

# SECURING THE PROMISE

SPRING 2016

## Second family

*Boy forms special bond with Le Bonheur staff*

- ♥ Father finds a way to give back for son's care
- ♥ New pediatric stroke program helps 14-year-old return to sports

Le Bonheur  
Children's Hospital



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

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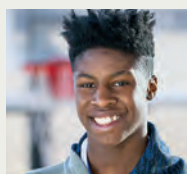
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## MESSAGE FROM MERI

Dear Friends,

You will find heroes inside the walls of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. From our nurses and therapists, to our lab technicians and pharmacists – all of our Associates truly are the heart of Le Bonheur. I am in awe of the dedication and commitment they have to children.

We learned last month that Le Bonheur Children's has officially been designated as a Magnet hospital by the American Nursing Credentialing Center. Le Bonheur is among only 7 percent of hospitals in the country to earn this distinction, a testament to the exceptional care those heroes provide patients and families each day.

This designation is the ultimate credential for high quality patient care. More than an honor for our nursing teams, Magnet is evidence that each and every one of us is committed to providing a higher standard of care for all children in need.

**Your gifts and commitment to children help us provide the best care.**

We are all Magnet, and we earned this recognition together. Your gifts give our staff opportunities to make new discoveries, further their education and provide better expertise. Our Le Bonheur families depend on you.

Our Magnet journey has pushed us to be even better versions of ourselves. We will continue to improve upon the care and devotion we show to patients, to families, and to one another.

Thank you for the gifts you provide. They help us move forward in providing better care. We depend on your generosity and are so grateful for the ways you continue to meet these needs. For every child who depends on your continued support, we say thank you.

Sincerely,



Meri Armour, MSN, MBA  
President and CEO







# *Second family*

## Boy forms special bond with Le Bonheur staff

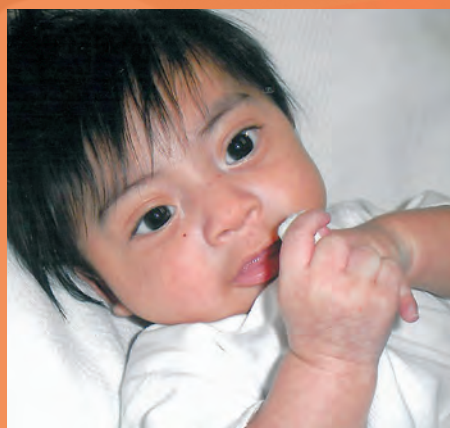
In the first five years of his life, Juan Carlos Francisco-Pedro has spent most of his childhood as a patient at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

On average, he spends 282 days a year at Le Bonheur.

He's been hospitalized 33 times.

In the course of those days, Juan found his second family in the staff at Le Bonheur. They are lifelong friendships — the kind he and his family can lean on when they need them the most.





Juan Carlos Francisco-Pedro has spent more than 1,400 days at Le Bonheur. Juan has Hirschsprung's disease, a condition that affects the nerve cells in the large intestine.

Shortly after his birth, Juan's mother, Maria Francisco, learned that her son had a gastrointestinal defect. Juan spent his first six months in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) as doctors and hospital staff fought to keep him alive and determine what was wrong.

"When I discovered my son was sick, I got really scared," Maria said. "I was so afraid that I started crying and crying because I was afraid of what was going to happen to my child. I didn't know what was going to happen."



In the last five years, dozens of physicians and nurses and other specialists have cared for Juan, seeing him through multiple surgeries, numerous hospital stays – which at times would last for weeks – and constant

visits to the Emergency Department.

### A ROCKY START

Maria Francisco cries when she recalls her son's first six months of life. When Juan was just 2 days old,

*During a recent doctor's visit, Maria Francisco lifts up Juan's shirt to show the nurse his ostomy bag. Juan, who has Hirschsprung's disease, is unable to pass solid waste and must have an ostomy bag.*





it was clear something was wrong. Doctors discovered he had a bowel obstruction, and surgeons removed the blocked area and created an opening in his abdominal wall so he could pass solid waste. Two months later, a second surgery reconnected his intestines, and then a third removed adhesions and scars doctors thought were causing the reoccurring blockages.

Juan showed some signs of improvement after his third surgery, but soon the blockage returned. Finally, Juan had a diagnosis.

“We then looked for another reason as to why he was having recurrent intestinal blockage, and that was when we diagnosed him with long segment Hirschsprung’s disease,” said Pediatric Surgeon Eunice Huang, MD. Nationally, about one in 5,000 people annually are diagnosed with Hirschsprung’s disease, a condition that affects the nerve cells in the large intestine and makes it difficult to pass solid waste.

Then another surgery, his fourth, created a permanent ostomy bag because his intestines couldn’t push



*Juan has spent many holidays at Le Bonheur due to complications from Hirschsprung’s disease.*

foods through the intestinal tract, and his intestines needed an outlet for stool.

Pediatric Gastroenterologist Mark Corkins, MD, described Juan’s first extended stay at Le Bonheur as “very rough and very rocky.”

“There were times where his life could have been

threatened,” Corkins said. “But he seems to be very resilient and bounces back pretty quickly.”

In those first four surgeries, doctors had to remove sections of Juan’s intestines, and his bowels are shorter than a typical child. Because his intestines are too short to process regular foods, doctors inserted a gastronomy tube (G-tube) to provide Juan with enough calories



*Le Bonheur nurse Tenaria Morrow gives Juan his medication through his central line. In early April, Juan was hospitalized for dehydration.*





*"I feel sad because he doesn't spend a lot of time with me, but on the other side, when he's sick, I know the doctors will give him the medicine that he needs."*

Maria Francisco



and nutrients. Doctors also inserted a central line for fluids and IV nutrition.

After a six-month stay at Le Bonheur, Maria

finally took

Juan home.

Juan proved

to be a fighter,

someone who

wouldn't easily

give up. Maria

calls him her

"little warrior."

## LASTING FRIENDSHIPS

Juan has

spent 1,434

days in the

hospital.

When Juan is

admitted, he's often treated for dehydration, severe

stomach aches and fever. Doctors also are cautious

about infections near his central line, which can lead

to sepsis – a potentially life-threatening complication

of infection.

Having her son in the hospital for a majority

of his life is difficult, Maria said. With five other

children, Maria tries to spend as much time as she

can with Juan and his siblings. On nice afternoons,

she'll take her children to the park to play near

the hospital. Other days she'll take them to the

Children's Museum of Memphis or the Memphis

Zoo. But when

Juan is in the

hospital, Maria

rests easier

knowing the

special bond

her son has

formed with

the Le Bonheur

staff. For Maria,

sending Juan

to Le Bonheur is

a mix of complex

emotions.

"I feel sad

because he

doesn't spend a lot of time with me, but on the other

side, when he's sick, I know the doctors will give him

the medicine that he needs," she said.

During his time at Le Bonheur, Maria has lost

count of the number of doctors and nurses who have

cared for Juan – too many to count, she said. Jessie

Dvorak and Molly Napier are two of Juan's newest

nurses. But the pair are more than nurses to Juan –

they're teachers and friends. When Dvorak, Napier



*Le Bonheur staff, Ellen Goleb, Amy Lufcy, Erin Melton, Molly Napier and Jessie Dvorak, do more than take care of Juan Carlos. They also are friends and a second family to the 5-year-old.*





*During his time at Le Bonheur, doctors, nurses and volunteers have helped Juan learn his colors, letters and numbers. They also taught him how to brush his teeth and even helped him with potty training.*

and other Le Bonheur nurses have down time, they help Juan learn his colors, numbers and letters. They've also taught him how to properly brush his teeth and even helped with potty training.

"Since he has spent so much time with us, he's like our 12th floor



*Whenever Juan stays at Le Bonheur, he always brings a bag of toys. Some of Juan's favorites include Thomas the Tank Engine and his Minions.*

child. My relationship is like a motherly relationship because I care for him constantly when he's here. We've grown close to his siblings when they are here ... We're like one big, huge family," said Dvorak.

And "family" is how Maria describes the Le Bonheur nursing staff. When Juan isn't in the hospital, Dvorak and



Napier often stop by his Memphis home for quick visits. “With Juan we’ve all formed a bond and had an instant connection with him,” Napier said. “He’s the most loveable kid I’ve met. He’s always the bright spot of my day when he is here. He brings so much joy.”

Building a lasting friendship with Juan and his family outside the hospital’s walls is important, Dvorak said. Not only does it build trust, but it also lets Juan experience the joys of a typical childhood.

*“My relationship is like a motherly relationship because I care for him constantly when he’s here. We’ve grown close to his siblings when they are here ... We’re like one big, huge family.”*

Jessie Dvorak, RN

“It’s important for him to be a kid when he’s discharged, and we want to make sure we’re part of that kid experience,” Dvorak said. “We want to make sure we’re doing our part outside of the hospital, too.”



Intensive Care Unit nurse  
Denise Youngblood visits  
Juan on the 12th floor.



That includes taking Juan and his five siblings on fun outings, like to the Memphis Zoo and bowling at Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid. This winter, the two took Juan and his family to their first Memphis Grizzlies game, where they sat courtside for the team's afternoon practice and met the players. This spring, their plans include Chuck E. Cheese's, playing laser tag and a trip to Jerry's Sno Cones, a Memphis favorite.

"We do anything we can do with him since he hasn't had a normal childhood so far," Napier said.

## HOME AT LAST

In early January, Juan went home after a short stay over the Christmas and New Year holiday. It was a bittersweet moment for Le Bonheur staff.

"When he's home for a while he doesn't want to come back, but when he's here for a while he doesn't want to go home," Dvorak said. "It's sad whenever he's about to go home, but you're glad he's well enough to go home."

Since his last hospital stay, Juan is slowly



*Jessie Dvorak, Juan and Molly Napier take a selfie at a recent Memphis Grizzlies game. The nurses took Juan and his family to their first NBA game and sat courtside during the team's afternoon practice.*



recovering and healing, Maria said. At home, Juan enjoys playing outdoors with his five siblings, playing with his Thomas the Tank Engine toys, watching cartoons – the “Minions” movie is one of his favorites – and spending time with the family’s new Chihuahua, Oreo. Juan will enter kindergarten this fall.

Beyond that, Corkins said Juan is a typical child who enjoys visiting with Le Bonheur staff and remains thankful to those who gave him a fighting chance at life.

“In every way he’s a very normal 5-year-old except he has spent a majority of his life in the hospital. He has a central line, he has a feeding tube and

***“In every way he’s a very normal 5-year-old except he has spent a majority of his life in the hospital. He has a central line, he has a feeding tube and he has an ostomy bag. Put a shirt on him and a pair of jeans, and you’ll never know.”***

Mark Corkins, MD, CNSP, SPR, FAAP  
chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology



Memphis Grizzlies point guard Mike Conley met Juan and Jessie Dvorak when the two attended an afternoon practice.

he has an ostomy bag,” Corkins said. “Put a shirt on him and a pair of jeans, and you’ll never know.”

Although no future surgeries are planned, Corkins said Juan will require constant care. As he gets older, his bowels will continue to grow, but he’ll still need a G-tube and central line for nutrition







and medications to help make his bowels work more efficiently. Extended hospital stays are still a possibility.

Despite living most of his life at Le Bonheur, a place Juan and Maria call a second home, he continues to inspire the hospital staff with his upbeat personality.

“Because he’s been through some rocky times, he knows we care about him, and I think he knows people here are trying to take the best care of him,” Corkins said. “He’ll smile at you even when he doesn’t feel good, and people here love to take care of Juan.”



*Le Bonheur nurses Molly Napier, Stephanie Patrick and Jessie Dvorak recently took Juan Carlos, his brother, Pedro, and their siblings to the Memphis Zoo to see the pandas.*



Watch Juan's story  
[www.lebonheur.org/secure](http://www.lebonheur.org/secure)



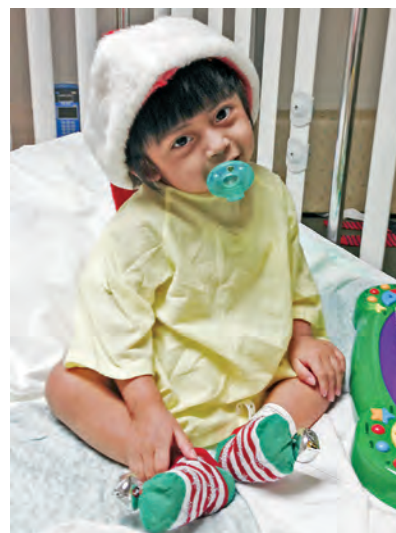
1 childhood.  
1,434 hospitalized days.  
3 out of 5 birthdays.  
3 Christmas mornings.

Juan Carlos Francisco-Pedro has spent nearly all of his life at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. At age 5, he's been hospitalized 33 times and cared for by hundreds of doctors, nurses, dietitians and therapists. At any moment, he may need them again.

And that's why we need you.



## What does a childhood spent in a hospital look like?



Thanks to donors like you, Juan knows that Le Bonheur offers more than medicine. And Le Bonheur knows that Juan needs the best chance at childhood. Your gifts allow us to offer amenities that make the hospital more comfortable for kids like Juan, including:

- Child life specialists, who use play and art to **help children overcome their fears and deal with their questions and emotions** about hospitalization. We have a dedicated child life specialist for each unit and outpatient clinics.
- Social workers, who can be reached 24 hours a day to **support families during their child's illness**. They may also help with plans for home care services after families leave Le Bonheur and help them find community resources.
- An accredited school program, so that children who are hospitalized can **keep up with their school work** while away.
- Chaplains, who provide **spiritual care and counseling services** to parents, children, family and friends and are available 24 hours a day to offer support, prayer and comfort.
- Case managers, who help coordinate a child's care throughout his stay, working closely with nurses and social workers to **ensure that every child receives the level of care he or she needs**.
- An ethics consultation team to **help should an ethical question arise that involves a child's treatment**.
- Respite care services, so that **if parents need to leave the hospital, trained volunteers are available** to keep the child company.
- Parent mentors, who **provide peer support, coping strategies and suggestions for navigating the journey** and the parent's role in his or her child's care.





# TRI FOR TRISTAN

*Father finds a way to give back for son's care*



2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run.

Twelve months of intense training. That's what Andy Domina committed to when he signed up for the September 2015 IRONMAN Triathlon in

Chattanooga, Tenn. The conditions would be tough – but so was Andy. He and his wife, Sarah, had already been through so much.

In 2013, Andy and Sarah Domina were living in Hawaii where Andy was

stationed as an active duty Naval officer and anxiously awaiting the birth of their first child. May 9, 2013, began as one of the happiest days of their lives, as they welcomed 6-pound Tristan into the world. Soon after Tristan's birth, the Dominas



learned their little boy was born with esophageal atresia and tracheoesophageal fistula (EA/TEF), a rare birth defect that affects one in 4,000 babies each year.

The upper portion of Tristan's esophagus was shortened and ended in a blind pouch instead of connecting to his stomach, and the lower portion was connected to his trachea instead of his mouth.

Because of these issues, there was no path for food to get from his mouth to his stomach, but there was a direct path for stomach contents to move into his lungs—a grave concern.

Their tears of joy turned into overwhelming fear.

Within 24 hours of his birth, Tristan was transported to a major children's hospital, and at just 4 days old, he underwent a surgery to reconnect his esophagus. After three weeks of recovery in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the Dominas finally went home as a family of three.

But the challenges didn't end there.

***"For Tristan, eating was like trying to swallow a drink through an hourglass-shaped esophagus. Meals were very slow at first, and many feedings ended in gagging and vomiting."***

Andy Domina



*Tristan Domina was born with esophageal atresia and tracheoesophageal fistula, a rare birth defect.*

The family had to learn the intricacies of raising a child with EA/TEF. Scar tissue near the surgery site made feeding

incredibly difficult at first.

"For Tristan, eating was like trying to swallow a drink through an hourglass-shaped esophagus. Meals were very slow at first, and many feedings ended in gagging and vomiting," said Andy.

They spent the next six months in and out of the hospital for check-ups and other procedures.

Later that year, the Dominas relocated to Memphis for Andy's new



*Tristan continues to come to Le Bonheur for dilation procedures to help open his esophagus.*





Andy Domina holds his son, Tristan, near the finish line of the September 2015 IRONMAN in Chattanooga, Tenn. Andy used the endeavor as a chance to raise money for the hospitals that treated Tristan.

*"It was a social media experiment to see my friends rally behind my training and this cause. I was thrilled to find a way to give back."*

Andy Domina



job at the naval base in Millington, Tenn. Tristan's condition causes him to need regular dilation – a procedure that uses an inflated balloon instrument to open his esophagus and help him swallow normally. So, Tristan continued his follow-up care at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

At the Millington base, Andy met a fellow Naval officer who was training for an IRONMAN triathlon.

Andy, who had previously competed in a sprint triathlon, had an idea.

He registered to compete in the IRONMAN race, using the endeavor as a chance to raise money for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital – a place they had grown to love for the care Tristan, now 3, receives. He spent the next 12 months training, while asking friends and family to pledge their support and donate to the Dominas' favorite cause.

"It was a social media experiment to see my friends rally behind my training and this cause. I was thrilled to find a way to give back," said Andy.

The race was grueling, and by the end of the final leg of the competition — a full marathon — he felt himself giving out. As he neared the end, he spotted Sarah, Tristan and his loved ones, and shared hugs and kisses before officially crossing the finish line to the sound of cheering crowds. He then heard the words, "Andy



*Andy's wife, Sarah, and Tristan cheer on Andy during the IRONMAN race. Andy finished with a time of 10 hours 48 minutes and 42 seconds.*

Domina, you are an IRONMAN!" finishing at 10 hours 48 minutes and 42 seconds.

When it was all said and done, he was proud of how his training prepared him for such a feat because, on race day, he never doubted that he would become an IRONMAN.

While the post-race pizza and sodas were well-deserved indulgences, Andy

says his greatest reward was being able to give back to the hospitals that saved his son's life. He raised \$15,000 and split the donations between the hospital in Hawaii that saved Tristan's life and Le Bonheur — the hospital that continues to help Tristan recover.



# RONNIE'S REBOUND

*New pediatric stroke program  
helps 14-year-old return to sports*

Fourteen-year-old Ronnie Gordon of Oxford, Miss., is a sports fanatic. He's a power forward and shooting guard for his middle school's basketball team and a cornerback for the football team. He dreams of playing football at Ole Miss and joining the NFL. The Seattle Seahawks is his favorite team.

After Ronnie had a stroke last July, that's what he worried about most – sports. Would he be able to play again?







"I thought, what if I can't go back to playing," Ronnie said.

It started with a dull headache. Not bad enough to stay home, but it was persistent. He joined friends that afternoon at his local Boys & Girls Club for a game of basketball. On the court, he started to feel weak. Then, he passed out.

"I got this weird feeling, and I couldn't move my left side," Ronnie said.

Ebony Cancer, a staff member at the L.O.U. Barksdale Clubhouse Boys & Girls Club, remembers the incident well. She was talking to Ronnie at the edge of the court when he collapsed.

*"I told him to get up. He was drooling, and then we tried to lift him."*

Ebony Cancer, staff member,  
L.O.U. Barksdale Clubhouse  
Boys & Girls Club

"I thought he was messing with me like they all do," she says. "I told him to get up. He was drooling, and then we tried to lift him."

The staff members immediately called 911.

Ronnie was airlifted from his local hospital to Le Bonheur

Children's Hospital.

At Le Bonheur, a CT scan revealed Ronnie was having an acute stroke. Doctors found a blood clot in his brain. He was rushed into the hospital's Catheterization Lab where he was given medicine via embolization to dissolve the clot.

Each year, about five per 100,000 children ages 19 and younger have a stroke. Pediatric stroke is among the top 10

*Ebony Cancer, center, remembers Ronnie's stroke vividly. She was talking to Ronnie when he collapsed on the basketball court and couldn't get up.*





leading causes of death in children, according to the American Stroke Association. Doctors see more strokes in children and adolescents today in large part because children born with congenital illnesses and anomalies are living longer, thanks to advances in medicine, said Pediatric Neurologist Paras Bhattarai, MD. Congenital illnesses — like heart defects or sickle cell anemia — are risk factors for stroke.

Bhattarai leads the Pediatric Stroke Center at Le Bonheur, a program formalized in 2015 to provide coordinated



*Ronnie stands on the same court where he had his stroke almost one year ago.*

long-term care for children like Ronnie. It's the only such center in the region and offers children who've suffered a stroke a comprehensive program aimed at regaining strength and function.

"Even though stroke is less common in children than adults, children and adolescents are at greater risk for mortality and long-term issues," said Bhattarai, who is Ronnie's neurologist.

Long-term effects from stroke can include cognitive and sensory impairments, speech or communication disorders, behavioral issues and visual disturbances among others. When the Pediatric Stroke







*Ronnie Gordon, 14, continues to see Dr. Paras Bhattarai in Le Bonheur's Pediatric Stroke Clinic. The multidisciplinary clinic offers coordinated long-term care for children and adolescents who've suffered a stroke.*

Center was formed last year, the goal was twofold: provide access to a Le Bonheur neurologist 24/7 for emergency stroke management and a multidisciplinary Pediatric Stroke Clinic for long-term care. The clinic is staffed with specialists in neurology, hematology, neuro-ophthalmology and neurosurgery, as well as physical, occupational and speech therapists. The focused clinic allows stroke patients to see

all the specialists they need in one setting.

"We saw a need for children who've had a stroke to have more coordinated care. We wanted to pull together the right team – physicians, therapists, nurses – to help these kids have a chance at fully recovering," said Tracy Tidwell, NP, coordinator of the program.

The Pediatric Stroke Center is the reason today, less than a year after his stroke, Ronnie can play sports again. He was finally cleared in February. He takes a daily aspirin to prevent a second stroke and still comes to the clinic every three months for follow-up care.

He's grateful to Le Bonheur for helping him return to his life – life as a power forward, shooting guard and cornerback. Life with a shot at playing in the NFL one day.



*Program Coordinator Tracy Tidwell, NP, helps ensure patients like Ronnie receive the follow-up care needed to regain their strength after a stroke.*



# Mom to Mom

Support group  
helps moms connect,  
cope with  
hospitalized child



*Mary Cheairs volunteers with the Le Bonheur mom support group, helping connect and foster conversation between mothers in the hospital.*



## The sounds, the smells, the sights — everything about Mary Cheairs' surroundings felt unfamiliar.

After giving birth to twins, Lawson and Nathan, just 25 weeks into her pregnancy, Mary's life turned upside down. All of her carefully laid plans suddenly felt uncertain. While Lawson remained at his birthing hospital to grow stronger, Nathan was transferred to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital to be treated for jaundice. His time at Le Bonheur was extended after he developed necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a serious intestinal illness. He also had retinopathy of prematurity, which required surgery on his left eye when he was less than 3 months old.

Mary hopped back and forth between the hospitals, each day facing new and challenging issues she couldn't have prepared for.

"It was hard," Mary recalled. "I remember asking a nurse, 'Is there a support group here?' I didn't have friends who had been through this or somebody who could kind of relate."

Now seven years later, Mary fills that void for other mothers by leading a support group for Le Bonheur moms, which was founded in 2013.

Once a week, mothers in the hospital are invited to Le Bonheur's Family Resource Center for an hour of pizza and understanding. Mary is one of five moms who take turns hosting and helping foster conversation and connection between the moms in the group.

Le Bonheur Chaplain Elizabeth Hawkins co-facilitates the group. Elizabeth walks the halls Wednesday afternoons, checking in on moms and encouraging them to take a small break from their child's bedside in order to better cope with the difficulties of hospital life.

Elizabeth, who has an 18-month-old child, said her time

with the support network has shown her the underlying strength of all Le Bonheur mothers.

"To think of what our volunteer moms have been through, and still, they want to give back, it's really inspiring," said Elizabeth. "They are well trained to help others, and their personal stories are so powerful for our other moms to hear."



*Le Bonheur mom support group volunteer Mary Cheairs looks at baby photos with Le Bonheur mom April Pruett. April, who lives in New Albany, Miss., said the group has offered understanding and support during a difficult time.*

All of the volunteer moms have been trained as Le Bonheur parent mentors. Mentors receive formal training based on curriculum from the Institute for Patient- and Family-Centered Care and shadow experienced mentors before meeting families on their own. Mentors provide peer support, coping strategies and suggestions for

partnering with the health care team. They are the experts when it comes to coordinating family life during hospitalization and then normalizing life after discharge.

"I hope I am a source of hope for these moms," Mary said. "Our family's motto through our whole stay at Le Bonheur was to take everything day by day. But honestly, I feel like I gain so much more from the moms who come to the group, hearing their stories and seeing their strength. I am constantly amazed by these moms."

Listening is largely what happens in the group. The conversation begins with introductions, and the moms share a little about themselves and their children, and then the floor is open. The setting is relaxed, the conversation intimate and no topic is off limits.

"So many times, these moms just want to be able to talk. To have somebody listening who can relate – it's very comforting. It's something I was really craving when I had the twins," Mary said.

On a recent Wednesday, Cequita Jones recognized a few other moms from her son's floor when she arrived at the meeting, and her delight at seeing familiar faces was



obvious. She shared news of her baby, Jordan, who came to Le Bonheur to be treated for jaundice when doctors discovered he had twisted intestines — a condition called intestinal volvulus — and an enlarged pancreas, requiring surgery.

That day, Cequita had been working with her care team to help Jordan take a bottle. The moms around the table all nodded while Cequita talked, sharing small smiles and knowing glances.

“They understand where you are coming from, and they say just the right things — it makes you want to cry,” said Cequita. “It’s like, wow, somebody is here for you.”

Le Bonheur mom April Pruett, also experiencing an extended stay at Le Bonheur, echoed Cequita’s sentiments.

“I think when moms first hear about this, they maybe think they don’t need it or are nervous about meeting new people, but once you get there, automatically you have something in common with every person there,” she said. “We come from different states, backgrounds, ages, but you form this bond right away. Joining in the group with these moms makes us all better moms, and that will only help our children get better. That’s what we all want. It’s why we’re all there.”

*“They understand where you are coming from, and they say just the right things — it makes you want to cry. It’s like, wow, somebody is here for you.”*

Cequita Jones

*Cequita Jones opens up about her son’s hospitalization at a weekly meeting of the hospital’s mom support group, which is facilitated by mother volunteers such as Mary Cheairs (left).*



# Upcoming Events

## Gurus of Golf

**Monday, June 6, at Spring Creek Ranch**  
*Par-Tee with the Gurus, Sunday, June 5, 6 p.m.  
at Lexus of Memphis*

The annual Gurus of Golf tournament pairs 20 amateur foursomes with a Top 50 *Golf Digest* or Top 100 *Golf Magazine* teaching professional. The pre-event Par-Tee with the Gurus features a silent and live auction that includes golf packages and vacations offered and attained by the pros. For more information, contact Joanie Taylor at 901-287-5988 or [joan.taylor@lebonheur.org](mailto:joan.taylor@lebonheur.org).



## Big Wig Ball

**Friday, June 17, 7p.m. at  
Annesdale Mansion**

Come as you are or come crowned in your favorite wig and dance the evening away for Le Bonheur. This fun event includes signature drinks, fabulous food and live entertainment. Tickets are \$100 and available online now at [events.lebonheur.org/bigwigball](http://events.lebonheur.org/bigwigball).

## Memphis Food & Wine Festival

**Saturday, Oct. 15, 5 p.m. at  
Memphis Botanic Gardens**

Save the date for the 2016 Memphis Food & Wine Festival, benefiting FedExFamilyHouse.

The event showcases acclaimed local, regional and national chefs, as well as vintners and certified sommeliers. Tickets can be purchased online starting June 1 at [www.memphisfoodwinefestival.org](http://www.memphisfoodwinefestival.org).



## 12th Annual Pumpkin Run

**Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. at  
Marsh Headquarters**

Mark your calendars for Oct. 15 for the 12th annual Pumpkin Run 5K and Family Walk. The 3.1-mile course in East Memphis ends with a post-race Boo Bash party for the whole family. Enjoy family activities, a children's costume contest, music and refreshments.





## Recent Events

### Chefs come together to support Le Bonheur

More than 30 chefs from across the country came together for Le Bon Appetit on April 16. The bi-annual event hosted by Le Bonheur Club and beloved Memphis chef Kelly English is an extraordinary celebration of food and wine. Guests enjoyed the finest delicacies prepared by some of the country's most awarded chefs.



### A night of 'Magic' at The Peabody

The sixth annual FedExFamilyHouse Gala on April 9 raised more than \$1 million for the operations of FedExFamilyHouse, a home for families to stay while their child is being treated at Le Bonheur. Earvin "Magic" Johnson joined Carol and Mike Duffy as the event's honorary chairs. The event also hosted its first-ever Late Night Lounge, an after-hours party hosted by Mary Conley and Desiree Allen.



### A toast to GenerosiTEA

Each year, a group of Le Bonheur moms hosts a tea-centric event for girls of all ages, with proceeds benefiting Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. The morning included a fashion show, crafts, a silent auction, photo booth and local vendors. This year's sold-out February event was the most successful yet, raising more than \$28,000 for the hospital.





## Your gifts matter.

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital sincerely thanks the following individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations that have given generously to Le Bonheur in the last year. In spite of our best efforts, errors and omissions may occur. Please inform us of any inaccuracies by contacting Cherisa Lewis at [cherisa.lewis@lebonheur.org](mailto:cherisa.lewis@lebonheur.org) or 901-287-6308. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children and their families.

### Balloon & Key Society

*Cumulative gifts of \$1 million and more*  
Balloon & Key Society honors the day Le Bonheur opened, when keys to the hospital were tied to a balloon and released into the sky. The act symbolized that the doors of Le Bonheur will always be open for every sick child.

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### 1952 Society

*Cumulative gifts of \$100,000 to \$999,999*  
The 1952 Society recognizes the year Le Bonheur opened.

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### Good Hour Society

*Cumulative gifts of \$25,000 to \$99,999*  
The Good Hour Society is named for the French translation of Le Bonheur's name – "happiness" or the "good hour."

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## DANCING FOR THE KIDS

For the first time, Mississippi State University hosted a Dance Marathon to raise money for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. The inaugural STATEDM raised nearly \$36,000.

Dance Marathon is an annual program involving university and high school students across North America. The students spend a year planning and preparing for the Dance Marathon event, gaining leadership experience and experience interacting with their local Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospital. The year culminates in a 12- to 40-hour Dance Marathon, where the students stay on their feet dancing and playing games to support their local CMN hospital.

"Being a pre-medicine student, I have a huge passion for the life-changing work that these doctors do because that is what I want to do some day. Helping out with Dance Marathon is one experience that I will never forget, because it has truly buttressed my passion in pursuing medicine and hopefully becoming a part of these life-changing stories," said Chandler Pride, vice president of Dance Marathon's executive committee.

Nearly 300 students attended STATEDM on Feb. 26, which raised a total of \$35,981.43.



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## VOLUNTEER FINDS HER CALLING

Four years ago, Memphis high school student Savannah Shelton spent a week volunteering at Le Bonheur. Between pushing the beverage cart through the halls and making art projects with patients, Savannah found her calling. The University of Memphis junior is studying Spanish and child development with the plan to become a bilingual child life specialist.

Each summer, the VolunTEEN program hosts about 24 high school students in three, one-week sessions. The teens learn about medical careers and the impact of volunteers on the community, while serving the patients and families of Le Bonheur.

"The VolunTEEN program was the best part of that summer, and it was one of my favorite summers to date – and that was four years ago," Savannah said.

When Savannah turned 18, she became a unit buddy and has served more than 120 hours. Each week, she reports to the 11th floor – a unit dedicated to pulmonology patients. There, she finds a list from the nurses of patients who could use some cheer. Savannah loves sparking the imagination of her little friends by pretending to be pirates on a treasure hunt or dueling knights.

"For a few moments there's no pressure and no illness, there's just a kid playing. I can see such a huge change in the kid I saw when I entered the room and the kid I see when I leave," she said.

And it's not just the patients and families that benefit from Savannah's kindness. She makes the staff feel loved and appreciated.

"Savannah always goes above and beyond," said Volunteer Services Coordinator Allison Smith. "She brings flowers for the staff and even made homemade valentines for our patients."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Le Bonheur, visit [www.lebonheur.org/volunteer](http://www.lebonheur.org/volunteer).



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## Red Wagon Society

Annual gifts of \$1,000  
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The Red Wagon Society  
 is named for the iconic  
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 and their families  
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## A LOAD OF SUPPORT FOR LE BONHEUR

It doesn't take much, Jay Wolfe says, to get people in Savannah, Tenn., to donate to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Jay, along with individuals and businesses in the timber industry, have supported Le Bonheur for 18 years through an annual golf tournament. All they do is ask, and the community supports their effort.

The Richard Jones Memorial Log-A-Load for Kids® Golf Tournament is part of a nationwide giving campaign in which loggers and wood-supplying businesses support local Children's Miracle Network-affiliated hospitals to provide medical care to kids in need, regardless of their families' ability to pay. The West Tennessee golf tournament has raised more than \$500,000 for Le Bonheur.

For Jay, the cause is personal — he knows many children and families in the West Tennessee town and surrounding communities who count on the children's hospital in Memphis.

Neal Carson, who works closely with Jay to plan the tournament, says the forestry industry is closely knit. Recently, a colleague's 3-year-old had heart surgery at Le Bonheur.

"We all work together. Not only are there a lot of timber folks in West Tennessee, North Mississippi and North Alabama, there are lots of individuals and different types of businesses that help us tremendously," he said.

The golf tournament is a community effort. Jay and Neal's employers — Hankins Forest Products and PCA (Packaging Corporation of America) — support the effort, and so do many in the community. The men share the work and the success with Taylor Burdg, Glenda Cummins, Paula McAfee, Andy Pickens, Donnie Cain, Jim Bo Rose, the Rose family, Ray Scott (Shiloh Golf Course) and Corinth Coca-Cola.

"People know that we're giving every penny we take in to Le Bonheur," Jay said. "That's why they donate."

Two years ago, Jay and Neal drove to Memphis to see the new hospital that their gifts helped build.

"It was a lot to take in. We saw some amazing things. The amount of money it takes to run that place is tremendous. After touring Le Bonheur, it motivated us to raise even more," Neal said.

Jay adds, "If you don't have a different feeling after touring that place, you don't got a heart."

The 19th annual Richard Jones Memorial Log-A-Load for Kids Golf Tournament will be Saturday, May 7, at the Shiloh Golf Course in Adamsville, Tenn. For more information, contact Glenda Cummins at 731-689-1295; Neal Carson at 731-607-0860; or Jay Wolfe at 731-225-6530.



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## LABOR OF LOVE

Nine years ago, Bridgette Flack and Angela McCarter met in a Kindermusik class with their daughters. Little did they know then, the pair would bond over the children's hospital that repaired their children's hearts. Bridgette's daughter, Madeline, 10, and Angela's son, Matthew, 8, were born with heart defects.

"There's something to be said to have someone who has been where you've been. Our stories are different, but they're the same. Bridgette immediately understood and held my hand," Angela said.

The pair share the journey of raising children with heart conditions and their gratitude for Le Bonheur.

The pair, along with friends, including Hayley Sale and Jennifer Windstead (pictured above), created GenerosiTEA, an annual tea party for girls and the special women in their lives. The event has raised more than \$120,000 for Le Bonheur in seven years.

The tickets sell out weeks before the February event. This year, more than 450 girls, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and friends attended. The morning included a fashion show, cookie decorating, art projects, silent auction, photo booth, local vendors and more.

The women have two goals – raise as much money as possible to help families at Le Bonheur and teach children about the importance of giving to others.

"It's important to us that we teach kids why we're here, why we're at this tea party. We're raising another generation of philanthropists," Bridgette said.

The women make sure it's obvious to attendees that the event supports Le Bonheur. During the event, all the Le Bonheur patients are called up to the stage. Angela says it's been fun to watch this group of girls grow and thrive over the years. Also, attendees make Valentine's cards that are delivered to patients at the hospital.

"My kids notice how much time we put into it and how much we get from it," Angela said. "This is really important to us because we're raising kids who are sick and raising kids who are healthy. When they get older, they can give back with their time and talents. You don't have to have a million dollars to give back."

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- **\$15 a month** helps purchase toys and games for hospital play areas.
- **\$25 a month** helps a Le Bonheur patient receive lifesaving treatments.
- **\$50 a month** helps purchase special beds for babies in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- **\$100 a month** helps fund research that may lead to cures for many childhood diseases.

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital treats all children, regardless of their ability to pay. Your monthly gift helps Le Bonheur provide the highest level of care.

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## Understanding that matters.



Your planned gift can support innovative programs like pet therapy at Le Bonheur.

At Le Bonheur, we understand that pets often play an important role in kids' lives. Pet therapy enables hospitalized children to spend time with animals in ways that are engaging, calming and truly therapeutic.

With a planned gift to Le Bonheur, you can forever link your love of animals with our Child Life program, which focuses on the emotional needs of young patients and their families. Your gift will help ensure that life-saving and life-changing treatments like pet therapy will be available for Le Bonheur patients for generations to come.

You can make your planned gift in honor or memory of a family member, a child served by Le Bonheur or a beloved pet. To create your legacy of caring, please contact:

**Roberta B. Matthews, J.D. (Sue)**  
**Director of Gift Planning**  
roberta.matthews@lebonheur.org  
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## Le Bonheur achieves Magnet designation

*Hospital earns  
ultimate credential*



**L**e Bonheur Children's Hospital has received Magnet designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Le Bonheur is among only 7 percent of hospitals in the country to have earned the distinction of Magnet status.

"This achievement is a testament to the exceptional care we provide to patients and families every day," said Nikki Polis, chief nursing officer of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. "We are incredibly proud of our Le Bonheur family for achieving this momentous goal. Magnet is evidence that each and every one of us is committed to providing a higher standard of care for all children in need."

Directed by the ANCC, Magnet recognizes health care organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice. Consumers rely on the designation as the ultimate credential for high quality patient care.

"Our Magnet journey will continue as we improve upon the care and devotion we show to patients, to families and to one another," Polis said.

The ANCC Magnet Recognition Program designates health care organizations that demonstrate excellence in nursing practice, adherence to national standards for improving patient care, leadership and sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity. Hospitals undergo a rigorous evaluation that includes a document submission and an onsite evaluation of patient care and outcomes. Magnet hospitals must provide an annual status report on their progress and must undergo re-evaluation every four years to retain the designation.