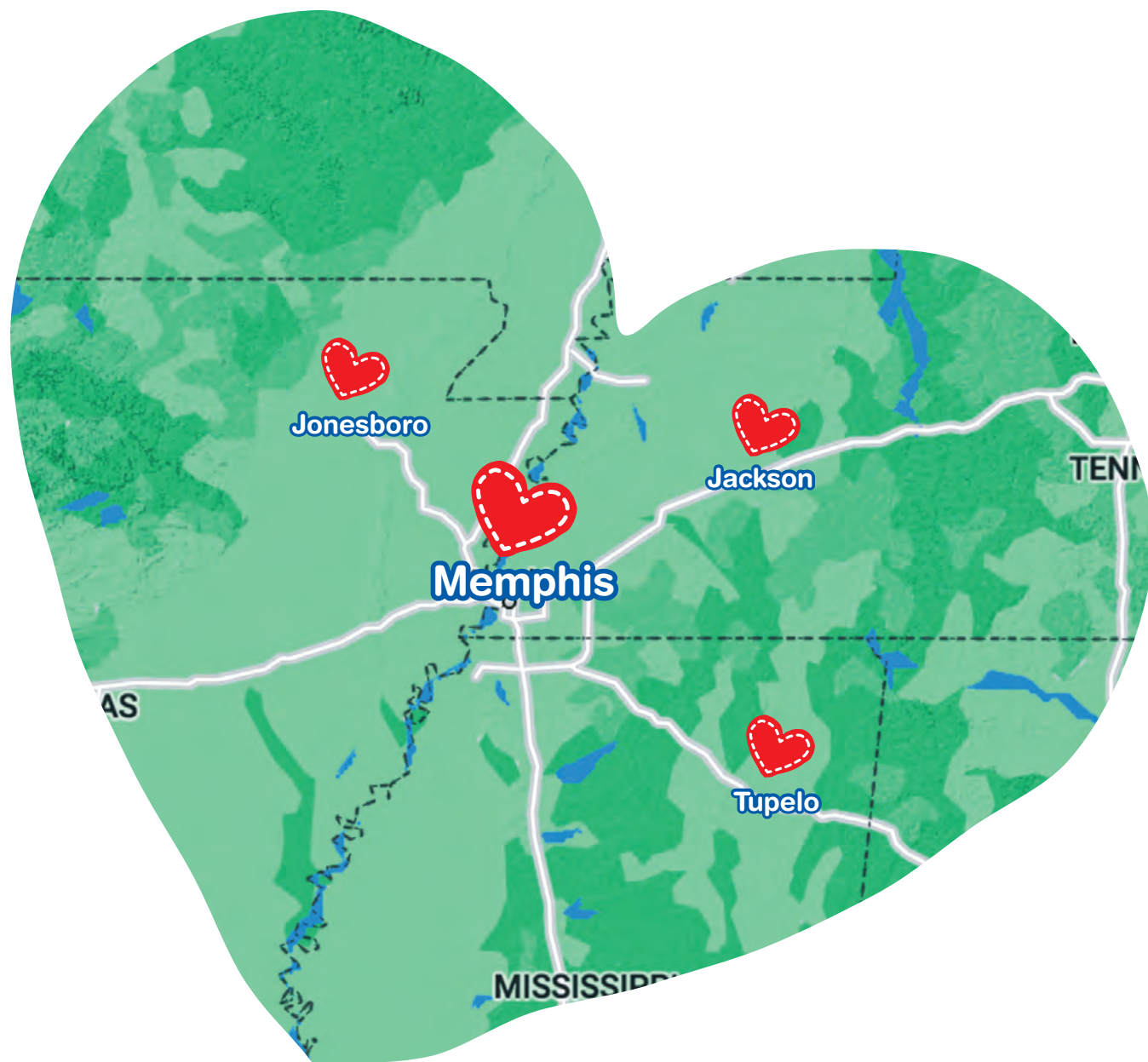


# SECURING THE PROMISE

FALL 2022



## CARE CLOSER TO HOME

*Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., treats more than 500,000 children each year through community programs, in regional clinics and a 276-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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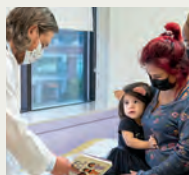
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## Support Le Bonheur

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

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

Families always want what is best for their children, especially when it comes to health care.

We know that transportation and lack of access are all too often common barriers to care for many families across the Mid-South. Driving for hours to reach Memphis can be a burden and an insurmountable obstacle.

At Le Bonheur Children's, we recognize the importance of being able to access expert care closer to home. Kids across the region can do just that when they visit our Tupelo, Miss., Jonesboro, Ark., or Jackson, Tenn., outpatient centers. Many of the same doctors and specialists children would see in Memphis are also available for appointments at regional Le Bonheur Outpatient centers.

We know that families do best when medical care is closer to home, and we also know that economies thrive when families have specialized pediatric care close to home.

Our commitment to kids extends beyond the four walls of the hospital, and past the city limits of Memphis and boundaries of Shelby County.

In this issue, I hope you'll enjoy reading stories about the difference you help make for children and their families.

Because of your support, a child with a heart condition in Tupelo can travel 10 minutes from home for a check-up with his cardiologist and the family of a medically-fragile patient in Jonesboro need not worry about navigating the highway to see a specialist in Memphis.

Thanks to your gifts, kids across the region are able to access the expert care only Le Bonheur can provide.

Sincerely,



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







# CARE CLOSER TO HOME



Jonesboro



Jackson



Memphis



Tupelo

Patients served at  
regional Le Bonheur  
Outpatient centers  
in 2021:

**Jackson: 8,823**

**Jonesboro: 878**

**Tupelo: 7,022**

## *Children find expert care at Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient centers across the region*

Le Bonheur Children's serves kids not only in Memphis, but families from across the Mid-South who rely on the expert care only Le Bonheur can provide.

With outpatient centers in Tupelo, Miss., Jonesboro, Ark., and Jackson, Tenn., children are able to receive the same excellent Le Bonheur treatment closer to home. Specialists from Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis conduct appointments with patients at regional outpatient centers.

Parents need not drive several hours for medical care and can count on Le Bonheur's pediatric experts closer to home.



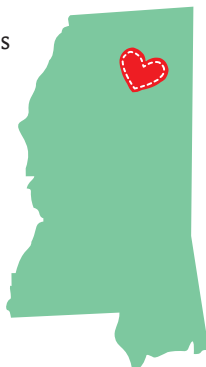
# Hometown Health Care

## *Pediatric specialists care for kids in Tupelo, Miss.*

Since the doors opened in 2010, thousands of Mississippi families have relied on the Tupelo Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center to provide expert care closer to home. Eighteen Le Bonheur providers across 13 different specialties travel from Memphis to treat patients in Tupelo, with many patients seeing several specialists.

"Patients are so grateful we are here," Outpatient Center Manager Jessica Glover said. "Travel can be a challenge for many families, so being closer to home is essential."

Patients like Mississippian Bo McKinney, who had heart surgery at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis and receives follow-up care with his cardiologist in Tupelo.



The Tupelo Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center also offers specialized outpatient diagnostics performed by technicians trained in pediatrics. Patients can undergo ultrasounds, blood panels, cardiac testing, X-rays and more.

"Not only are the technicians trained specifically in pediatrics but so are the radiologists," Glover said. "The technicians and doctors better understand the views they need to see on children to get clear images and an accurate diagnosis. We know that kids are not just small adults and they require specialized care."

Transplant patient Mia Robinson is able to access the diagnostic testing she needs in Tupelo and need not travel several hours to Memphis.

Families like the McKinneys and Robinsons



know how important it is to have care closer to their Mississippi homes.

## Bo McKinney, 8 Plantersville, Miss.

Krissy McKinney was 32-weeks pregnant with her third child when she learned that her son had Down syndrome as well as an AV canal defect, a serious heart defect that is common in children with Down syndrome.

For the next five weeks, Krissy was scared and

anxious. As a pediatric echocardiography technician, Krissy understood the serious nature of her baby's heart defect diagnosis.

She prepared for the arrival of her son knowing he would face critical medical conditions at birth.

At 37-weeks gestation, Krissy and her

husband, Jason, welcomed their son, Bo. Cardiologists at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis determined Bo would need surgery when he was older.

Bo grew and at 7 months old, he underwent open-heart surgery in Memphis. The surgery was a success and Bo was discharged after spending a week at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

Following Bo's surgery, the McKinneys have been able to receive monitoring at the



*Bo McKinney underwent open-heart surgery at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis when he was 7 months old.*



*Following cardiac surgery, Bo McKinney spent one week in the hospital recovering. Today, 8-year-old Bo is thriving.*



*Bo McKinney receives care closer to his Mississippi home at the Tupelo Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center. He was born with a congenital heart defect that required surgery as a baby.*

Tupelo Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center.

As a family of five, the McKinneys have a busy household. Being able to receive regular follow-up care 20 minutes from home in Tupelo has been helpful and convenient.

"The Tupelo Outpatient Center has been a blessing for our family," Krissy said. "Every six months, Bo sees his cardiologist for regular monitoring, an echocardiogram and lab work. We are grateful for the care Le Bonheur provides, and being able to receive the same care in Tupelo that he would in Memphis is a gift."

Today, 8-year-old Bo is thriving. He enjoys spending time with his family and being outdoors. Krissy said her experience with Bo has made her a more compassionate person, especially with the cardiac patients she works with.

"As a parent, it is hard watching your child go through health issues," Krissy said. "You want to know the medical staff has your family's best interest at heart. That is definitely the case at Le Bonheur."



## Mia Robinson, 17 Nettleton, Miss.

Le Bonheur has been a constant in the life of 17-year-old Mia Robinson. When she was a baby, Mia was diagnosed with chronic renal failure. Since then, Mia and her mom, Bridgett, have made the two-hour drive from their Mississippi home to Memphis countless times for nephrology appointments at Le Bonheur.

When Mia was 6, doctors told her parents she needed a new kidney. The Robinson family was able to identify a living kidney donor and Mia had transplant surgery at Le Bonheur.



*Mia Robinson had her first kidney transplant at age 6 at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.*

The kidney functioned well until three years ago when Mia began experiencing urinary tract infections. Mia was spending every other month at the hospital. Doctors determined that Mia's transplanted kidney was failing and placed

her on dialysis in September 2021.

Mia desperately needed a new kidney. Luckily, Mia was able to find another living kidney donor. Bridgett's coworker was a match and selflessly agreed to donate her kidney to Mia.

In April 2022, Mia had a second successful kidney transplant at Le Bonheur. As part of post-operative transplant monitoring, Mia was required to undergo specialized blood draws twice a week to ensure her body was responding well to the new organ. Yet, a standard lab could not complete the advanced blood work she needed.

Rather than driving four hours roundtrip twice a week to have bloodwork completed at Le Bonheur in

*"It is so easy to drive 20 minutes to Tupelo for Mia's bloodwork, instead of having to drive two hours each way to Memphis. We are so grateful for the wonderful care Le Bonheur has provided Mia's whole life and we appreciate being able to receive that same expert care closer to our home."*

Bridgett, Mia's Mom

Memphis, Mia was able to go to the Tupelo Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center.

"At the Tupelo Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center, transplant patients are able to come in for specialized labs instead of having to travel to Memphis for a brief blood draw," said Jessica Glover. "In some cases the dosing of medications is based on this bloodwork so it is vital that it be completed in a timely and accurate manner."

With frequent visits to the Outpatient Center, the staff have become like family to the Robinsons.

"It is so easy to drive 20 minutes to Tupelo for Mia's bloodwork, instead of having to drive two



*Seventeen-year-old Mia has had two kidney transplants at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Rather than traveling several hours from her Mississippi home for routine lab work, she is able to go to the Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center in Tupelo, Miss.*

hours each way to Memphis," Bridgett said. "We are so grateful for the wonderful care Le Bonheur has provided Mia's whole life and we appreciate being able to receive that same expert care closer to our home."

Families like the Robinsons often face challenges when they have a sick child. Having access to care closer to home helps alleviate some of the stress that traveling for medical appointments can cause. ❤️



# A Welcome Expansion

*Le Bonheur Outpatient Center, pediatric unit in Jackson, Tenn., provide pediatric expertise close to home*

**J**osiah Huckaby had run low on oxygen tanks because of a national shortage during the pandemic. Emily Morales passed out at school after days of fatigue. Both are residents of West Tennessee and live at least 80 miles away from the nearest major city. Both required specialized pediatric care. But without Le Bonheur's regional services in Jackson, Tenn., pediatric experts would be much harder to find for



these children and their families in the time they needed it most.

Keeping kids closer to home is always the best option when they need medical care, a value that led to Le Bonheur's expansion into the West Tennessee region. In 2018, Le Bonheur opened a 30,000 square-foot facility in Jackson, Tenn. The Jackson Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center features 20 exam rooms and provides a variety of diagnostic services and subspecialty clinics.

*Le Bonheur has had a presence in West Tennessee for many years, eventually opening a 30,000-square-foot outpatient center in 2018. At the Outpatient Center, children can see specialized doctors without traveling to Memphis for care.*





But specialized care for children doesn't stop with outpatient services. Earlier this year, Le Bonheur collaborated with West Tennessee Healthcare to open a 21-bed pediatric inpatient unit inside Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. This collaboration forwards the mission to provide West Tennessee kids access to expert pediatric care in the region surrounding Le Bonheur Children's.

These are the stories of two children who received this expert pediatric care in West Tennessee when they needed it most.

## Josiah Huckaby, 5 Henderson, Tenn.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, oxygen tanks were running short. This created a huge problem for 5-year-old Josiah Huckaby who is dependent on oxygen at all times. The drive from his hometown of Henderson, Tenn., to Le Bonheur's Outpatient Center in Memphis was four hours round trip, not including the time needed for his specialist appointments. His mother, Keri, simply couldn't find enough oxygen tanks to safely make the journey. Yet, his complex medical conditions required frequent follow-up from Le Bonheur specialists.

Thanks to Le Bonheur's Outpatient Center in Jackson, Tenn., Josiah was able to get the care that he needed to continue being the outgoing, social little boy who loves dinosaurs and playing with construction trucks.

"The first time the oxygen tanks were low, we had to move Josiah's appointments from Memphis to Jackson because we didn't have the tanks to get us to Memphis

and back," said Keri. "With Josiah's follow up appointments in Jackson, we are close enough that I can travel with Josiah by myself, which I can't do when traveling to Memphis."

The Huckabys' Le Bonheur journey began when Josiah was born prematurely. He spent his first year of life in Le Bonheur's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) eventually coming home with a tube for his feedings and dependence on machines to



*Josiah Huckaby sees his cardiologist, Nirbhay Parashar, MD, at Le Bonheur's Outpatient Center in Jackson, Tenn. During the pandemic with a shortage of oxygen tanks, the opportunity to see Parashar and others closer to home was vital for Josiah's care.*

help him breathe. He has Down syndrome, lung disease and several other complex disorders.

When the Huckabys first left the hospital, they had to return to Le Bonheur's Memphis location for follow-up visits, but gradually they were able to move the majority of his appointments with Le Bonheur specialists to Le Bonheur's Outpatient Center in Jackson.

"Traveling to Memphis is an all-day event for us, taking roughly eight hours of travel and appointments," said Keri. "It's only 45 minutes to drive to Jackson for us, making it easier for us to get in and out."

Although Josiah has to see dozens of different kinds of doctors, now six of his specialist visits can be performed



*Five-year-old Josiah Huckaby is one of the many children who rely on Le Bonheur's Outpatient Center in Jackson, Tenn., for specialized care.*

closer to home with the Jackson team. And going to Jackson for appointments also means he can spend more time at school — where he loves to socialize and play with other kids.

“We love Le Bonheur and have had an amazing experience,” said Keri. “We would highly recommend it to anybody and have had amazing physicians and nurses overall.”

### Emily Morales, 14 Bells, Tenn.

It was unusual for Emily Morales to feel so fatigued. A very active 14 year old, Emily participates in cheerleading, soccer and volleyball, to name a few of her extracurricular activities. Her regular doctor’s appointments never revealed anything out of the ordinary, but on the last day of school, she passed out and became unresponsive during May Day celebrations.

Emily needed specialized pediatric care. Quickly. Thanks to Le Bonheur’s new 21-bed satellite unit in Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, Emily was able to stay close to home while getting the care that she needed.

“It was the scariest experience of my life,” said her mother, Edna Morales, who works in administration and provider relations at Le Bonheur’s Outpatient Center in Jackson. “I feel blessed to have care so close to home where I feel comfortable and safe taking my child because I know

she will be treated by the best pediatric experts.”

Emily was taken in an ambulance to Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, where pediatric specialists on Le Bonheur’s unit discovered an

undetected urinary tract infection, dehydration and a viral infection. She was admitted to the new unit for a few days for fluids, medication and tests to make sure that there wasn’t any further damage to her kidneys. Emily was able to get the care she needed promptly with no lingering health issues.

The Morales family is from a small town outside of Jackson, Tenn., and Emily was one of the first children admitted to the new pediatric unit. Because of this unit, Emily was able to stay close to home, meaning that Edna could continue taking care of her other children while still having Emily close by.

“It’s just a huge impact to have the resources we need within our reach,” said Edna. “Having that pediatric care so close to home was so important. Otherwise, we would have ended up in an Emergency Department waiting for hours while Emily got worse and she probably would have had to go to Memphis for the closest pediatric care.”

Today, Emily is doing well and back to her active lifestyle. For the Morales family, it was a wakeup call not to take anything for granted, said Edna.

“Even though the unit had only been open a couple of days, you could see the little details that make it a Le Bonheur facility,” said Edna. “You could see the compassion and care the staff had for Emily and for me and the passion to find out what was really going on. I completely trusted that they were going to do the best thing for her.” ❤️



*Emily Morales was one of the first children seen on Le Bonheur’s pediatric unit inside Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Emily is now back to her usual activities like cheerleading, soccer and volleyball.*



*Because of Le Bonheur’s inpatient unit in Jackson, Tenn., Edna Morales (left) was able to stay close to her daughter Emily during her hospital stay, while still being able to care for the rest of her family.*



# Pediatric Peace of Mind

## *Patients in Arkansas access expert Le Bonheur care*

In 2014, a Le Bonheur Outpatient Center opened in Jonesboro, Ark., one hour away from Memphis. Families from the bootheel of Missouri and surrounding areas in Arkansas travel to Jonesboro to receive expert pediatric care they depend on.

Patients are treated by Le Bonheur physicians who specialize in gastroenterology, cardiology, neurology, allergies and asthma, and urology on clinic days in Jonesboro.

Shannon May, Jonesboro regional office manager, said families are grateful that their children can see the same specialists they would in Memphis, but closer to home in Arkansas.

“We need quality pediatric services and it shouldn’t



be a struggle or hardship for families to access them,” May said. “All families deserve quality care, and being able to offer these services closer to home relieves burdens and barriers to medical treatment. When I talk to families, they are so thankful that Le Bonheur is here in Jonesboro and they do not have to drive two hours to get expert care.” The Lowe family of Jonesboro is one such family.

### **Logan Lowe, 22 months Jonesboro, Ark.**

Deciding on a baby name. Selecting a nursery theme. Preparing their older son, Liam, to be a big brother. These were the items on Paula and Karl Lowe’s to-do list when they found out they were expecting their second son.

*More than 300,000 people live within a one-hour radius of Jonesboro, Ark. Families from not only Arkansas, but also the bootheel of Missouri, rely on the Le Bonheur Children’s Outpatient Center in Jonesboro to provide expert pediatric care.*



Little did they know that their healthy and uneventful pregnancy would soon result in a critically-ill baby.

When Logan Lowe was born, doctors told Paula and Karl that their son needed immediate critical care. Logan was rushed to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



Logan was born with Moebius syndrome and underwent nine surgeries at Le Bonheur.

Doctors discovered Logan was missing a pectoral muscle and his heart was on the wrong side of his chest. Logan's Le Bonheur care team also diagnosed him with Moebius syndrome, a rare congenital condition that impacts neurological functions including facial nerves and swallowing.

The Lowes were stunned to hear the news. They had never been exposed to a children's

hospital environment and were overwhelmed by the unexpected diagnoses. Luckily, Le Bonheur doctors, psychologists and other care team members helped them navigate Logan's health conditions.

"It is very draining to have a sick child and the resources that

Le Bonheur provided were very helpful," Paula said. "As Logan's parents, we were grieving having a sick child and Le Bonheur psychologists really helped us process what was happening."

Logan spent a month and a half in the NICU followed by six months in the Intermediate Care Unit



In order to help Logan eat and breathe, he has a ventilator, tracheostomy and G-tube. Having medical equipment can make travel challenging. Being able to see Le Bonheur providers in Jonesboro, alleviates stress for his family.



Logan Lowe is examined by Le Bonheur Gastroenterologist Mark Corkins, MD, at the Jonesboro Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center.

at Le Bonheur. During that time, Logan underwent nine surgeries including receiving a ventilator, tracheostomy and G-tube to help him eat and breathe.

Today, Logan is under the care of Le Bonheur specialists in pulmonology, ear, nose, and throat, gastroenterology, genetics, neurology, and has been recently discharged from cardiology.

Paula and Karl are grateful for the expert care their son has received at Le Bonheur and said being able to receive Le Bonheur care closer to home in Jonesboro has made a huge difference.

"Having a son who is a critical-care patient, there is always a risk with traveling. We have been on the middle of the highway and had to stop immediately because Logan has pulled his trach tube out," Paula said. "Trying to put it back in while he is in his car seat can quickly become an emergency. Being able to drive 10 minutes away from home and get the care Logan needs is amazing and a blessing — it truly takes stress off our plate."

Logan sees Mark Corkins, MD, Le Bonheur division chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology, at the Jonesboro Le Bonheur Outpatient Center every three months.

For the Lowes, and many other families near Jonesboro, receiving Le Bonheur care closer to home has brought peace of mind and a feeling of safety. ❤️

***"Being able to drive 10 minutes away from home and get the care Logan needs is amazing and a blessing — it truly takes stress off our plate."***

Paula, Logan's Mom



# MEETING EVERY NEED

## *Home, School or In Clinic...Le Bonheur's Rehab Services Have a Place for Every Child*

Balancing the care of a child with special needs, along with the daily routines of school, work and life in general, can be taxing on a family. Traveling to frequent medical appointments is often a barrier to care for many families. In order to increase access to care and best meet the needs of each patient, Le Bonheur Children's Rehabilitation Services team works with kids at home, at school, or in a Le Bonheur clinic.

Every year thousands of children are under the care of a Le Bonheur rehabilitation therapist, and each patient is there for a unique reason that requires an individual plan. With two outpatient clinics, one in Downtown Memphis and one in East Memphis, school sites in

35 Memphis-area and West Tennessee counties, and Early Intervention Services in homes throughout West Tennessee, Le Bonheur's rehab services team is able to serve children in whichever environment best allows them to excel. Le Bonheur is committed to family-centered care, and having therapists in schools, clinics and patients' homes is one way they consider the context of the entire family unit and their schedules.

According to Danielle Keeton, director of Le Bonheur Outpatient Rehab and Developmental Services, the rehab services team's ability to identify those needs and create a program allowing children to not only check milestones off a list — but thrive in their social, familial and educational

environments — is often life-changing for the families served.

"In this role, the most rewarding thing for me is making sure my leaders and their teams have what they need to provide excellent care," Keeton said. "We have some fantastic folks working here, and when I can see them shine and see the kids they serve excel, it reminds me why I'm here and the difference that we make for families."

### **IVY BRIDGES, 2**

#### **Early Intervention in-home therapy**

Morgan Bridges' daughter, Ivy, was born with a host of medical issues, including spina bifida, scoliosis, gastroparesis and abnormally small



*The Bridges family lives one hour away from the outpatient center, and being able to have therapy sessions at home alleviates the burden of traveling for care.*

*“Our family lives about an hour away from the outpatient center. So having in-home therapies benefits us greatly because we can avoid the long drive and stay in the comfort of our own home while getting these wonderful therapy services that help Ivy tremendously.”* Morgan Bridges, Ivy’s mom

kidneys. These diagnoses required multiple surgeries, and by the time she was 6 months old, it was evident that Ivy wasn’t meeting the expected milestones. To get the one-on-one therapy she needed, Ivy’s doctor referred her to Le Bonheur’s Early Intervention rehabilitation services team.

Ivy’s team comes to her family’s home, where she works with speech, developmental and physical therapists.

“Our family lives about an hour



*Ivy Bridges has speech, developmental and physical therapy sessions at home.*

away from the outpatient center,” said Morgan. “So having in-home therapies benefits us greatly because we can avoid the long drive and stay in the comfort of our own home while getting these wonderful therapy services that help Ivy tremendously.”

Because undergoing so many surgeries impacted Ivy’s ability to reach

milestones, her therapists first focused on developmental activities. Thanks to hard work and expert care, today, this determined little girl has met all of her recent goals.

“Le Bonheur therapists are empathetic and very understanding of the family situation, and they do

### Types of Services Available to Families

Speech therapy  
Occupational therapy  
Physical therapy  
Behavioral consultation  
Developmental therapy  
Audiology therapy

everything in their power to help the child. I am so grateful that Ivy’s been a part of the rehab services family,”



*Taylor Cook has four sessions a week with Le Bonheur therapists at an outpatient center. Taylor has undergone physical therapy since she was a baby.*



said Morgan. “Without Le Bonheur’s rehab services, my daughter wouldn’t be able to function like she does today. They’ve helped her grow into the independent 2-year-old that she is.”

## **TAYLOR COOK, 8**

### **Outpatient therapy**

When Taylor Cook was born at just 27 weeks due to a placental abruption, doctors knew that Taylor had experienced a lack of oxygen during the birthing process and told her family she’d need to start physical therapy immediately. Taylor went straight to a therapy session from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

As she grew, it was obvious that Taylor was a bright baby, but very developmentally delayed. As her mom, Crystal, explains it, “She’s very cognitively strong, she just happens to be in a power wheelchair.”

Eventually Taylor was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and her rehabilitation journey has modified as her needs have changed.

Eight-year-old Taylor’s cerebral palsy is classified as a spastic quad diagnosis, meaning she cannot sit, stand or walk independently. When her therapies weren’t showing the results the team had hoped or expected, they consulted with her doctors to determine the next best steps.

Taylor underwent surgery and now sees rehab therapists four days a week at a Le Bonheur Outpatient Center.



*Le Bonheur Physical Therapist Sonia Waites, PT, DPT, has conducted sessions with 8-year-old Taylor Cook since infancy.*

Taylor’s therapists have helped her grow and flourish, meeting milestones and encouraging her along the way.

“I absolutely love that therapists know Taylor. Sonia Waites, her physical therapist since she was a baby, is like her second mom, and I discuss every aspect of Taylor’s life with her,” said Crystal. “These relationships have helped Taylor blossom because there’s so much trust and comfort there.”

## **BRINLEY CUNNINGHAM, 10**

### **School-based therapy**

Brinley Cunningham spent her first 23 days of life at Le Bonheur. She was born with 17 different anomalies, including a fused front fontanel, hydrocephalus, an atrial septal defect, Gorlin syndrome and a twisted bowel. Facing so many medical

In addition to rehabilitation, Le Bonheur offers inclusion-support services to Shelby County patients. This service is intended for kids with chronic needs, who can and should be in a preschool or childcare environment. Le Bonheur’s community health educators work with partner facilities in Shelby County to train them on how to care for children who have medical needs, which allows these kids to thrive in a social and learning environment outside of the home. This vital program currently serves about 225 kids up to age 5.

*“Having rehab services come to Brinley’s school in Dyer, Tenn., has been amazing. Brinley receives one-on-one care from Ms. Petra and has improved in all her skills, even with tasks we were told at birth she’d never do. We are so grateful and blessed to have services available for Brinley and other children at her school.”* Gail Bradford, Brinley’s grandmother



*Brinley Cunningham works with Le Bonheur Physical Therapist Petra Mysiewicz, PT, at her school in Dyer, Tenn. Brinley receives occupational and physical therapies every day at school.*

obstacles at such an early age, her family didn't know what to expect in terms of the future.

Doctors told Brinley's family that her life expectancy was 5 years, but today she is a thriving 10 year old. Thanks to the love and support of her mom, Amanda Cunningham, her grandmother, Gail Bradford, and her rehab services team, Brinley is exceeding expectations. A true miracle with an old soul, Brinley has endured 19 surgeries and sees her rehab team for occupational and

physical therapies every day at school.

By bringing much-needed rehab services closer to home for patients in West Tennessee, there is much less strain

on families working to coordinate care.

"Having rehab services come to Brinley's school in Dyer, Tenn., has been amazing," said Gail. "Brinley receives one-on-one care from Ms. Petra and has improved in all her skills, even with tasks we were told at birth she'd never do. We are so grateful and blessed to have services available for Brinley and other children at her school."

Le Bonheur's dedication to kids and families is vitally important to the region, and they strive to meet families where they're needed most. ❤️



*Thanks to Le Bonheur Children's, Brinley does not need to travel to a facility for the therapies she needs. Instead, she receives sessions at school daily.*



A man and a woman are standing outdoors in front of a light-colored stone wall. To the left, a portion of an American flag is visible. The man is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. The woman is wearing a blue dress and large tassel earrings. They are both smiling at the camera.

# From Personal Tragedy to a Passion for Helping Families

*Family celebrates Fund's 15th year of serving others*

## **"Forrest is septic and his organs are shutting down."**

Brittany and David Spence never expected to hear those words. Only 11 hours after welcoming their first child, Robert "Forrest" Spence, at Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown, doctors delivered the unimaginable news.

Forrest Spence needed immediate critical care and was transported to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital via Pediflite. Once at Le Bonheur, Forrest was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) where he lived for 55 days.

At 31 days old, Forrest opened his eyes for the first time and his mother, Brittany, was finally able to hold her

*David Spence, MD, and his wife, Brittany, founded the Forrest Spence Fund in memory of their son, Forrest. The Fund assists with the non-medical needs of children and their families at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.*



baby. The medical team in the PICU provided not only the critical care Forrest needed but the support the Spence family sought.

"The way the PICU staff loved us and cared for us, they became our family. They would rejoice with us on good days and mourn with us on hard days," Brittany said. "Our eyes were opened to this new world in the hospital: You see a toddler who is the victim of non-accidental trauma, you see a 14-year-old ATV accident, you see a 4-year-old drowning victim, and it forever changed us."

Forrest passed away in Brittany's arms while David held her on Nov. 4, 2007, in the only home he ever knew — Le Bonheur's PICU.

In the days before Forrest died, David shared an idea with Brittany to start a non-profit organization to help address the non-medical needs of families like theirs with a critically-ill child in the hospital.

Heartbroken and devastated, but determined to help others, Brittany and David met with a local foundation to discuss establishing the Forrest Spence Fund. David designed a logo: a little tree leaning



into a big tree, illustrating the strong support Forrest Spence Fund would provide to families.

They sat down with Le Bonheur administrators and shared their desire and passion to help patients and their caregivers.

"When we were in the PICU, I asked the nurse why some patients didn't have parents at their bedside," Brittany said. "The nurse shared that often times a parent is only able to



*Robert "Forrest" Spence was born on Sept. 10, 2007. Shortly after birth, he was transported to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital via Pediflite and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.*



*Brittany and David Spence spent 55 days with their son, Forrest, in Le Bonheur's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The experience forever changed them and inspired them to help other families with critically-ill children.*

come to the hospital after work for a few hours because they have used up all their paid vacation time and are at risk of losing their job, or they have no money for gas to get to the hospital. Knowing this was the case for so many families truly shocked us and inspired us to help."

Brittany began by fulfilling wish lists of items for Child Life, providing toys and games for patients. She also supplied care baskets for patient families and appreciation bags for Le Bonheur staff — projects that the Forrest Spence Fund still does today.

Forrest's life inspired his parents' paths forward. David was a second-year orthopedic resident when Forrest passed away and because of his son, he chose pediatrics to help sick and injured kids. When Brittany spends time with families in the hospital, she shares her experience of having a critically-ill child.

For 15 years, Forrest Spence Fund's mission has been to assist with non-medical needs of critically- and chronically-ill patients and families, including assistance beyond the four walls of the hospital. When families need help with essentials like rent, utility bills, or basic supplies like cribs for when

they are discharged home, the Le Bonheur social work team refers the family to Forrest Spence Fund.

Forrest Spence Fund also provides institutional support through 22 hospital programs, including the distribution of family meals, a comfort cart, and unit appreciation gifts to celebrate teams throughout the hospital.

Eligible families can also apply to the Fund for financial grants to assist with specific needs like



housing or transportation.

Finally, Forrest Spence Fund partners with counselors to provide families with mental health resources at no cost to the family.

## **Bridging the Gap** *Providing Resources Beyond the Hospital*

Le Bonheur Psychologist Carlos Torres, PhD, has witnessed firsthand the impact that Forrest Spence Fund has on patients and their families.

Torres works with the families of Le Bonheur patients in the hospital. Yet his time with families is limited and more intensive therapy is often required. The stress of a sick child can be overwhelming and in the case of many families that Torres works with, it is not the first traumatic event that they have faced.

"It can be difficult for families to connect with outpatient mental health resources," Torres said. "Many families have a hard time navigating the system and finding in-network providers available in the community who are accepting patients in a timely manner."

Luckily, Forrest Spence Fund helps bridge the gap to outpatient mental health services.

When Torres identifies a family that would benefit from therapy beyond their time at Le Bonheur, Forrest Spence Fund finds licensed providers for the families and arranges the appointment. They also pay for up to 12 free sessions for families, thus eliminating some of the barriers to mental health services.

"Forrest Spence Fund is an invaluable resource at Le Bonheur," Torres said. "They understand why mental health services are often critical and ensure that patient families are connected to outpatient resources."

*"It was the most lonely 55 days of my life. I knew no one who had had a sick child or a child who had died. I can't change if someone's child is lying there sick or dying but I can be there with them so they feel less alone. I hope through our work that families feel supported and know that they can depend on the Forrest Spence Fund to help."*

Brittany Spence

They build trust with patient families by meeting immediate needs like catered meals and show them Forrest Spence Fund genuinely cares about Le Bonheur and its patients."

## **Priceless Support** *Creating a Safety Net for Families*

The Austin family has felt the positive impact that Forrest Spence Fund has on families at Le Bonheur. At 17-weeks pregnant, Jennifer and John Austin learned that their daughter had Trisomy 18, or Edwards Syndrome, and that 90% of children with this diagnosis do not make it to their first birthday.

When the Austins welcomed their daughter, Nori, she required intensive care, including several surgeries, for heart defects and gastrointestinal issues. She spent the majority of her first 14 months of life at Le Bonheur.

From day one, Brittany and the Forrest Spence Fund were there supporting the Austins.

"The moment we met Brittany, we felt at ease," Jennifer said. "We could breathe a sigh of relief when she walked in because we knew she would listen and be supportive, and could help us navigate the hospital."

When Nori was approaching her first birthday, Brittany wanted to make sure the milestone was celebrated. Brittany organized a party at the hospital complete



*Brittany Spence organized Nori Austin's first birthday party at Le Bonheur. Nori was diagnosed with Edwards Syndrome while in utero and her parents, John and Jennifer, were told 90% of children with the condition do not make it to their first birthday.*



*Forrest Spence Fund purchased a special birthday cake to celebrate Nori's first birthday. Affectionately referred to as "Nori Bug", Brittany Spence threw Nori a ladybug-themed party to mark the milestone.*

*"The kind of support that Forrest Spence Fund gave us is priceless. Brittany Spence has helped so many families that have no safety net and wouldn't be able to adequately care for their sick child or their family without Forrest Spence Fund."*

John Austin, Nori's father

with a fitting ladybug theme for the baby affectionately called "Nori Bug".

"While the patient in the hospital is the primary focus, sometimes the needs of the family are forgotten," John said. "We went through our savings in the first few months of Nori's stay at Le Bonheur due to missing time at work and spending money on meals and gas. Forrest Spence Fund stepped in to help with gas gift cards, meal vouchers and catered dinners."

Not only did Brittany ensure John, Jennifer and Nori were well cared for, she also made certain that the other Austin children's needs were met. At Christmas, Nori's siblings received gifts from Forrest Spence Fund when her parents might not have been able to afford them.

"The kind of support that Forrest Spence Fund gave us is priceless," John said. "Brittany Spence has helped so many families that have no safety net and wouldn't be able to adequately care for their sick child or their family

without Forrest Spence Fund."

In the past 15 years, Forrest Spence Fund has helped more than 98,000 families at the four hospitals they serve, including meeting 77,819 family needs at Le Bonheur since the Fund's inception. Brittany and David Spence celebrate the memory of their son, Forrest, by showing other families compassion and love when they need it most. Thousands of lives have been touched and changed for the better by Forrest Spence Fund.

"It was the most lonely 55 days of my life. I knew no one who had had a sick child or a child who had died," Brittany said. "I can't change if someone's child is lying there sick or dying but I can be there with them so they feel less alone. I hope through our work that families feel supported and know that they can depend on the Forrest Spence Fund to help." ❤️



Brittany Spence and Forrest Spence Fund volunteer, Erin Butterick and her son, Jack, handed out Celebration Bags to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit babies at Le Bonheur in honor of the Buttericks' daughter, Lily, who passed away when she was 3.



Forrest Spence Fund holds a 5K race annually to raise money. David and Brittany shared a special moment at the finish line of the 2022 race with their children Miller, Maggie and Austin Spence.



# Bringing Home Baby

*FedExFamilyHouse provides essential resources for out-of-town families*



FedExFamilyHouse

**Lori and Clay Smothers were overjoyed. They finally got the news they had been hoping and praying for: they were expecting a baby.**

Their excitement quickly turned to fear when an omphalocele — a birth defect of the abdominal wall causing some organs to grow outside the body — was identified on a 12-week ultrasound.

As a veteran nurse of 20 years, Lori was accustomed to caring for people, yet now Lori and her son were the patients who needed expert care. During her second trimester, she was referred to Le Bonheur Children's Fetal Center Clinic. Lori underwent extra monitoring and ultrasounds to ensure her son was growing.

"From the moment I walked through the door of the Fetal Center Clinic, I had a whole new attitude. I went from being terrified to feeling at peace and comforted that my baby was going to be fine," Lori said. "The way things were explained by the medical team at Le Bonheur made all the difference and everything looked reassuring from his monitoring and labs."

The night before their son was born, Lori and Clay traveled to Memphis from their Martin, Tenn., home and were able to stay at FedExFamilyHouse — clean, comfortable lodging located across the street from Le Bonheur — free of charge. Jane Thompson, program manager of the Fetal Center Clinic, referred the Smothers

family to FedExFamilyHouse so they would not have to drive several hours the morning of Lori's C-section.

Lori delivered at Regional One Hospital in Memphis and her son, Easton, was transferred to Le Bonheur's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) via Pediflite when he was only one hour old.

Easton received critical care at Le Bonheur and Lori and Clay learned how to care for their son's omphalocele and change his bandages.

Instead of commuting several hours back to their home



*Easton Smothers has been a Le Bonheur Children's patient since the day he was born. His parents, Lori and Clay, were able to stay at FedExFamilyHouse free of charge while their son received expert care.*

each day, the Smothers family was able to stay at FedExFamilyHouse. As they rotated time at the hospital with Easton's grandmothers, the family could rest at FedExFamilyHouse. Being able to have their family support system close by and not hours away was important.

"Having a clean room and a hot shower at the FedExFamilyHouse was a blessing," Lori said. "Being able to take some time to relax, but knowing I was so close to the hospital in case Easton needed me was amazing."

Easton spent two months in the NICU receiving expert care, while his family found a place of respite at FedExFamilyHouse.

Once discharged, Easton and his family returned to Le Bonheur every two weeks due to the complex nature of his omphalocele.

Like Lori and Clay, many families seek the expert care of Le Bonheur Children's Fetal Center Clinic when they need complex fetal or obstetric treatment. As the only center of its kind in the area, families often travel great distances for care. FedExFamilyHouse provides free lodging for families like the Smotherses, so that paying

*"Having a clean room and a hot shower at the FedExFamilyHouse was a blessing. Being able to take some time to relax, but knowing I was so close to the hospital in case Easton needed me was amazing."*

Lori Smothers, Easton's mom



Easton Smothers and his family feel at home at FedExFamilyHouse.



Easton enjoys playing with toys at FedExFamilyHouse, where he stays when he travels with his parents from his Martin, Tenn., home to Le Bonheur Children's for medical appointments.

for a hotel or traveling hundreds of miles between the hospital and home is not a concern. In 2021, Thompson referred 75 Fetal Center Clinic families to FedExFamilyHouse.

"FedExFamilyHouse is an important resource for our families that have to drive a long distance for their Le Bonheur Fetal Center Clinic appointments or have to stay in town for quick access to Regional One Hospital in case of preterm labor," Thompson said. "Our moms typically have to be at Regional One Hospital at 6 a.m. for a scheduled delivery. The convenience of the facility not only decreases long distance driving stress but also the financial hardship of a hotel room."

When Easton was 19 months old, his surgeon Dr. Eunice Huang — who had monitored Easton since he was in utero — determined he was ready for surgery to repair his omphalocele.

The Smothers family was planning to wake up at 2 a.m. in order to drive to Memphis. What if they hit traffic, had a flat tire along the way or were unable to depart on time? Luckily, Lori and Clay need not worry as there was another option.

The night prior to Easton's life-changing



surgery, the Smothers family stayed at FedExFamilyHouse. They were once again greeted warmly and were able to relax knowing the next morning they simply needed to cross the street. The Smothers family could focus on the upcoming surgery and preparing Easton rather than worrying about a middle-of-the-night journey from their home to Le Bonheur.

"We were so grateful to stay at FedExFamilyHouse the night before Easton's surgery and in the days after," Lori said. "We didn't have to worry about rushing to get out of the door on time to make it to Le Bonheur the morning of Easton's surgery. FedExFamilyHouse was a relief when we already had a lot to think about."

Easton's surgery was a success. Easton's omphalocele was closed, his hernia was repaired and he was able to undergo a circumcision. Two days later, Easton was pulling a red wagon down the halls of Le Bonheur.



*Lori Smothers began receiving care at Le Bonheur's Fetal Center Clinic when she was pregnant with her son, Easton. Easton is pictured with former Le Bonheur surgeon Eunice Huang, MD, who began caring for Easton when he was in utero.*

Later that year, Easton had to undergo another surgery to have tubes put in his ears. Once again, FedExFamilyHouse was there. When Easton arrived, he was warmly greeted with a bag of treats and coloring books and quickly ran to the basketball hoop in the play area.

Today, 5-year-old Easton is thriving. He loves being outside with his father, Clay, especially when they are hunting and fishing.

Easton was discharged from surgical follow-up care at Le Bonheur in 2021 and receives check ups for his ears with an ear, nose and throat specialist at the Jackson Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Center.

Thanks to your support, families like Easton's know they can rely on FedExFamilyHouse to provide a place of respite and hope while their child receives the critical care they need at Le Bonheur.



*Easton Smothers receives follow-up care for his ears at Le Bonheur's Jackson Outpatient Center. Meredith Shaw, MSN, CPNP-AC, checks Easton's ears as his parents, Clay and Lori, look on.*

# Trauma-Informed Care

*First year of results for Le Bonheur's Family Resilience Initiative shows high prevalence of adverse childhood events, social determinants of health*

In its first year of operation, Le Bonheur's Family Resilience Initiative (FRI) showed that of the 246 families enrolled in the program, more than half of caregivers reported one or more adverse childhood events (ACEs) for their child and a social determinants of health (SDOH) need according to research published in *Clinical Pediatrics*. The FRI program is a multidisciplinary collaborative that screens for ACEs and SDOH in Le Bonheur's ULPS General Pediatrics Clinic and connects families with needed services to mitigate and prevent ACEs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood that can be emotionally painful or distressing and have effects that persist for years. Family and community supports can shape a child's response to this trauma. Social determinants of health (SDOH) are defined by the World Health Organization as the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. This includes the conditions in which people are born, work and live and the economic, social and political forces and



*Le Bonheur's Family Resilience Initiative uses outreach coordinators to screen for adverse childhood events (ACEs) and social determinants of health (SDOH) needs. The program is embedded in the primary care setting and led by Chief of Outpatient Pediatrics Jason Yaun, MD, (left). Outreach coordinators include Christen Henderson (right) and Ashley Cooper (center).*



systems that have impact on health equity.

“Adverse childhood experiences, including abuse, neglect and household dysfunction experienced prior to 18 years old, have been described as the public health emergency of our time,” said Jason Yaun, MD, division chief of Outpatient Pediatrics and medical director for FRI. “The primary care setting is an ideal place to screen for ACEs and SDOH and provide emerging and evidence-based interventions.”

FRI is embedded in the primary care setting and funded through a grant from the Urban Child Institute. Outreach coordinators screen patients ages 9 months to 5 years of age as a part of their well-child visit using the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) screening tool for SDOH and a modified version of the Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS) tool for identifying ACEs. Families that have a SDOH need or an ACE are enrolled in the FRI program. If SDOH are identified, the outreach coordinator connects the family with resources to meet their needs, and if any ACEs are identified free counseling is offered through a child psychologist embedded in the clinic. All families receive education and prevention strategies for ACEs. The outreach coordinators then communicate findings to the medical team and document ACEs and SDOH in the medical record. They continue to follow up with families via text, phone call, home visits or clinic visits based on intensity of needs. The FRI screening process is repeated with each family on an annual basis.

During the first year of intake, FRI had 246 participants, 92.3% of whom were black and 58.8% with an annual income of \$15,000 or less. The primary results showed that 39.4% of families in the program reported ACEs and SDOH

***“Adverse childhood experiences, including abuse, neglect and household dysfunction experienced prior to 18 years old, have been described as the public health emergency of our time.”***

Chief of Outpatient Pediatrics Jason Yaun, MD

with 56.9% reporting at least one or more ACEs. Sixty-three percent of families reported at least one SDOH-related need. Additional results included:

- The most common ACE reported was separation or divorce of parents/guardians (40.7%) followed by child living or having lived with a household member who was depressed, mentally ill or attempted suicide (13.4%).
- The average number of ACEs per patient was .94.
- 40 families (33.1%) received a referral for psychology services.
- The most common SDOH issues were around food insecurity (36.1%) followed by utility needs (19.6%) and transportation (18.4%).
- Outreach coordinators conducted a total of 2,240 follow-up activities.

“The successful design, implementation and experience of the FRI model, through one year of screening and enrollments, shows that the FRI model is a feasible approach to implement trauma-informed care,” said Yaun. “Addressing ACEs and SDOH in a primary care setting is the future of pediatrics.”

Yaun says that provider awareness of the ACEs and



*The Family Resilience Initiative is embedded in Le Bonheur's ULPS General Pediatric Clinic. Above, Jason Yaun, MD, and Outreach Coordinator Christen Henderson meet with a patient during clinic.*

SDOH needs of patients practically impacts several aspects of patient care. Approaching care with a trauma-informed lens allows the clinic to view patients and families with empathy and probe into the root of the issue for anything from behavioral problems to appointment no-shows. They also can connect and be aware of how trauma and ACEs play into health-related problems like feeding, developmental and sleep issues.

“Our ultimate goals are to show that a program like this is feasible and sustainable in a primary care setting and demonstrate through patient metrics, including biological and developmental outcomes, how this program improves health and well-being for kids,”

said Yaun. “Understanding how social determinants of health and ACEs impact children’s health makes the medical home the ideal place to screen for issues like these.”

Their research supports the evidence that ACEs are common from a young age which further emphasizes the need to mitigate effects of previous ACEs, while providing resiliency building and empowerment to prevent future ACEs. Next, the FRI program hopes to evaluate FRI interventions and impact on child development, health outcomes, health care utilization and more and potentially expand enrollment to adolescents. ❤️



# Lawson's Legacy

## Creating heart-safe schools across Tennessee

As a 22-year-old college senior at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Lawson Wherry was active, athletic, popular and ready to take the world by storm. In his last year of college, Lawson wanted to soak it all in and enjoy every moment. He was very involved on campus and a bright light in his fraternity.



*Native Memphian Lawson Wherry was 22 years old when his heart suddenly stopped.*

One evening in October, he got comfortable on the couch for a night of Halloween movies with a friend. The night took an unexpected turn when his friend realized Lawson was unresponsive. Authorities were called and tried their best to revive him, but he died that night. The news of Lawson's passing sent shockwaves through campus and all the way back to family and friends in Tennessee.

No one could fathom how this healthy young man was no longer alive.

When the medical examiner could find no indication of what caused his death, she asked Lawson's mom, Teresa, for permission to perform genetic testing. Three months later, they learned that Lawson had the MYBPC3 gene, which caused his heart to stop.

Channeling Lawson's drive and ambition, Teresa and their family put their pain into action in hopes of saving lives. Teresa first reached out to Le Bonheur, where she learned about Project ADAM.

Project ADAM works with partner affiliates across the country to assist schools and communities in establishing a practiced plan to respond to sudden cardiac arrest events.

*Collierville High School became a designated Project ADAM affiliate through Lawson's Legacy. Le Bonheur Children's Hospital physicians provide oversight to ensure Project ADAM guidelines are met.*





"I don't want this to happen to any other children, and I love how Project ADAM works with hospitals, so it's effective and properly monitored," said Teresa.

In working with Project ADAM and Le Bonheur, the family was able to create Lawson's Legacy, which provides free education, planning and training for implementing an emergency action plan for heart-related events in schools across Tennessee.

Collierville Schools Coordinated School Health

## Lawson's Legacy

An affiliate of  
Project ADAM



At Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

Supervisor, Meghan Seay, became familiar with Project ADAM in 2014, and she was thrilled when all the pieces fell into place for Collierville High School to become a designated Project ADAM affiliate through Lawson's Legacy.

"We've always had an automated external defibrillator (AED), and we've always done training, but it's been wonderful to firm up our practices and have observation from the Le Bonheur teams," said Seay. "This partnership has brought a lot more

*Project ADAM: Lawson's Legacy at Le Bonheur Children's promotes and facilitates the prevention of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in children, adolescents and others in schools and communities in the region. Collierville High School received education and training in the event of sudden cardiac arrest.*





awareness of what we do to keep kids safe, and it's motivated other schools to obtain the Project ADAM recognition."

Lawson's Legacy has oversight from three co-medical directors — Karine Guerrier, MD, Jennifer Kramer, MD, and Kaitlin Ryan, MD, representing each of the pediatric heart sub-specialties: heart rhythm, cardiovascular ICU and cardiomyopathy/heart muscle. While the schools have their own training methods, the team is there to observe and ensure they're



*Project ADAM works with partner affiliates across the country to assist schools, like Collierville High School, and communities in establishing a practiced plan to respond to sudden cardiac arrest events.*



meeting national Project ADAM guidelines.

This year, Houston High School, Jackson Central-Merry High School and South Side High School began their Lawson's Legacy training, and 16 more local districts are interested in starting the process to become a Project ADAM-recognized school.

"Project ADAM, and Lawson's Legacy across our state, are teaching students to be proactive and ready, not just in school, but also in their community," said Guerrier.

"The more involved the kids are in learning about heart-safe protocols in school, the more awareness that exists in the community, so they can be aware of potential dangers and feel empowered to help or respond to a crisis," added Ryan.

Lawson had an immense impact on everyone he met and his family wants his impact to continue far and wide. He was someone who cared deeply about his family and friends, and they want to live each day to make him proud. Lawson's legacy is truly living on through this initiative to help keep students, teachers, parents and athletes safe. ❤️

## Recent Events

### Nucor Steel Arkansas Annual Charity Golf Fundraiser

Nucor Steel Arkansas held its 20th annual charity golf tournament supporting Le Bonheur Children's Hospital on June 6, 2022, in Memphis, Tenn. This year Nucor more than doubled their all-time record in giving for the event with an amazing gift of \$700,000!



### Gurus of Golf

The 14th annual Gurus of Golf raised more than \$265,000, bringing the 14-year event total to more than \$4 million. Le Bonheur patient, Trennen Eddy, and his mom, Lindsey Sater, shared their inspiring Le Bonheur story with golfers. Thanks to Le Bonheur, Trennen is walking!



### FedExFamilyHouse 5K

The 2022 FedExFamilyHouse 5K Run/Walk was held Saturday, Sept. 17, at Shelby Farms, where 646 runners and walkers gathered both in person and virtually to celebrate the fifth anniversary of this event. This year, more than \$120,000 in sponsorships, race registrations and donations was raised for FedExFamilyHouse! Thanks to the generosity and dedication of supporters, FedExFamilyHouse continues to be there when families need it most, offering free, comforting lodging for patients and families traveling to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.



### Le Bon Appetit

Le Bonheur Club, along with Chef Kelly English, hosted Le Bon Appetit on June 11, 2022, at Crosstown Concourse. Guests were treated to delicious food and cocktails created by chefs from across the country, with all proceeds benefiting kids at Le Bonheur through Le Bonheur Club's Endowed Fund at the Hospital. Throughout the weekend — with the Chef's breakfast at FedExFamilyHouse, Chef lunch and tours at the hospital, Chef and Sponsor Party at Playhouse on the Square hosted by Le Bonheur Club and the main event itself Saturday night — Le Bonheur Children's Hospital's mission of taking care of kids was highlighted. Le Bon Appetit raised \$346,010 for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.



## Upcoming Event

### FedExFamilyHouse Gala

We hope you'll join us for the 2023 FedExFamilyHouse Gala on April 22 at The Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tenn. For more details visit [www.fedexfamilyhousegala.org](http://www.fedexfamilyhousegala.org).





# Celebrating a Milestone



Tim Ellis from Jackson, Miss., recently retired from his career as a financial professional. He decided to celebrate his retirement by hosting a fundraiser for Le Bonheur Children's outpatient rehabilitation services in honor of his 3-year-old grandson, Lucas.

"We want Lucas to have a great life and a comprehensive rehabilitation facility in his hometown can help with that," Ellis said. "We want to help other kids realize their best life as well."

Lucas was not hitting milestones as expected and was referred for speech, physical and occupational therapies at Le Bonheur. His parents noticed an improvement in his condition — therapy gave him confidence, it helped with his head control and taught him how to sit independently. "The therapists genuinely care about Lucas and want him to succeed," said Lucas' dad, Peyton.

In addition to gifts from his father's coworkers, Tim's employer matched many of the gifts providing additional necessary funds for Le Bonheur.

The Ellis family hope to help fund intensive therapy equipment and training for therapists that will not only help Lucas, but also other children like Lucas who can benefit from this type of therapy.

"We have been on a path to provide more options for families in need of intensive therapy services locally for several years now," Danielle Keeton, Le Bonheur Children's director of Rehabilitation Services, said. "Tim's retirement gifts will help us purchase some of the next pieces of needed equipment. It will also help us provide our therapists with the latest training and skill-building opportunities."

The fundraiser was easy for the family as gifts could be donated online or by mail. Would you like to celebrate a milestone in your life like a birthday or anniversary by giving back to Le Bonheur? All the information you need can be found at [www.lebonheur.org/fundraise](http://www.lebonheur.org/fundraise).



**Le Bonheur**  
Children's Hospital

848 Adams Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Address Service Requested



## Seacrest Studio Coming Soon!

Le Bonheur Children's announced the addition of a Seacrest Studio which will allow children and families to explore a new world of radio, television and new media. The studio will open in 2023 and partner with the Ryan Seacrest Foundation to support patients' creative and artistic needs.

Le Bonheur will be one of only 13 children's hospitals in the United States to host one of the innovative Seacrest Studios. It will be a place where children and families can forget about their medical treatments and procedures — allowing patients to get behind the camera and mic to develop, star and interact in original TV and radio programming during their hospital stay.

The 1,275-square-foot, glass-encased studio is planned for the first floor of Le Bonheur in the Event Space, allowing patients and visitors to see and engage with production activities inside.