

InTouch

TEXAS HEALTH RESOURCES FOUNDATION

WINTER 2019

**Texas Health Dallas'
New Collaboration
Tackles Long-Term
Health Outcomes
for the Homeless**

**Texas Health
Celebrates
Justin Tower
Groundbreaking**

► Your Gift at Work:
Texas Health Salutes Veterans

► Health Shots: Black & White Gala, Levis and Lace,
Golf Tournament, Black Tie Ball

Dear Friends

It's been a very busy and productive year for us at Texas Health Resources Foundation, and we can't begin to thank our donors enough for their generosity to the many achievements made in 2019 for our health system and the communities we serve.

Most notably, in October, we officially broke ground on the \$300 million Jane & John Justin Patient Surgical Tower at Texas Health Fort Worth, which is the largest construction project in our system's history and the largest fundraising campaign we have ever undertaken for a single initiative. Generous donors, community supporters and system leadership who are making this tower a reality joined us for the ceremonial event, featured on page 6.

As we build up, we are also investing in the health of our communities by expanding our focus from solely sick care to working toward the health of our patients beyond our facility walls. Medical respite is a great example of this and is our feature story in this issue of *In Touch*. Donor assistance is helping us introduce this pilot program in Dallas to target homeless individuals with acute medical and behavioral health needs. Texas Health Dallas is collaborating with community partners to provide medical care that will stabilize these individuals and provide additional social supports to end the cycle of homelessness for some of our community's most vulnerable.

From a loving grandmother who set up an endowment to financially assist struggling families of newborns at Texas Health Plano (page 16), to a Birthday Buddy paying it forward many years later for his care at Texas Health Dallas' NICU (page 7), and support of our veteran patients through our Veterans Recognition programs (page 8), it does not go unnoticed by us that you are helping make great things possible. This is highlighted by our most successful participation in North Texas Giving Day yet with more than \$617,000 raised to support the greatest needs of our health system and our community impact initiatives. We are blown away by our communities' kindness and caring hearts and thankful for the generous support you all provide.

Have a wonderful holiday season!



James K. (Jay) McAuley
President
Texas Health Resources Foundation



Bill M. Lamkin
Chair, Board of Trustees
Texas Health Resources Foundation



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NICU Wish List



During this holiday season, give the gift of thanks to our caregivers by supporting the needs of our tiniest patients and their families. Your donation helps pay it forward to others in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit throughout the year.

If you've been touched by the care your loved one has received in our NICU, your gift can be made in honor of that special caregiver – extending your thank you even further. **Make your gift today at [TexasHealth365Fund.com](https://www.texashealth365fund.com)**

Possible items your donation could support include:

\$500	3 mamaRoo® Infant Seats
\$1,000	Waterless Milk Warmer
\$3,000	Alaris Syringe Pump
\$4,000	Standard Crib
\$8,000	5 GE Jaundice Meters
\$10,000	2 Infant Scales on Cart

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We work hard to keep our mailing list correct. We regret that occasional errors or duplications may occur. If that happens, please contact the Foundation at 682-236-5200.

Heard Around the System

"My sister was admitted to Arlington Memorial Hospital for the whole month of August, and she passed away there. I just wanted to say how wonderful the whole staff was to her as they treated her with the most respect a person can get. Each floor during her time there had treated her so well, we felt they were part of the family and all of the employees gave my sister their full attention and met her needs. When my sister was transferred to different floors, the staff came and visited as they all had a connection with her and made her feel loved. God bless all of you. I hope you give a huge shout out to all of these wonderful people who took care of my sister and family members during our stay there."

— Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital

"I accompanied my husband to the ED recently, and he was seen by Dr. Nguyen. This is the second time we have encountered Dr. Nguyen, and both times we were treated with compassion and respect. Dr. Nguyen's bedside manner should be commended. He is a true asset to the medical community and I am grateful for him and how he treats his patients."

— Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton

"We just had our precious little girl delivered at Presby Dallas, and we wanted to give a huge shout out to our L&D nurse, Kristen. Kristen went above and beyond when she was with us—if we weren't her only patient that day, she certainly made us feel that way. From helping me change positions to prepare my body to birth (and constantly cleaning me up!!), to listening to my pain areas and solving any problem I had, she made the birth experience one that was incredible and, dare I say, enjoyable! Huge thank you to her for making birth seem like a breeze. I truly don't think we could've done it without her. If we could've brought her up with us to postpartum, we would have in a heartbeat. Thank you, Kristen—from the bottom of our hearts!"

— Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas

Let's Get Social!

Follow Texas Health Resources Foundation on Facebook and Instagram for a glimpse into how your support of the Foundation makes an impact on our community.





A Safe Place to Get Well

Texas Health Dallas' new collaboration tackles long-term health outcomes in the homeless population with an integrated medical respite program

Hospitals are often at the front line of providing care for the poor and uninsured, and regularly encounter patients who are experiencing homelessness. Dallas is simultaneously seeing unprecedented growth in its chronically homeless population, with an 11 percent jump from 2018 to 2019. Contributing factors for this increase include limited affordable housing and lack of available psychiatric beds.

For many of these individuals, the emergency department (ED) may be their only source of medical care, and many will likely visit the ED three or more times during a given year. After treatment, patients who aren't sick enough to remain in the hospital may have serious medical needs that cannot be addressed while living on the streets, including physical therapy following an accident or surgery, wound care

management, or proper counseling for mental health or substance abuse issues. These patients also frequently deal with increased susceptibility to infection, stolen medications, and non-accessible shelter environments.

"In our work with the chronically homeless, we see how physically devastating homelessness is and the toll it takes on health and wellness," said Dr. John Siburt, president and COO of CitySquare. "Housing is a huge component of that—when they don't have access to it, they can't get healthy. It's an endless cycle where the homeless are in and out of hospitals."

"This program will lead to better outcomes for these individuals, a reduction in emergency room visits and hospitalizations with a long-term goal of reducing homelessness."

Jim Parobek



Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas is now partnering with Austin Street Center and CitySquare to better integrate medical and behavioral health care with housing through medical respite. The 24-month pilot program, launching mid 2020, is designed to provide short-term residential care that allows homeless individuals the opportunity to rest in a safe environment while also accessing medical care and other social support services.

There are currently at least 75 medical respite care programs for the homeless in operation in the United States, including two in Texas, but this is the first program of its kind in DFW. Texas Health Dallas will coordinate the program through its Complex Medical Unit (CMU), which opened in April 2018 to provide a targeted response for patients who meet two or more criteria: admission through the ED; a medical issue requiring inpatient care; risk for suicide; a chronic mental illness; substance abuse; and/or homelessness.

Qualifying patients will now transition to the medical respite unit at Austin Street Center to recuperate and receive ongoing health care after discharge from the hospital, and a case manager will be assigned to help them coordinate their other needs. After the individual has recovered, CitySquare will help them navigate to a "rapid rehousing placement"

and receive continued supportive community services until they can get permanent, stable housing.

"We are very pleased to be working on a medical respite program," explained Jim Parobek, interim president at Texas Health Dallas. "The health services provided through Texas Health Dallas for a 30- to 45-day course of treatment will allow the resident time to heal in a safe, clean environment at Austin Street Center while helping them find permanent housing. This program will lead to better outcomes for these individuals, a reduction in emergency room visits and hospitalizations with a long-term goal of reducing homelessness."

A study of existing medical respite programs has suggested that homeless patients who received this service experienced up to 50 percent fewer hospital readmissions within 90 days compared with those discharged without medical respite. In Phoenix, a national model program for medical respite, finds that 70 percent of its participants are connected to permanent housing.

"This program is a game changer for Dallas, connecting two essential systems of care for the benefit of our citizens facing the crisis of health and of housing," said Daniel Roby, CEO of Austin Street Center.

"Together, we can solve both – addressing the social determinants of health and the vulnerability factors facing our homeless. The end result is a sick person made well, and a person facing homelessness, with what once seemed like an ongoing transitory cycle of their condition, is now resolved with the safety of their own home."

The pilot program will be evaluated on its cost savings potential to the hospital and taxpayer, but the overarching goal is to improve health outcomes and end the cycle of homelessness for the community's most vulnerable patients. By collaborating with likeminded organizations to fill the gaps in care outside hospital walls, the hope is to offer these patients recuperation time, supportive social services, ongoing medical care, and ultimately, permanent housing and stability to support long-term health.

"We are grateful to have a hospital system that recognizes that an important part of caring for this population is providing a place for rest and recovery," Siburt said.

For more information on how you can help support medical respite, please contact ShannonFisher@TexasHealth.org or 682-236-5965.

Texas Health Celebrates Justin Tower Groundbreaking

The \$300 million project, the largest in the system's history, will open in 2022

On October 15, Texas Health joined with community leaders, caregivers, volunteers and employees to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Jane & John Justin Patient Surgical Tower at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth. It will add 144 patient beds, 15 surgical suites and new pre-operative and post-operative units to the Texas Health Fort Worth campus.

The tower will be named in honor of the Jane & John Justin Foundation's lead gift for the project, which reflects the Justin family's long legacy of giving back to Fort Worth, said Lynn Montgomery, chair of the Justin Tower Campaign Steering Committee. In the early stages of the philanthropic campaign, Texas Health Resources Foundation has raised nearly \$19 million toward its \$50 million campaign goal.



(From left) Lynn Montgomery, Mike Guyton



(From left) Jay McAuley, John Robinson



(From left) Eric Krueger, Laura McWhorter, Winjie Miao, Joseph DeLeon, Barclay Berdan, Roy Topham, Ann Zadeh, Lynn Montgomery, Dr. Douglas Lorimer, Lillie Biggins, Brent Sparks



(From left) Joseph DeLeon, Barclay Berdan



(From left) Dr. James Herd, Barclay Berdan



(From left) Drs. Douglas Lorimer, Lee Bloemendal, Scott Bloemendal



Members of the Jane & John Justin Foundation Board

Healing Hands

A Miracle Baby

One grateful family continues to show their appreciation to the NICU 17 years later

When baby Joshua Walton made his first appearance in the early morning hours of August 2002 at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, he was at 25 weeks gestation and weighed only 1 pound 14 ounces. Because Joshua was suffering from a bilateral intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH), where severe bleeding occurs in the fluid-filled areas inside the brain, he was immediately transferred to the level 3 neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas.

"He had an extremely rough road and was on a high frequency ventilator for more than two months," Joshua's mother Kristen explained. "He was definitely the underdog in the NICU during those months, but all the nurses were rooting for him."

Eventually, his condition improved enough to return to Texas Health Plano. Joshua was transferred back in November after undergoing laser eye surgery.

"He had a great send-off from the NICU in Dallas, and Dana Polk, one of the nurses from his initial transfer team, rode with him back to Texas Health Plano," Kristen recalled. "We missed the Texas Health Dallas team terribly, but Josh had some visits from some of the Dallas staff while he was there."

Joshua was cleared to go home on December 3, 2002. His family still marvels that, to this day, he has never needed medication or been readmitted to the hospital again except for an out-patient eye surgery when he was 2 years old.

"I still have a picture of me and Joshua in my office when he was a baby that the family gave me," said Dana Polk, clinical nurse leader in women's services at Texas Health Dallas. "I cared for Joshua and his family almost every shift I worked...I shared their joys, tears, stressors and



Nurse Dana Polk holds baby Joshua in the Texas Health Dallas NICU

triumphs day in and day out over many months. It was so exciting when they got to discharge from the NICU, but I remember I had to go through a little grieving time when Joshua left."

The family eventually relocated to San Diego, California, but returned to Texas Health Dallas in 2017 to visit Joshua's NICU team and donate to the NICU as part of the Birthday Buddies program. Birthday Buddies ask their birthday party guests to bring a monetary donation in lieu of presents to benefit the hospital's NICU.

"We are eternally grateful to Texas Health doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists

for all of their love and support and the life-saving assistance given to our very special boy," Kristen explained.

Now 17, Joshua is a high school junior, an Eagle Scout, and member of his school's elite vocal conservatory. In September, the Walton family continued their gratitude with a donation to the Texas Health Dallas NICU on North Texas Giving Day.

The Birthday Buddies program is available at Texas Health Dallas, Fort Worth and Plano, and has recently expanded to include Alliance, Denton and Southwest. To learn more, please contact SusanBranch@TexasHealth.org or 682-236-5232.

Your Gift at Work

Texas Health Salutes Veterans

Philanthropic support helps honor veteran patients

At Texas Health Resources, we are honored to serve all who walk through our doors and those we reach in our community through programs and services. One group of individuals we are privileged to serve is our veterans. More than 900 Texas Health employees are veterans, with more than 200 of those serving as nurses. These employees are continuing their service through helping fulfill our Texas Health Mission.

We salute and thank our veterans through programs that honor and acknowledge their service to our country. These programs would not be possible without the philanthropic support of our generous community:

FINAL SALUTE

"FINAL SALUTE. Honor escort." The call goes out on the overhead page alerting Texas Health employees, physicians on the medical staff and volunteers that a veteran has passed away. A flag is carefully draped over the veteran's body, and together with the family, they are solemnly escorted through the hallway by nurses, trained honor guards, two security guards and the chaplain. The program began in 2015 at Texas Health Arlington Memorial and is now performed in all our Texas Health hospitals. Flags, pins, gloves and other items for these ceremonies are funded through philanthropic donations.

Vets Visiting Vets

Texas Health Plano launched this program in 2017 to connect volunteers who are veterans with patients who have served in the military for a visit during the patients' stay. Veteran patients receive a pin and certificate, from the volunteer, recognizing his or her service. More than 3,000 visits have occurred at Texas Health Plano and the program has expanded to several other Texas Health entities.



Volunteer Vic Lambert participates in Vets Visiting Vets with patient Sean Smith, a disabled Army veteran

Veterans Recognition

Beginning at Texas Health Fort Worth and expanding across our Texas Health system, various recognition programs to honor our veteran patients take place. From banners decorated in their hospital rooms to poems, certificates, thank you

notes and custom blankets, Texas Health employees strive to thank and recognize the sacrifices made by our veteran patients.

Join us in paying tribute to our veteran patients by making a gift today at TexasHealth365Fund.com.

Donor Spotlight

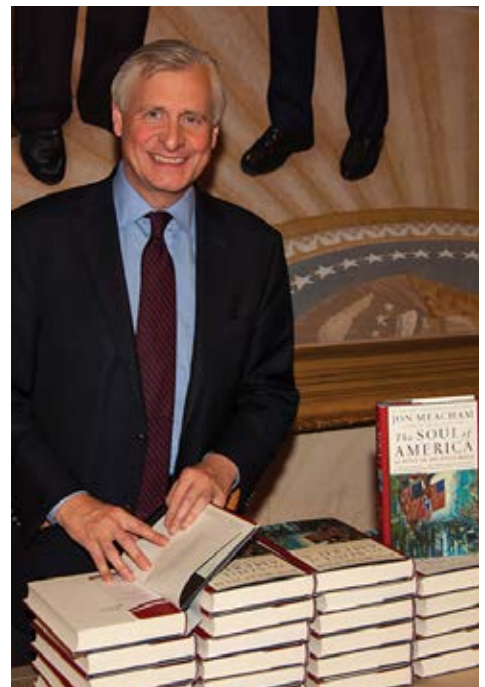
Second Annual Donor Appreciation Dinner

On Thursday, November 21, Texas Health Resources Foundation held its second annual Donor Appreciation Dinner honoring philanthropic leadership in the North Texas community. Invited Giving Society guests enjoyed a cocktail reception and dinner at the George W. Bush Presidential Library in Dallas with presidential historian and author Jon Meacham as the keynote speaker.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham is one of America's most prominent public intellectuals. A contributor to *TIME* and *The New York Times Book Review*, Meacham is a highly sought-after commentator, regularly appearing on CNN and MSNBC. His latest #1 *New York Times* bestseller is *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*.

Two awards were given at the event. The first, the Philanthropic Leadership Award, recognizes an individual or foundation committed to supporting the mission of Texas Health through philanthropy and leading by example. This year, the award was given to Helen and Jimmy Payton for their decades of service and philanthropic support to the Foundation and Texas Health.

The second, the Exceptional Care Award, recognizes a dedicated Texas Health caregiver who strives to exemplify respect, integrity, compassion and excellence in each patient and family relationship and has made a significant, proven impact at Texas Health. Keegan Miller, D.O., an emergency physician at Texas Health Azle received the caregiver award this year for his years of selfless service and leadership.



TOP ROW | Karen and Bill Seanor; Leahray and John Wroten

SECOND ROW | (From left) Len and Laurie Roberts, Martha and Doug Hawthorne; Beckie and Pete Geren

THIRD ROW | (From left) Texas Health Resources CEO Barclay Berdan, Helen and Jimmy Payton, Texas Health Resources Foundation President Jay McAuley

BOTTOM ROW | (From left) Barclay Berdan, Dr. Keegan Miller, Jay McAuley; Jon Meacham

Health Shots

Black & White Gala August 10, 2019

More than 400 guests joined us at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel for the 27th annual Black & White Gala. The event raised more than \$134,000 net to support health care outreach for Johnson County. The event funds Shots for Tots, Mammograms are a Must!, Know Your PSA, and Love Your Heart. Proceeds from this year's gala also will be used to purchase three emergency department triage devices at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Cleburne and to support the HOPE Clinic.



Black & White Gala: Clockwise from top: 2019 Chair Kathy Martin, Dr. Joe Martin with Black & White surprise puppy • 2019 Black & White Gala Committee • (From left) Beck Kiel, Brent Kiel, Colby Rideout, Hallie Rideout • Kay Walls, Founding Chair, Former Texas Health Cleburne President Steve Porter • (From left) Loraine Pittenger, George Pittenger, Casey Lyness, Ryan Lyness, 2019 Vice Chair Lori Lyness, Tim Lyness

Texas Health Resources Foundation Golf Tournament October 14, 2019

Golfers returned to Texas Star Golf Course this year to tee up against cancer at the 28th annual Golf Tournament presented by Balfour Beatty Construction. The tournament supports the Bernard C. Alger Cancer Fund, which provides cancer screenings and education for residents of our community who would otherwise not be able to afford them. The tournament has raised more than \$2.5 million since its inception. This year's tournament raised more than \$115,000 in net proceeds.



Golf Tournament: Clockwise from top: (From left) Eric Krueger, Mandy Squibb, Chad Brewer • (From left) Donna Coleman, Feliz Jarvis, J.R. Holland, Michelle Kirby • (From left) Drew Henderson, Kevin Davis, Steve Dillon, Elias Bahar • (From left) David Jackson, Gary Goldberg, Dirk Pittman, John Whiteley • (From left) Marta Roper, Fraser Hay, Rebecca Roper, Jay McAuley

Health Shots

Levis and Lace October 5, 2019

This year's Levis and Lace event was held at the Renaissance Fort Worth Worthington Hotel with Jessica Davidson serving as chair. The evening raised more than \$68,000 toward the complete refresh and update of all 14 patient rooms in the medical/surgical unit at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Azle.



Levis and Lace: Clockwise from top: 2019 Levis and Lace Committee • (From left) DeAnn Seal, Eric Seal, 2019 Chair Jessica Davidson, Mike Davidson, D'Andra Davidson, Haley Davidson, Jared Hopkins • (From left) Jerry Stafford, Kriston Stafford, Susan Taylor • Kyndal Fairless, Dr. Justin Fairless with Levis and Lace surprise puppy • (From left) Jack Stevens, Janet Stevens, John Stevens

Black Tie Ball November 9, 2019

The 11th annual Black Tie Ball was held at a new location, The Statler Hotel, with the theme "The Best Is Yet to Come." Long-time volunteer Ann Raymond was honored at the event, and guests raised funds to support mobile health outreach at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Kaufman, furthering the mission of improving health and wellness in the county.



Black Tie Ball: Clockwise from top: (From left) Ray Dunlap, Robin Dunlap, Dana Dennis, Carlton Tidwell • 2019 Black Tie Ball Committee • 2019 Chairs Mike Syle, Laura Melton • Ann Raymond (left) receives award from Norma Fortner • (From left) Dr. Mark Sij, Doug Hanning

News Around the System

One Gift at a Time, Our Donors Are Making the Difference

On September 19, thanks to the incredible generosity of our North Texas donors, Texas Health Resources Foundation blew past our fundraising goal on North Texas Giving Day, raising \$617,581, and was the third place organization for most funds raised. This was Texas Health's fifth and most successful year participating in the online fundraising initiative.

One gift at a time, from our 363 donors, benefit the greatest needs across our system through our Texas Health 365 Funds as well as our community health initiatives helping us fulfill our mission of improving the health of the people in the communities we serve. Programs highlighted this year included veterans recognition, mobile health outreach and fundraising for neonatal intensive care.



Special thanks to our Texas Health Resources Foundation Board Trustee, Chris Skaggs, and Amy Skaggs for their generous annual donation through their nonprofit Leighton's Gift on North Texas Giving Day

Texas Health Employees Give More Than \$796,000 to Community Partners

Every October, Texas Health employees give back to the community by donating to local nonprofit partner organizations during the Community Employee Giving campaign. This year, more than 17 percent of Texas Health employees raised more than \$796,000 in donations to support the communities where they live and serve.

Partner nonprofit organizations who received gifts included the

American Heart Association, March of Dimes, American Diabetes Association, United Way, American Cancer Society and various local food drive beneficiaries. Employees also have the opportunity to participate in fundraising events, such as the Heart Walk, and volunteer hours in the community through Texas Health's Community Time Off program, which gives each employee up to eight paid hours a year to complete a volunteer project of their choice.

Texas Health Stephenville Offers 24-7 SANE Coverage

Residents in Stephenville and the surrounding area who are victims of sexual assault now have a 24/7 option for compassionate, comprehensive medical and forensic care at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Stephenville.

Leaders have combined the addition of a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) with the use of a TeleSANE system to achieve around-the-clock coverage. The priority for SANE is to address the medical and emotional needs of the victim in the emergency department and then proceed with forensic medical-legal exams that will stand up in court. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are specially trained and certified to perform these exams and testify in court should the need arise.

Texas Health Stephenville has a SANE on call four days a week. Without complete coverage, sexual assault victims would have to go to Fort Worth for SANE examinations when a trained nurse isn't available, which can be a deterrent for victims as they consider whether to proceed with charges. To help



Cindy Burnette, left, southwest region SANE manager, and Kathleen Gann, W.W. Caruth Jr. Foundation director of the Texas Health System Services SANE program

supplement the on-call coverage, the team turned to technology. In a TeleSANE exam, an emergency department nurse or other nurse would be guided by a SANE live on camera.

"The emergency department nurse actually does the collection and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner will guide them," said Kathleen Gann, M.S.N., R.N., CEN, SANE-A, CA-SANE, W.W. Caruth Jr. Foundation director of the Texas Health System Services SANE program.

If you would like to help support SANE services at Texas Health, please contact the Foundation at 682-236-5200.

Texas Health Fort Worth to Expand the Wall of Life

Philanthropic support will help continue to share the gift of life for transplant donors, patients and families

It was Labor Day 2002 when life forever changed for Berni and Mike Elder. They had just parted from their 23-year-old son, Chris, following a family gathering when they got word Chris had been in a terrible motorcycle accident. They arrived at the scene to witness Chris being wheeled on a stretcher to a helicopter heading to Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth.

It was there at the hospital that they were given the crushing news that their only child was essentially brain dead with no chance of recovery. Through the shock and darkest day of their lives, the Elders were faced with a decision they had never considered before for themselves or their son – organ donation.

"If Chris could have made his own decision, he would have said yes to organ donation," said Mike Elder. "It's just who he was and that helped us know it was the right thing to do. And, we have never regretted making that decision on his behalf."

In the years after Chris's passing, the Elders have continued to turn their tragedy into something positive through their affiliation with LifeGift and Texas Health Fort Worth. In 2010, they were one of the champions for the creation of the Wall of Life displayed at Texas Health Fort Worth that lists the names of organ donors, living donors and transplant recipients.

"This wall not only honors those whose names are on it, it also honors the incredible work done by the transplant team at Texas Health Fort Worth," said Mike. "This great work, and incredible decisions that many are making for organ, tissue and eye donations, needs to be honored through this Wall of Life."

From the generosity of the many organ donors through the years, the wall has run out of space. The Kidney Transplant



Berni and Mike Elder in front of the original Wall of Life

Program team at Texas Health Fort Worth is expanding the wall by creating a digital donor wall to accompany the original Wall of Life. The expansion will include four, six-foot tall digital screens that are interactive when touched, allowing visitors to the wall to find names of donors and recipients, read stories and see pictures. Philanthropic support is needed to purchase the equipment and software to make the expansion possible.

"The Wall of Life is a memorial place for these families to go and have that place in their hearts," shared Robyn Dye, transplant administrator for the Kidney Transplant Program. "These donors have a huge impact on another person's life and really change the story on how they live."

For more information and to support the Wall of Life project, please contact J.R. Holland with the Texas Health Resources Foundation at 817-250-1627 or JamesHolland@TexasHealth.org.

"The Wall of Life represents, to us, hope. You're honoring those who have chosen to be organ donors and also giving and showing others they have a second chance at life."

Berni Elder

Charitable Gift Planning

Texas Health Plano's The Gryphund Endowment

Established by a loving grandmother to assist newborns with needed tangible or financial aid

When Julia Keith's youngest great grandchild, Gryphon, was born eight years ago, she called the hospital to pay the balance of what insurance did not cover for her grandson and his wife. During that call, she also asked if there were other families who might need help paying their labor and delivery bill.

There were two families she helped that day. Seeing how other families might not be as fortunate and needing a helping hand after the birth of their child came an idea on how to carry on a legacy through a charitable planned gift.

"I was not aware of the reaction this gesture caused until my grandson, Joshua, and his wife, Jenny, came for a visit with Gryphon," said Julie Keith. "They

both had stories about the news of bills being paid making its way through the hospital ward. That was about the time Jenny said, 'It's too bad we can't do this every year, maybe on your birthday.' This was the spark that eventually lead to The Gryphund."

Julia worked with the Texas Health Resources Foundation to establish The Gryphund Endowment at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, in honor of her great grandson, to assist newborns with needed tangible or financial aid. The endowment supports families, with limited financial resources, served by the Labor and Delivery Unit at the hospital.

Through donations to the endowment, the hospital identifies struggling families

"One does not know when a baby is born who he or she may grow up to be. Perhaps this one gesture of love will be the step up for the new infant and the family."

Julia Keith



The Gryphund Endowment was established in honor of Julia's great grandchild, Gryphon, now 8 years old

in the unit and can assist them with basic needs such as car seats, baby formula, clothing, food, shelter, utilities, equipment and transportation. It also supports families with charity care provided by the Labor and Delivery Unit at the hospital as well as hospital bills not covered by insurance or other resources for labor and delivery services.

Last year, The Gryphund Endowment helped a single mother who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer while pregnant. After delivering her child, she began cancer treatment immediately. She also had recently started a new job after being laid off from her previous employer and had to vacate her rental home because the owners were selling the property. The Gryphund Endowment went a long way to relieve her anxiety and financial pressure, as it helped with rent, car insurance and day care expenses.

To make a gift to The Gryphund Endowment and provide a brighter picture for our patients' future, please contact Kim Raschke with the Texas Health Resources Foundation at 972-981-3674 or KimberlyRaschke@TexasHealth.org.

Mission Moment

Texas Health Employee Delivers Baby in Hospital Restroom

Eli Cruz, a food service host at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest, was just walking into the hospital for his shift when a co-worker called to him and asked for help. A pregnant woman was in the bathroom and needed assistance.

Eli immediately followed the baby's father to his wife's location while the co-worker left in search of medical staff.

"They were both freaking out," Eli explained. "I don't know how much I calmed them down because there was a language barrier, but I tried."

Thinking quickly, Eli asked the frantic woman to lie down or at least try to sit, but she wasn't able to.

"She started saying she was in pain...and then her water broke," Eli said. "I heard a sound and looked down. The baby's head was already out, so I guided it the rest of the way."

Eli saw that the umbilical cord had broken on its own, but the baby wasn't breathing.

"I had to use my finger to clear out his mouth, and I did two chest compressions," Eli explained. "Then he coughed and started breathing."

Although Eli currently works in food services, he also completed training as an emergency medical technician just a few months earlier. During his education, he observed a delivery at a hospital but had never delivered a baby himself until that moment.

"Despite a lack of personal protective equipment, Eli was more concerned for this mother and child than his own safety," explained Rebecca Tucker, president of Texas Health Southwest. "During his time here, Eli has always cared about the patients and makes sure they have the most comfortable stay possible. He leads by example with his teammates and is always willing to jump in and help where needed."



Eli Cruz (center) stands with Texas Health Southwest President Rebecca Tucker and Texas Health Southwest Food Service Director Gavino "Guy" Galan

For his heroic efforts, Eli received a special recognition award at the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC) Foundation's 23rd Annual Employee of the Year Luncheon held at the Hurst Conference Center on April 25. He was one of 14 winners from 55 area hospitals honored at the luncheon.

"Eli is one of the hardest working, self-motivated, and inspirational people I have had the privilege of working with," said Gavino "Guy" Galan, food service director

at Texas Health Southwest. "He always believes in doing the right thing and doesn't leave things undone."

In addition to completing his coursework to become an EMT, Eli is also in seminary school at Nazarene Bible College. He believes that God put him in the right place at the right time that day.

"It was scary, but it was really cool," he said of his experience. "God is awesome."



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Mark your calendars for Texas Health Resources Foundation's upcoming 2020 events, raising funds for Texas Health's family of hospitals.



For more information on these events or to purchase tickets, visit
TexasHealth.org/Foundation-Events

Apr. 8 Puttin' on the Pink



May 8 Little Black Dress Girls Night Out



Aug. 1 Black & White Gala

