabel**  
Mr. Daryl K. Isabel

**Marian Jackson**  
Ms. Dorothy R. Shearon

**Martha Jenkins**  
Mrs. Mary C. Mehaffey

**Ruth Johnson**  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Ward

**Joel Kellum**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jessie Kellum

**James F. Kirby**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Mills

**Mrs. Adele Kline**  
Mr. Robert Hirsberg

**Ms. Helen A. Knight**  
Mr. David W. Peggs

**Mr. Robert Lafferty**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Mills

**Ms. Marcelle Lancaster**  
Mr. Willie M. Henry

**Mrs. Ramona Landrum**  
Mr. Larry W. Landrum, Sr.

**Mrs. Perle S. Leadford**  
Ms. Olivia Jones

**Gerald Lester**  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Tackett

**April Lewis**  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Brockman

**Lilly Mae**  
Ms. Judie A. Stewart

**Mary E. Livingston**  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis B. Cockrell

**Mrs. Mae N. Lowery**  
Mrs. Patricia G. Klinke

**Rebecca Mann**  
Mr. & Mrs. Derek Hutchison

**Ellis Masterson**  
Ms. Judy Masterson

**Chloe Faith Mayhall-Hurst**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Coleman Moore  
Ms. Kathryn Crighton  
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Vallin

**Mrs. Louise McDade**  
Ms. Barbara Clark

**Claire M. McDonald**  
Mrs. Russell and Joan Chesney

**Anna DeCell McHenry**  
Mr. & Mrs. William McCall

**Leon McKee**  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ratliff

**Guynell McKnight**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sims, Jr.

**Jackson McLendon**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Carnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur De Lashmet

**Mr. Richard McVay**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Kelly

**Sadie L. Moat**  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Snowden

**Cedie Mock**  
Lucy Elementary School

**Dr. Dexter W. Montgomery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Mitchell

**William & Gertrude Morehouse**  
Mrs. Irene M. Haas

**Mrs. Sybil Morgan**  
Mr. Ralph Thomas

**Mr. & Mrs. Williams A. Morton**  
Mr. Larry A. Morton

**Mrs. Frances Mullen**  
Ms. Mary Louise Gillespie

**Ms. Meadow Leighann Nabors**  
Mrs. Regina Fite  
Dr. Martin I. Herman

**Jon Andy Nanney**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dexter Nanney, Sr.

**Baby Nappier**  
Memphis OB/GYN Association, PC

**Alayna Yvette Nicholson**  
Ms. Felecia Sykes

**Mr. Leo Norman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hammond

**Dana Northcut**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Bundy  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark E. Henry  
Mr. James McDaniel

**Mrs. Shirley O'Keefe**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles P. Sbravati

**Mary Ellen Parimore**  
Ms. Lisa Bolton  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bueltmann  
Ms. Kathleen C. Gardner  
Mr. & Mrs. Trow Gillespie  
Mr. & Mrs. D. Stephen Morrow  
Mrs. Bobbie Smith

**Mrs. Edna Parker**  
Mrs. Maxine McCool

**Mr. Mathew Parker**  
Mr. Jerry Ring

**Patty Parks**  
Ms. Mary B. Reed  
Burns Dozer Service  
Mr. & Mrs. Marlin D. Cartwright  
Ms. Charlotte Deaton  
Deaton Construction, Inc.  
Mark and Connie Haygood  
Mrs. Robbie Lambert  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Parks  
Senter Furniture, Inc.

**Carolyn Park's Sister**  
Mrs. Neal E. Schilling

**Randall Paxton**  
Ms. Ann McKee

**Caroline L. Pensak**  
Mrs. Lucy E. Garner

**Alan Pickens**  
Ms. Rhonda Pickens

**Matthew Ponders**  
Mr. & Mrs. Rayburn W. Azlin

**Luc Adrien Prevost**  
Memphis OB/GYN Association, PC  
Mrs. John H. Pritchard  
Mr. & Mrs. Cleo W. Stevenson, Jr.  
Watkins Uiberall, PLLC

**Tim Ratliff**  
Mrs. Teresa Bostick  
Ms. Sherry S. Holmes

**Mr. William L. Reams**  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Mills

**Mardrecus D. Rhodes**  
Ms. Doris F. Tolbert

**Titus Riley**  
Gumtree Twigs  
Mark and Connie Haygood

**Mrs. Pete Ritchey**  
Mr. Robert Hirsberg

**Nell Ritchey**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Renfrow

**Neva Shelton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mallory

**Anne Silverman**  
Mr. Bernard Silverman

**Mrs. Eula Simpson**  
Ms. Betty Blackmon

**David Skinner**  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell L. Bailey  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Garner  
Ms. Suzanne T. Hill  
Ms. Joan K. Johnson  
Mr. Gene P. Tate

**Baby Smith**  
Memphis OB/GYN Association, PC

**C. C. Smith**  
Basil Smith Realty

**Elva Smith**  
Basil Smith Realty

**Eris Smith**  
Mark and Connie Haygood

**Hudson S. Smith**  
Ms. Anne Cordell

**Steve Smith**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sims

**Elise Stacy**  
Ms. Carolyn Swift

**Mr. Michael L. Stevens**  
Mr. Harold Stevens

**Catherine Strickland**  
Ms. Ruby Griffith

**Dorothy Tatum**  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald C. Hodges

**Mrs. Carolyn Taylor**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan E. Carey

**Betty H. Threadgill**  
Ms. Jane K. Williamson

**Roland Tiner**  
Ms. Delores Fleming

**Anna M. Travis**  
Mr. Kenneth B. Travis

**Reba Turner**  
Mr. David H. Mayhall

**Dr. Tom Twele**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard R. Stock

**Unborn Children**  
Ms. Darla J. Garner

**Mr. Elvis Vance**  
Mrs. Casey Harrison

**Marjorie Veglio**  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Carroll

**Bobbie Ware**  
Ms. Shirley Bostick  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Moody  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Tidwell

**Joe R. Warren**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dewayne C. Goodrich

**Rita Weatherly**  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Thompson

**Wilson Weatherly**  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Thompson

**Mrs. Vera Weeks**  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Maxcy

**Meridith Williams**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe E. Williams

**Mrs. Winnie Yarbrough**  
Mr. Clay Bateman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Beckham  
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Gillespie

**Lorenzo Young**  
Mrs. Mary L. Ashford

**Mr. Chester Zipponi**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Hastings

# 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.

Makyla Jackson



## 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 Bethany Goolsby at (901) 287-5575.

## 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 for 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](http://www.lebonheur.org) and click on "Ways to Help".

[www.lebonheur.org](http://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 Larry Woodard at (901) 287-6308 or email [woodardl@lebonheur.org](mailto:woodardl@lebonheur.org).

## 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 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.



50 N. Dunlap  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

www.lebonheur.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Memphis, TN  
Permit No. 3093

## Eagle Scout Donates Audio Library for Patients

**P**atients at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center can escape to another world where mystical creatures, a comical cat and fun-loving amphibians make their hospital stay much easier to bear, thanks to the efforts of Memphis Boy Scout Bowen Horton.

Bowen, 14, is a ninth-grade student at Evangelical Christian School (ECS). When it was time to create his Eagle Scout project, Bowen remembered his stay two years ago as an overnight patient at Le Bonheur. Reflecting on his hospital experience, he decided he wanted to give something "fun" back to the other children.

With a lot of thought and care, and using his resources, Bowen developed a 50-book library with audio CDs for Le Bonheur patients to enjoy.

"I like to read and I wanted to give other kids the opportunity to learn from reading," Bowen said about his decision to coordinate the project. "I organized the scouts from Troop 86 to read the books on CDs. We all enjoyed doing something special for the patients at Le Bonheur."

The audio library is equipped with five CD players and award-winning books selected by Bowen. Many of the books he purchased himself. As a top popcorn seller in his scout district, Bowen bought the books with the money he raised from popcorn sales.

Next, he organized his friends, family and other troop members to read the books aloud for recording.

"I hope that if their parents aren't there to read to them, they can listen and still enjoy the stories," Bowen said upon completion of the project.

The audio library is housed on a movable cart for easy access to patient rooms.

"The library is perfect, especially for patients who want to read but can't necessarily leave their room," said Brenda Garner, Le Bonheur's manager of Volunteer Services.

Bowen's project has been a huge success with Le Bonheur patients and families, says Thomas Hobson, manager of the Child Life Services department.

"He put a great deal of work into this project, and the audio cart has made it incredibly easy for both patients and staff to use. The most wonderful thing is the way his project brought reading to our patients. We cannot thank Bowen enough." — *Kelly Jackson*



Le Bonheur patient Matt Wingfield listens to *Curious George* while his grandmother, Mary Beth Wingfield, reads *Ben's Boat* to his sister, Abby. His parents, Carol and Ben Wingfield of Collierville, enjoyed the books, too.





# Eagle Scout Donates Audio Library for Patients

By Kelly Jackson



Le Bonheur patient Matt Wingfield listens to *Curious George* while his grandmother, Mary Beth Wingfield, reads *Ben's Boat* to his sister, Abby. His parents, Carol and Ben Wingfield of Collierville, enjoyed the books, too.

Patients at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center can escape to another world where mystical creatures, a comical cat and fun-loving amphibians make their hospital stay much easier to bear, thanks to the efforts of Memphis Boy Scout Bowen Horton.

Bowen, 14, is a ninth-grade student at Evangelical Christian School (ECS). When it was time to create his Eagle Scout project, Bowen remembered his stay two years ago as an overnight patient at Le Bonheur. Reflecting on his hospital experience, he decided he wanted to give something "fun" back to the other children.

With a lot of thought and care, and using his resources, Bowen developed a 50-book library with audio CDs for Le Bonheur patients to enjoy.

"I like to read and I wanted to give other kids the opportunity to learn from reading," Bowen said about his decision to coordinate the project. "I organized the scouts from Troop 86 to read the books on CDs. We all enjoyed doing something special for the patients at Le Bonheur."

The audio library is equipped with five CD players and award-winning books selected by Bowen. Many of the books he purchased himself. As a top popcorn seller in his scout district, Bowen bought the books with the money he raised from popcorn sales.

Next, he organized his friends, family and other troop members to read the books aloud for recording. Among the books the scouts recorded were *Curious George*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Cat in the Hat* and *Ben's Boat*, the charming children's book written and illustrated by well-known Memphis artist Sophie Coors. Published in memory of Coors' brother Ben, this book was donated to the project by the hospital. (*Ben's Boat* can be purchased through the Le Bonheur Foundation. All proceeds benefit Le Bonheur.)

"I hope that if their parents aren't there to read to them, they can listen and still enjoy the stories," Bowen said upon completion of the project.

The audio library is housed on a movable cart for easy access to patient rooms.



Bowen Horton

"The audio library is perfect, especially for patients who want to read but can't necessarily leave their room," said Brenda Garner, Le Bonheur's manager of Volunteer Services.

Bowen's project has been a huge success with Le Bonheur patients and families, says Thomas Hobson, manager of the Child Life Services department.

"He put a great deal of work into this project, and the audio cart has made it incredibly easy for both patients and staff to use. The most wonderful thing is the way his project brought reading to our patients. We cannot thank Bowen enough."

Le Bonheur welcomes donations of books and books-on-tape for the mobile audio library.

"We want all of our patients to benefit from and enjoy Bowen's project," Hobson said, noting that books for teens are greatly in demand. To contribute a book or CD to the audio library, call Child Life Services at (901) 287-6021. ♥