



Growing the Blessing

FedExFamilyHouse expands to meet need

- ♥ Kids Helping Kids: Creative Ways They're Serving Others
- ♥ Marvelous Marva: Educator Gives Her Saturdays to the Babies

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., treats more than 250,000 children each year through community programs, 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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In this issue:



2 GROWING THE BLESSING *Le Bonheur families find a home at growing FedExFamilyHouse*



10 OUR HOUSE *FedEx community rallies to help families feel at home in Memphis*



14 SEPARATE BUT NEVER APART *Ayeni family finds open hearts, home together as they celebrate conjoined twins separation*



18 PAYING IT FORWARD *In 10 years of service, Forrest Spence Fund finds ways for families to give back*



22 KIDS HELPING KIDS *From lemonade stands to birthday parties, children find creative ways to give back to Le Bonheur*



28 HEART OF STEEL *Nucor Steel Arkansas raises more than \$2 million for Le Bonheur*



30 MARVELOUS MARVA *Marva Johnson dedicates her Saturday mornings to the babies of Le Bonheur*

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 lebonheur.org/ways-to-help or call 901-287-6308.

www.lebonheur.org/secure

MESSAGE FROM MERI

Dear Friends,

We tell our new employees that they're joining the Le Bonheur family. After 10 years serving at Le Bonheur, I've come to love and appreciate this family so much. We are a community that wants the best for one another. We want children and families to thrive. We're connected by this sense of purpose and our hope that we can make our community a better place for children.

I'm so pleased to share this issue of *Securing the Promise* with you because it focuses on the Le Bonheur family. You'll meet a woman who becomes an honorary grandmother to girls who are thousands of miles from their own home and grandparents. You'll learn about FedEx employees who do whatever it takes to meet the needs of families who've traveled long distances for care at Le Bonheur. You'll hear from a family who used their deep personal loss to motivate others to serve families who have sick children. You'll read about an educator who broadens the definition of family to include her 825 elementary school students and the 60 infants in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

You're part of this Le Bonheur family, too. You generously give your time and resources to help children live their best lives. Your gifts give families a place to rest, a place to heal and a place of hope. We couldn't do this work without you. Thank you for generously giving to Le Bonheur.

With gratitude,



Meri Armour, MSN, MBA

President



Sam and Mary Ayeni traveled from Nigeria with hopes their conjoined twins, *Miracle and Testimony*, would one day be separated. Eight months after an 18-hour surgery, the girls are thriving – standing, pulling up and hopefully walking soon. Susan Graf, founder of FedExFamilyHouse, and I recently visited with the family at FedExFamilyHouse.

Growing the Blessing



Le Bonheur families find a home at growing FedExFamilyHouse



Eighteen-year-old Jacob Meek is a fighter, a teen for whom epilepsy has been a constant adversary. He is also an entrepreneur, a smart go-getter who formed his own corporation for his pressure washing business in Baton Rouge, La.

With that business-focused mindset, it's no wonder the teen notices the cost

of a hotel night – and worries about his parents having to spend thousands of dollars on their frequent trips to Memphis for his treatment.

“With a medical rate, the

hotel is still \$160 a night, which would be insane to spend for six or seven nights,”

says Jacob.

Jacob was born with a non-cancerous brain lesion, and his mom, Tiffany, describes his journey as a rollercoaster



Jacob Meek, 18, worried about how much his parents spent on hotel rooms traveling to Le Bonheur for care before FedExFamilyHouse opened.



ride. From brain surgeries to years of seizures and medications, the Meek family routinely traveled to hospitals outside of Baton Rouge for Jacob's treatment. They've come to Le Bonheur's nationally recognized Neuroscience Institute multiple times a year since 2006.

Thanks to FedExFamilyHouse,



As the sibling of a brother with special needs, Susan Graf has a special connection to the families at FedExFamily.

neither Jacob nor his parents have to worry about the expense of hotels and meals during their time at Le Bonheur.

Susan Graf, founder of FedExFamilyHouse, understands the burden Jacob feels. As a child, Susan's brother underwent brain surgery in a hospital 300 miles from home.

Growing the Blessing

“My mother spent three weeks in a walk-up apartment in a bad part of Philadelphia. I’m sure it was really tough on her. It was tough on the whole family. She was in Philadelphia, and we were in Boston. My aunt came to stay with us. It was a hard time for everybody,” Susan said.

To alleviate the burden on families who travel long distances to Le Bonheur, Susan and her husband, FedEx Corp.

Executive Vice President and CFO Alan Graf, worked with FedEx and hospital leaders to launch FedExFamilyHouse in 2010. It’s the only facility in Memphis that provides free lodging to families seeking care at Le Bonheur.

“When families come here, as you can imagine, the parents are pretty stressed,” said Neurosurgeon Rick Boop, MD, co-director of the hospital’s Neuroscience Institute. “Their kid is

looking at surgery, they’re looking at complicated therapies, they don’t know whether their child’s going to live or die, and the last thing they need to worry about is: “Where am I going to spend the night? How am I going to afford my next meal?”

FedExFamilyHouse staff and its many community volunteers have considered all the challenges families face and developed ways to support them. When



The Stanley Family: Payton, 3, epilepsy

One less stressor for families is that there’s never a cost to stay at FedExFamilyHouse. “With our medical bills and everything with Payton we have to pay for, there’s no way we could have paid for a hotel if we didn’t have FedExFamilyHouse. So we are extremely fortunate and blessed to be able to have this,” says Stephanie Stanley.

In 2015, Payton spent three months at Le Bonheur – including one on life support. Stephanie’s parents came to stay with them to help carry the burden of a critically ill child. “My mom and dad stayed with Payton down in the intensive care unit, and my husband and I went to FedExFamilyHouse so we could get a good night’s sleep, take a hot shower, get something good to eat, and just take some rest away from the stress a little bit,” Stephanie said.



Payton’s Nana, Virginia Shoffer, prepared home-cooked meals at FedExFamilyHouse and brought them to the hospital.

Growing the Blessing

children are airlifted to Le Bonheur, some parents don't have time to go home and pack a bag. Families receive welcome bags so they don't have to worry about not having toiletries like toothbrushes and shampoo. Volunteers prepare bagged lunches, so family

"Their kid is looking at surgery, they're looking at complicated therapies, they don't know whether their child's going to live or die, and the last thing they need to worry about is: 'Where am I going to spend the night? How am I going to afford my next meal?'"

Frederick Boop, MD

"From the beginning, we have always focused on the families and their needs,"

members can pick them up on the way to the hospital for a long day of appointments. Each family has pantry and refrigerator space, so they can prepare a favorite home-cooked meal for their sick child.

said Jeanine Watts, managing director Global Trade Services, FedEx Express.

Watts has served as chair of the FedExFamilyHouse Executive and Advisory Councils, groups committed to supporting the house through fundraising and advocacy.

"We experienced first-hand by volunteering at FedExFamilyHouse the stress and pain on family members as their children are treated at Le Bonheur. Our

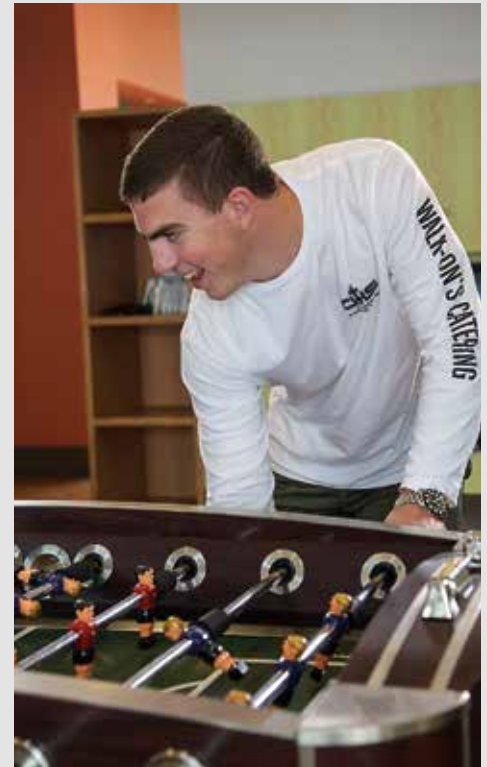


The Meek Family: Jacob, 18, epilepsy

When Jacob started coming to Le Bonheur in 2006, Tiffany often traveled alone – and FedExFamilyHouse was not yet open. "We always wanted a safe place, some place that we could find food close by, that we could be close to the hospital for appointments," says Tiffany. "If we were admitted into the hospital, it was difficult when you had a hotel, living out of a hotel room."

At FedExFamilyHouse, the family, including Jacob's brother and dad, can be together, make home-cooked meals, and help Jacob through his treatments. "The things we normally have to worry about are eliminated. We can focus all of our attention on Jacob's well-being and his recovery." And a stay at FedExFamilyHouse gives Jacob peace of mind, too. "When we stay here, that's one less burden that he has to even put into his mind," says Tiffany.

"I love the kitchen at the FedExFamilyHouse, because my mom is able to cook meals," says Jacob. "The people from the community that come to cook meals is also a great, generous gift from those organizations."



Hear what FedExFamilyHouse means to Le Bonheur families at lebonheur.org/secure.



The Brunson Family: Brayden, 10 months, hydrocephalus

Brayden Brunson was born prematurely at 26 weeks and needed brain surgery, so his doctors in Tupelo, Miss., sent him to Le Bonheur. At first, his mom, Kayla Haynes, wasn't going to let Brayden out of her sight. She slept on a pullout couch next to his crib in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Le Bonheur.



"I had a Caesarean section, it was very painful," says Kayla. "I asked the social worker about hotels, and she told me about FedExFamilyHouse." Kayla's first days at FedExFamilyHouse marked the first true rest she experienced after Brayden's birth. "When you're at the hospital, the nurses are coming in and out, and taking blood pressure, and drawing blood. You are hearing your baby cry, and you're not getting rest. FedExFamilyHouse gave me time to recuperate and get my strength back, so I could deal with the problems I had to face the next day."

goal has always been: do whatever we can to relieve the pain and stress," said Watts.

FedExFamilyHouse is across the street from the hospital, making it easy for families to go back and forth quickly. Cardiologist Rush Waller, MD, often encourages parents to head back to the house for a chance to sleep without the noises of the hospital.

"Having the parents at the child's bedside reduces the amount a stress a child goes through. The healing process is much better. But for those patients who have a prolonged hospitalization, it's much more comfortable for the family to have the experience at FedExFamilyHouse. We encourage the family to get rest when a patient's going through a very difficult time, so they're better able to care for their child," Waller said.

Beyond a quiet place to rest after long days at the hospital, FedExFamilyHouse offers families a place to connect with others on similar journeys.

Seventeen years after learning her son, Landon, had tuberous sclerosis (TS), a rare genetic disease that causes benign tumors to grow in many parts of the body, Toshia Keaton finally met someone else who understood. While staying at FedExFamilyHouse, the Keatons, who live in South Carolina, met two other families with children who have TS.

"In 17 years, we have never, ever known another child, another person, with this disease," said Toshia, her voice cracking with

emotion. “In coming to Le Bonheur, we met the first people with this disease. I literally cried. We felt so isolated for 17 years.

Meeting other people was just heaven-sent.”



A Growing Need

Since FedExFamilyHouse opened in 2010, more than 126,000 family members have stayed at the house. The length of stay ranges from one night to one year. *(Read about the Ayeni family who have called FedExFamilyHouse home for a year on page 14.)*

The growing need for room at the house is linked to the rising national reputation of Le Bonheur. Since 2010, the hospital has gained national recognition on *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Children's Hospitals list. This recognition is a result of the hospital's ongoing investments in recruitment, technology and research in its premier programs, including the Heart and Neuroscience institutes.

As the number of families traveling long distances for care at Le Bonheur grows, so does the need for housing.

FedExFamilyHouse is often at 100 percent capacity. Each month about 30 families are on the waiting list for a room at the house.



The Romani Family: Adrian, 14, brain tumor

Forty-eight hours after a CT scan revealed a large brain tumor compressing critical structures related to Adrian Romani's vision, his family checked into FedExFamilyHouse. The house became their home while the now 14-year-old Adrian underwent three life-saving surgeries at Le Bonheur, one of the nation's largest pediatric surgical brain tumor programs.

Just a week after brain surgery, Adrian's family marveled at the fact he was again playing piano in the FedExFamilyHouse dining room.

"It's like a rebirth," said his mom, Desi. "He's doing what I knew that God put him here to do. He's happy. He's playing his music."



Growing the Blessing

Last year, the hospital announced plans to expand the house. A fundraising committee led by FedEx Corporate Vice President Bob Henning and his wife, former Le Bonheur Club President Denise Henning, launched an ambitious fundraising goal of \$12 million. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and businesses, more than \$9 million has been raised. Bob says people have been



Denise and Bob Henning, co-chairs of the fundraising campaign, have lead the effort to raise more than \$9 million toward the \$12 million expansion.

Expansion Campaign Committee

Bob and Denise Henning, *chairs*
Dale Chrystie
Jonathan Ellichman, MD
Scott Harkins
Tom Holland
Romeo Khazen
Andrew Wagner
Jeanine Watts

eager to support the campaign because the mission of FedExFamilyHouse resonates.

“We all have either experienced childhood illness personally, as parents

or as friends of others whose child requires hospitalization and medical care,” Bob said.

“We all can relate to the emotional stress those circumstances produce.

We all understand that in a crisis, a kind word of encouragement and a sense of support and haven are truly priceless.”

The Hennings have supported Le Bonheur for more than 20 years. Their commitment grew stronger as they saw Le Bonheur President Meri Armour’s vision to make Le Bonheur one of the nation’s best children’s hospitals come to fruition.

“We have been blessed with two wonderful, healthy children – Caitlin and Matt – both of whom received care at Le Bonheur, and we see our affiliation with Le Bonheur and FedExFamilyHouse as a way to give back by helping children and families in need,” said Denise.

The expansion will triple the size of FedExFamilyHouse. The addition, which will connect on the north side of the house, includes 20 suites and 31 hotel-style rooms for shorter stays. The courtyard will include a play area for

FedExFamilyHouse staff and its many community volunteers have considered all the challenges families face and developed ways to support them.



The last thing families need to worry about after a long day at the hospital is preparing dinner. Since 2012, more than 500 Medtronic employees have prepared more than 50 meals at the house. Their generosity is a blessing to the families.



Families can pick up sack lunches and treats from the kitchens to take with them to the hospital or to eat at the house. Employees from Nike have faithfully given their time since 2012 to prepare these to go items for families. One Nike employee, Fred Smith, enjoys hosting karaoke during pizza nights at the house.



Growing the Blessing

children and additional spaces for families to gather, rest and play. Family members will also be able to use a new fitness room. Designed by local architecture firm Looney Ricks Kiss, the expansion will be complete in late 2018.

It's a welcome addition for families who frequent the house.

Stephanie Stanley says her family has been lucky in that there has always been room at FedExFamilyHouse when they've traveled to Memphis. She is excited about the expansion of the facility, so more families can be accommodated during their child's hospitalization.

"There's only 24 suites, so getting more rooms for families to stay is a blessing for sure, because I know [FedExFamilyHouse] has been a blessing for us," she says. "I don't know what we



For Tiffany Meek, FedExFamilyHouse is both home-away-from-home and community. "You feel like you have a family outside of your own immediate family," she said. "It's very, very special, because you feel like you're not alone in the challenges you're incurring."

would have done without them."

Tiffany Meek says when she's at the house, she's reminded that it takes a community to make FedExFamilyHouse possible.

"When you walk around here, and you see plaques on the wall about 'this

room is sponsored by,' and there's a certain company, or the FedEx Pilot Wives, or a particular family, an organization – it's very empowering to know that so many people who don't even know us care enough to give to support this place."



Every Thursday Gail Ray, Eloise Warfel, Joanne Olson and Maggie DeVault arrive at FedExFamilyHouse with their knitting baskets. They offer knitting and crocheting lessons to families staying at FedExFamilyHouse. "Knitting is really good for people who need something to do to get their mind off their problems," said Eloise.

Give

\$100 gives a family a night at FedExFamilyHouse. Donate online at fedexfamilyhouse.org/expansion.

Volunteer

You can make a difference for the families at FedExFamilyHouse. Find out how you can get involved at fedexfamilyhouse.org.

Our House

FedEx employees and their families have embraced the mission of FedExFamilyHouse. From volunteering at the house to raising money, the FedEx community makes the house a home.



Once the FedEx Express Southern Region US Operations team saw FedExFamilyHouse, fundraising came naturally. "This house bears our name," said Lisa Vinson, above with Susan Sweat. "It's a privilege to be part of supporting these families." The team has raised more than \$400,000 through an annual golf tournament and a light up the house campaign.



Al and Carol LaRocca have been passionate about Le Bonheur for years. The former FedEx pilot and his wife have included the hospital in their estate with a generous gift. In 2016, the LaRoccas teamed up with Jose Gutierrez, Colleen DePete, Nancy Kistler, Bob and Sherry Chimenti and Star Distributing to launch the first Memphis Food & Wine Festival. Naming FedExFamilyHouse as the beneficiary was a no-brainer. "Nothing can be more gratifying than supporting the hospital that all children can go to for the health needs they require," Al said. "FedExFamilyHouse is a tremendous undertaking."

FedExFamilyHouse stole Janice (center) and Dave Russell's hearts. At Christmas, instead of exchanging gifts with their group of FedEx friends, they all make donations to keep the pantry at FedExFamilyHouse stocked. Janice also loves to prepare food for the families at the house. She recently brought friends Anita Sisk (left) and Nancy Cox (right) to make quiche for lunch, and her 8-year-old granddaughter to bake cookies. Dave, vice president of Central Field Sales, FedEx Services, often uses the House's conference room for meetings, which allows visitors to see the impact of FedExFamilyHouse in person.



Families who travel long distance for care at Le Bonheur have a lot on their minds. Steve Wilson says providing a home away from home frees up families to focus on their child's recovery. He's part of FedEx's AGFS Central Region team in 19 different cities, including Fargo, Minneapolis and Indianapolis, that has raised \$88,000 this year and more than \$53,000 last year for FedExFamilyHouse. Employees have come up with creative ways to support the house. From car washes, egg relays, silent auctions, cook outs, change buckets, ice cream sales, spaghetti dinner and golf tournaments, AGFS has made a big difference for Le Bonheur families. Steve says he's proud to be part of such a generous company with great employees that give from the heart. "It's another way FedEx employees can give back to the community."



FedExFamilyHouse



Wendy Retherford connects to the mission through FedExFamilyHouse. When she was young, she remembers her brother spending time in the hospital and the people who supported her family during that time. That's why she is passionate about leading the FedEx Express Memphis Night Sort in raising money to support FedExFamilyHouse. Through cookouts and donut sales and other grassroots efforts, the Memphis Night Sort has contributed nearly \$20,000 to the house. Pictured above: Wendy Retherford, Tyler Hays, Tamiaka Hollingsworth, Camille Johnson and Odis Jones.



The FedEx TechConnect team puts the care in FedExCares, a company-wide initiative to support local communities. TechConnect employees, led by Cary Pappas, Sr. Vice President, have taken special interest in FedExFamilyHouse. The team has gone above and beyond to make families at FedExFamilyHouse feel loved and supported. From baking cookies, stocking the pantry and preparing meals, TechConnect makes the house a home away from home. And through grassroots fundraising, the team has raised nearly \$24,000 this year toward its goal of \$35,000. Pictured above are a few members of the current TechConnect FedExFamilyHouse Grassroots Fundraising Oversight Committee: Phyllis Hobson, Ruben Perez, Arvis Nichols and Loriece Freeman.



When Sarah Farrell was just 2 weeks old, her dad and grandfather went to the Army Supply store to buy a cot. It was for Sarah's mom to sleep on for the days following her daughter's open heart surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Sarah has heard that story for years, and now as part of the FedExFamilyHouse expansion campaign communications committee she can make sure moms don't have to sleep on cots in hospital rooms. Sarah works in Global Citizenship at FedEx. "I fully understand the importance of FedExFamilyHouse because it wasn't an option for my family in 1979. It brings me joy to know families have one less thing to worry about," she said. Sarah has another special connection to Le Bonheur – she's a patient. Sarah sees a cardiologist at Le Bonheur who specializes in the care of adults who were born with heart defects. Sarah says she feels like her story has come full circle.

Ed Coleman started his career in corporate communications at Le Bonheur Children's in 1988. "I remember we often got calls from families who need a place to stay or didn't have money to pay for a hotel. Even though we tried to connect them to resources, it was hard to say you couldn't help them," he said. When he moved to FedEx after 10 years at Le Bonheur, he says he was grateful to work at a company that helps organizations like Le Bonheur. When the hospital and FedEx announced plans to build FedExFamilyHouse, he was one of the first to join the Advisory Council. "FedEx supports the community where their employees live and work. Through the FedExCares initiative, employees are encouraged to give their time and talent back to those communities. FedExFamilyHouse is a passion of mine now. I want to use my skills and talents to give back," he said. Ed helped plan the groundbreaking and opening and chaired this year's gala, which raised nearly \$1 million.



The FedEx Pilot Wives Association has supported the house before the doors open. They were among the first organizations outside of FedEx Corporation to make a commitment to support FedExFamilyHouse through donations that are recognized in the house. Plus, the organization's members decorate the house for Christmas and Hanukah every year and provide gifts and pantry items for the families throughout the year.





Growing the Blessing

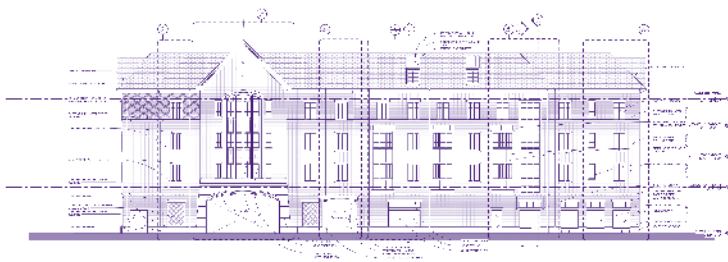
Your gift makes a difference for a family.

\$100 gives the gift of a night at FedExFamilyHouse before a long day of doctor appointments.

\$300 gives a family a weekend of comfort and respite while their child recovers from heart surgery.

\$700 gives a week of free lodging to a family whose child is the intensive care unit.

Give today at fedexfamilyhouse.org/expansion.



Next year, we'll triple the space for families at FedExFamilyHouse. The expansion means more families can stay at the house for free when they travel long distances for care at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.



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\$12 million project.



20 suites
31 hotel-style rooms



A new
PLAYGROUND
adds outdoor spaces for families
to gather, rest and play.

OPENING 2018





1



2



3



4



5



6

1. The Ayeni family arrived in Memphis on June 27, 2016, connected through the Nigerian Linking Hands Foundation. FedExFamilyHouse becomes their home while their conjoined twins await surgery. **2.** Mary held tight to hope as she waited for surgery. “I know they will walk, I know they will do everything,” she said. **3.** Mary prepared birthday cakes for her daughters at FedExFamilyHouse. Social Worker Margaret Pedicini joined Mary and big sister Marvelous. **4.** The girls spent four months in Le Bonheur undergoing physical and occupational therapy while a team of surgeons, physicians, nurses and other staff met weekly to plan for separation.

Separate but Never Apart

Ayeni family finds open hearts, home together as they celebrate conjoined twins separation

The home is the heart of a family, a place where love grows through the simple pleasure of time spent together. A place where memories are made, and first steps are taken.

For Mary and Sam Ayeni and their three daughters, Marvelous, Miracle and Testimony, a home together was elusive. When Marvelous was a toddler, Mary became pregnant with conjoined twins. The girls, who were diagnosed as conjoined in utero, shared a large intestine, two bladders and a pelvis.

“Once Miracle and Testimony were born, they never left the hospital in Nigeria,” says Le Bonheur Pediatrician Emilee Dobish, MD. “They were never living in the same place as a family.”

All that changed when, through the Nigerian-based Linking Hands Foundation, the Ayeni family came to Memphis and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in June 2016 when the twins were 8 months old. During the next four months, a team of specialists from the areas of anesthesia, child life, critical care, pediatric surgery, orthopedics, nursing, plastic surgery, radiology, rehabilitation therapy, social work, spiritual care and urology would meet weekly to plan the complicated surgery.

While they were meeting, the Ayenis worked to find their footing as a family in Memphis. Six thousand miles away from their home in Nigeria, Mary, Sam and their daughters experienced living together as a family of five for the first time at FedExFamilyHouse.

At 12 months old, the twins finally underwent the daunting 18-hour surgery to separate them. The medical team consisted of more than 20 surgeons and physicians, and more than 100 nurses and clinicians. The surgery was Le Bonheur’s second separation of conjoined twins in the past five years.

For Mary and Sam, their strong faith has sustained them through the entire process. Mary prayed to God to “just lead us to where you want. And He brought us here to where His Heart is, because I believe the heart of God is here.”

The Ayenis even joined a local church and found friends through their faith community and in the volunteers and staff at the hospital and FedExFamilyHouse.

Susan Graf, the driving force behind FedExFamilyHouse, and her husband Alan, FedEx executive vice president and CFO,



5. “Team Miracle” wore green scrub hats while “Team Testimony” wore pink to differentiate themselves.
6. Mary and Sam Ayeni rejoice after seeing their daughter, Miracle, for the first time after separation surgery.
7. Miracle and Testimony stayed at Le Bonheur for two months following separation surgery.
8. The girls continue physical therapy today and are learning to crawl, stand and walk.



Hear Mary and Sam Ayeni say thank you to FedExFamilyHouse at lebonheur.org/secure.


are like surrogate grandparents to the children. Susan has a special connection to big sister Marvelous, 3. Susan was also the sibling of a child who had long-term hospital needs.

“We just bonded. She’s the cutest thing. I was the sibling, not the child going through the surgery. But it affects the whole family,” said Susan. “You think about her short life so far, this is what she’ll remember. I know she’ll remember this.”

The twins were released from the hospital in early 2017, and now live with their big sister and parents in FedExFamilyHouse – their home base as they undergo rehabilitation and physical therapy.

“Because of the kitchen, Mary has been able to make food for her girls, for them to try solid food for the first time,” says Dobish. “They are able to sleep in two separate beds . . . they have sat up, for the first time, as two separate people.”

At FedExFamilyHouse – their home for the last year – the Ayeni family is finally together, making memories, watching their daughters grow and take their first steps, all while surrounded by the love of family and their new friends.

“I give glory to God because He used FedExFamilyHouse, He used Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and all the beautiful people around us to save the lives of Miracle and Testimony,” Mary said. 



9. The local media marveled at the twins learning to sit up on their own. **10.** The families of Redeemed Christian Church of God House on the Rock have prayed for, encouraged and supported the Ayenis during their time in Memphis. **11.** Honorary Grandmother Susan Graf greets the girls with a high five in the FedExFamilyHouse lobby. **12.** Sam lifts his daughters high so they can see all the animals at the Memphis Zoo.

You make this house a home.

Help us grow the blessing.



Give today at fedexfamilyhouse.org/expansion, or by calling 901-287-6308.



Brittany and David Spence help prepare for the monthly Forrest Spence Fund dinner for all Le Bonheur families.

Paying It Forward

In 10 years of service, Forrest Spence Fund finds ways for families to give back

A volunteer serving meals to Le Bonheur families one recent Wednesday night noticed a mom walk through the line and fill a plate for her daughter, but hands full, take nothing for herself.

The volunteer, Jill Long, walked to the table and placed a plate in front of Mary Cowgill. Mary's eyes welled with tears. She'd been so worried about her hospitalized 2-month-old, her 4-year-old daughter by her side, and her other two children back home in Savannah, Tenn., a two-hour drive from Memphis.

Mary wasn't thinking of her own needs; she hadn't realized how hungry she was until that moment.

"I'm trying not to start bawling," Mary said. "This means so much."

Empathy. Understanding. Hope. That's the motto of the Forrest Spence Fund, which was founded 10 years ago by Le Bonheur parents Brittany and David Spence, who were moved to action after spending 55 days in Le Bonheur's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) with their son, Forrest, before he died. His memory lives on through more than 20,000 families who have received help from the fund founded in his name. The fund, which provides assistance for the non-medical needs of families with sick children, started with one couple's desire to help

families during one of the most challenging times in their lives. Now, it's grown into a community of helpers, who give back in unique ways to honor their own experiences and help others.

Empathy

Before Laura Grimes' 3-month-old son was admitted to Le Bonheur for open heart surgery, Cardiovascular Surgeon Christopher Knott-Craig, MD, told her to sleep with his favorite stuffed puppy lovie and lion stuffed animal. Her son could be comforted by her scent, even though she wouldn't be able to hold him, as he recovered.

Baby Henry, nicknamed the "Braveheart," had his heart repaired and spent six days at Le Bonheur. He snuggled with his stuffed animals until his mom could hold him in her arms.



"It was a way to feel close," said Laura. And as she thought about how to help other families going through similar experiences, the idea to give lion lovies to others was formed.

"I had known Brittany as a fellow Le Bonheur parent, but when Lily passed away, she became something different for me — a mom who had also lost a child."

Erin Butterick

Through her connection with the Forrest Spence Fund, Laura has given more than 1,000 lion lovies to fellow Le Bonheur families. The Grimes family has also supported Le Bonheur through participation in the hospital's signature race, the Pumpkin Run, with "Team Braveheart" and fundraised through an event called "A Family Affair."

"Le Bonheur is a family, and we felt that the doctors and nurses took care of Henry like he was their own son," said Laura. "We were very much included in his care each day in the hospital. We are so grateful for the care that Henry received while at Le Bonheur that saved his life and we want to give back to the hospital that has given our family so much."

Understanding

Lily Butterick came into the world weighing only 4 pounds. She was immediately transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Le Bonheur. Lily was teeny tiny and had a lot of trouble growing.

"We called her our little puzzle," said mom, Erin. "We did genetic testing and found some issues but there was nothing to pinpoint what exactly was wrong."

After five weeks in the NICU, the Buttericks were able to bring Lily home for the first time. Around Lily's first birthday, Erin's husband, Ryan, joined Le Bonheur's Family Partners Council, a group that advises the hospital on how best to partner with families during care. There, he and Erin met Brittany and David Spence. David is a Le Bonheur physician and Brittany serves as a parent mentor in the hospital.

Lily came back to Le Bonheur frequently for care. Lily died after unexpected complications from surgery when she was 3.

"I had known Brittany as a fellow Le Bonheur parent, but when Lily passed away, she became something different for me — a mom who had also lost a child," said Erin. "She was just wonderful to me. She would drop me little notes

and meet me for coffee in the weeks after it happened. I needed to look at somebody who has gone through this and survived. Because you do not feel like you are going to survive that.”

Brittany suggested counseling for Erin and her family, which they went to for a year. And at the end of the year, Erin felt a need to offer help to others. She wondered what she could do to help other families and honor Lily at the same time.

Through the Forrest Spence Fund, the 40-week bags were created. The focus is for families in the NICU because it was such a special place for the Buttericks, a place where Lily was able to beat the odds and thrive.

The 40-week bags are given to Le Bonheur families



Erin Butterick gives back to Le Bonheur families with her “40-week bags,” which are delivered to NICU families when their babies hit that special developmental milestone.

when their children hit that special milestone and are full of developmental toys. The Le Bonheur Child Life team gave input on toys that would be both fun and therapeutic. A note in Lily’s memory is included with every bag.

“It’s been great to be a part of something so positive, and so personal,” said Erin.

Hope

Brittany Spence walked into Le Bonheur’s NICU, 40-week bags in hand, and dropped in a room to bring a little happy to a mom she’d never met.

Radiating warmth, Brittany introduced herself to Brooke Killburn, who had been at Le Bonheur for 15 weeks with her son, Cooper.

Cooper was born with a rare genetic defect called congenital high airway obstruction syndrome. The defect, called “CHAOS” for short, perfectly summed up the Killburn family’s current situation.

As Brooke checked out the new gifts for her baby boy, Brittany inquired into how everyone was doing. She wasn’t asking from a medical perspective,

“It grew out of a need, a need that I didn’t even realize existed until we started. It’s been an honor to walk with these families, to love these families.”

Brittany Spence

but on a personal level. How was the family coping with another child back at home, with dad traveling back and forth between work, with understanding a complicated, rare and complex diagnosis?

Brittany’s level of comfort with Le Bonheur families is instinctive. Her demeanor is natural and genuine. And for moms like Brooke, it means the world to be able to talk with someone who has some level of understanding of what they’re going through.

“We were told Cooper had only a 5 percent chance of survival,” said Brooke. “We’re just so grateful to have made



Brittany Spence visits with Le Bonheur families to give gifts and offer support. Here, she delivers a 40-week bag to Brooke Killburn, whose son, Cooper, was born with a rare congenital defect.

it to this place. It's still a long road ahead, but we're doing much better than we ever expected."

Brittany says that as she looks back over the last 10 years, it's hard to believe how much the fund has grown.

"It grew out of a need, a need that I didn't even realize existed until we started," she said. "It's been an honor to walk with these families, to love these families. I know that it's a privilege to have them let me in."

Since its foundation in 2007, the fund has provided 26,731 forms of assistance for patients and families including rent/utility bills, care bags, new tires, car notes, phone bills and purchases of new cribs, bouncers, meal vouchers and gas cards. The fund has also given Le Bonheur items such as rocking chairs, high chairs,

DVD players, game systems, CD players, sound machines and crib mobiles.

When Le Bonheur opened a new facility in 2010, the fund built a sibling playroom on the lobby level. The fund has helped 102 families with counseling at no charge, and has awarded more than \$110,000 in grants for families demonstrating large needs outside of the medical care of their loved ones.

And then there are the monthly dinners, which take about 440 volunteers annually to pull off and provide meals for every single family member in the hospital. A new initiative, the comfort cart, was just implemented at Le Bonheur. Volunteers take the cart to every floor and provide families with essential items—travel-sized toiletries such as shampoo, lotion, chapstick and deodorant.

The fund has grown to a staff of five, with Brittany at the helm, dreaming up new ways to help families and facilitate the sense of "giving back" the fund's mission was founded on.

"As much as the fund has grown over the years, our goal is still the same," said Brittany. "Helping families will forever be the heartbeat of our mission."



Forrest Spence Fund By the Numbers

10 years old

2,800 volunteers

26,731 forms of assistance for families

102 families received free counseling

KIDS HELPING KIDS

From lemonade stands to birthday parties, children find creative ways to give back to Le Bonheur

Every gift counts at Le Bonheur, but the most precious are the ones that come from children. Since the doors to Le Bonheur opened, children have brought their pennies to help make this special place possible. Some donations come from patients who just want to express their gratitude and others from children who are learning what it means to give and serve their community. Donations from children are typically directed to the areas of greatest need.

"Being in the hospital can be a challenging experience for kids. They're missing their friends, the comforts of home and their routines. We use play to help the hospital seem more like home. Thanks to the generous gifts of these children, we're able to make that possible," said Child Life Director Jessica Kellough.

Check out some of the ways kids in our community are helping Le Bonheur.



Lucas Sawyer, 10, decided that his dad, Orthopedic Surgeon Jeff Sawyer, MD, had been so busy at work recently that the kids at Le Bonheur needed his help. So he set up a lemonade stand near the Greenline in Memphis. He raised \$52 and recently gave the money to hospital President Meri Armour.

6/5/17
Dear friends,
In this envelope there is \$52.00. My name is Lucas Reed Sawyer. (The son of Jeff Sawyer) Some of this money came from my wallet other is from my lemonade stand.

-Lucas R. Sawyer

P.S. I'm in 4th grade
P.P.S. R stands for Reed



Emma-Kate Lucius wants to be a pediatric nurse when she grows up. Since she's just 10 years old, Emma-Kate found a creative way to start helping sick kids now. She created flyers about supporting Le Bonheur that she gave out at church and local businesses. Emma-Kate, a Le Bonheur patient herself, even asked her homeschool group friends to help. Emma-Kate recently brought \$100 and a bag of toys to help make hospital stays a little brighter for kids like her.

With a birthday just four days before Christmas, Maggie Dixon, 7, found a way to use her birthday to spread joy to families at FedExFamilyHouse. For several years now, the invitation to Maggie's birthday asks attendees to bring a gift card to share with a family that has traveled a long distance for care at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. FedExFamilyHouse holds a special place in the Dixons' hearts. Amy and Floyd, both FedEx employees, have volunteered and supported the house since 2010.



On the one year anniversary of the car accident Sophie and Emilie Wetick survived, the family made a special trip to Le Bonheur. Sophie, 5, brought items on the hospital's wish list and items for the food pantry to the hospital. After 52 days in the hospital, Sophie wanted to say thank you to the caregivers who helped her recover.



Maggie Miller, Lucy Roaten, Ellie Bailey and Taylor McAdams sold lemonade and snow cones to their friends and neighbors. The girls presented their gift of \$158.90 at a Le Bonheur Club meeting. Lucy said, "We decided to raise this money for Le Bonheur because they needed more than we did."



KIDS HELPING KIDS



Every year around Valentine's Day, Treasure Thaxton, 14, makes a special delivery to Le Bonheur. To help sick children feel loved, Treasure brings teddy bears donated by local businesses and individuals near her hometown of Henderson, Tenn. As a baby, Treasure spent several weeks at Le Bonheur.

After Leeya Alperin of Memphis spent three weeks in the hospital following the diagnosis of a condition that affects her lymphatic system, she wanted to express her gratitude for Le Bonheur. Leeya rallied River City BBG, a Jewish youth organization, to raise \$1,200 through a fashion show.





Amber Reed's earliest Le Bonheur memory is selecting a toy from Bunny Lane before surgery. She was just 7 years old, but that moment of joy and comfort has driven the teen to give back. A few years ago, she brought several car loads of toys for Bunny Lane after organizing a toy drive at her school. Now as Miss Collierville 2017, Amber, 20, enjoys visiting patients and hosting events at the hospital.

For 14 years, the children at Briarcrest Christian School in Memphis have collected toys for the hospital's Bunny Lane. This year, the students donated 553 toys that patients will receive before they have surgery.



Abby Ryan, a longtime Le Bonheur patient, organized two fundraisers for the hospital with her friends in the FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) club at Blytheville High School. The group recently toured the hospital to see how its \$500 donation helps kids.



KIDS HELPING KIDS



This summer, rising 8th graders Annaleigh Eason and Eleanor Peters hosted a Le Bonheur night at Kendra Scott raising more than \$700. The girls used their social networking skills to invite their friends and family to the Gives Back night. The girls wanted to thank the hospital that means so much to them. Eleanor counted on Le Bonheur when she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Le Bonheur saved Annaleigh's life and helped her learn to walk again after experiencing a rare form of Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Lilly Donnell of Tupelo, Miss., turned her 11th birthday party into a celebration for Le Bonheur. Not only did she ask her friend to bring gifts for the hospital, the girls assembled 70 goody bags for patients in the hospital. Each bag included a photo of the girls with the message "We believe in you. Get well soon." Lilly, who wants to be a pediatrician, remembered a doctor's appointment years ago at Le Bonheur and wanted to make sure other kids felt as comfortable and loved as she did.



Do you want to help kids at Le Bonheur? Here are three easy ways:

1. Organize a drive to collect new toys or gift cards. See our list of needed items at lebonheur.org/wishlist.
2. Host a fundraiser. Use your talents, skills and connections to support Le Bonheur. The sky is the limit. Learn more at lebonheur.org/fundraiser.
3. Join an event already happening...
 - Schools can join in the fun of Go Jim Go this fall. It's a fun way to teach kids about helping others and WREG Meteorologist Jim Jagers may visit your school. Contact David Henson at 901-287-5689 or david.henson@lebonheur.org.
 - Form a team for the 13th annual Pumpkin Run. It's easy to raise money with our online fundraising site at pumpkinrun.org. Dress up in your Halloween costumes and bring your friends and family for the 5K, kids' fun run and Boo Bash.
 - Check out other upcoming events at lebonheur.org/events.

Lifetime income for you. Life-saving care for children like Marley.

Wouldn't you like to be remembered as someone who helped save children's lives? That can be your legacy with a planned gift to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. And that same gift can provide income for you and your family while benefiting children like Marley.

Five days after Marley Greer was born, her parents learned she had Down Syndrome. The diagnosis was both shocking and terrifying to Rachel and Joshua. But with help from Le Bonheur doctors, friends and family, Marley is now thriving. Now 2, Marley enjoys dancing, playing and singing. "The sky's the limit for Marley," Rachel said. "There's nothing she can't do."

Your planned or legacy gift to Le Bonheur will help ensure that your children, grandchildren and generations of children to come can count on the same world-class care that gives the Greer family hope.

A gift annuity provides lifetime income for you and benefits for Le Bonheur.

When you make a contribution to Le Bonheur of \$10,000 or more, in cash or stock, Le Bonheur can offer you a fixed annual payment for life. The chart below indicates current gift annuity rates, based on your age.

Le Bonheur's Gift Planning staff can help you find a planned gift that best matches your financial goals and personal interests. To learn more about a charitable gift annuity and other income-producing planned gifts to Le Bonheur, please contact:

Roberta B. Matthews, J.D. (Sue)
Director of Gift Planning
roberta.matthews@lebonheur.org
901-287-5575

lebonheur.org/giftplanning



Where Every Child Matters



Le Bonheur Gift Annuity Payment Rates

Your Age	Annuity Rates
70	5.1%
75	5.8%
80	6.8%
85	7.8%
90	9.0%



HEART *of* STEEL

Since 2001, Nucor Steel Arkansas has hosted an annual golf tournament to raise money for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. The event brings together more than 150 of the steel manufacturer's customers, suppliers and employees. And all for a good cause, says Mary Emily Slate, vice president and general manager for Nucor Steel Arkansas.

"Nucor believes in giving back to the community and recognizes that Le Bonheur Children's is a world-class, quality health care facility," said Slate.

Nucor Steel Arkansas is located in Blytheville, Ark.,

about 80 miles northwest of Le Bonheur. The hospital has treated several children from the community as well as Nucor employees' children, including Abigail Ryan, daughter of Nucor's Purchase Administrator Chuck Ryan.

"The excellent care she received there is part of the reason we selected Le Bonheur as the recipient of the tournament proceeds years ago. Several employees' children have been touched by Le Bonheur's care," said Ryan.

The tournament has continued to grow year after year and has raised more than \$2 million for Le Bonheur, to date.

At its annual June golf tournament, Nucor Steel raised \$150,000 for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, bringing its total gift to more than \$2 million.



Marvelous Marva

Educator Marva Johnson dedicates her Saturday mornings, and her heart, to the babies of Le Bonheur

Ask Marva Johnson, principal of Altruia Elementary School in Bartlett, if she has any children and you'll likely be taken aback by her answer.

"I have 825, and then 50," says Marva. "825 at school, then there are about 50 babies at the NICU at a time. Those are my children."



The NICU is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital — and it's where Marva has spent every Saturday morning for the past eight years, arriving in the pre-dawn hours to hold, feed, sing to and cuddle the littlest patients.

"I started praying, and asked God for a way for me to serve others more," says Marva. The women's minister at her church, Highland Church of Christ, heard about the need for volunteers at Le Bonheur. Marva signed up, completing all the paperwork and training necessary, save one piece – the specialized training for NICU volunteers. Then, she got a phone call from Le Bonheur, asking for her to come in. "I'll train you," said the voice on the other end of the phone.

"I came – I had no excuse," remembers Marva. "And after the first day, I just fell in love."

Like a physician, Marva makes her own rounds of the NICU about 5:30 every Saturday morning, listening for the

cry or coo of a baby in need.

"Often there is one that's up and crying, that needs to be held, or needs to be fed," says Marva. "I get gowned up, washed up, and go and get them."

She nicknames each child she cares for. There's Little Miss Sunshine, who is an early riser like Marva. There's Little Mr. Feistiness and Little Miss Spitfire – two babies who loudly proclaim their presence. And there's Sweet Pea, a little girl who lights up and kicks

her tiny legs when Marva starts talking to her, knowing a warm embrace is just moments away.

"I see some personality, and the type of person that baby may be," says Marva. Nicknaming the babies gives Marva a way for her to share what happens during her NICU mornings with her staff or church friends, all the while guarding the babies' privacy.

Marva's love for the NICU babies is so evident, her

"Just learning to give, just teaching children to think about others, is something we have to do more of.... That's what life is really about. Helping and serving others."

Marva Johnson



Every Saturday morning, rain or shine, Marva Johnson shows up at Le Bonheur's NICU to rock and cuddle the hospital's smallest patients. Marva, a principal at Altruia Elementary School in Bartlett, steps in to give parents a break and babies loving attention.

fellow church members and her students and co-workers at Altruia Elementary have become her mighty force for supporting the hospital in general and the NICU in particular. Marva's colleagues from school frequently treat the NICU nurses and staff to potluck lunches, while Highland Church of Christ members provide meals for families and staff, and collect snack foods, gift cards and items for the patient rooms. Her students participate in Go Jim Go – the annual fundraiser/bike tour of the Mid-South by WREG News Channel 3 Meteorologist Jim Jagers. The students' most recent fundraising goal was \$3,200 for Go Jim Go, but they raised \$5,100 – a true testament to their principal and her passion for the NICU babies. They contribute their small change to buy books for the volunteers to read to the babies, too.



"I was walking down the hall one day ... I could hear this voice, 'Miss Johnson, Miss Johnson,'" says Marva, who knelt down to talk to the kindergarten student who called out to her. "She unrolled her little fingers, and there were ..." Marva stops, trying to catch her breath as she cries, apologizing for her emotion. With a deep breath, she continued. "And there were 10 shiny pennies to help the babies, to help the hospital. I think that says it all. I believe if you teach children to give, they will be adults who give," she says. "What better lesson to teach?"

Marva has made Le Bonheur a beneficiary of part of her estate, creating a true legacy of love.

Marva has seen her work at the hospital come full circle, as well. When she was signing out from her shift, a volunteer ahead of her turned and told her that her child had been one of Marva's NICU babies, and that inspired her to volunteer at Le Bonheur.

"You just never know how you're going to influence somebody else's life," says Marva. "What a difference, the

comfort that mother found, in knowing there was somebody here holding her baby when she couldn't."

Marva calls her volunteer work at Le Bonheur a blessing, but she is an equal blessing to Le Bonheur, both as a volunteer and as a donor. Marva has made Le Bonheur a beneficiary of part of her estate, creating a true legacy of love.

"This hospital is a part of my heart," says Marva. "I've really been trying to think of what else can I do, even after I am gone ... this is a way I can give a piece of myself."

Every Saturday morning, Marva gives more than a piece of herself to the babies of NICU and Le Bonheur: She gives her heart.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Volunteers serve an important role at Le Bonheur, and there's a need for more "unit buddies" on our floors. A few hours of your time could make a real difference in the life of a child. As a volunteer, you will benefit just as much, if not more, than the patients and families you help.

Volunteer opportunities include creating crafts with patients, helping at special events, supporting patients and siblings in the Emergency Department, hosting game days and more. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit lebonheur.org/ways-to-help.



Watch Marva make one of her Saturday morning visits at lebonheur.org/secure.

Recent Events

Gurus of Golf

The 9th annual Gurus of Golf raised more than \$340,000 for Le Bonheur. The event at Spring Creek Ranch paired 20 teams with top teaching pros for a unique all-day, hands-on golf experience. The night before, Ring Container Technologies presented Par-Tee with the Gurus at Lexus of Memphis.



A Taste of the Seasons

The Le Bonheur Club hosted A Taste of the Seasons at five homes in the prestigious River Oaks neighborhood. Guests enjoyed touring the homes followed by a party with a live auction and entertainment by The Agendas. Co-chairs Anne Canale, September Eason and Tressa Ogles and Le Bonheur Club President Barbara Hodges planned the evening that raised more than \$90,000. Many thanks to the home hosts: Dr. and Mrs. Blake Billups, Ms. Karen Carlisle, Mr. and Mrs. Giles Coors, Mr. and Mrs. Thayne Muller and Mr. and Mrs. Corey Trotz.

FedExFamilyHouse Gala

This year's FedExFamilyHouse Gala at the Peabody Hotel raised nearly \$1 million for the house. The funds help us continue our mission of providing comfort and care at no charge to our families while their child is treated at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. A big high five to celebrity guest NFL Quarterback Eli Manning, Honorary Chairs Chris and Debby Wallace and Late Night Lounge Honorary Chairs Tony and Desiree Allen and Gala Chair Ed Coleman.



Upcoming Events

Pumpkin Run



Mark your calendars for **Oct. 21** for the 13th 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. Learn how you can gather your friends and family to support Le Bonheur and have a great time at pumpkinrun.org.

Radiothon

Tune in – it's radiothon season! Hear the stories of children and families about the lifesaving care they received at Le Bonheur. Find out how you can help make a difference.

WWYN in Jackson, Tenn. – Aug. 17-18

WWZD Wizard Radio in Tupelo, Miss. – Aug. 31

Radio Ambiente 1030 in Memphis – Nov. 16-17

FM100 in Memphis – Nov. 30



Memphis Food & Wine Festival

Save the date for one of the best parties of the year: the 2017 **Memphis Food & Wine Festival set for Saturday, Oct. 14**, benefiting FedExFamilyHouse. The event celebrates Memphis' culinary excellence by showcasing exceptional local chef talent along with acclaimed national and international chefs. Enhancing this lineup will be vintners and certified sommeliers. Tickets are available at www.memphisfoodwinefestival.org.



Address Service Requested



Thank you!

Your investment has made all the difference. For the seventh year in a row, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital was named one of the country's best children's hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*. A nationally ranked children's hospital is truly the best place for children and their families.



Brayden McNeill, 7, has big dreams. He wants to care for the "itty bitty babies" at Le Bonheur. He wants to cure Alzheimer's. He wants to drive the Le Bonheur ambulance. Cerebral Palsy and hydrocephalus isn't going to stand in his way. Thanks to his team at Le Bonheur including Neurologist Swati Karmarkar, MD, and generous people like you, Brayden has a bright future.