A PUBLICATION FOR THE FRIENDS OF MEMORIAL HERMANN

Memorial Hermann Foundation

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LIVING TRIBUTE

A place to pay homage to transformational board leaders • page 1

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UNWAVERING SPIRIT

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To health. TOMORROW'S PROMISE.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Making plans for a new year reminds me of how much you helped us accomplish in 2023. We are eternally grateful.

In this issue, we're pleased to share the unveiling of our Board Tribute Wall in its permanent home in the historic Cullen Pavilion. This living wall of honor celebrates the extraordinary efforts of so many Memorial Hermann Health System and Foundation board members over the years.



At the unveiling, we announced an incredible \$10 million gift from the Larry and Suzie Johnson Foundation to support heart and vascular work. In March, we will celebrate the Larry D. Johnson Heart & Vascular Institute at Memorial Hermann-

Texas Medical Center. Look for more to come about this special gift.

Our 2023 Razzle Dazzle and In the Pink of Health luncheons were spectacular, raising critical funds to support breast and ovarian cancer awareness, detection and outreach. Thank you to Chairs Amy Pierce, Kristina Somerville and Stephanie Tsuru, who created the perfect Razzle Dazzle ambience to honor longtime Foundation supporters Tony Bradfield and Whitney Crane. Kudos to Co-chairs Patti Jorgensen and Michelle Lloyd-Leary for a rousing and very successful In the Pink of Health in The Woodlands.

This issue presents two unforgettable patient success stories, once again demonstrating how miracles become everyday occurrences, thanks in large part to your ongoing generosity.

Wishing you a wonderful 2024,

Anne E. Neeson

Executive Vice President & CEO Memorial Hermann Foundation

















n Nov. 30, 2023, Memorial Hermann and Foundation leadership, honorees and guests gathered in the sacred halls of the historic Cullen Pavilion entrance to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center to recognize their friends and peers who played especially noteworthy roles in leading the System's shining achievements over many decades.

Memorial Hermann is now one of the largest nonprofit health systems in the region. Its vision is to create healthier communities, now and for generations to come. Supporting this vast and vital work requires the dedicated contributions of a host of volunteers, including those who generously share their time, talents, leadership and philanthropic gifts as board members.

Anne Neeson, president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Foundation, opened the evening's event, reflected on the significance of the new, dedicated space.

"I'm reminded of a quote from Gandhi who taught that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," she said. "Tonight is about celebrating you and your efforts on behalf of Memorial Hermann's past, present and future."

Memorial Hermann and Foundation board members are responsible for making difficult decisions that impact not only the health system itself but virtually every member of the community.

David Callender, MD, Memorial Hermann's president and CEO, shared living proof, recalling the moving details of three remarkable patient success stories. "These life-changing moments are happening all over our System," he said. "Your leadership has been and continues to be crucial to the work we do every day."

Given the impressive achievements made since the merger between Hermann Hospital and Memorial Health System in 1997, many people deserve special recognition for the progress their hard work and commitment have made possible over the years.

The tribute wall is divided into three categories:

Founders, the 1997 founding board members of what is now Memorial Hermann Health System.

Distinguished, the System and Foundation board members who not only served their full terms but whose exemplary service in multiple key roles made a significant impact on the System.

Lifetime, the System and Foundation board members who served their full terms and provided significant leadership and advocacy.

As a testament to the caliber of both boards over the years, it is possible to be recognized in more than one category. Several Founders have achieved the unique distinction of being named in three categories. They include Melinda Perrin who was instrumental in the System's now-famous merger and went on to lead the charge for safety and quality. She shared recollections of the earliest challenges and her pride in being part of the team to restore the Cullen Pavilion to its original magnificence while making way for more modern hospital space. Melinda calls her relationship with Memorial Hermann "a 40-year love affair," and the feeling is mutual among all who have known and worked with her.

As this auspicious reunion of transformational leaders came to an end, Stacy Methvin, Memorial Hermann's current System board chair, shared her thoughts about the future.

"The work we are talking about tonight does not stop here," she said. "This is a living wall with space to add more names in the future. We hope this significant recognition continues to fuel your passion for Memorial Hermann."

TRIBUTE WALL HONOREES

Founders Joseph P. Allen, Ph.D. R. Gerald Bennett A.T. "Gus" Blackshear, Jr. Dennis C. Bush Kirbyjon H. Caldwell

William R. Camp, Jr. Robert J. Cruikshank

Archie W. Dunham James T. Edmonds

George R. Farris

Elizabeth L. Ghrist Robert C. Hanna

J. David Heaney

Charles H. Herder

Paul W. Hobby

Henry B. Holle, M.D.

John M. Kirksey

Terri Lacy

John H. Lollar Matt S. Miller

Gasper Mir III

James R. Montague Harris J. Pappas

Melinda H. Perrin

J.B. "Joe" Tang, Jr., M.D.

Jim F. Waldron, M.D.

Willoughby C. Williams, Jr.

James D. Woods

Distinguished

Arthur L. Baird

A.T. "Gus" Blackshear, Jr.

Deborah M. Cannon Clarence F. Cazalot. Jr.

Robert Croyle

William H. Easter III

George R. Farris

William F. Galtney, Jr.

Roland Garcia. Jr.

Gasper Mir III

Walt M. Mischer, Jr.

James R. Montague Melinda H. Perrin

Gary R. Petersen

James J. Postl

Stephen H. Pouns

Susan D. Sarofim

Jim R. Smith George "Trey" Strake III

Emily G. Tinsley

Willoughby C. Williams, Jr.

Lifetime

Charlotte B. Alexander, M.D.

Arthur L. Baird

Philamena Baird

R. Gerald Bennett A.T. "Gus" Blackshear, Jr.

William J. Campbell

Deborah M. Cannon

Clarence F. Cazalot. Jr.

Rufus P. Cormier, Jr.

Robert Croyle

Joe Davis John Eads

William H. Easter III

Jo Lynn Falgout

George R. Farris

Jason Few

Ira L. Flax, M.D. Stephen M. Fraga

William F. Galtney, Jr.

Roland Garcia, Jr. Robert E. Garrison II

J. Kevin Giglio, M.D. Irma Diaz-Gonzalez

David J. Graham

Frank X. Gruen

Grover G. Jackson

Suzie Johnson

Terri Lacy

Stephen A. Lasher

Bill M. Lindig

Raymond Martin, M.D. Ralph "Skip" D. McBride

Scott B. McClelland

R. Emmett McDonald, M.D.

Scott McLean

Gasper Mir III

Walt M. Mischer, Jr.

James R. Montague

D. Keith Mosing

Harry Pefanis

Melinda H. Perrin Gary R. Petersen

James J. Postl

Stephen H. Pouns

Susan D. Sarofim

Caralisa "Lisa" Simon

Jim R. Smith

Stephen M. Trauber

George "Trey" Strake III

Emily G. Tinsley Tony Vallone

Massey Villarreal

Randa Duncan Williams

Willoughby C. Williams, Jr.

Donald M. Woo























n New Year's Day 2014, the Herleth family had their lives upended when their middle son, Preston, had an unimaginable accident on a farm in Sealy, Texas, 45 minutes outside of Houston.

Several families were staying together for the holiday. In the early morning, Preston and a friend, both 9 years old, woke up as the sun was just rising.

"There were a bunch of other kids with us," recalls Preston.
"My friend and I tiptoed out of the room, not going to let
a minute go by without having fun."

They tried to take a joy ride in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV), Preston's friend at the wheel. On a hard turn, his friend rolled the vehicle and flew out. When the ATV eventually stopped rolling, Preston was suspended upside down in his seatbelt. He unbuckled and dropped. The vehicle's crossbar rolled over Preston, crushing his face.

"I remember my friend ran to the house to get our parents because he knew something was really wrong," recalls Preston. "His dad drove his truck toward me and said, 'Stay there. I'm going to get your parents.' After that, things got really chaotic."

A gut-wrenching sight

Preston's parents, Tiffany and Eric, awoke to a frantic pounding on the bedroom door and someone saying there had been an accident.

"I asked who was hurt, and they said, 'Preston,'" recalls Eric. "I asked if he was alive, and they told me, 'I don't know. Hurry!" Eric ran to Preston as fast as he could. "It's one of the worst sights you could think of when it's your child," says Eric. He placed Preston in the back seat, picked up Tiffany and called 911 as they left the farm.

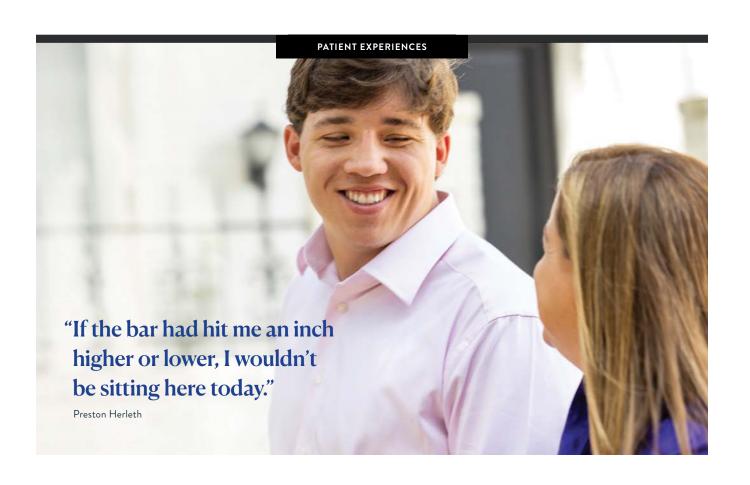
"There was a point in the car when Preston wanted to know if he was going to die. I didn't know what to tell him," Tiffany says.

The Herleths met the ambulance on a nearby I-10 overpass. When they arrived, the paramedics treated Preston, immediately seeing he needed specialized care. They called for an air ambulance to take him to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.



"There was a point in the car when Preston wanted to know if he was going to die, and I didn't know what to tell him."

Tiffany Herleth



Reality sinks in

Preston doesn't remember the helicopter arriving but vividly remembers the flight.

"I knew something must be really wrong if I'm flying on a helicopter to the hospital," says Preston.

Meanwhile, the Herleths raced against time from Sealy to Memorial Hermann, calling local police on the way and begging not to be stopped.

"Once we laid our eyes on Preston again, we burst into tears," says Tiffany. "I thought, I'm not leaving your side again." Preston's face was shattered in more than 160 places. His septum and tear ducts were crushed.

He couldn't see for weeks due to severe swelling, which also delayed the complex surgery he needed.

When it was safe to proceed, the surgical team spent 11 hours in Preston's initial surgery to repair what they could. The Herleths waited and prayed, surrounded "We knew we were in the best hands at Memorial Hermann. They've done an incredible job getting him to where he is right now."

Eric

by so many friends and family that Memorial Hermann staff created a makeshift waiting room for them.

"I was pacing the hallway and saw the doctor," says Tiffany. "He told us surgery went great. I remember thinking, okay, we're on the way to recovery now."

"If the bar had hit me an inch higher or lower, I wouldn't be sitting here today," says Preston. "My whole midface and part of my forehead are made of hundreds of steel plates and screws. It's all manmade."

Skin grafts in such complicated cases often fail as the body rejects the new tissue. That's what happened in



Preston's case, so surgeons had to find another solution. "My nose is actually made out of one of my ribs," Preston says. "It was a pretty severe surgery, but it worked."

"Basically, his sinus system has been rerouted to make it all work together," says Tiffany. Preston has had 11 surgeries to date, with more planned to clear tear ducts clogged by scar tissue and align his skin. At age 25, when Preston stops growing, he can elect for more aesthetic surgeries. For now, he and his family feel extremely lucky.

"I'm grateful to be alive. Obviously, my accident is still a part of me, but it doesn't define me."

Preston

"We knew we were in the best hands at Memorial Hermann," says Eric. "They've done an incredible job getting him to where he is right now."

Forever grateful

Preston is a freshman at The University of Texas at Austin. Despite the horrific accident nearly a decade ago, he enjoyed a normal childhood, succeeded in school and played baseball and football.

"I think Preston is one of the most charismatic kids around," says Eric. "He is positive and the life of the party."

"I'm grateful to be alive", says Preston. "Obviously, my accident is still a part of me, but it doesn't define me. It's allowed me to become more independent and appreciate everything that's happened in my life."

Eric adds, "From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Memorial Hermann, for what you have done and continue to do for our family."

Your gifts to Memorial Hermann Foundation support life-saving adult and pediatric trauma care.



IN THE SPIRIT OF HOUSTON: FRIENDS IN DEED

Longtime supporters Tony Bradfield and Whitney Crane share the limelight and a passion for helping others as this year's Memorial Hermann Foundation Razzle Dazzle honorees.

Tony Bradfield has been a Memorial Hermann supporter since 2016, generously sharing his gifts and talents in many roles, including now serving as a member of the Memorial Hermann Foundation Board of Directors. Hailing from Western Australia, Tony spent his childhood in Europe and Southeast Asia. Fortunately for us, after completing his secondary education in Texas, he adopted Houston as his hometown.

Whitney Crane is a fellow hard-core Houston fan who also believes in using her good fortune to meet the needs of others. She and her husband, Jim Crane, best known as the owners of our city's thrill-delivering Houston Astros, support too many local and national causes to count.

Together, these prominent Houstonians make wonderful things possible for the health of Memorial Hermann patients and our entire community.

Whitney and Tony have become close friends of the Memorial Hermann Foundation over the years. They co-chaired *Razzle Dazzle* "Bloom" in 2019, inspiring donations of more than \$850,000 for early detection and outreach programs at the Bobetta C. Lindig Breast Care Center at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center. Whitney's special talent for bringing a theme to life in every detail set the stage for an especially beautiful experience.

Tony went on to co-chair Razzle Dazzle again the following year, accepting the unprecedented challenge of making it a fun and successful virtual affair in a cautious response to the pandemic. For Tony, the Razzle Dazzle cause is personal. He lost his mother to breast cancer when he was 25 years old. As he and Whitney were introduced to this year's appreciative luncheon crowd, he shared a moving and inspirational perspective.

"Each and every one of us has a story of how cancer has impacted us," he said. "But I think there's one way we can flip the script. And that is by looking at how we can more effectively support each other as well as the institutions that care for us, like Memorial Hermann and the Bobetta C. Lindig Breast Care Center."

The night before this Razzle Dazzle, Whitney and her husband were in Minnesota celebrating the Astros' American League Championship Game 4 win against the Twins. She not only rushed back to be here but also brought custom-made pink Astros caps to share with the crowd.

"I wouldn't have missed this special honor for the world," Whitney said.

And so it was with great pleasure that the Foundation chose Tony Bradfield and Whitney Crane as our 2023 Razzle Dazzle event honorees. They exemplify the value of friendship, creativity, dedication and a life of service on behalf of a community they love.



RAZZLE DAZZLE

A generous, glamorous crowd of 500+ makes Memorial Hermann Foundation's annual luncheon another dazzling success.

Razzle Dazzle attendees enjoyed food and laughter, shared personal stories, bid on unique auction items and raised more than \$900,000 to support breast cancer early detection and outreach programs at Memorial Hermann, including the Bobetta C. Lindig Breast Care Center at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center.

For a \$250 donation, limited-edition Razzle Dazzle scarves designed by Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell and Kimberly Phipps-Nichol went quickly, raising \$25,000.

The luncheon honored Memorial Hermann supporters Whitney Crane and Tony Bradfield, and featured Connie Britton, an actress and activist who lost her mother to breast cancer. KHOU-CBS traffic anchor Jennifer Renya served as emcee. Luncheon Chairs Amy Pierce, Kristina Somerville and Stephanie Tsuru created a truly inspiring event in recognition of breast cancer's effects on us all.







Stephanie Tsuru, Kristina Somerville, Amy Pierce, Anne Neeson

















Vanessa Ames, Amy Pierce, Shakti Dalal, Laura Davenport, Jordan Seff

Steve Trauber, Haley Kostyshyn, JT Trauber

















Julie Chen, Roslyn Bazelle Mitchell, Amalia Stanton

Zhanna Golodryga, Satya Pandrangi, Tatiana Chavanelle

WONDER WOMAN

First, she learned she had a very aggressive breast cancer. Months later, as she was enduring intense chemotherapy, doctors discovered what appeared to be cancer in her gallbladder. "I was shocked," says Stephanie Belz, a health-conscious woman of impressive strength and stamina. "I cried a lot. I prayed a lot. And I got through it all with the help of my family, my faith, my friends and the incredible teams at Memorial Hermann."

uring a routine mammogram at Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital, Stephanie Belz's radiologist told her she suspected cancer. The next day, Stephanie had a biopsy. Her affiliated OB/GYN, Shelby L. Hampton, MD, called a few days later with definitive news. She had invasive ductal carcinoma.

"Later that day, I was crying at my job, and in walked one of my colleagues whose mom died of breast cancer," says Stephanie. "It was like a God moment with her there. We started bawling and hugging. I couldn't work that day, and I drove home a mess."

A vibrant, active wife and mom, 42-year-old Stephanie could hardly believe the diagnosis. Dr. Hampton referred her to oncologist Paula Ryan, MD, PhD, and surgeon Diana M. Hook, MD, both affiliated with Memorial Hermann, and she began her cancer treatment journey in August 2022.

"Invasive ductal carcinoma is an aggressive breast cancer," says Dr. Ryan. "Stephanie needed five and a half months of strong chemo, a lumpectomy surgery and many rounds of radiation. Because the cancer was hormone-positive, she also has to take a pill for 5 to 10 years."

A family lifeline

Stephanie and her husband, Glenn Belz, MD, had to break the news to their two young sons, Carsten and Caden.

"It was difficult at first, but they were very supportive," says Stephanie. "They gave me a James Avery ring with different colored hearts to help me through my cancer journey."

Stephanie also turned to her colleagues at Klein Independent School District, where she is an occupational therapist, for support during treatment.

"Klein ISD is like a family," says Stephanie. "My boss and team went to appointments with me and took turns bringing me dinner during chemo."

From chemo to 5K

Stephanie went on disability for 10 weeks during her "Red Devil" chemo, a treatment with severe side effects. She completed two sessions and had a routine PET scan to check for progress. That's when the care team saw what appeared to be cancer cells lighting up in her gallbladder.



PATIENT EXPERIENCES SPECIAL EVENTS



"I am cancer-free now. It was as if God was there for me."

"Being diagnosed with gallbladder cancer is almost a death sentence," explains Stephanie. "I was devastated. It's so rare, and there aren't many specialists for it."

The Memorial Hermann care team collaborated with a surgeon who specializes in surgical oncology. He removed Stephanie's gallbladder and part of her liver. To everyone's enormous relief, the pathology results came back clean, allowing Stephanie to finish her "Red Devil" chemo.

"It was like the Memorial Hermann team was going into battle with me. They worked like my life mattered."

Stephanie returned to work when she started Taxol chemo. She also drove her kids to school, worked out regularly and ate a healthy diet. When her chemo ended, she signed up to run MUDGIRL, a 5K obstacle course race.

"My blood count was low from the chemo. I still ran 17 obstacles with three of my Klein ISD teammates," said Stephanie. "It was a hard race, but I was able to do it all. It helped me stay positive."

"Wonder Woman"

Only a few days after running the 5K, an MRI revealed the lump in Stephanie's breast had miraculously shrunk.

Ecstatic, Dr. Hook performed Stephanie's lumpectomy at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center to remove the remaining cancer.

"It was like the Memorial Hermann team was going into battle with me," says Stephanie. "They felt like family, so it allowed me to pray and leave it in their hands, and I am cancer-free now."

Stephanie went from stage III invasive ductal carcinoma to no evidence of cancer. As a precaution, she underwent 30 rounds of radiation treatments with affiliated radiation oncologist, James Zhu, MD, who agreed that "the man upstairs seemed to be looking out for her." Stephanie will continue to get scans every year or so to confirm the cancer is gone.

Stephanie stayed healthy and busy throughout radiation, determined to keep up with her family's favorite activities, including her son's golf tournaments.

"My pastor calls me Wonder Woman," says Stephanie. "I think it's a God thing. This experience has really built my faith.

"When you have a good team on your side in a good hospital, it makes you do incredible things—and just push forward."

Your gifts to Memorial Hermann Foundation support advanced cancer care.

IN THE PINK OF HEALTH 2023

As a record-breaking 900+ guests gathered to share special moments, our 23rd annual *In the Pink of Health* raised \$700,000 to benefit breast and ovarian cancer technology, early prevention and community initiatives of all kinds.



1 The 2023 In the Pink of Health Committee • 2 Picture-perfect guests • 3 Patti Jorgensen and Michelle Lloyd-Leary • 4 Marty and Mary Ann Young • 5 Justin Kendrick, Anne Neeson, Jessica and Trey Brice • 6 Kristy Sexton, Dee Geisomini, Debra Cooper, Janice Swan, Keri Mitchell and Melissa Young • 7 Cece and Richie Ray

Held at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott, this year's *In the Pink of Health*, co-chaired by Patti Jorgensen and Michelle Lloyd-Leary, was an exciting, fun-filled gathering as attendees enjoyed live and silent auctions, photo opportunities, special guests and inspirational stories.

The 2023 *In the Pink of Health* helped garner an impressive \$700,000 to be shared among community organizations and cancer survivors in the coming months.

To date, *In the Pink of Health* has invested well over \$8 million directly into Montgomery County, supporting

everything from advanced technology and early prevention initiatives to local outreach and education programs, including free services to those on their cancer journey through the Canopy Cancer Survivorship Center at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center.

Many thanks to longtime Presenting Sponsors: CeCe and Richie Ray of Kingdom Investment Holdings and Private Luxe Travel; Legacy Sponsors: Tricia and Jack Futcher, Brand Patron, Adcetera; and Pink Diamond Sponsors, Mary Ann and Marty Young, and Jessica and Trey Brice in honor of Melissa Preston.



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