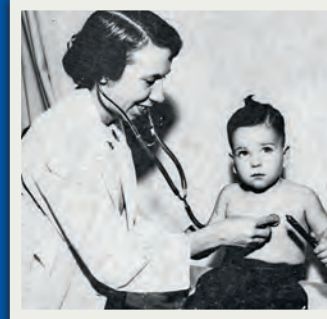


# SECURING THE PROMISE

SUMMER 2022



## *Celebrating 70 Years*

♥ Seventy years of providing healing and hope for children and their families

Le Bonheur  
Children's Hospital

*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.*

**LE BONHEUR LEADERSHIP**

- Michael Wiggins, DBA, FACHE – *President*
- James "Trey" Eubanks III, MD – *Surgeon-in-Chief*
- Harris Cohen, MD – *Radiologist-in-Chief*
- Barry Gilmore, MD, MBA – *Chief Medical Officer*
- Hella Ewing, RN, MSM – *Chief Nursing Officer*
- Kevin Todd, MBA – *Chief Financial Officer*
- Brandon Edgeron, MS, PharmD – *Chief Operating Officer*
- Maureen O'Connor, MBA – *Vice President, Institutional Advancement*
- Erin Pattee, RN, MHA – *Vice President, Regional Services and Planning*
- Henry Chapman, MBA – *Senior Director, Support Services*
- Karen Faught, MSA, SPHR – *Director, Human Resources*
- Jennilyn Utkov, BSN, MBA – *Vice President, Community Relations*
- Domnic Fernandez, MHA – *Vice President of Ambulatory Services and Executive Director at UT Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialists*

**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS**

- Lisa Ellis, Luke Pruett,
- Michelle Rogers, Cathy Wilson

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Photos on the magazine cover illustrate the expert care received by patients at Le Bonheur Children's from 1952 to present.

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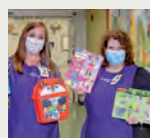
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**Support Le Bonheur**

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.

[www.lebonheur.org/secure](http://www.lebonheur.org/secure)





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

In 1944, Memphis was in dire need of a hospital dedicated to children. Le Bonheur Club, a group of women dedicated to serving underprivileged children in the community, answered the call raising more than \$2 million to build the facility.

On June 15, 1952, Le Bonheur Club's president released red balloons with keys to the hospital attached — signifying that the doors would always be open to any child in need — and officially welcomed families to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

In the course of 70 years, you have helped us transform from a small community hospital to a nationally-ranked health care leader. We treat children from not just Memphis, but across the globe. Our strong programs of excellence allow us to provide cutting-edge treatment and make groundbreaking discoveries that save lives.

While we have seen many technological changes and advancements in medicine during the past 70 years, one thing has remained the same: Le Bonheur Children's commitment to kids. We made a promise to care for children when they need us and because of you, we have been able to keep that promise.

Today we heal tiny babies with critical needs, care for young adults in need of complex brain surgeries, and treat children with serious heart defects. Kids who might not have survived a few decades ago are now thriving!

The heart on our building serves as a beacon of hope for the thousands of children who come to us for treatment each year, just as it did when we welcomed our first patient 70 years ago. Because of your support, generations of families past, present and future know they can rely on Le Bonheur Children's to meet their needs and provide expert care.

I hope you'll enjoy reading about Le Bonheur's history and learning about our plans for the future. Thank you for joining us as we celebrate 70 years of caring for children!

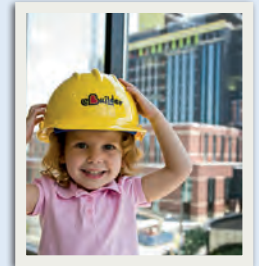
Sincerely,



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



# 70 Years of Caring for



♥ **1923** – *Le Bonheur Club is formed.*

♥ **1946** – *A goal of \$2 million – ambitious in a post-war economy – is set to build a children's hospital in Memphis.*

♥ **1970s** – *Le Bonheur becomes the primary pediatric teaching partner for The University of Tennessee Health Science Center's Department of Pediatrics.*

♥ **1976** – *Frank T. Tobey Memorial Hospital closes and pediatric services are shifted to Le Bonheur, desegregating children's health in Memphis.*

♥ **2005** – *Plans are announced to build the new Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.*

♥ **1944** – *The Memphis Pediatric Society approaches club members with a dream: building a hospital dedicated to children.*

♥ **June 15, 1952** – *Le Bonheur Children's Hospital opens its doors.*

♥ **October 1995** – *Le Bonheur joins the Methodist Healthcare family.*





# Kids at Le Bonheur

Celebrating  
**70**  
Years

Le Bonheur  
Children's Hospital



♥ **Feb. 14, 2008** –  
*Le Bonheur breaks ground for the new hospital.*

♥ **2011** – *Demolition and remodeling of the old Le Bonheur begins.*

♥ **2020** – *Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute's Dravet syndrome program named a Dravet Comprehensive Care Center by the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. Le Bonheur's program is one of 13 in the country.*

♥ **June 15, 2010** –  
*Le Bonheur hosts Grand Opening celebration.*

*Le Bonheur is named a "Best Children's Hospital" by U. S. News & World Report.*

*Gold Award for Excellence in Life Support – Extracorporeal Life Support Organization.*

*Trauma program receives Level 1 Designation by the American College of Surgeons.*

*10 years of being named a Best Children's Hospital by U. S. News & World Report.*



♥ **December 2010** –  
*Le Bonheur moves patients into new hospital.*

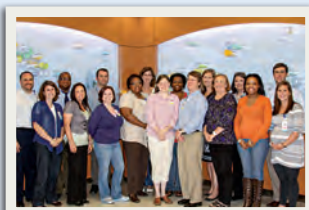
♥ **2016** – *Hospital receives Magnet designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).*

♥ **June 29, 2021** – *West Tennessee Healthcare and Le Bonheur Children's announce a new collaboration to provide specialized pediatric care to the children of West Tennessee.*

♥ **2007** – *The Family Partners Council is formed, helping Le Bonheur Children's Hospital collaborate with patient families as part of the care team.*

♥ **2015** – *Heart Institute awarded the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) highest three star rating.*

♥ **August 27, 2021** – *Le Bonheur breaks ground on the largest building expansion since opening the hospital in 2010.*



♥ **2021** – *Le Bonheur earns the American College of Radiology gold seal of accreditation.*



# ALL IN: Le Bonheur's long-serving



**Caryline Adkins**  
Rehabilitation Services  
Hire date: May 3, 1982



*"I have been at Le Bonheur almost 40 years and in all that time, the constant is that at Le Bonheur the patient and family have always come first! Le Bonheur has always been the place where local and regional physicians send their pediatric patients who present with more complex diagnoses. I have seen multiple cases that my school textbooks referenced as occurring within less than 1 percent of the population. Working at Le Bonheur is a privilege and I enjoy the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families."*



**Meri Armour**  
former Le Bonheur President  
(2007-2019)



*"Le Bonheur has grown and matured throughout the last 70 years, joining the ranks of the very best children's hospitals in America. This was not by accident, but rather a result of the shared vision and efforts of all who worked at Le Bonheur or experienced care here over the years. Le Bonheur has always moved forward as one devoted team, and the hospital's greatness stems from the collaboration and dedication of those who came before, as well as those who serve today.*

*As Benjamin Franklin once said, 'Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning.' The next 70 years will undoubtedly be filled with continued growth, progress and improvement at Le Bonheur, and I believe the hospital's success is assured and its future bright and secure. Children coming to Le Bonheur will be the beneficiaries of the very best in medical care and the hospital's unwavering commitment to quality, safety, transformative research and faithful advocacy for every child."*



**Sylvia Blanchard**  
Pedi-Flite  
Hire date: Dec. 12, 1977



*"For the last 45 years I have called 848 Adams Avenue my work home. During my time here, I have had the opportunity to work with countless talented and caring individuals from various departments — especially Respiratory Care, Emergency, Pedi-Flite and Trauma. No matter the Associate or department I have encountered, the staff has always been generous with their time, support and knowledge. I have also experienced firsthand the level of compassion and understanding that Le Bonheur offers families. In 2001, my son was diagnosed and treated for Autism Spectrum Disorder. I was never made to feel like any of my questions or concerns were too small or insignificant, and I am grateful to work in such a compassionate place."*

# associates reflect on their time at the hospital



**Kerry Regen**  
Pharmacy  
Hire date: June 20, 1983



*"When I first started working at Le Bonheur in June of 1983, all pharmacy services — including outpatient, inpatient and TPN, or total parenteral nutrition — were centralized in one pharmacy site located on the ground floor of the hospital. The following year, we established our first satellite pharmacy located in the Intensive Care Unit. Now we have satellite pharmacies in the Operating Rooms, Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The outpatient pharmacy is located in the hospital's four-story Outpatient Center. With the addition of these satellite pharmacies, we have been able to enhance our services and provide better patient care."*



**Kimberly Lewis**  
Outpatient Center  
Hire date: May 15, 1989



*"When I started working at Le Bonheur, we were a small, independent community hospital. Today Le Bonheur has grown into a regional, award-winning and nationally-recognized children's hospital. Since I began here, the hospital has been in three different physical buildings. During the build of both 'new' hospitals, many conversations were had about how 'we will never fill up the space.' Yet each time we build another space, we overfill that space. It's amazing how our programs and services continue to grow from year to year."*



**Elesia Turner**  
Risk Management  
Hire date: July 23, 1979



*"Years ago, when children were born with the most severe type of heart defect there was no corrective surgery available. We would cut locks of hair and cast footprints for the family so they wouldn't walk out of the hospital with empty hands; it was all we could offer. I remember watching parents go through such heartbreaking loss — a loss that ripples through the family's life forever. Today, we offer hope for a different outcome. That is what Le Bonheur means to me: hope for a better future for any child who needs our care."*



**Martha Thomas**  
Ambulatory Clinics  
Hire date: May 7, 1979



*"For all of my nursing career I have worked in the Outpatient Clinics at Le Bonheur. Over time they have grown from a single room with three stretchers separated by curtains to an entire building housing more than 50 subspecialty clinics. Many are now recognized by U.S. News & World Report due to their commitment to excellent patient- and family-centered care. I am very proud to still be working in the Outpatient Clinics at Le Bonheur!"*



17-year-old Ella Morrissey received the 50th heart transplant at Le Bonheur on Dec. 5, 2021.



# ALL HEART

*Heart Transplant Program celebrates five years, 50th transplant*

Le Bonheur Children's Heart Institute recently performed its 50th heart transplant and also celebrated the fifth anniversary of the program.

Seventeen-year-old Ella Morrissey from Overland Park, Kan.,

is recovering well after receiving the Heart Institute's 50th heart transplant on Dec. 5, 2021. Diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) at age 10, Ella managed her condition through medications and an implantable

*"When I began my career at Le Bonheur, I considered it a nice children's hospital and a good place to work. Over the years, I feel that we have evolved into a major entity concerning the well-being of children from across the country and even around the world. When someone asks me why I have stayed with the same company for 35 years, I am very proud to tell them that I've always wanted to be part of a place that is nationally known, well respected and recognized for the care we provide to our patients and families. If not for my age, I would happily sign on for another 35 years."*



**Phyllis Love**  
Physician and Referral Services  
Hire date: Sept. 8, 1987



cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) to prevent cardiac arrest. After an intense bout of arrhythmia that required four shocks from her ICD, Le Bonheur cardiologists determined that Ella needed a heart transplant.

“We could not be more thrilled to be celebrating five years as a Heart Transplant Program here at Le Bonheur,” said Le Bonheur President Michael Wiggins, DBA, FACHE. “Our team’s dedication to children has allowed them to save 50 children with new hearts in the past five years. With the collaborative effort of our doctors, staff, donors and entire Le Bonheur family, we will be able to continue to provide a vital service to our region.”

The first heart transplant at Le Bonheur was 20-month-old Lyric Everhart who received her new heart on Oct. 22, 2016. A team of surgeons who performed the



Lyric Everhart was Le Bonheur’s first heart transplant patient. Now 7 years old, she recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of receiving her new heart.

transplant were led by Surgical Director of the Heart Transplant and Ventricular Assist Device Program Umar Boston, MD; Co-director of the Heart Institute Christopher Knott-Craig, MD; and Executive Co-director of the Heart Institute, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology and Medical Director of Cardiomyopathy, Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Services Jeffrey A. Towbin, MD.

Lyric was born with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy and after six weeks of waiting, she became

the first patient to receive a heart transplant at Le Bonheur. Within two days of her surgery, Lyric was brushing her teeth, playing with dolls and blowing bubbles. Today, Lyric is a thriving 7 year old.

Thanks to your support, Le Bonheur has saved the lives of Lyric, Ella, and 48 other children. Your gift makes this incredible milestone possible. ❤️



Shortly after receiving her heart transplant, Morrissey left Le Bonheur through a sea of bubbles with a new heart beating in her chest.

**Shawn Holliday**  
Radiology  
Hire date: Oct. 26, 1981



“I am so grateful to be part of Le Bonheur’s Radiology team. When I started here in 1981, Le Bonheur did not have CT or MR technology and Ultrasound was practically nonexistent. Radiology images were processed on film instead of being stored electronically. It’s been exciting to play a part in implementing new technology and watching Le Bonheur grow from a community hospital to one that’s nationally ranked.”

**Penny Taylor,**  
EEG  
Hire date: June 27, 1988



“I am entering my 34th year at Le Bonheur and in that time, I have seen this hospital grow from a small community hospital to a state-of-the-art, nationally-ranked facility. Everyone has a purpose in life, and my purpose is to support the patients and families at Le Bonheur.”

# FOR ALL GENERATIONS

## Seventy Years of Healing and Hope for Children and Families

For 70 years, Le Bonheur Children's has taken care of kids, from the ordinary bumps and bruises of childhood to life-altering diagnoses. Generations of families past, present and future know they can count on Le Bonheur to provide expert care when they need it most.

### FROM PATIENT TO VOLUNTEER Transplant recipient brings comfort to children and their families

Earlier this year, 33-year-old Price Bullock celebrated an unusual milestone — the 62nd birthday of his right kidney. When Price was 4 years old, concerning symptoms prompted a visit to Le Bonheur Children's to see his pediatrician, Dr. Landon Pendergrass. He was diagnosed with atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome, a condition that causes acute renal failure. Price was immediately placed



Price Bullock, age 5, prepares to undergo kidney transplant surgery at Le Bonheur Children's while his father, Bill, encourages him with jokes and cheer.

on dialysis following this devastating diagnosis and for the next 14 months, his family searched for a suitable organ donor. On Dec. 14, 1994, Price received a healthy kidney from his Aunt Barb, who donated the organ to her nephew

***"One evening I ran into Krystal, one of the nurses who took care of me after my transplant, and the fact that she is still working here 28 years later is a testament to the dedication and passion of Le Bonheur staff."***

Price Bullock, transplant patient

in a living-donor kidney transplant. The transplant was a success and, incredibly, Price was back home with his family in time for Christmas that year.

Nearly 30 years later, Price holds the distinction of being one of Le Bonheur's most faithful and generous volunteers. He began volunteering in the hospital's dialysis unit in 2014 and contributed 646 hours of service to Le Bonheur in the years prior to the pandemic's onset. While he initially spent his weekly volunteer shifts visiting with patients on dialysis, arranging time away from work for every three-hour shift, Price eventually took on a job that would not enable him to volunteer during the unit's daytime hours of operation. Undaunted, Price transitioned into the volunteer role of "Unit Buddy," donating one evening each week to spend time with patients who

*"In heart care, everything we do has shifted to the least invasive method. Certain congenital heart defects used to be taken care of in the operating room and now those procedures are performed in the catheterization lab. This shortens the hospital stay and eliminates the need for a sternotomy. Similarly, we used to do more catheterizations to diagnose patients and we now use echocardiograms and cardiac MRIs, reducing radiation exposure and avoiding an invasive procedure."*



**Jane Hanafin**  
Heart Institute  
Hire date: June 1, 1987



are lonely or in need of some positive interaction and play. He has now volunteered in most Le Bonheur units, but the Medical Specialties Unit, where transplant patients recover from surgery, holds a special place in his heart. Price pays a visit to the transplant floor during every shift to see if any patients and families could use an encouraging visit from a transplant survivor.

“One evening I ran into Krystal, one of the nurses who took care of me after my transplant, and the fact that she is still working here 28 years later is a testament to the dedication and passion of Le Bonheur staff,” said Price.

In addition to his years of service as a hospital volunteer, Price also spent several teenage years volunteering as a counselor at Camp Okawehna, more fondly known as “Kidney Camp” to the transplant and dialysis patients who

attend this annual bonding event for kids living with similar diagnoses.

“One thing these families all had in common was that they had only heard what they’d been told by hospital staff regarding pre-transplant, post-transplant and transplantation in general. They had never spoken with any organ recipients — much less one who was so many years post-transplant,” recalled Price. “Their range of questions provided me with a better understanding

of how my parents may have felt when faced with a similar situation. This gave me insights into what might have benefited them during our experience, and the idea that I could help connect and relate to people in times of crisis, confusion and despair made it clear that I wanted to volunteer at Le Bonheur.”

In 2019, Price was honored with the Volunteer Memphis Millennial Volunteer Award for

servicing as “a shining example both of the transformative power of volunteer service and of the capacity millennials have to profoundly impact their community for the better,” according to an excerpt from his nomination letter. While he has given more hours to Le Bonheur than most volunteers of his tenure, the grin on his face when speaking about the hospital makes it evident that Price has received just as much in return.

This fall, Price and his wife, Vanessa, will celebrate eight years of marriage and



*Le Bonheur Community Engagement Specialist Allison Smith, left, and Volunteer Coordinator Hannah Rafieetary, right, celebrate with Price Bullock at the 2019 Volunteer Memphis Awards. Price received the Millennial Volunteer Award for his faithful service to kids and families at Le Bonheur Children’s.*



*From left to right, Vanessa, Carolyn, Price and Charles Bullock are grateful for the children’s hospital that saved Price’s life and the access to exceptional pediatric care in their family’s backyard.*

*“The Le Bonheur I first knew in the 1980s stood where the Research Tower stands now; I think only one ‘original’ elevator remains. Inside the hospital were seven floors: one housing medical records, administration, a chapel, gift shop and other supply and support services; one for the Intensive Care Unit, operating rooms, Bunny Room, lab, blood bank and physician offices; one floor for the library; and four floors dedicated to patient care. Patient floors were the Special Care Unit for newborns and infants, the medical unit, the surgical unit and a combined floor for neuro and ortho cases. The ground level was home to the ER, later renamed the Emergency Department, as well as hospital clinics, X-ray, Environmental Services and the pharmacy, equipped with ‘dumbwaiter services’ for medication delivery to the patient care areas.”*



**Susan A. Helms**  
Injury Prevention  
Hire date: March 3, 1980

the first birthday of their daughter, Carolyn Barbara, named for Aunt Barb. Their son, Charles, turns 4 in December. Price and Vanessa delight in the fact that the same pediatrician who cared for Price almost three decades ago, Dr. Pendergrass, is now looking out for Carolyn and Charles.

“Knowing what the doctors and nurses are capable of and the amazing care that occurs there, if our kids were ever to need a children’s hospital I cannot think of a better place for them to be than Le Bonheur,” said Price. “Based on the advancements that have taken place since I was a patient, I am excited about what’s to come – especially since I plan on being part of Le Bonheur for a very long time.”

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**  
*Three generations find care for same condition*

Ashley Ragsdale of Mooreville, Miss., also takes comfort in her family’s close proximity to Le Bonheur – and she marvels that the same children’s hospital that has cared for her daughter, Shelby, also provided lifesaving care to her mother Deanna in the 1960s. Ashley, too, has been a patient at Le Bonheur, and she feels tremendous gratitude for the hospital that has been there for three generations of her family thus far.



*From left to right, Ashley Ragsdale, her daughter, Shelby, and her mother, Deanna, all received treatment and care at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital for a rare glandular disorder.*

Ashley’s mother, Deanna Hammons Browning, was born in 1964 and began suffering from seizures at an early age. Growing up near Tupelo in north Mississippi, Deanna was initially treated by pediatricians in her local community, but she was eventually referred to Le Bonheur for more comprehensive diagnostics and care. At Le Bonheur, Deanna became a patient of Dr. Alvaro “Al” Camacho, a pediatric endocrinologist who specialized in the treatment of severe pituitary and adrenal gland disorders.

Dr. Camacho



*Thanks to a medication her grandmother trialed as a Le Bonheur patient more than 50 years ago, Shelby Ragsdale is living a happy, healthy life free from seizures caused by hypoglycemia.*

diagnosed Deanna with an extreme case of hypoglycemia, or low blood sugar, which can be caused when the pituitary gland fails to produce growth hormones needed to raise the body’s blood sugar levels if they fall too low. Under Dr. Camacho’s care, Deanna was started on a trial medication to stabilize her blood sugar and better regulate her body’s glucose production. Today, that medication – diazoxide, or Proglycem – is a leading treatment for hypoglycemia in children and adults with growth hormone deficiencies.

Thanks to Proglycem and Dr. Camacho’s watchful diagnosis, Deanna’s seizures subsided and she remained in the care of Le Bonheur’s endocrinology team until she outgrew the disorder as a teenager.

Glandular disorders are a rare cause of hypoglycemia, which is more often associated with diabetes, and these disorders can also be genetic. So when Ashley, born in 1982, started experiencing seizures at an early age, her mother, Deanna, knew exactly where to turn. The pair began traveling the same

*“One change that stands out for me is how the budgeting process has changed in my time at Le Bonheur. In 2009, we developed a new budget system, EPSI, designed to let cost center managers access their budget information through an intranet site. We started meeting with every cost center leader during the budget development phase to discuss their operational needs for the next fiscal year, and we made real-time adjustments in the meetings to reflect input from the frontline leaders. Leaders left these meetings knowing exactly what was in their budgets for the upcoming year. This method was good for all concerned and a big improvement for our organization.”*



**Linzy Albert**  
 Finance  
 Hire date: Sept. 16, 1985



two-hour route to Le Bonheur that Deanna drove with her own mother so many times, and Dr. Camacho — still practicing at Le Bonheur nearly 20 years later — became Ashley’s pediatric endocrinologist. Ashley was also diagnosed with hypoglycemia and started on a Proglycem regimen



*Ashley Ragsdale is grateful that her daughter, Shelby, will soon outgrow the same growth hormone deficiency that has affected three generations of women in their family.*

to help regulate her blood sugar. Like her mother before her, she remained under the care of Dr. Camacho and Le Bonheur until her teenage years when her body naturally outgrew the hypoglycemia associated with growth hormone production.

In 2006, Ashley gave birth to a

***“Little did Dr. Camacho know that the medicine he was trialing in the 1960s would save lives and help not only my mom, but me and my daughter survive and thrive in life. Le Bonheur has been a part of our whole lives, and I hope in the future we can do more for the hospital and be a bigger part of the place that has helped so many families over the years.”***

*Ashley Ragsdale, former Le Bonheur patient*

daughter, Shelby, who began having seizures at the age of 1. At age 2, Shelby was diagnosed with hypoglycemia resulting from an undersized pituitary gland. While Dr. Camacho had long since ceased practicing by the time Shelby became a Le Bonheur patient, the plan of care he outlined for both her mother and grandmother ultimately served as a blueprint for Shelby’s

own course of treatment. Shelby began taking Proglycem when she was 5 years old to keep her glucose levels stable, and at age 15, she is living a vibrant, healthy and seizure-free life. Shelby is also beginning to show signs of outgrowing hypoglycemia. Ashley prays that within another year or so, her daughter will be fully weaned off the blood sugar medication.

“Little did Dr. Camacho know that the medicine he was trialing in the 1960s would save lives and help not only my mom, but me and my daughter survive and thrive in life,” said Ashley.

“Le Bonheur has been a part of our whole lives, and I hope in the future we can do more for the hospital and be a bigger part of the place that has helped so many families over the years.”

### **IN HER FOOTSTEPS** *Mother-daughter duo provide expert nursing care*

Jane Thompson and her daughter, Mary Elizabeth, are also striving to do more for Le Bonheur and contribute to the hospital’s long legacy of care. Both registered nurses, they have each devoted their lives to the care of neonatal patients and expectant mothers. They have worked as nursing colleagues at Le Bonheur since Mary Elizabeth took a position in the hospital’s Infant/Toddler Unit in 2011. And together, they ensure that neonates and their families receive compassionate, comprehensive care throughout every step of their journey.

A lifelong nurse, Jane enrolled in the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing at the age of 17, and she has served in clinical nursing with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare since 1980. She worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Methodist University Hospital until the unit closed its doors in 2004. She then transferred to Le Bonheur Children’s to help staff the hospital’s newly opened, six-bed NICU. In 2008, she took on a leadership position as one



#### **Shirley Catron**

Human Resources  
Hire date: March 15, 1976

*“Le Bonheur is the best children’s hospital for taking care of kids. For 46 years I have been with Le Bonheur, and this hospital has become like family to me. I love working here.”*



#### **Anthony Mitchell**

Facilities Services  
Hire date: Nov. 14, 1988

*“I’ve seen a lot of changes in my time here — good changes for the hospital and for the better. The people here make the hospital for me ... Le Bonheur is a family-oriented place. Just about everywhere you go in the hospital, you get to know and care for the people you work with.”*

of the NICU's patient care coordinators, working to ensure the best possible patient outcomes through coordinated delivery of nursing care with the NICU's multidisciplinary team. During her tenure in the Le Bonheur NICU, Jane saw the unit achieve the highest measure of care available for premature and critically-ill newborns as a Level IV NICU, watching the unit grow from six beds to 60 in fewer than seven years. Meanwhile, Mary Elizabeth was taking note.

"I have papers dating back to preschool stating that I wanted to be a NICU nurse like my mommy," said Mary Elizabeth. She spent the summer after her freshman year in college volunteering in Le Bonheur's NICU. As philanthropy chair for her sorority at Lambuth University, Mary Elizabeth organized fundraisers and group service events for the children's hospital so near and dear to her heart. She also had the opportunity to attend a Le Bonheur ceremony honoring the hospital's



Maternal Fetal Center Program Manager Jane Thompson, right, celebrates as her daughter, Mary Elizabeth, is honored with the NICU's DAISY Award for compassionate nursing care in 2020. Mary Elizabeth also earned a DAISY Award in 2012 while serving in Le Bonheur's Infant/Toddler Unit.

the impact she had on others' lives and became even more in awe of her."

In 2009, Mary Elizabeth was ready to begin her career as a nurse extern and eager to pursue a path in NICU nursing at Le Bonheur — but an unexpected obstacle arose. Because Jane was now serving in a leadership position in the hospital's

Nursing Stars, her mother among them, which proved a turning point for Mary Elizabeth.

"I remember thinking how unaware I was of this aspect of Mom's life," she recalled. "I've always known my mom is awesome and she has always been a superhero to me, but at that ceremony, I was given a glimpse of

NICU, her daughter's employment on the unit would pose a conflict of interest. Undaunted, Mary Elizabeth took a position working in the NICU at Methodist Germantown for two years before transferring to Le Bonheur's Infant/Toddler Unit in 2011. In 2013, Jane enjoyed the full-circle privilege of seeing Mary Elizabeth honored at the annual Nursing Stars ceremony, an occasion she uplifts as one of her proudest moments as a mom.

"When Mary Elizabeth graduated from nursing school and began her career in the Germantown NICU, I knew she had made the right choice," said Jane. "I could not be more proud when staff and patient families tell me what a great



Mary Elizabeth Thompson, a.k.a. "Aunt ME," is surprised with special birthday decorations from the family of one of her NICU patients, Rich Harris. Rich was born at 23 weeks gestation and spent months in the Le Bonheur NICU healing from complications of his prematurity. In July, he turns 2 and still loves visits with his Aunt ME from Le Bonheur.

*"I began my nursing career at Le Bonheur in 1976 and have seen the hospital grow from four floors to a 12-story, state-of-the-art hospital currently undergoing a major expansion. When I started, all charting was done on paper — green ink for evening shifts and red ink for night shifts — and our conversion to electronic documentation has greatly improved the accuracy and accessibility of patient medical records. Ranked as a Best Children's Hospital by U.S. News & World Report for 11 years and counting, Le Bonheur continues to make advancements providing excellent care for pediatric patients."*



**Sabrina Para**  
Same Day Surgery  
Hire date: Jan. 5, 1976



***“Le Bonheur has never been just a place of employment and being a nurse has never been just a job. Le Bonheur is home. People say home is where the heart is, so I think it’s appropriate that Le Bonheur’s logo is the heart. I have had no greater teacher or mentor in life than my mother, and I’m blessed to work alongside her now that I’m caring for other people’s children.”***

Mary Elizabeth Thompson, Le Bonheur nurse

nurse she is and the compassion she shows when caring for their babies.”

Mary Elizabeth served as a nurse in the Infant/Toddler Unit until 2017, when Jane was offered the position of program manager for Le Bonheur’s Maternal Fetal Center which provides overarching coordination of care for expectant mothers whose babies are diagnosed in utero with a congenital anomaly. Jane already worked closely with the Maternal Fetal team through her care coordination efforts in the NICU, and after accepting the program manager role, Mary Elizabeth was offered a clinical nursing position in the Le Bonheur NICU. Today, expectant mothers who become patients of Le Bonheur’s Maternal Fetal Center find themselves under Jane’s exceptional care, while many of their babies go on to experience Mary Elizabeth’s

compassionate care as patients in the NICU.

“In my years in the Infant/Toddler Unit, I learned what life looks like for our NICU babies after they ‘graduate’ from the NICU,” Mary Elizabeth said. “During my time as a Le Bonheur NICU nurse, I’ve had Maternal Fetal patients tell me, ‘I love that

your mom took care of me, and now you are taking care of my baby.’ It’s an interesting circle of life.”

Jane, similarly, tells moms under the care of the Fetal Center that Mary Elizabeth will be ready and waiting to look after them in the NICU.

Collectively, the two women have already devoted more than 50 years of nursing care to patients and families at Methodist Le Bonheur, and each feels a connection to Le Bonheur that extends far beyond that of a workplace.


“Le Bonheur has never been just a place of employment and being a nurse has never been just a job. Le Bonheur is home,” said Mary Elizabeth. “People say home is where the heart is, so I think it’s appropriate that Le Bonheur’s logo is the heart. I have had no greater teacher or mentor in life than my mother, and I’m blessed to work alongside her now that



Jane Thompson enjoys a visit from former patient Asher Tasma, who had an in-utero shunt placed in 2018 by one of Le Bonheur’s Maternal Fetal Center physicians. Asher is thriving and continues to receive follow-up care at Le Bonheur.

I’m caring for other people’s children.”

As residents of Wynne, Ark., the Thompsons are also inspired by the level of support shown to Le Bonheur by their hometown community.

“Living in Arkansas and wearing our hospital uniform or Le Bonheur T-shirts traveling to and from work, Mary Elizabeth and I both hear stories from families about what Le Bonheur means to them,” said Jane. “No one ever thinks twice about where to send their child! The level of engagement in Cross County really shows how Le Bonheur reaches all families and makes a difference in the care of their children.” 

*“In November of 1986, I began my Le Bonheur journey. At that time, Le Bonheur was a small freestanding hospital dedicated to providing care for children in and around the Memphis area. I started working on the fourth floor, which was a medical surgical unit. During my orientation, I noticed playrooms on the units. I saw kids and parents playing. What a cool idea — kids being kids while healing. I knew I was in the right place. I have served in many nursing roles, both inpatient and outpatient, during my time at Le Bonheur. One thing remains consistent: Le Bonheur keeps patients and families at the center of everything they do.”*



**Laura Luther**

Nursing

Hire date: Nov. 3, 1986

# Critical Growth

## Current Expansion a Special Project for All Involved

In July 2021, Le Bonheur Children's announced a major expansion, including the addition of four floors and a revamp of the 9th floor to offer more useable space. Despite deadlines, shipment delays and the logistics of construction in a very busy hospital, the team has not lost sight of what's most important — the kids and families they serve.

"We try to engage our construction team as a part of the Le Bonheur family," explained Brandon Edgerson, Le Bonheur vice president and COO. "They meet with our



Le Bonheur Children's announced a major expansion in July 2021, including the 9th floor renovation pictured above. Construction is underway to expand critical care needs.

team so they're a part of our culture, and they understand why we do what we do."

The crews and Le Bonheur teams have worked together seamlessly to choose times of day that will cause the fewest disruptions in active patient care areas; the construction team also attends the hospital's daily safety meetings. This

emphasis on communication keeps everyone on the same page as plans evolve.

This project will expand the hospital's critical care capacity, most notably for the Cardiovascular and Neonatal Intensive Care Units. It will also create an 11-bed step-down cardiac unit

"When I started working at Le Bonheur it was through a staffing agency. I worked so much they eventually pulled me in full-time. The teams here were so close and had so much love for the children. We had fun together, learned, grew as a team and watched over the years as our new nurse externs went on to become nurses, nurse practitioners and even administrators. That heart on top of the building stands for the love keeping our children, families and Associates together."



**Delinda "Sunshine" Stewart**

Unit Coordinator

Hire date: Sept. 16, 1989



A newly updated room on Le Bonheur's ninth floor in March 2022. Adding critical care beds will enable Le Bonheur Children's to treat more patients with complex medical needs.



and an MRI-guided catheterization lab. Le Bonheur's top-tier reputation continues to grow, and making sure the hospital has the space necessary to maintain high-capacity volume while providing high-level care was an immediate need.

"As we looked at our critical care areas, we realized there's an opportunity to provide those vital units with additional space," said Edgerson. "Knowing that we're continually striving to be a premier hospital, we want this space available to families in our region."

Building in the midst of a global pandemic has slowed down supply chains and shipments for crews all over the world, and Le Bonheur has not been immune to that challenge. But the construction team also has its own unique needs to navigate.

"We've set up infection control barriers to isolate the crew from patients," said Blake Tyler, project manager for Turner Construction Company. "It's so important to keep immunocompromised kids safe from drywall dust and other debris."

With the additional floors and units, there will be a major staffing impact. Le Bonheur is actively recruiting to meet

***"As we looked at our critical care areas, we realized there's an opportunity to provide those vital units with additional space. Knowing that we're continually striving to be a premier hospital, we want this space available to families in our region."***

Brandon Edgerson, Le Bonheur Vice President and COO

*"Patient care and hospital operations have evolved so much in the four decades I have been with Le Bonheur. In my early days here, all patient medical records were paper charts. The physician's order form was yellow, progress notes were orange and each shift wrote in a different color ink to distinguish between the three shifts. Many of us who rotated shifts used the standard ink pen with the four colors — black, blue, green and red. Back then all male residents wore a necktie to work, and because this was before cell phones or pagers, all pages came through the overhead system."*



**Linda Mallory**  
Community Health & Well-Being  
Hire date: July 9, 1979




these staffing needs, and the job growth expected will be significant. Once complete, this major undertaking will give Le Bonheur the space and resources to care for even more children in the region. On March 24, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held with Le Bonheur staff, patients, families and supporters all coming together to celebrate the newly opened 9th floor space.

As with every project Le Bonheur undertakes, the patients and their families are at the center of each decision — a feeling that also extends to each person involved in the expansion.

“On all Le Bonheur projects, my team and I are fortunate to not only do what we love, but also do something with a purpose. I’ve got two children myself, so it’s very near and dear to my heart to help kids in the tri-state area and beyond,”



Le Bonheur’s expansion will create a new 11-bed step-down cardiac unit and an MRI-guided catheterization lab.

said Tyler. “We’re building something with a higher vision and a higher purpose, which definitely gives us a vision of a bigger impact.” 



On March 24, Le Bonheur Children’s held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the hospital’s newly renovated ninth floor.

“The hospital’s emphasis on family partners is utmost in my mind when I think about how Le Bonheur has evolved. Our partnership with parents has grown beyond measure, including the development of bedside reporting, or family participation in physician rounds at the bedside. I’ve also witnessed the creation of several family-founded support groups and Le Bonheur’s growing commitment to involve a family in their child’s care from the moment they enter the doors. I think the passion of our employees is reflected in the number of people who choose to work here for 10, 20 years and beyond — that level of loyalty demonstrates the true dedication and purpose-driven care provided by Le Bonheur associates.”



**Sheila McClain**  
Nursing Administration  
Hire date: Nov. 30, 1987



## NICUSeq study: swift, affordable access to whole-genome sequencing could enable greater diagnostic equity

Le Bonheur was one of five children's hospitals in the nation to participate in a randomized clinical trial, coordinated by scientists from Illumina, Inc., to determine the effect of clinical whole-genome sequencing (cWGS) on clinical management of critically-ill newborns in the U.S.

Le Bonheur Genetics Division Chief Chester W. Brown, MD, PhD, led the hospital's investigation efforts and has co-authored a study with Illumina and fellow Le Bonheur

and University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) investigators. Findings show that using cWGS outperforms the current standard of care twofold for critically-ill newborns suspected of having a genetic condition, both in terms of diagnostic efficacy and change of clinical management. Findings from the "NICUSeq Randomized Time-Delayed Trial" were recently published in *JAMA Pediatrics* and include data supporting the widespread adoption and implementation of cWGS for critically-ill newborns.

"The NICUSeq study has shown us the importance of large-scale genetic testing in newborns, leading to early diagnosis of genetic conditions and helping to



Photo credit: Mark Weber, The Daily Memphian

*Le Bonheur Chief of Genetics Chester W. Brown, MD, PhD, recently co-authored a study about the impact of clinical whole-genome sequencing (cWGS) on diagnosis and care for critically-ill infants. Brown is now working with the state of Tennessee to make cWGS available to all critically-ill infants.*

inform decision making for physicians and families," said Brown, who also holds the St. Jude Chair of Excellence in Genetics at UTHSC.

A total patient population of 354 critically-ill newborns representing diverse ethnicities were enrolled in the study, which took place at four sites in addition to Le Bonheur — Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha/University of Nebraska Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Orange County/Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital/Washington University. The newborns were randomized to receive cWGS results within either

15 or 60 days of evaluation for a suspected genetic condition, with a total observation period of 90 days. In both the early (15 days) and delayed (60 days) arms of the study, access to cWGS doubled the number of patients who received a precision diagnosis and corresponding change in clinical management.

Study findings complement a growing body of literature demonstrating that cWGS leads to more focused, and therefore improved, patient care and should be considered a primary tool when assessing critically-ill newborns with a suspected genetic condition. Results also suggest that swift, affordable access to cWGS may help reduce health care disparities by enabling greater diagnostic equity, as the study mirrored the real-world variables affecting patient care. The NICUSeq findings support the widespread adoption and implementation of cWGS as a first-line genetic test for critically-ill newborns, increasing the probability of greater diagnostic accuracy and potentially life-saving care changes.

The next step is to determine how to implement the findings from the NICUSeq study into clinical standards of care, which poses some

***“The NICUSeq study has shown us the importance of large-scale genetic testing in newborns, leading to early diagnosis of genetic conditions and helping to inform decision making for physicians and families.”***

Le Bonheur Chief of Genetics Chester W. Brown, MD, PhD

challenges, says Brown. He is currently part of a state-wide initiative to make medical genetic services, including cWGS and other genetic testing, readily accessible to all Tennesseans with rare genetic disorders.

“Having this type of genetic information provides immediate and sustainable benefits that have lifelong value, providing a genetic ‘report card’ that can be used to help direct medical

care throughout life,” said Brown. “We are proud that Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and UTHSC were able to contribute to this important effort to help improve medical care for babies of the greater Memphis community.” ❤️



*In a recent study, clinical whole-genome sequencing (cWGS) for critically-ill newborns doubled the ratio of patients who received a precision diagnosis and corresponding change of clinical management.*



# A Place to Call Home

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



FedExFamilyHouse

Five years ago, 12-year-old Maggie Golden began experiencing serious health issues. She was falling asleep at school and barely had enough energy to walk up the stairs of her home; her thigh and calf muscles frequently hurt.

Standard blood tests looked normal, but as symptoms grew worse, her parents persisted in their search for answers. On a visit to her local Arkansas pediatrician, Maggie's heart rate measured 50 beats per minute. A subsequent EKG showed a blockage and an echocardiogram gave them a rare and serious diagnosis: Ebstein's anomaly, a condition where the heart's tricuspid valve isn't formed properly.

Maggie needed immediate expert care and her family turned to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital's top-ranked Heart Institute. Being hundreds of miles from home, Maggie's family was concerned about where they would stay in Memphis.

Luckily, the Heart Institute team referred them to FedExFamilyHouse — free and convenient lodging located across from the hospital.

Following testing, Dr. Christopher Knott-Craig determined Maggie would need immediate surgery.

Thanks to FedExFamilyHouse, Maggie's family could focus their attention on caring for her and not worry about lodging. They came "home" from each day at the hospital to a smiling face at the FedExFamilyHouse front desk.

"Words cannot express how grateful we are," Maggie's mom Heather Corporon said. "Without surgery, Maggie would have died in her sleep. Le Bonheur

saved Maggie's life and FedExFamilyHouse was there when we needed it most — during the scariest time of our lives."

Since their initial visit, Maggie has had countless appointments at Le Bonheur, staying at FedExFamilyHouse each time. They even spent the holidays at FedExFamilyHouse one year when Maggie was sick and in the hospital.

"As a parent when your child is very sick and hospitalized, you aren't thinking of how to celebrate the holiday or make the day special," Heather said. "A few days prior to Thanksgiving, FedExFamilyHouse staff reached out



*Maggie's family has stayed at FedExFamilyHouse many times over the past five years. Families like Maggie's who travel more than 50 miles from home for care at Le Bonheur Children's can stay at FedExFamilyHouse free of charge.*



*Dr. Christopher Knott-Craig performed life-saving surgery on Maggie. Diagnosed with a rare condition called Ebstein's anomaly, Maggie traveled from Arkansas for treatment at the top-ranked Le Bonheur Children's Hospital's Heart Institute.*

to coordinate a meal and offered to bring it over in a box to the hospital if needed. We came downstairs to the House's lobby and found tables set with music playing. We felt special despite being far from home for the holidays. Staff and volunteers worked hard to make it feel like a meal you would have at home."

Thanks to your support, Maggie's family knows they can count on FedExFamilyHouse to provide comfortable lodging and a hot meal every time they come to Le Bonheur Children's for expert care.

## A Critical Resource

Since opening its doors in 2011, more than 260,000 family members have stayed at FedExFamilyHouse. As Le Bonheur's programs of excellence have risen to national prominence, FedExFamilyHouse has played a crucial role by providing free housing and lodging in close proximity to the hospital.

Families travel from all over the country, and even the world, to receive expert care they can only get at Le Bonheur. Yet lodging often serves as a barrier for families seeking treatment far from home and FedExFamilyHouse is a critical resource for many.

*"Words cannot express how grateful we are. Without surgery, Maggie would have died in her sleep. Le Bonheur saved Maggie's life and FedExFamilyHouse was there when we needed it most — during the scariest time of our lives."*

Heather Corporon, Maggie's mom



Maggie Golden and her mom, Heather Corporon, have stayed at FedExFamilyHouse while Maggie has received care at Le Bonheur Children's.

Le Bonheur's social work team helps educate families about FedExFamilyHouse and refers families who live more than 50 miles from the hospital.

"FedExFamilyHouse affords families the opportunity to remain close to the hospital," Le Bonheur social worker LaShonda Oliver said. "Parents often ask me, 'but what if I am not there and an emergency happens?' Luckily staying at FedExFamilyHouse allows parents to be close to the hospital and be at their child's bedside in minutes."

Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Clinic social worker Terri Knowlton-Richards refers about 80 families a month to FedExFamilyHouse.

"Without FedExFamilyHouse, some families would not be able to come to Le Bonheur for care," Knowlton-Richards said. "Paying for a hotel, even with a hospital discount, is not

possible financially for many families. When I explain to them that they can stay at FedExFamilyHouse free of charge, they are relieved and grateful."

Your support of

FedExFamilyHouse allows families like Maggie's to focus on helping their child heal at Le Bonheur Children's and not worry about lodging or meals.

*"Without FedExFamilyHouse, some families would not be able to come to Le Bonheur for care. Paying for a hotel, even with a hospital discount, is not possible for many families. When I explain to them that they can stay at FedExFamilyHouse free of charge, they are relieved and grateful."*

Terri Knowlton-Richards, Le Bonheur Children's Outpatient Clinic social worker





# Seeds of Hope

*New donor-funded garden provides outdoor retreat for families*



In 2011, Erik Krull paced up and down the sidewalk along Memphis' busiest street. The hot June sun was beating down on him as he pushed a wheelchair holding his wife, Kate, and comatose 8-year-old daughter, Lucy, over cracked sidewalks.

After spending 20 months in and out of hospitals, Lucy was tragically losing her battle with brain and spine cancer. Her doctor encouraged the Krulls to go outside and get Lucy fresh air.

Without a green space for families to retreat to at Le Bonheur, the Krulls turned to the sidewalks of the busy Memphis medical district. They planned Lucy's funeral as they walked back and forth along Poplar Avenue.

But then a miracle happened. After seven days in a coma, Lucy woke up and made an extraordinary recovery.

In the years that followed, Kate and Erik remembered their experience outside and wanted to give other families at Le Bonheur the gift of an outdoor



*Without a green space for families to retreat to at Le Bonheur, the Krulls turned to the sidewalks of the busy Memphis medical district.*

space that would provide healing and hope.

Le Bonheur Art Director Linda Hill and

Development Director Michelle Rogers shared the Krulls' vision.

Through their Go Lucy Go Foundation, the Krulls made a gift to the hospital, helping to start the process to create Le Bonheur Green along with donations from other groups and individuals.

"To be able to feel the sunshine, even if you're in a wheelchair or have an IV pole, is a small slice of normal life for a child in the hospital," Kate Krull said. "For kids to hear birds



*Kate, Erik, Ella, Jack and Lucy Krull helped mark the beginning of Le Bonheur Green at a groundbreaking ceremony in 2019.*



*Lucy's sister, Ella, spent countless hours by her side while Lucy was a patient at Le Bonheur Children's.*

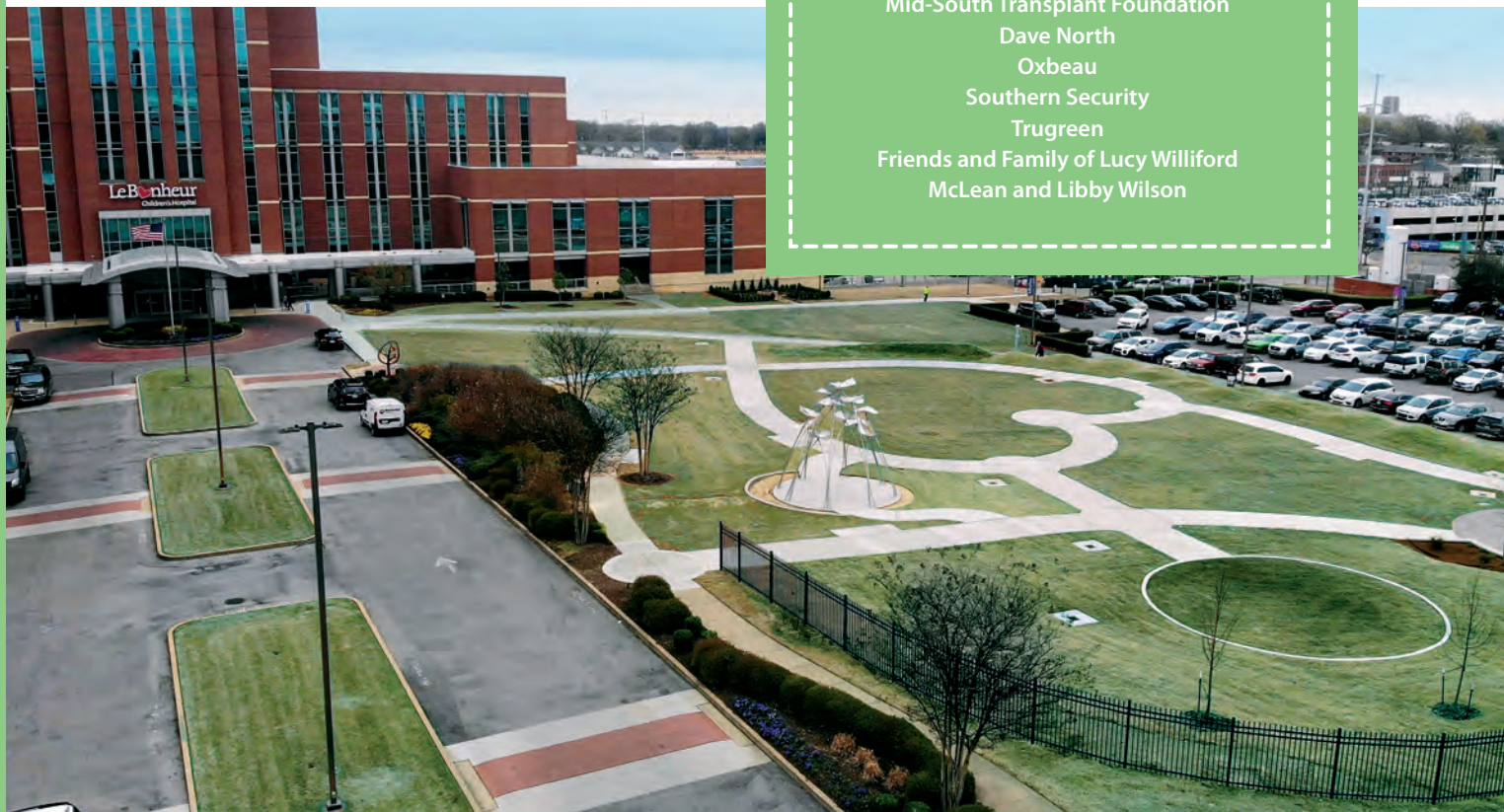
chirping, cars driving by, and feel the fresh air on their face is a reminder that life has not stopped because they are in a hospital bed. Rather, it is a reminder that 'All of this will still be there when I'm able to go home and the rest of the world is waiting for me.'"

On Oct. 25, 2019, Le Bonheur broke ground on Le Bonheur Green: a nearly two-acre green space on the hospital's front lawn. The area includes a pavilion for families to enjoy fresh air in the shade, a serenity garden with unique works of art and a wind chime installation playing a tranquil melody as the breeze blows.

Le Bonheur Green also features the hospital's signature heart in its hardscape, which provides space

**Le Bonheur Green is a 100% donor-funded project. We are grateful to the generous donors who made Le Bonheur Green a reality, especially the following supporters who contributed leadership gifts:**

- Dr. Douglas L Boerjte
- Chris Hope Foundation
- Dick and Dot Fisher
- Go Lucy Go! Foundation
- Robert and Molly Gooch
- International Paper
- Iris Harkavy
- Tom and Martha Horton
- The Krull Family
- The Little Garden Club
- Mid-South Transplant Foundation
- Dave North
- Oxbeau
- Southern Security
- Trugreen
- Friends and Family of Lucy Williford
- McLean and Libby Wilson



*Families can walk out the front door of the hospital and access Le Bonheur Green.*



for children to run and play. A one-of-a-kind labyrinth will be installed this fall to provide a walking path for families. An iris garden brings blooming beauty mere steps from the hospital and custom-made berms include seating elements so patients and their families can relax outdoors.



*Lucy was diagnosed with brain and spine cancer and spent 20 months in and out of hospitals, including Le Bonheur Children's.*

The long-awaited grand opening celebration for Le Bonheur Green was held on May 24. Donors and patient families joined Le Bonheur staff to officially commemorate the new space.


“When children can experience the sights and sounds of nature, they are reminded of their normal life outside the hospital,” Hill said. “Le Bonheur Green will allow families to escape the emotional challenges of the

hospital and feel renewed.”

Le Bonheur Green will also provide staff and physicians a place to rest and recharge during the often hectic workday, and the green space is already providing families with strength, peace and a welcome distraction.

Katherine Russell brought her daughter, Clark, to Le Bonheur Children's recently for her bi-annual neurology appointment. Prior to the check up, 10-year-old Clark ran around Le Bonheur Green and enjoyed the outdoor space.

“When we parked the car and Clark saw Le Bonheur Green, her face lit up,” Katherine said. “She is very energetic and active, so being able to spend time outside prior to her appointment made a huge difference. Le Bonheur Green put a smile on Clark's face and made her feel at ease.”

Many generous donors, including the Krull family, have made this project possible. Le Bonheur Green is 100% donor funded and a welcome addition to the hospital's state-of-the-art campus. 

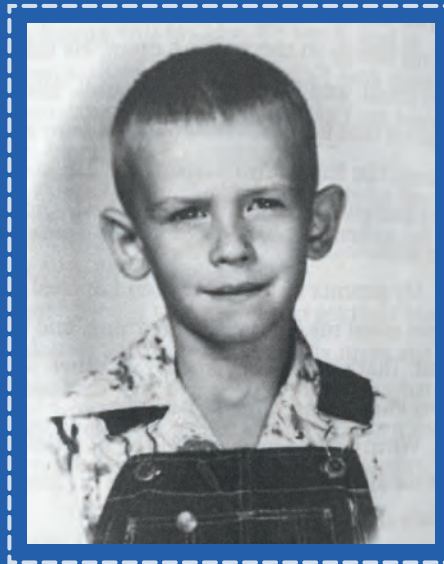


*Le Bonheur Green is 100% donor funded, made possible only by the generosity of our supporters.*

# From Patient to Partner

## A Heart for Le Bonheur for Nearly 70 Years

In the early 1950s, Curtis Mansfield's only worries were school, sports and staying out of trouble. Then three residents in his small town of Medina, Tenn., fell ill with polio on the same day. Sadly, one of those residents was young Curtis.



*Curtis Mansfield as a child*

He had been mowing an elderly neighbor's lawn — a job that earned him his very own pan of Rice Krispies treats — when he fainted. His parents took him to a small clinic where the doctor felt sure the problem was a burst appendix, but Mansfield's parents were adamant about getting a second opinion at Le Bonheur.

Once there, Mansfield was diagnosed with two forms of polio, and his harrowing journey began.

For six weeks, he remained isolated in a room only he and his mom could enter. Although family and friends sent well wishes in the form of toys, magazines and

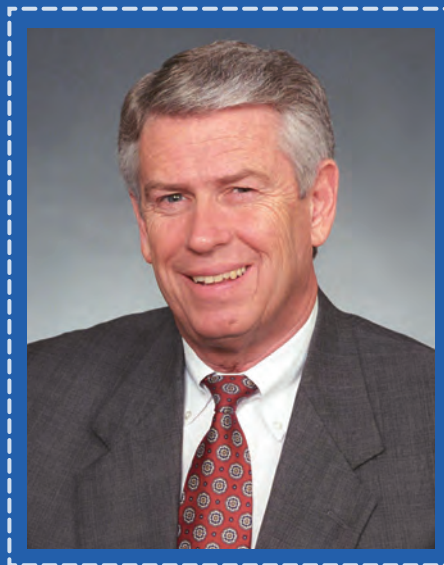
treats, everything from that room — including the clothes he wore — had to be tossed out and burned once he was discharged to go home.

Back home in Medina, his long battle persisted. He had to lay flat in his bed for an entire year, all the while seeing kids run and play outside his bedroom window. Despite these obstacles, Mansfield stayed on top of his schoolwork with the help of a teacher who came to his house regularly for lessons.

At one point during his recovery, a doctor looked him straight in the eyes and said, "You'll never be as active as other kids your age." To this day, Mansfield is positive that doctor was using reverse psychology, and he's forever indebted because it lit a fire under him. He went on to play basketball, baseball and run track as if he'd never been ill.

After all this time, he still remembers walking through the big

double doors at Le Bonheur. Although 70 years have passed, his heart for Le Bonheur is still just as big as it was back then.



*Curtis as an adult*




For 25 years, Mansfield has had the honor of serving on the board of Jackson-Madison County General Hospital; and last year the state of Tennessee approved the collaboration proposal between Le Bonheur and West Tennessee Healthcare to open a Le Bonheur Children's Hospital care unit inside Jackson-Madison County General Hospital.

"Children aren't small adults," said Mansfield. "They need care specifically designed for them. Le Bonheur and West Tennessee Healthcare will work well together for the children of West Tennessee, and I know this is true because I've seen how the doctors and nurses

all work together."

It's an amazing resource for the kids of West Tennessee to access this level of care so close to home, and Mansfield is grateful to be a part of it. "I felt like I was 10 feet tall sitting in the board room when this all came about."

"They listen, they act, and they produce results," said Mansfield. "It touches my heart to see these wonderful people take care of these kids. There's truly no way to explain how I feel about this miracle partnership." 



*Patients help unveil the new Le Bonheur Children's sign at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in April 2022. A new collaboration between Le Bonheur and West Tennessee Healthcare will provide specialized pediatric care for West Tennessee children close to home.*



# A LEGACY OF LOVE

## Founding Mothers Inspire Purpose

Those who've been through Bunny Lane tend to share a special bond. Though they may range in age from just a few days old to nearly 90, most can easily recall the toy they picked out the day they had surgery at Le Bonheur Children's. Created by Le Bonheur Club so every child undergoing an operation could take home a brand new toy, Bunny Lane is perhaps the hospital's most beloved and longstanding tradition. And Le Bonheur Club members, by extension, represent the hospital's longest standing patrons. The champions comprising this 99-year-old institution carry the legacy of the visionary women who dreamed — and forged — Le Bonheur into being.

Founded in 1923, Le Bonheur Club's mission has always been rooted in service to children and community. In the Club's early years, members sewed clothing for children at the Leath Orphanage and provided transportation to and from pediatrician appointments. By the mid-1940s, the city of Memphis was in dire need of a children's hospital and Le Bonheur Club swiftly answered the call raising more than \$2 million in a few years. Club members oversaw plans for the hospital's development, dedicated thousands of service hours and engaged support from key stakeholders. Finally, on a sunny June day in 1952, then-Club President Elise Pritchard attached a set of keys to a bunch of balloons

*Thanks to Le Bonheur Club — including members like Kelly Bobo and Sadie Cox-Hogue (pictured below) — every child who has surgery at Le Bonheur receives a toy from Bunny Lane.*





and released them skyward at the hospital's grand opening, declaring that the doors of Le Bonheur would always be open for any child in need – regardless of their family's ability to pay.

Seventy years later, Le Bonheur stands ranked as one of the nation's best children's hospitals and Le Bonheur Club continues to engage a roster of nearly 500 members and sustainers in hands-on philanthropic efforts to advance the mission of caring for kids.

## From Six to Sixty

While the number of children visiting Bunny Lane has increased exponentially through the years, Le Bonheur Club's devotion to this resource grows in lockstep with the hospital's infrastructure and patient census. When the hospital first opened its doors, surgeons performed approximately six operations a day, completing about 1,600 surgeries that inaugural year in a total of six operating rooms. Today, the average daily number of surgeries has increased nearly tenfold, and Le Bonheur experts perform more than 13,000 surgeries annually in 17 state-of-the-art operating rooms.

Le Bonheur Club invests more than \$100,000 a year to ensure that Bunny Lane is stocked with a wide selection of engaging toys for kids of all ages. While children's taste in toys has changed throughout the decades – shifting from Matchbox cars, handmade dolls and Play-Doh to craft kits, Barbie dolls and gift cards – the Club's spirit of compassionate service and care remains a constant.

## Outreach from Within

Even the strongest traditions can waver in the face of great adversity. In 2020, the volunteer-stocked toy "store" was threatened by the pandemic's onset and subsequent restrictions to campus access. Club members could



*For 70 years, children undergoing surgery at Le Bonheur Children's have been able to select a toy at Bunny Lane.*

continue ordering toys from afar, but with heightened concerns around sterilization and safety, plus a temporary suspension of in-person volunteer activity, the question of Bunny Lane's future loomed large.

Thankfully, Club members – and Le Bonheur employees – Kelly Bobo and Sadie Cox-Hogue were ready and willing to rise to the challenge. Sadie and Kelly both work in the hospital's Pharmacy division and joined Le Bonheur Club together in 2011 when each was inspired to become more involved in fundraising and advocacy for the hospital. Sadie was relatively new to Le Bonheur at the time, having relocated to Memphis from Columbus, Ohio, after completing pharmacy residency. She also looked at the Club as an opportunity to meet people with similar interests.

"I met one of my first friends in Memphis, Jodi Beth Haberman, at orientation, and both she and her mom were members of Le Bonheur Club," recalled Sadie. "Giving back is important to me, and once I learned more about how our hospital was founded, I thought, 'Why not give back to Le Bonheur – the place where you work that means so much to you?'"

Kelly, who recently celebrated 25 years at Le Bonheur,

shared her new teammate's passion for giving back and raising money for the hospital. In 2011, she joined Le Bonheur Club in the same class as her friend and colleague. Eleven years later, Sadie and Kelly have served the Club in a number of leadership roles including historian, treasurer, corresponding secretary, special events and hospitality cart chair. And each has served terms chairing Bunny Lane.

When news of an indefinite volunteer suspension came in March of 2020, Kelly and Sadie immediately stepped up to begin stocking toys on Bunny Lane twice a week and communicating with fellow Club members to coordinate reorders. The pair also partnered with the hospital's Infection Prevention team to ensure all Bunny Lane toys met pandemic protocols. While the two receive ongoing support from colleagues in Central Supply and periodically enlist help from other Club members employed at Le Bonheur, Sadie and Kelly have faithfully replenished Bunny Lane for two years now — a remarkable service amidst an already hectic and challenging time for healthcare professionals.

"Bunny Lane is the Club's legacy, and if there's one thing that always hits home, it's that you will meet people who were patients here 20 years ago and they still remember what toy they got on Bunny Lane," said Kelly. "The Bunny

***"Sometimes I'm in awe thinking about the group of ladies who started this Club back in 1923 and how if it weren't for their vision, Le Bonheur might be something else entirely. And I love how that vision continues to evolve, as we ask what more we can do to help Le Bonheur and our patients."***

Sadie Cox-Hogue, Le Bonheur Pharmacy Director and Le Bonheur Club member



Pharmacy Director Sadie Cox-Hogue, left, and Clinical Pharmacy Manager Kelly Bobo helped keep Bunny Lane up and running for two years while in-person volunteer opportunities were on hold at Le Bonheur.

Lane experience is something that really makes an impact on the children, and we didn't want kids to have a different experience just because of the pandemic."

The women cited their intense pride and passion for both the hospital and its founding members as reasons they kept Bunny Lane a priority.

"Sometimes I'm in awe thinking about the group of ladies who started this Club back in 1923 and how if it weren't for their vision, Le Bonheur might be something else entirely," said Sadie. "And I love how that vision continues to evolve, as we ask what more we can do to help Le Bonheur and our patients."

Kelly agreed, reflecting upon the growth she has experienced in the 26 years since she moved to Memphis for Le Bonheur's pharmacy residency program.

"It's amazing to me how all of these people came together to establish such an incredible institution," said Kelly. "And it's amazing how much Le Bonheur has changed and grown since I started here, becoming not only beloved in



our community, but well known across the country as an outstanding pediatric hospital.”

### Joyful Giving from the Joyners

Another former Bunny Lane chair honors her husband’s nearly 30 years of service to the hospital through her volunteer efforts with Le Bonheur Club. Sirella Joyner, a nurse who worked on the hospital’s surgical prep team in the early 90s, joined Le Bonheur Club in 1997 and remains an active member after 25 years. Her late husband, Pathologist Dr. Royce Joyner, came to Le Bonheur in 1988 to take on the role of chief medical director, teaching staff and residents in the hospital’s Clinical Laboratory division until his retirement in 2017. Sirella attributes her passion for helping children and families to her time as a pediatric nurse and ongoing tenure in the Club, while she credits the pride her husband took in caring for children with her own decades-long commitment to serve the hospital community.

“Royce believed his work was an investment in the



*Sirella Joyner, a licensed nurse and community advocate, looks to Le Bonheur Club to connect her with service opportunities to improve health care access for children and families.*



*Pathologist Royce Joyner, MD, began his Le Bonheur career in 1988 and retired in 2017 after almost three decades spent spearheading the hospital's medical laboratories. Le Bonheur Club member Sirella Joyner, his wife, credits the pride her husband took in caring for children with her own decades-long commitment to serve the Le Bonheur community.*

future of kids to improve their lives,” said Sirella. “He often worked long hours collaborating with clinical colleagues, hospital leadership and patients themselves to establish effective protocols, develop quality assurance programs and improve the caliber of services at Le Bonheur.”

No stranger to collaborative service, Sirella has been instrumental in the Club’s evolution and growth through the years, ranging from assistance with special events to shifts spent staffing the hospital’s gift shop in the years when Le Bonheur Club managed the shop’s operations. Perhaps most notably, Sirella put her experience and expertise as a nurse to work in service to the Club, developing a vaccine clinic where Le Bonheur Club members and Le Bonheur Club Teens could receive the annual flu shots and TB skin tests required to volunteer at the hospital. Through processes developed in partnership with her husband, Sirella established a Club “clinic” that continues today and is supported by fellow Club members who have clinical training.

“Le Bonheur Club gives me an opportunity to help kids and their families, and I am determined to do all I can to make sure we are successful providing preventative health care for all children, educating families, encouraging

access and inclusion and creating a safe, positive care environment where we can continue to make a difference,” said Sirella. “Celebrating 70 years for Le Bonheur is a major achievement! I am confident we will continue finding new ways to positively impact children’s physical, emotional and cognitive development, helping them to reach their full potential as adults.”

### **Like Mother, Like Daughter**

Annaleigh Eason, in fact, is one such child whom Le Bonheur has helped reach her full potential as an adult — and in turn, Annaleigh has devoted countless service hours to the hospital in her work with the Family Partners Council and as a Le Bonheur Club Teen. Annaleigh’s first encounter with Le Bonheur came when she was only 9 years old and preparing to enter third grade. Her mother, September, had taken Annaleigh to the pediatrician after she showed fatigue and symptoms of strep throat, but within a few short hours of that initial visit, Annaleigh was in an ambulance on her way to Le Bonheur struggling to breathe and battling paralysis in her arms and legs.

Overnight, September and her husband Bobby found themselves in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Le Bonheur waiting to learn what was wrong with their daughter. The youngest of three, neither Annaleigh nor her siblings had ever required care for so much as a broken



*Dr. Royce Joyner and his wife, Sirella, enjoy an evening out on the town at a fundraiser supporting Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. The Joyners attended many events throughout the years to help raise money, awareness and support for the hospital dear to both of their hearts.*

***“Le Bonheur Club gives me an opportunity to help kids and their families, and I am determined to do all I can to make sure we are successful providing preventative health care for all children, educating families, encouraging access and inclusion and creating a safe, positive care environment where we can continue to make a difference.”***

Sirella Joyner, licensed nurse and community advocate

bone. Now, Annaleigh was on a ventilator in the hospital’s most critical unit, combating such widespread paralysis she could only move her eyelids.

After six days spent searching for answers, Annaleigh’s care team eventually diagnosed her with a rare variant of Guillain-Barré syndrome and started her on IV medications to reverse the disease’s progression. For two days, Annaleigh showed no signs of improvement. Finally, the PICU team decided to attempt plasmapheresis, a procedure used to clear antibodies from the blood, and after three rounds of treatment Annaleigh moved her little finger. As September remembers it, her daughter’s care team clapped and cheered like the crowd at a ballgame because they knew Annaleigh was going to be okay.

Following that turning point in her care, Annaleigh still faced a long and winding road to recovery. She worked for more than a year with the hospital’s Rehabilitation Services team, rebuilding her physical strength and learning to walk again. Eventually, Annaleigh’s health and full range of mobility was restored, and today, she is a rising college freshman planning to pursue a career in health care. She served for several years with Le Bonheur Club Teens and spearheaded a virtual rounding program for teenage patients during the pandemic, working to “give the teen patients of Le Bonheur a voice so they feel heard by the entirety of the hospital.” Annaleigh’s older siblings, Renn and Evey, are each pursuing careers in medicine and public health based on their





*September and Annaleigh Eason, right, have served the Le Bonheur community for the last decade in gratitude for the care team that cured Annaleigh from a rare, life-threatening illness in 2012.*


family's shared experiences with Le Bonheur.

As for September, her own Le Bonheur story began 10 years ago, but the legacy of service to the hospital is in her DNA. Her grandmother was a founding member of Le Bonheur Club and instilled a spirit of “doing for others” in her at an early age. Following Annaleigh’s life-changing experience, September took up the mantle and joined Le Bonheur Club. She also assumed a second volunteer position on the hospital’s Family Partners Council to help ensure all families have access to the same level of involvement in their child’s care that she and her husband experienced during their PICU stay.

“The reason I volunteer here is because Le Bonheur saved Annaleigh,” said September. “How do you ever, ever pay that back? I could work every day for 50 years, but I cannot pay that back. Le Bonheur saved her life — and they gave me and Bobby new purpose. They gave all three of our children purpose. We were all made better by the people in that hospital.”

## On the Cusp of a Century

Next year, Le Bonheur Club will celebrate its centennial anniversary — an astonishing achievement for any organization, and an incredible milestone for an institution that has been volunteer-led and -operated for its entire 100-year history. Asked what she might say to the Club’s founders if she could travel back in time, September reflected that she would want to reassure these women — her grandmother among them — that what they were doing made a difference.

“What these women were doing matters not just here in Memphis, but exponentially around the world: from the patient care and research to the collaboration and partnerships to further achievements in pediatrics,” said September. “I think if the women who held this vision so many years ago could see how many children are enjoying truly happy, productive lives when they once might not have survived, I think those women would be incredibly happy themselves and very proud of this legacy of care they worked so hard to create.” 

Helping  
kids for  
**100**  
Years 

Le Bonheur Club, Inc.  
Founders of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

# Upcoming Events

## Le Bon Appetit

Kelly English, chef/owner of Restaurant Iris, Second Line, Fino's, Pantá and Magnolia House, along with Le Bonheur Children's Hospital's founding organization, Le Bonheur Club, will host Le Bon Appetit on June 11, 2022. The culinary event is set for 7 p.m. at Crosstown Concourse and will feature more than 30 award-winning chefs from Memphis and across the country. This fundraiser always brings some of the nation's most celebrated chefs together in Memphis, all working to continue the mission of raising funds for Le Bonheur Children's.



## Enchanted Forest

The Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees begins each year with a stroll through the beautifully decorated trees that fill the Pink Palace Mezzanine. Once inside the exhibit, children of all ages are charmed by the animated characters set in the magical snowy setting of The Enchanted Forest. In 2021, the event raised more than \$160,000 for Le Bonheur Children's! If you are interested in getting involved by becoming a Tree decorator, Sponsor or a Gingerbread House decorator for this year's event, please contact Elizabeth Boywid at [emboywid@gmail.com](mailto:emboywid@gmail.com). The Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees is a perfect holiday tradition for the whole family to enjoy!

## Gurus of Golf

Sign up now to join Gurus of Golf on Monday, Sept. 12! The annual Gurus of Golf tournament pairs 20 amateur foursomes with a Top 50 *Golf Digest* or Top 100 *Golf Magazine* teaching professional. The pre-event Par-Tee with the Gurus features silent and live auctions that include golf packages and vacations offered and attained by the pros. For more information, contact Joanie Taylor at [joanie.taylor@lebonheur.org](mailto:joanie.taylor@lebonheur.org) or 901-287-5988.



## Recent Event

### State DM

The students at Mississippi State University held their annual Dance Marathon event (State DM) on March 5th. These incredible college students raised \$75,729.67 for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. We are so grateful to the administration at MSU, the students and executive team and their committees for their dedication to the children of Le Bonheur.





# Make a Tax-Free Gift from Your IRA to Support Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

You've worked hard, saved diligently and are ready to enjoy your retirement years. Maybe you are also looking for a way to give back to the organizations and causes that are important to you like Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Jim and Gail Moon recently chose to make a gift to Le Bonheur using a Qualified Charitable Distribution ("QCD"), sometimes called an IRA Charitable Rollover. Donors like the Moons who are 70½ years and older and have an IRA are able to use the QCD to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA each year to a qualified charity like Le Bonheur.



Jim and Gail Moon

## Why Consider a QCD?



- Beginning the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD).
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

If you would like information about how you can support Le Bonheur through a gift from your retirement assets, please contact Cathy Wilson at 901-287-5575 or [catherine.wilson@lebonheur.org](mailto:catherine.wilson@lebonheur.org) or go to <https://lebonheur.planmygift.org/>.

*This information is not legal or tax advice. Please consult with an attorney or tax advisor.*

*"We are blessed that our children and grandchildren have never needed to be in the hospital. At Le Bonheur, we saw an opportunity to give back and help kids that are in need."*

- Jim Moon

## With Heartfelt Thanks

We are so grateful to our donors who give from the heart! Thanks to them, we are able to take care of every child who walks through our doors. We treat kids like RJ McCain who was born nearly 15 weeks early in summer 2011, weighing 1 pound, 5 ounces.

At 3 days old, RJ began to spit up bits of bowel due to a perforation discovered in his small intestine. He was transferred by ambulance to Le Bonheur Children's to undergo life-saving surgery.

RJ also required surgery to properly reposition his small intestine within his body. Ultimately, he would spend the first four months and 15 days of his life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Today, RJ is a thriving 11 year old who receives treatment at Le Bonheur to manage his asthma, migraines and environmental allergies.

Visit <https://www.lebonheur.org/donorlist> to see a list of all our donors who have made a difference for kids this year!



RJ McCain

848 Adams Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Address Service Requested

## Will You Run for Us?



Save the date to participate in the Le Bonheur Pumpkin Run 5k & Family Walk on Oct. 15, 2022!

For the first time, Pumpkin Run events will be held in Memphis, Tenn., and Tupelo, Miss.  
A virtual option will also be available.

There will be a post-race family friendly party with a kids' costume contest, food and entertainment.

For more details and to register, run to [PumpkinRun.org](https://PumpkinRun.org).

18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
Le Bonheur  
**PUMPKIN RUN**  
Memphis • Tupelo 5K  
OCT. 15, 2022