

A PUBLICATION
FOR THE FRIENDS OF
MEMORIAL HERMANN

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Memorial Hermann Foundation
Fall 2021

ADVANCING THE

VISION



PROFILES IN PHILANTHROPY

PERFECT TIMING

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DEAR FRIENDS,

First, let me say thank you to extraordinary Leticia and Steve Trauber for chairing our 2021 Circle of Life Gala, an inspiring virtual event honoring our frontline heroes and outstanding supporters. These lovely friends of ours stepped up and made the impossible possible, helping raise \$3 million for Memorial Hermann at this crucial time.



May I also say how wonderful it was to meet many of our Memorial Hermann Foundation friends, old and new, in person in Aspen this month. Many thanks to our fabulous co-chairs Hallie Vanderhider and Melissa Juneau for making these events special. What a treat!

This edition features Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, beginning with the story of longtime supporters Stacy and Jason Johnson, who have vivacious 5-year-old twin girls now, thanks to life-altering care and surgery at The Fetal Center, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Walter Burgert's story is also amazing. Born with half a heart, he's now a happy, healthy toddler thanks to Dr. Salazar's team's determination and skill. We also introduce Marissa Kiefer, our new CEO of Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, who talks about her plans to earn the hospital the national recognition it so richly deserves.

And we hear how Houston came to have the first mobile stroke unit in the country.

Thank you all for your continuing support of Memorial Hermann.

To many brighter days ahead,

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



PERFECT
TIMING

Stacy and Jason Johnson were honeymooning when their friend Stephen Strake, Jr, invited them to join Memorial Hermann Foundation Heroes in Health. The timing couldn't have been more perfect.

The newlyweds were already considering ways to support local causes they believed in and for Stacy to share her experience as a clinical social worker. On top of that, Memorial Hermann Health System has been a very special place to Jason's family for generations.



His grandfather Joseph Johnson developed the "city within a city" now known as Memorial City in 1959. After completing the shopping center, Joe continued adding community amenities, including the original Memorial City General Hospital where Jason was born.

Chance meetings come full circle

Stacy and Jason joined Heroes in Health 9 years ago and have become more personally involved in supporting Memorial Hermann ever since. In 2015, they co-chaired the 3rd biannual Under the Boardwalk gala to benefit The Fetal Center at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. In the process, they met esteemed fetal medicine specialists, including affiliated doctors Sean C. Blackwell, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Services at McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth), and Anthony Johnson, DO, also a professor in the department at McGovern Medical School and co-director of the Fetal Center.

As fate would have it, soon after helping raise more than \$600,000 for The Fetal Center, Stacy and Jason would be seeking help there for their own high-risk pregnancy.

Knowing she was pregnant with identical twins, Stacy was concerned about her family medical history and her own hypothyroidism. She shared her desire to see a maternal fetal medicine specialist with Susie Distefano, who referred her to Dr. Blackwell.

The first signs of trouble

After having routine scans for several months, Stacy noticed she was growing very fast and experiencing back pains that kept her from her regular activities. An ultrasound at 22 weeks showed signs of trouble, and she and Jason met that very day with Drs. Johnson and Blackwell and Helena Gardiner, MD, PhD an affiliated fetal cardiologist at The Fetal Center.

"It was amazing that they could look at all these different body parts," Stacy says. "Their hearts were fine. But Dr. Johnson gave us the news that the babies were in Stage 1 of twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome."

The diagnosis meant the twins were sharing one placenta. The treatment at this early stage is elective surgery known as laser ablation, a procedure to separate the shared placenta into two. They decided to monitor the condition for a couple of days. That was on Monday. By Wednesday, they'd gone from Stage 1 to Stage 3. Dr. Johnson performed the surgery Thursday morning.

It's amazing that these doctors care so much for the life of a child who hasn't breathed their first breath.

Stacy Johnson

Stacy and Jason both get tearful remembering the enormity of the situation.



"It's a simple procedure," says Stacy, "and yet, it's such a life-changing thing. It was a very scary experience."

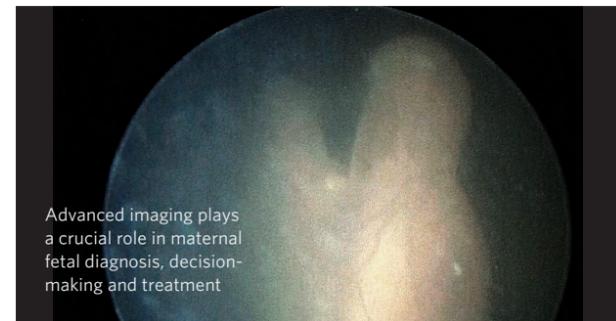
"Dr. Johnson has the best bedside manner," Jason says, "but he doesn't sugarcoat anything. We knew there was a chance only one of the twins would survive and a chance that neither of them would."

The surgery was a success, giving the babies the chance to develop properly in the weeks ahead.

"We made it to 32 weeks and 6 days," says Stacy, "and Amelia and Ainsley were born at just over 3 pounds each."

The path to joy and gratitude

The twins stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center for a couple of days before transferring to the NICU at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, closer to home.



Advanced imaging plays a crucial role in maternal fetal diagnosis, decision-making and treatment

Aside from having a few common health issues, the girls, now 5, are devoted to each other and proud big sisters to Jackson, who at 3, tries his best to keep up.

Stacy loves their boisterous, mischievous personalities. *"If Level 10 is the highest joy and happiness, our girls live at Level 12,"* she says.

Philanthropy: a family mission, a reflection of values

Going through a pregnancy like theirs gave the Johnsons a unique perspective on the importance of supporting The Fetal Center, and it inspired them to make a significant gift to fund new ultrasound equipment.

"Every time we went in for a scan, Dr. Johnson showed us how much easier it is to know exactly where a vein is, where he needs to cut, and what a difference it can make to surgery," Jason says. *"He can save more lives when he can see things sooner."*

You don't have to meet every standard of time, talent and treasure. Whatever you have to offer can make a big difference.

Jason Johnson

Stacy and Jason want others, especially young people, to join them in supporting Children's Memorial Hermann, where Jason has served on the Children's committee since 2017.

"Being born and raised here, Houston's been a very important part of our company's success, so giving back is critical to the core of who we are," says Jason, who is president of MetroNational, a third-generation, family-owned real estate development company here. *"What I would say to other young people is, you don't have to meet every standard of time, talent and treasure. Whatever you have to offer can make a big difference."*

Stacy adds, *"We would do anything just for people to know how special this place is."*

Located within the Texas Medical Center, The Fetal Center is affiliated with Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, and UT Physicians.



SHOOTING FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

The pandemic is not over yet. And Memorial Hermann continues to find new, easier ways to promote COVID-19 vaccines for the health of our community.

As of our publication, Memorial Hermann has provided more than 505,000 vaccine doses, including boosters, since January. This has been the result of a combination of efforts, including large drive-thru vaccination clinics, on-site clinics at Memorial Hermann facilities across Greater Houston and pop-up clinics in some of the areas hit hardest by COVID-19.

While Cole Kaleta, AVP of Operations and Vaccine Distribution, is proud of the progress this represents in further protecting the health of our community, there is more to be done.

“Our ultimate goal is to give a ‘shot of hope’ to everyone who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine,” he says. *“That’s why we’ve shifted our focus away from large vaccine clinics to more grassroots efforts. We’re setting up smaller vaccine clinics across Greater Houston.”*

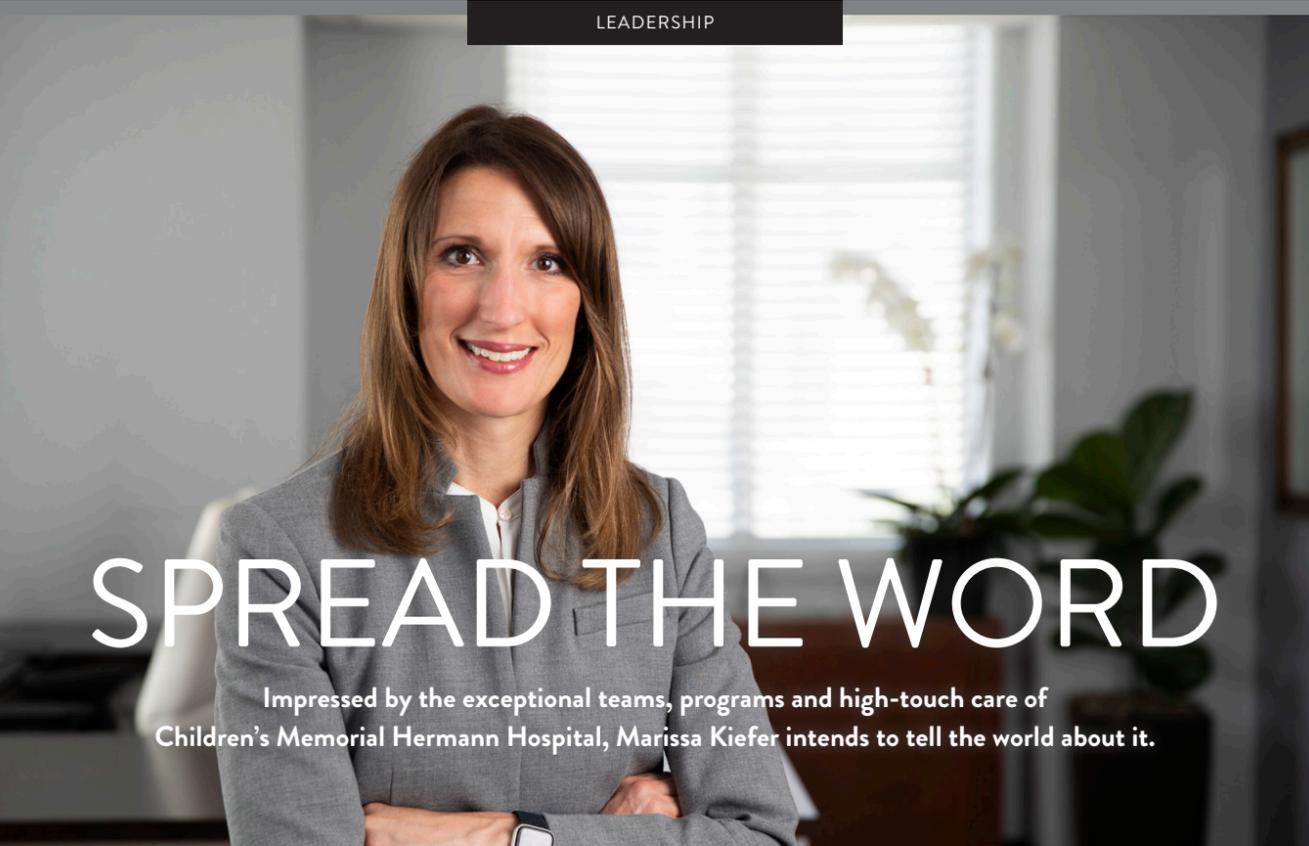
“Providing all members of our community with safe, easy access to protection against one of the deadliest viruses of our time is our way of ensuring that we’re doing all we can to realize our vision.”

Cole Kaleta

These expanded efforts are in addition to continuing walk-in vaccinations at Memorial Hermann on-site clinics. The idea is to make it as convenient as possible for anyone who wants one to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine.

Teams are working with community partners to take the clinics directly to our community members: to their schools, to their places of employment, to their places of worship, to Memorial Hermann Neighborhood Health Centers and to areas where families might not otherwise have easy access to health care.

Memorial Hermann’s vision is to create healthier communities, now and for generations to come. This initiative plays a significant role.



SPREAD THE WORD

Impressed by the exceptional teams, programs and high-touch care of Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, Marissa Kiefer intends to tell the world about it.

Marissa Kiefer always planned to be CEO at a children’s hospital. And here she is, taking the reins at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, ready and eager to lead this remarkable institution to the next level. Here’s a quick look at what she has in mind.

Q. What inspired you to accept this position and leave your lifelong home of Indiana?

A. I have a passion for pediatrics. I started my career at Children’s National Health System in Washington, and then, more recently, I spent nearly six years as vice president of strategy at Riley’s Children’s Health, which is part of Indiana University Health, the only nonprofit academic health system in the state. To be here in Houston as CEO of Children’s Memorial Hermann is a dream come true.

Q. What about Children’s Memorial Hermann stands out to you?

A. Really, I think it’s the culture. Many children’s hospitals offer our high level of care, but here, there’s also this palpable difference when you walk the halls. It feels like a close-knit family. Everyone here is very proud of the work we do. Our work in fetal medicine is so exciting. Our women’s services are phenomenal. And the fact that we can care for the sickest children, the highest-risk moms and even complete families on this one campus is amazing.

Q. What are your plans to put Children’s Memorial Hermann on the map?

A. U.S. News and World Report ranks us among the best in the country for pediatric cardiology and heart surgery, as well as neurology and neurosurgery. We need to build on those models in other specialties. We’re well on our way. And with hard work and strategic investments in our infrastructure, I truly believe we will soon be known as the children’s hospital of choice.

COLLABORATION SAVES THE DAY

We often talk about stars aligning when innovative ideas take off quickly. In the case of the UTHealth Mobile Stroke Unit, the first of its kind in the country, the stars involved were local philanthropists, fire and EMS departments and healthcare institutions intrigued by the possibility of treating stroke patients wherever their stroke occurs.

Most strokes are caused by a blocked artery in the brain. These ischemic strokes can happen to anyone, and they do, about every 40 seconds in the United States. Perhaps the most frightening consequence of having a stroke is not potential loss of life, but the possibility of paralysis, loss of the ability to speak, or other permanent disability.

Saving precious minutes when seconds count

The crucial determining factor: time to treatment. That's what inspired neurologist James C. Grotta, MD, to present the idea of creating a mobile stroke unit in Houston. He had seen a similar unit while on a trip to Germany.

"The treatment for a blocked artery is to unblock it. It's that simple. The faster you get that artery open, the less damage and better outcomes patients have," Dr. Grotta explains.



Dr. Grotta and team helped carry out the drug trial that led to FDA approval of clot-busting tPA for ischemic strokes.

But first, someone has to diagnose the stroke as ischemic. That takes skill, experience and a brain image, which typically requires a trip to an emergency center, and then treatment with a proven clot-dissolving drug called tPA and, if needed, surgery.

"With the standard procedure, even if someone calls 911 and the ambulance arrives right away, it can be well over an hour before treatment begins," says Dr. Grotta. *"With the mobile stroke unit, we take the whole business of diagnosis and treatment to the patient."*

An impressive community collaboration

Through a partnership between McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, with support from the Cullen Foundation, the Fondren Foundation, HEB and grateful patients like James "Mattress Mack" McIngvale, the mobile stroke unit went into service in 2014. Today, the unit serves 2 to 3 tPA patients every week.

The unit is a specially modified ambulance with a CT scanner onboard, along with a skilled stroke team that includes a CT tech, a medic, a nurse, and a doctor either in person or via telemedicine.



Dr. Grotta leads the mobile stroke unit program, which he and Stephanie Parker, RN, of UTHealth Neurosciences, now co-direct.

"From the beginning, we knew it wasn't enough to say we can do this. We had to show how much of a difference we could make," says Dr. Grotta.

He and his co-researchers have conducted clinical trials to prove the value of administering tPA on the scene vs. later in an emergency room.

Six sites around the country participated, all deploying their mobile stroke units on alternating weeks. Of the 1,515 patients enrolled, 1,047 were eligible for tPA treatment. The results, published in the September 9 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, show significantly better outcomes, with 27 more of every 100 patients experiencing less disability and 11 more recovering completely.

"Our very first patient was a young nurse from Nigeria who suffered a basilar stroke, which is almost always fatal," Dr. Grotta remembers. *"We treated her with tPA on the scene and by the time she got to the hospital, the clot was largely dissolved. She made a complete recovery."*

Every 10 minutes saved = 270 million brain cells*

tPA treatment within 1 hour

3% emergency department patients

33% mobile stroke unit patients

4.5 hours Too late for tPA treatment

* Source: UTHealth-published findings in Stroke

What's next for this vital community service

Earlier treatment for stroke improves long-term health outcomes. A city the size of Houston could easily keep several mobile stroke units busy saving lives, Dr. Grotta says.



The unit is a specially modified ambulance with a CT scanner onboard

Sustainability remains the issue, which means money, of course. The treatment is expensive and, at this point, not covered by insurance. Dr. Grotta's next goal is to see that change by demonstrating the tremendous cost savings of avoiding the need for extended care by helping patients fully recover without it. For now, with continued philanthropic support, the mobile stroke unit will keep doing all it can to give stroke patients their lives back.

HEALING A BROKEN HEART

Faith, hope and a nontraditional approach save a newborn's life

Kemberlee Burgert recalls the moment she knew.

On November 23, 2019, she and her husband, Jeff, traveled to a community hospital in Tomball, Texas, for a planned delivery. Her doctor was inducing labor. Her baby was getting too large. It was time.

While her pregnancy had gone smoothly, her delivery was challenging. *"The doctors began inducing labor that evening, and by the next morning, I was in full-blown labor but had not even begun to dilate. When the baby's vitals started moving out of the normal range, doctors performed an emergency C-section. And right away, I could tell from everyone's face that something was wrong,"* she says, her voice quivering. *"Then they pulled the baby out, and he was blue."*

Diagnosed with a rare heart defect

Pediatric cardiologist Arpan Doshi, MD, affiliated with Memorial Hermann, reviewed the baby's test results and diagnosed the baby with Ebstein anomaly, a rare congenital heart defect in which the tricuspid valve, the valve between the upper right chamber (right atrium) and the lower right chamber (right ventricle), isn't formed properly, allowing blood to leak back into the right atrium. The most severe cases can result in heart failure, or even death. Often the cause is unknown.

Flown to Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

Walter was flown via Memorial Hermann Life Flight® to Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center, where he was placed in the hospital's Level IV neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). There he was cared for by a team of pediatric heart specialists, led by affiliated pediatric cardiac surgeon Jorge Salazar, MD, professor and chief of pediatric and congenital

heart surgery at McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and co-director of the Children's Heart Institute at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Right away, I could tell from everyone's face that something was wrong.

Kemberlee Burgert

Having just given birth, Kemberlee had to stay behind. Jeff went to Kemberlee's mother's home to explain to their two daughters, Auden, 11, and Klara, 4, that their baby brother wouldn't be coming home for Thanksgiving after all, then headed to Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Born with half a heart

For the next few days, Walter clung to life, experiencing bouts of arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat. As Dr. Salazar explains, *"The arrhythmia was a symptom of Walter's underlying condition. Babies with Ebstein anomaly are essentially born with half a functioning heart. We knew if we didn't correct the fundamental problem, his heart would likely fail."*

Fortunately, the heart specialists at the Institute are experienced in treating even the most complex and severe heart conditions. *"The traditional approach has been to accept that these kids have to live with half a heart,"* says Dr. Salazar. *"But the long-term consequences of that are quite significant in terms of quality and length of life."*



Jorge D. Salazar, MD

Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon and Co-director, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital Children's Heart Center

Professor and Chief of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery, McGovern Medical School

One of the purposes of our program is to get the message out worldwide that there is an alternative—that whenever possible, we should give these kids a normal heart and avoid the single-ventricle or half-the-heart pathway.

A whole heart

On December 9, 2019, Dr. Salazar and his team performed surgery on Walter's heart, repairing the valve and removing a portion of the right atrium, which he says was abnormally large and dilated, alleviating the arrhythmia. The procedure was a success, and Walter's prognosis is excellent.

By not settling for a suboptimal outcome, Dr. Salazar's team was able to give Walter a wholly functioning heart and the chance to live a long, full life. *"Walter is an*

example of the team believing, having faith and looking for the solution as opposed to accepting defeat," says Dr. Salazar. "And that team includes Walter's family, who wanted what was best for their child. We all wanted the same thing—to give Walter the best life possible."

'In the very best care'

The Burgerts recently celebrated Walter's first birthday. *"He's the happiest kid I have ever seen," says Kemberlee. "He is always smiling and laughing. He is truly a joy in every way. We are so tremendously thankful, humbled and blessed. Walter ended up exactly where he needed to be, in the very best care."*

Walter is an example of the team believing, having faith and looking for the solution.

Jorge Salazar, MD

"The key is to believe in possibilities," says Dr. Salazar. "Because if you don't believe in possibility, then you're never going to see it."



Leticia and Steve Trauber



Guests enjoyed dinner from Tony's during the virtual program



All 27,000 Memorial Hermann employees received a special Heroes pin to honor their service during COVID-19.

Virtual event honoring frontline heroes, Beverly and Jim Postl and Phillips 66 inspires \$3 million in gifts

Leticia and Steve Trauber chaired Memorial Hermann Foundation's second virtual Circle of Life Gala, which featured a moving tribute video capped off by a livestream performance by the legendary Motown Records co-founder Smokey Robinson. The evening's attendees joined together to salute the courageous

professionalism of Memorial Hermann's frontline staff for their tireless work to protect the health of our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and to honor longtime supporters Beverly and Jim Postl and Phillips 66.

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE STARS AMONG US

ELEVATED CONNECTIONS

A 2-day collaborative event between Memorial Hermann donors, leaders and friends

Hallie Vanderhider and Melissa Juneau chaired a special gathering in Aspen, Colorado, that included a cocktail reception on the terrace of Betula and brunch the next day at Ajax Tavern. Luminaries, including Memorial Hermann CEO Dr. David Callender and Drs. Jorge Salazar, Sean Blackwell, Mary Aitken and Kevin Lally, shared stories of the groundbreaking work being done at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, thanks to the continuing philanthropic support of so many friends of Memorial Hermann Foundation.



1. Hallie Vanderhider and Melissa Juneau

2. Scott and Geradina Wise

3. Elizabeth and Will Galtney

4. Jason and Stacy Johnson and Valerie and Tracy Dieterich

5. Tony Bradfield, Hallie Vanderhider, Roland Garcia, Lisa Simon, Jim Smith, Edd Hendee

6. Drs. David and Tonya Callender

7. Drs. Sean Blackwell, Mary Aitken, Kevin Lally and Jorge Salazar

8. The group was fortunate to gather in person when COVID restrictions had eased, before the recent Delta variant surge

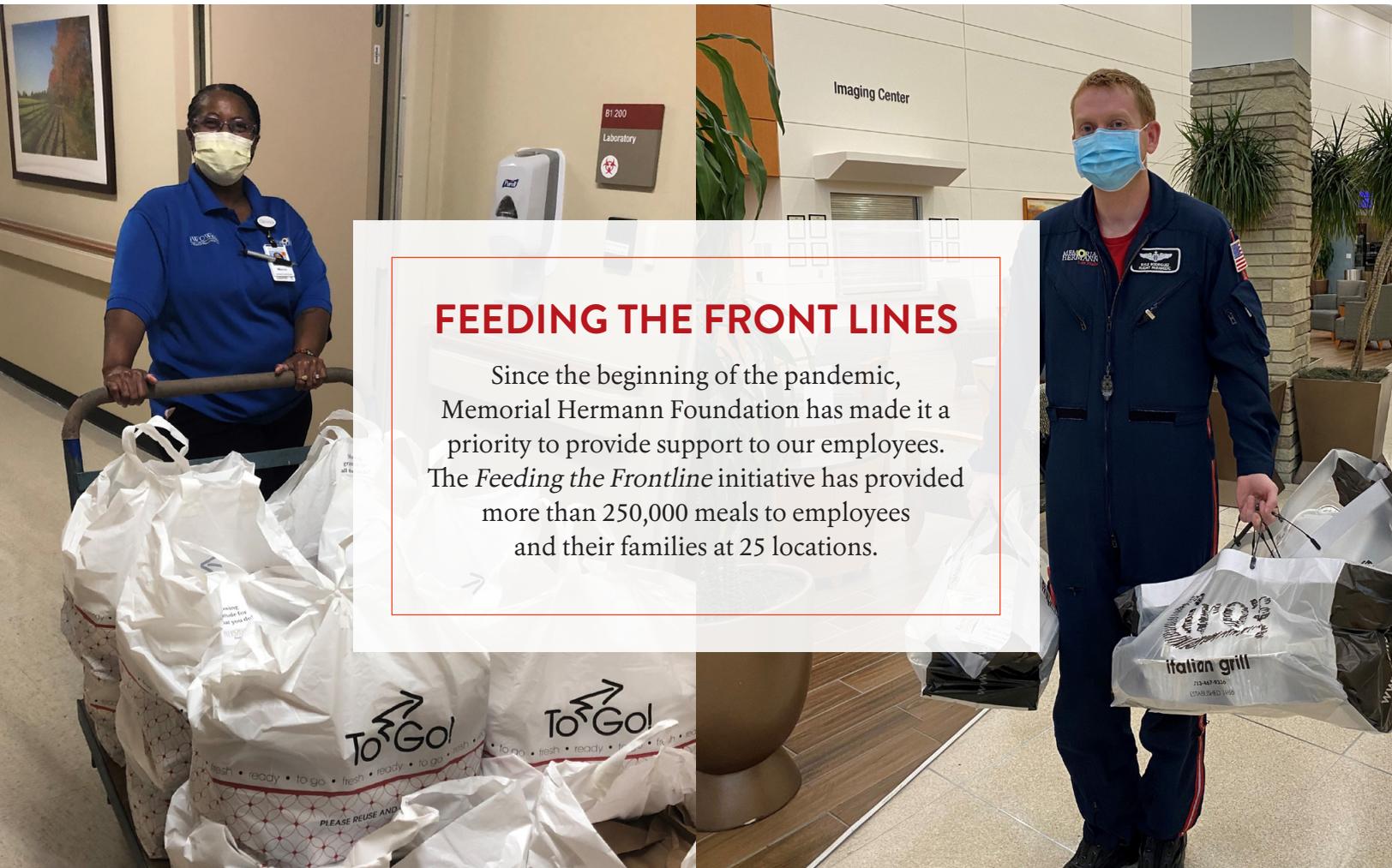
Memorial Hermann Foundation

929 Gessner, Suite 2650
Houston, Texas 77024
memorialhermannfoundation.org

VISION

Memorial Hermann Foundation

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FEEDING THE FRONT LINES

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Memorial Hermann Foundation has made it a priority to provide support to our employees. The *Feeding the Frontline* initiative has provided more than 250,000 meals to employees and their families at 25 locations.