

A PUBLICATION
FOR THE FRIENDS OF
MEMORIAL HERMANN

Memorial Hermann Foundation
Summer 2019

ADVANCING THE

MISSION

HEROICS IN ACTION

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DEAR FRIENDS,

We have much to share since we last met here in the pages of *Vision*. First, let me thank Jo Lynn and Gregg Falgout and Lisa and Jerry Simon for co-chairing a 2019 Circle of Life Gala that truly went *Above and Beyond*. As we honored Ann and Clarence Cazelot, we celebrated contributions of more than \$8.25 million in support of trauma and critical care services, including \$5.5 million for the new Susan and Faye Sarofim Pavilion.

The Gala brought to light just some of the reasons your support is so crucial, as we heard the inspiring personal stories of people whose lives have been forever changed by their Memorial Hermann experiences.

You can read about several of them in this issue, including Cheyenne Meyer, a triathlete struck by a car while training on her bike. Her story, and those of the Wolfs and Laskoskies, illustrate a familiar pattern: grateful patients and families often stay connected to their medical teams and to each other, and feel compelled to give back to the community. They are the Circle of Life, personified.

We're also proud to share news about Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center, where area residents have access to an unparalleled level of care, from neuroscience, surgery and Level II trauma care to Level III neonatal intensive care, pediatric outpatient rehabilitation and urgent care – with more on the horizon.

As always, none of this would be possible without tremendous support. Our new Heroes in Health giving society is the Memorial Hermann Foundation's way of recognizing those special individuals who provide the most substantial annual contributions.

Thank you to all who help to keep the miracles coming.

Anne E. Neeson
Executive Vice President & CEO
Memorial Hermann Foundation



HOME- GROWN & GROWING

One of Montgomery County's first and largest healthcare providers and leading employers continues to deepen its community roots.



Having the ability to treat the most severe trauma and critical care cases on site helped the hospital become Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center in 2017. The growth in facilities and services on the campus since 1985 since that recent milestone has been nothing short of remarkable.

Local focus, national recognition

In 2018, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands earned the American College of Cardiology’s National Cardiovascular Data Registry’s Platinum Performance Achievement Award. It received a four-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The Joint Commission named Memorial Hermann a Comprehensive Stroke Center Integrated System.

The Level II trauma center at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands handled nearly 1,400 trauma cases last year. The hospital recently opened a second urgent care center and a new ambulatory surgery center, and the fourth-floor conversion of the East Tower to accommodate 36 neuro ICU and surgical beds is now complete.

The conversion is part of a \$38 million investment, with money also earmarked for renovating the family birth center, renovating and expanding the neonatal ICU and building two new operating suites. An additional \$5 million is going toward a second MRI; another \$3.5 million will add a third CT scanner and a radiology suite.

Success drives change

Greater outcomes have sparked expanded services across the entire campus:

TIRR Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands Pediatric Outpatient Rehabilitation now has a larger, dedicated suite in Medical Plaza 2, having achieved a nearly 20 percent growth rate.

With a Level II trauma designation and Memorial Hermann Life Flight® on site, trauma patients can be treated for severe injuries close to home.

Memorial Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute continues to pioneer minimally invasive procedures in Montgomery County, with the first transcatheter aortic valve replacement performed in June 2019.



The neuroscience practice continues to grow, with a new dedicated floor providing treatment for brain, spine and central nervous system injuries, as well as care for complex stroke, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis patients.

Neurosurgeon Geoffrey Zubay, MD, now leads the largest team of neuroscience specialists in Montgomery County at The Mischer Neuroscience Center at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands.

The right people

New equipment, facilities and technology are important and necessary. So is national recognition. But Memorial Hermann The Woodlands exists to provide care to the communities where it grew up.

It was the first—and remains the only—hospital in Montgomery County to be granted Magnet® status for nursing excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Overall employee and RN retention rates were both at a distinguished level for 2018. Sixty percent of nurses have at least 10 years of experience, a full eight percentage points higher than the national average. Eighty percent have a Bachelor of Science degree or higher, and more than a third are certified in a specialty.

Results that count

Patient satisfaction climbed in 2018, with offsite ER, Convenient Care Center and patient-doctor communication rankings all reaching the 99th percentile.

U.S. News & World Report once again named TIRR Memorial Hermann the best rehabilitation hospital in Texas and the third best in the nation. The Houston Chronicle has now named Memorial Hermann The Woodlands one of Houston’s Top Places to Work nine years in a row.

Add it up

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands has made dramatic improvements in length of stay. New neonatal ICU streaming cameras give parents and families access around the world. By the end of 2019, the bed total will reach 397. With a variety of campus projects coming to fruition, there are no signs of growth and advancements slowing down.

Behind all the numbers, beyond all the improvements, the support from generous donors like you continues to allow this Montgomery County institution to challenge itself to provide the best care in the region.

HOPE FROM HEARTACHE

The Wolfs found compassion at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center. Then, they paid it forward.

As soon as Paige and John Wolf learned that their unborn first child had a terminal genetic defect that prevents bones from developing properly, they prepared for the worst. But even after ultrasounds showed broken bones and no growth, and after learning their baby might succumb to the condition in utero or deliver stillborn, the Wolfs didn't give up hope.

They ultimately found Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center, where longtime neonatologist Richard Rivas, MD, and his staff warmly welcomed the couple.

"It was the only time we felt like we were in the right place and that our baby would be taken care of," Paige says. *"Whatever that might mean."*

Seeing the positive

John Charles "Jack" Wolf IV came into the world screaming and kicking the whole way, according to Paige. He spent his first few days in the neonatal ICU (NICU).

Working against time and impossible odds, the nurses and staff stayed up well into those first nights attending to the fragile newborn and comforting the Wolfs. Dr. Rivas rarely left their side, as well.

"We were happy just to see our son," Paige says. *"And to simply watch him breathe."*

Honoring a life

Baby Jack lost his battle with the disease at home a short five weeks after he was born.

The care and attention Jack and his parents received couldn't stop the heartache, but the way Dr. Rivas and the staff helped the new parents prepare for the inevitable gave the couple perspective on the value of Jack's life. It also inspired them to give back.

In Jack's honor, the two self-described "average Joes" established the *Jack Wolf IV Memorial Foundation*, which benefits the NICU at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands. Prompted by John's brother, they started a golf tournament. The first one raised \$10,000 more than a decade ago and, for the past few years, the tournament has brought in \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year. The foundation has also sponsored training, provided special kangaroo chairs and created the Wall of Hope, a beautiful monument featuring photos of NICU success stories.

The Wolfs' tireless efforts resulted in the October 2016 grand opening of Wolf Park, a children's outdoor playground on the campus of Memorial Hermann The Woodlands, just outside the NICU. It provides a place for children to play, and a comforting view to those in the hospital spaces and the Canopy Cancer Survivorship Center that overlook it.

Among the park's first activities was a reunion of NICU babies and families. More than 200 families attended.

Paige and John have spent time at the park with their two young children, Max and Remi, both born at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center. *"This was our way to honor Jack's legacy,"* Paige says. *"To show that his life had a purpose."*



"THIS WAS OUR WAY TO HONOR JACK'S LEGACY. TO SHOW THAT HIS LIFE HAD A PURPOSE."



John, Max, Paige and Remi at Jack Wolf Memorial Park



Stephanie and Clint Lasoskie with Lauran, Gage, Sadie and Hunter

NO SMALL MIRACLE

A tense, unexpected labor and the making of lifetime supporters.

Stephanie and Clint Laskoskie were thrilled to be having twins. They were thrilled again at 20 weeks to learn they were having a boy and a girl. At 23 weeks, thrilled became anxious when a preventive exam at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center revealed that Stephanie was in full labor.

Ten hours into trying to stall labor, her obstetrician told the couple the babies had a better chance of surviving outside of the womb. Two hours later, Stephanie was in the neonatal ICU (NICU) being prepped for surgery.

Gage weighed 1 pound, 9 ounces when he was born. He was 11 inches long. Born one minute later, Sadie weighed 1 pound, 7 ounces, and was 11.22 inches long. *“Gage and Sadie were so tiny, so perfect, so beautiful,”* Stephanie recalls, *“yet so sick.”*

Against the odds

The Laskoskies knew they faced an uphill battle. In the best-case scenario, the twins would remain in the NICU until their original due date, more than four months away. In the worst case, their babies might not survive.

The nurses stood vigil with the Laskoskies during those critical days and nights, answering questions and letting the parents spend as much time as possible with the babies. *“They even allowed me to touch my extremely fragile babies,”* Stephanie says. *“So I could have that memory in case our worst nightmare came true.”*

The nurses didn’t forget about rest of the Laskoskie family. The Laskoskies’ two older kids, Lauran and Hunter, weren’t allowed in the NICU, so the nurses made special stuffed animals and dressed them in T-shirts that had the twins’ footprints on them. That simple gesture has blossomed into donations of hundreds of stuffed animals, called Lauran’s Lovies, to NICU children and families.

The babies gradually became stronger and more stable. Their weight increased. Then, after 151 days in the NICU, the twins got to go home with their grateful parents and meet their brother and sister.

Giving back

The Laskoskies experienced firsthand what strong support means to Memorial Hermann The Woodlands. Inspired by the Wolf family, whom they had met at their annual golf tournament (see *Hope from Heartache* on previous spread), the Laskoskies looked for ways their whole family could give back.

“The Wolfs’ donations were so real to us,” Stephanie says. *“We sat in chairs that they donated and used phones that were donated. The first time our twins got to go outside and breathe fresh air and see the sunlight was in the park the Wolfs had helped create.”*

The Laskoskies have already hosted a blood drive. And Paige Wolf helped them organize a 5K fun run, which was held at Northshore Park in The Woodlands this past April. The whole family participated in the first annual event, which raised \$36,000.

TRIATHLETE, INTERRUPTED

CHEYENNE MEYER'S LAST
TRAINING RIDE BEFORE A MAJOR
TRIATHLON WAS ALMOST THE LAST
RIDE OF HER YOUNG LIFE.





Cheyenne Meyer, 23, had put in two hours on the bike on Aug. 8, 2016. She was making a U-turn to start the return trip on FM 529 when a car smashed into her left side, throwing her off her bike and knocking her unconscious. The driver called 911 and an ambulance rushed Cheyenne to Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

Her pelvis was broken in seven places, her left hip was shattered, her left leg was dislocated, and her sacrum, sternum, two ribs and left shoulder were fractured. She also had a concussion and a large piece of glass wedged into her side.

"I remember waking up one time in the ambulance and asking where we were going," Cheyenne says. "I thought we were going to Mexico, for some reason."

Her dislocated leg was causing internal bleeding, so a Memorial Hermann Life Flight® crew transported her to Red Duke Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

A "forced off-season"

Milton Routt, MD, an orthopedic trauma surgeon with the Red Duke Trauma Institute and McGovern Medical

**"I COULD NOT
HAVE ASKED FOR
A BETTER CARE
TEAM."**

School at UTHealth, performed surgery for six and a half hours starting early the following morning. Cheyenne says she appreciated that Dr. Routt gave her family updates throughout the procedure. *"I could not have asked for a better care team,"* she says. She also appreciated that nobody told her she might not walk again.

After eight days in the ICU, Cheyenne spent two weeks in a rehab facility relearning basics like how to get dressed and take a shower. Then, it was six weeks in a wheelchair and two weeks with a walker before moving to a pair of crutches, a single crutch and, finally, a cane. About three months after the accident, Cheyenne was able to walk without any help. She wasn't cleared to run yet, but she could ride and swim.

In April 2017, only eight months after the accident, a fully recovered Cheyenne was the first female finisher in an Olympic distance triathlon. She's placed first and second in her age group in several other races, as well. She says it was scary being on a bike again, but not because of cars. *"My brain just shut off when all this happened, so I don't remember the impact or the pain,"* she says. *"The scarier part was just, what if I fall over and re-break everything?"*



Rick, Cheyenne's Life Flight nurse and an avid runner, now trains with her when they have a chance to get together.

A shift in priorities

Cheyenne's accident did more than give her an incredible story and what she calls "gnarly scars." It changed her entire outlook on life. She's still competitive, but she doesn't let that completely consume her. She's using her experience to advocate for cycling safety. And she's now working with deaf and visually impaired athletes.

"My big dream is to take an athlete to the Paralympics one day," she says. She recently guided a blind athlete in a half-Ironman in Galveston, and this month, she's taking an athlete to the cycling national championships in Knoxville to help her bring home a national title.

Staying connected

Cheyenne has stayed in touch with some of the people who helped her heal. She visited Dr. Routt a year after her accident to show him race photos.

A few months after her accident, Cheyenne and her Life Flight nurse, Rick Liang, met again, this time through a mutual friend. Rick filled in details of the accident that Cheyenne couldn't remember. *"The whole flight, she kept*

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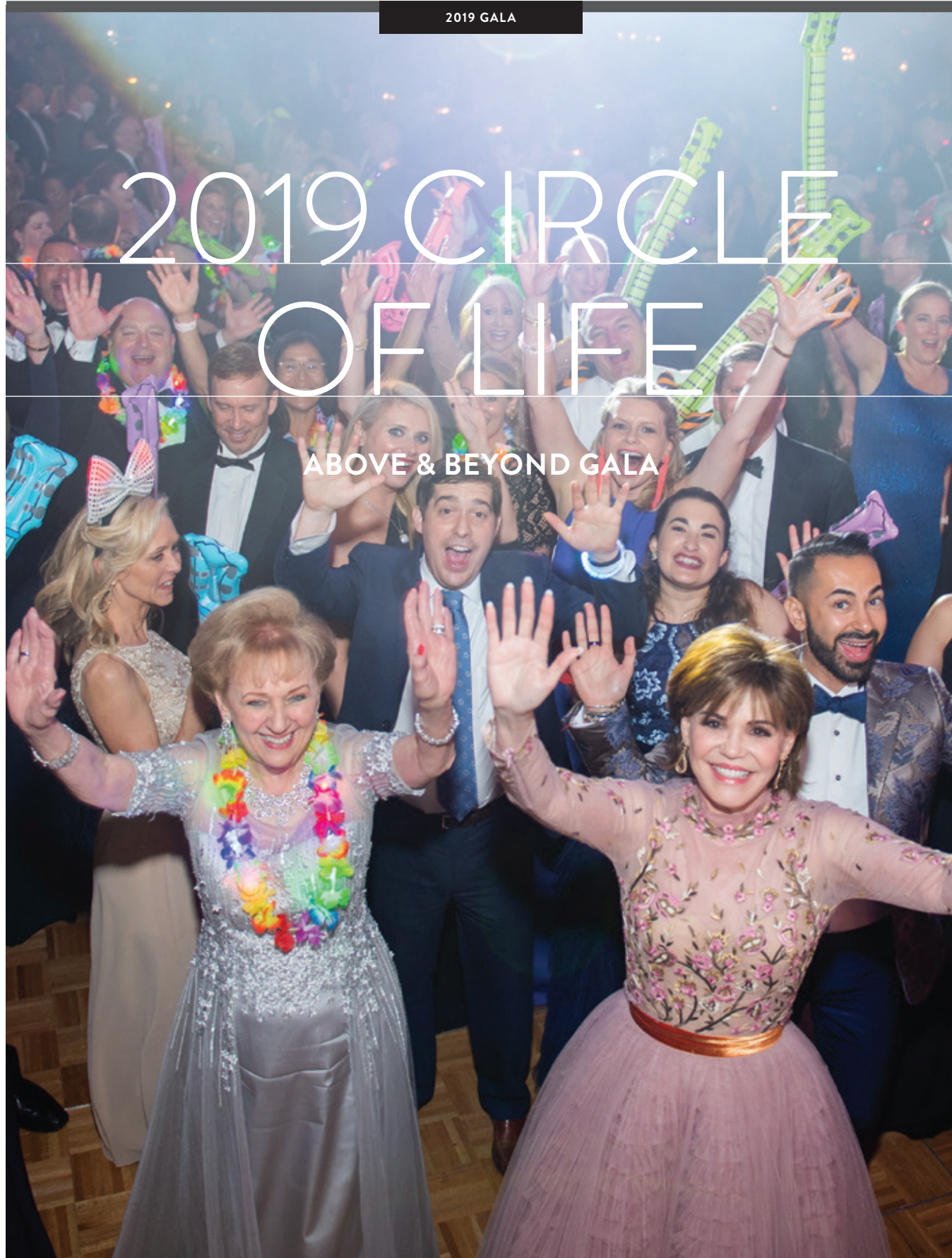
asking where her bike was and if it was okay," Rick says about their limited conversation on the chopper.

Rick was a runner and aspiring triathlete at the time of Cheyenne's accident. Now, the two train together. They've run two half-marathons. *"It's just really*

cool, just an honor, to be friends with someone who helped put me back on two feet," Cheyenne says. *"And he bought me a T-shirt with the line: 'Is my bike okay?' written on the front. Upside down."*

So, what happened to the bike?

People naturally ask about the bike she was riding when she was hit. *"It took about five minutes to fix,"* Cheyenne says. *"I didn't feel comfortable riding that bike again, though, so I sold it."* After learning that, an anonymous donor replaced it with a high-end road bike. *"They only asked that I get out and ride again, when I was ready,"* she says. *"That is amazing."*



The 2019 Circle of Life Gala took place in Hilton Americas-Houston's fourth-floor ballroom as 1,300 black-tie guests went *Above and Beyond* on behalf of Memorial Hermann Health System's continuing extraordinary achievements. The affair generated over \$8.25 million in contributions to benefit Memorial Hermann's trauma and critical care teams, including \$5.5 million in gifts to support the Susan and Faye Sarofim Pavilion, the future home of Memorial Hermann Life Flight®, Red Duke Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and the John S. Dunn Burn Center.

There are no words to express the gratitude we have for the ongoing and essential support of our growing group of generous donors. A heartfelt thank you, one and all.





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- 1. Larry & Suzie Johnson with Sherry & Jim Smith
- 2. Gala Co-Chairs Jerry & Lisa Simon with Jo Lynn & Gregg Falgout
- 3. Deborah Cannon with Barbara & Bill Easter
- 4. Clarence & Ann Cazalot with Judy & Chuck Stokes
- 5. Arthur & Philamena Baird
- 6. Beverly & Jim Postl with Susan Sarofim
- 7. Gary Petersen, Lisa Simon & Colter Lewis
- 8. VIP Group
- 9. Susan Sarofim, Sandy Barrett, Alice Mosing, Kim Craig & Bill King
- 10. Paul & Kristina Somerville with Stephanie & Frank Tsuru
- 11. Margaret Alkek Williams & Jim Daniel
- 12. Kimberly & Evan Scheele with Kara & Lance McCullers
- 13. Edd & Nina Hendee with Chuck Stokes and Dr. Lynn Massingale
- 14. Bill Stubbs with Nancy Ames & Danny Ward
- 15. Tony & Donna Vallone, Yvonne Cormier with Jo Lynn & Gregg Falgout
- 16. Christine Falgout & Bill Gutknecht
- 17. Kevin Black & Tony Bradfield
- 18. Laurie & Tracy Krohn
- 19. Olivia Farrell & Bobbie Nau
- 20. Life Flight crew



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Heroes in Health
**MEMORIAL
 HERMANN**
 Foundation

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am pleased to introduce Heroes in Health, Memorial Hermann Health System’s new giving society. We are dedicated to elevating support for the exceptional and, I believe, vital care that Memorial Hermann provides for all of us. Fayeze and I are proud members of Heroes in Health to help ensure that the System’s real-life heroes are always ready to give their best to the Houston community.

As a past chair of the Memorial Hermann Foundation board and a longtime supporter, I have seen firsthand the miraculous achievements of the Memorial Hermann team—in our city’s busiest Level I trauma center, at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, at TIRR Memorial Hermann, through our vast network of world-class community hospitals and, of course, onboard our illustrious Memorial Hermann Life Flight®, Houston’s only hospital-based critical care air transport system.

It is truly a joy to see all that our gifts help to make possible. Please join me in support of this very special organization.

To our future,

Susan Sarofim
 Chair
 Memorial Hermann Foundation Heroes in Health

HEROES IN HEALTH

“We have seen firsthand the quality, innovation and vast array of services Memorial Hermann offers to Houston. A gift to Memorial Hermann is an investment in our community.”
 Jo Lynn and Gregg Falgout

“Memorial Hermann has to be there, always, ready to give their best to the Houston community. Fayeze and I are proud to support their work.”
 Susan Sarofim

“We’ve been so fortunate, and it’s such an incredible privilege to help save lives and improve communities through Memorial Hermann.”
 Clarence Cazalot

Memorial Hermann Foundation invites you to join Heroes in Health, our annual giving society.

LEVELS OF GIVING
 \$1,000 • \$2,500 • \$5,000
 \$10,000 • \$25,000 • \$50,000
 \$75,000 • \$100,000+

Heroes in Health recognizes the cumulative annual giving of individual donors to Memorial Hermann Foundation.

MEMORIAL HERMANN Foundation

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VISION

Memorial Hermann Foundation

If you do NOT wish to receive future communications from Memorial Hermann Foundation, you may opt out by emailing mh.foundation@memorialhermann.org or calling 713-242-4400.



MEMORIAL HERMANN LIFE FLIGHT®

Provided as a community service by Memorial Hermann, Life Flight operates as a hospital-based, non-profit organization and relies on community support and fundraising efforts to pay for the service. It costs about \$15 million annually to support the program, none of which comes from tax dollars, so philanthropy is critical.

Mark Your Calendar

State of Health Care Breakfast

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

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Razzle Dazzle BLOOM

Thursday, October 10, 2019

•

In the Pink of Health

Friday, October 18, 2019

•

Circle of Life Gala

Saturday, April 25, 2020