

A PUBLICATION  
FOR THE FRIENDS OF  
MEMORIAL HERMANN

.....  
Memorial Hermann Foundation  
Late Spring 2022

ADVANCING THE

# VISION

2022 ANNUAL GALA

## HERE COMES THE SUN

Celebrating in person and  
in style PAGE 5

LEADERSHIP

## OUR BOARD IN ACTION

Memorial Hermann Life Flight®  
PAGE 10

INNOVATION ON CALL

## SUPER NURSES

Quick decisions, better care  
PAGE 1



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Just when we “insiders” think we know Memorial Hermann Health System, certain moments reveal new layers of wonderfulness.

In this Vision, we showcase many such moments, beginning with inspiring revelations from some of the System’s brilliant career nurses you’ll see pictured throughout.



We share how our former annual Circle of Life Gala became a two-evening event that raised nearly \$4 million from our bighearted supporters.

On another special evening, guests dined under the stars as leaders from The Fetal Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital spoke about their latest advances in maternal fetal medicine.

We hear from a grateful mom whose baby defied the odds under the care of Children’s Memorial Hermann.

Exciting expansions in The Woodlands and Greater Lake Houston show us what can happen when communities join in for the benefit of all.

Our Board’s recent tour of Memorial Hermann Life Flight® gave us a unique perspective of the team’s incredible abilities and value. Houston is so fortunate to have them here.

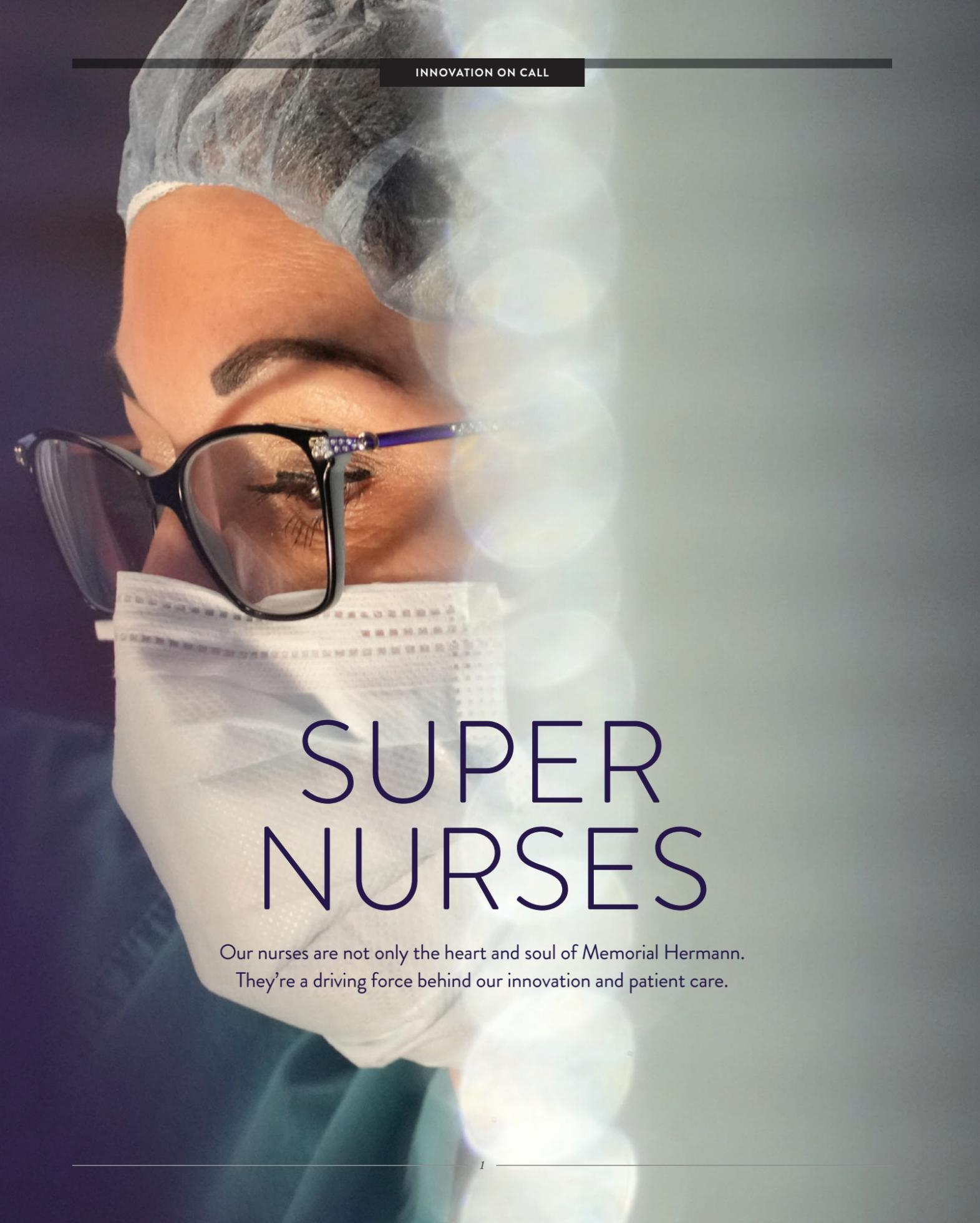
Thank you, friends, for your generous support.

Have a wonderful summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne".

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

**COVER:** Emefa Arnaout, Memorial Hermann director of patient care, takes special care of a young patient.



# SUPER NURSES

Our nurses are not only the heart and soul of Memorial Hermann.  
They’re a driving force behind our innovation and patient care.



“As nurses, we have the privilege of touching people’s lives every day.”

**Elizabeth Kutchback**  
Director of Children’s Services

**L**ifesavers. Heroes. Angels. Descriptions of nurses in general border on the ideal, all justified. Nurses embody a unique combination of skill, self-sacrifice and commitment. Emefa Arnaout, director of patient care, believes *“nursing is definitely something that comes from the heart.”*

What our nurses did in response to the COVID-19 pandemic earns even higher praise. They made critical decisions that would challenge and discourage the most dedicated caregivers. They responded not only to the difficult situations they train for—and this is a diverse, highly educated group with multiple certifications—they made those decisions on the fly to maintain high standards of care while lessening chances to spread the disease.

They developed new procedures and adapted daily to new complications. They effectively redefined their role, which, among other things, shortened their funding wish list to a simple request for “funding to innovate.”

It’s worth noting that Emefa’s philosophy and that of many others who recently shared their personal experiences came after this group had emerged from the most difficult days of the pandemic. Universally, they acknowledged the challenges of their work while feeling compelled to carry on.

*“Sometimes it’s draining, and you wonder why you do it,”* Rebecca Davis, director of neuroscience patient care, admitted. But those moments when she sees how she and her teams have changed someone’s life? *“They can fill you for months or even years,”* she said.

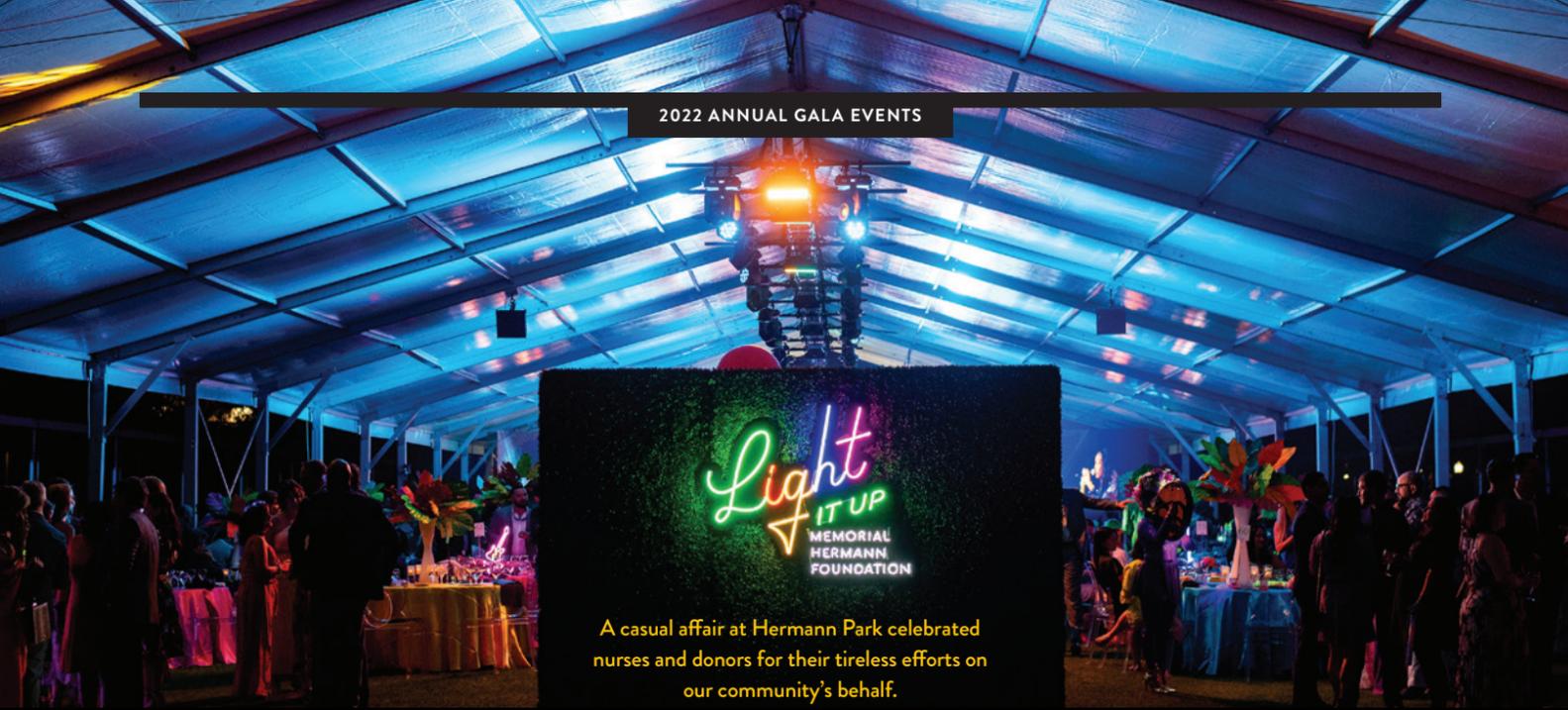
They see what they have been through as a privilege. That perspective is something Bryan Sisk, senior vice president and chief nursing executive, will speak more about in an upcoming issue of Vision as he assumes his new responsibilities and enjoys the privilege of working with 20,000 nurses deserving of the loftiest descriptions.

**Lifesavers. Heroes. Angels. Innovators.**

Let’s celebrate and support them all.

“George Hermann’s beliefs and values brought me here. It’s always been about serving the people of our community.”

**Chris Denman**  
Associate Chief Nursing Officer & Associate Vice President of Nursing, Red Duke Trauma Institute, Emergency Department, Medicine Services and Specialty Surgery



A casual affair at Hermann Park celebrated nurses and donors for their tireless efforts on our community's behalf.

With so many achievements and talented people to celebrate for their dedication to the health of our community over the past unforgettable year, it seemed only fitting to present two special Gala-related events, both honoring longtime Memorial Hermann advocates Melinda and Mike Perrin and Elizabeth and Will Galtney.

Act 1, our "Light It Up" outdoor dinner party, took place in an open-air tent on the lawn of Hermann Park's McGovern Centennial Gardens. The evening began with a video featuring heartfelt personal stories from career Memorial Hermann nurses. A laser light show wowed guests as they enjoyed Latin American dinner fare from Churrascos and dancing to the sounds of Infinite Groove.



Steve and Leticia Trauber



Tim and Carolyn Robinson



Wayne and Judy McConnell, Barbara and Bill Easter



Tonya and David Callender



Roy and Sue Hearnberger, Chelsea and Justin Kendrick



Cord and Dr. Toi Harris, Victoria and Dr. Christophe Salcedo



# HERE COMES THE SUN

MEMORIAL HERMANN 2022  
HERE COMES THE SUN



Myron and Rosanna Blalock, Bill and Barbara Easter, David and Tonya Callender, Anne Neeson, Steve Trauber, Melissa and Doug Schnitzer, Elizabeth and Will Galtney, Melinda and Mike Perrin

The black-tie finale of this year's two-tiered gala event helped inspire \$3.9 million in contributions, an all-time high

"Here Comes The Sun" was the perfect theme for our 2022 annual gala, bringing Foundation friends back together in person after two seasons of forced virtual gatherings. The event, honoring Elizabeth and Will Galtney and Melinda and Mike Perrin, was a feast for the eyes, as The Events Company transformed the Hilton America's-Houston ballroom into a stunning indoor garden with vine-laced pergolas, floral chandeliers and rose topiaries.

Memorial Hermann Life Flight crew welcomed guests on the red carpet to the music of Encore Strings. Scott Nichols Dueling Pianos took over as they mingled over cocktails, and country singer Susan Hickman and American Idol contestant Vincent Powell performed a medley, with a "Happy" ending accompanied by students from the TUTS Humphreys School of Musical Theatre. The Tony Curtis Orchestra, via Ward & Ames Special Events, rounded out the musical lineup beautifully.



Ann and Clarence Cazalot



Dr. Yvonne and Rufus Cormier



Mike and Melinda Perrin, Elizabeth and Will Galtney



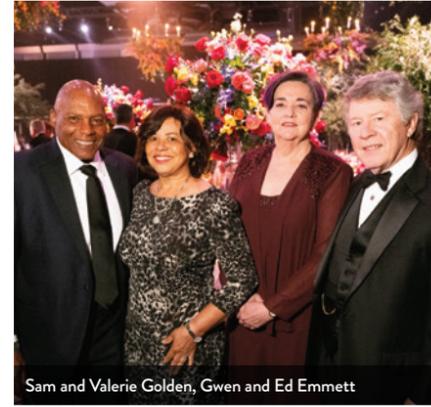
Karen and Roland Garcia



Nina Hendee, Susan Sarofim, Suzie Johnson



Diane and Bill Campbell



Sam and Valerie Golden, Gwen and Ed Emmett



Zhanna and Vitaly Golodryga



Audrey White, Amanda Boffone, Melissa Sugulas, April McGee



Arthur and Philamena Baird



Tony Bradfield, Melissa Juneau, Kevin Black



Jarvis and Andrea Hollingsworth



Jim Smith, Anne Neeson, Edd Hendee



Doug and Melissa Schnitzer, David and Tonya Callender, Rosanna and Myron Blalock



Judy Miller, Jim and Beverly Postl



Stacy and Dee Methvin



Lisa and Jerry Simon



# CHEERS TO OUR CO-CHAIRS

This year, Memorial Hermann Foundation expanded our annual gala event into two spectacular evenings. Rosanna and Myron Blalock and Melissa and Doug Schnitzer didn't blink. The couples agreed to co-chair both events and rose to the occasions in style.

*"We were honored to chair the 'Here Comes The Sun' gala this year," Myron said. "We are forever grateful to Memorial Hermann—they put my sweet Rosie back together."*

Rosanna took a traumatic 25-foot fall while her family was on vacation in the Bahamas several years ago. She was transported to the Red Duke Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where she received the intensive care she needed to repair her broken neck, back, sternum and wrist.

Rosanna has recovered beautifully, and the Blalocks have been generous Memorial Hermann supporters ever since.

Melissa and Doug Schnitzer come from a long line of philanthropists that spans generations. Together, they support many organizations that improve health and the quality of life in our community.

*"We appreciate Memorial Hermann's vision so much," Melissa explained. "We understand how vital philanthropy is to the system's ability to provide the latest innovations and treatments."*

The Schnitzers have supported Memorial Hermann for nearly a decade, and Doug serves on the Memorial Hermann Foundation Board and the Memorial Hermann Health System Finance Committee.

These wonderful couples orchestrated our two reimagined gala events, including the *"Light It Up"* outdoor dinner, which together garnered \$3.9 million to advance Memorial Hermann's vision.

# DINNER UNDER THE STARS FOR OUR LITTLEST PATIENTS

Melissa Juneau's newly transformed historical home in River Oaks provided a spectacular al fresco setting for a dinner to introduce distinguished guests to the miracles being performed at The Fetal Center at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital and the affiliated physicians and leaders behind them.

Marissa Kiefer, senior vice president and CEO of Children's Memorial Hermann and KuoJen Tsao, MD, shared valuable insights about this internationally known program.

Everyone involved in the event deserves kudos for their meticulous attention to details: interior designer Courtney Tardt Elias; Maxit Floral Designs; Chef Aaron Bludorn and team; and the host committee, including Monica Bickers, Allie Fields, Stephanie Fleck, Casey Hedges, Edie Lee, Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell, Anne Lee Phillips and Alex Stillwell.

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



1 Marissa Kiefer • 2 Dr. KuoJen Tsao • 3 Edie Lee, Allie Fields, Stephanie Fleck, Anne Lee Phillips, Melissa Juneau, Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell, Casey Hedges, Monica Bickers, Alex Stilwell • 4 Bethany and Ben Buchanan • 5 Bill Baldwin and Fady Armanious • 6 Alice Mosing and Laurie Krohn • 7 Christine Falgout-Gutknecht and Bill Gutknecht • 8 Kristina Somerville, Dr. Mary Aiken, Amalia Stanton, Debbie Bernstein • 9 April and Wells McGee • 10 Stacy Johnson and Laura Davenport • 11 Nancy Bihlmaier and Anne Neeson

# SKY HIGH EXPECTATIONS

To meet the famous Memorial Hermann Life Flight® team and see the fleet on the grounds of the John S. Dunn Helistop at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center is a rare honor. It is also an imperative field trip for those who work so diligently to solicit and provide funding for this justifiably expensive operation.

Memorial Hermann Foundation recently hosted a Life Flight tour for our board of directors. We all came away more impressed than ever after learning about the program's history and many innovations over the years, including a scene-to-OR pathway that saves precious time getting patients to definitive care.



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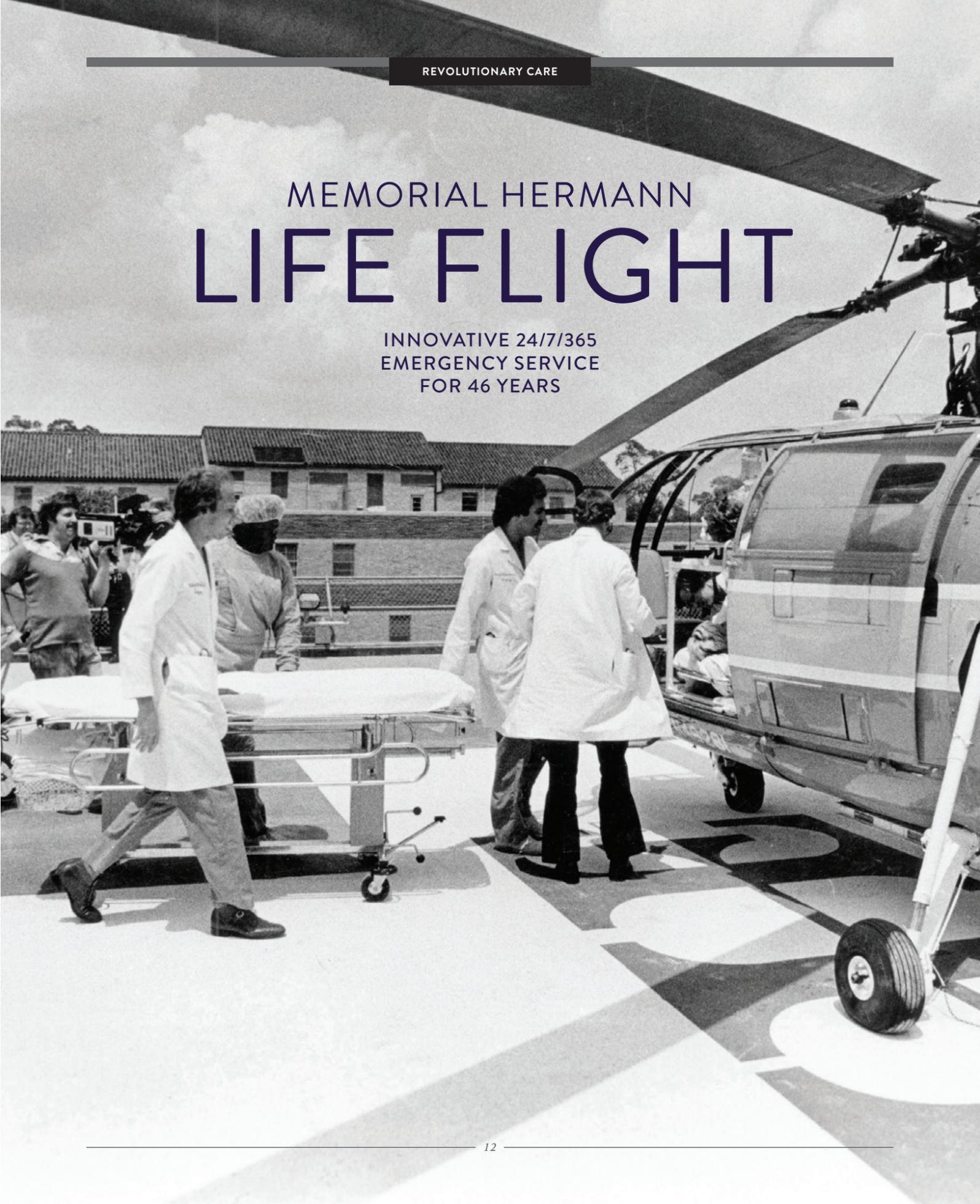


“Tours like this make very clear the importance of Memorial Hermann to our community’s health, and why our continuing support is so crucial.”

Steve Trauber

# MEMORIAL HERMANN LIFE FLIGHT

INNOVATIVE 24/7/365  
EMERGENCY SERVICE  
FOR 46 YEARS



**I**n 1976, James “Red” Duke, MD, and Houston Fire Department Chief Lester Martin revolutionized care for critically ill and injured patients in Houston and the surrounding area.

Their idea was to create an air medical flight program. Philanthropist John S. Dunn had already funded a helipad at what was then Hermann Hospital. Dr. Duke said, *“I thought we should figure out a way to use it.”*

He visited Denver, home to the country’s first air ambulance program, to gain insights. Then, with the hospital’s CEO, Bill Smith, he approached the board of trustees for funding. With their 6-month commitment to cover leasing a helicopter and hiring a pilot and mechanic, Memorial Hermann Life Flight® was born.

**162,000+**  
Total missions  
to date

**4,000**  
Average annual  
missions

**21**  
pilots

**18**  
paramedics

**6**  
helicopters

**1st**  
to carry blood  
products onboard

Dr. Duke became the program’s first medical director, a position he held until 2015. The first mission was on August 1. The crew flew three missions that day, and 45 in the first month. Life Flight’s response to a 1977 refinery explosion in Port Arthur captured the attention of the media and the public and was a defining moment for the program.

Today, six Life Flight helicopters fly an average of 4,000 missions a year. The total number of missions spanning the program’s 46-year history hovers well above 162,000. Life Flight has helped save tens of thousands of lives and, thanks to generous community supporters, remains a vital part of Houston’s expansive medical landscape.

# LINDSEY'S LITTLE MIRACLE MAN

**At** 18 weeks pregnant, Lindsey Oakley Garcia had a frightful wake-up call. Her water had broken prematurely, which meant she was losing the amniotic fluid her baby would need to survive. She was confused and terrified to learn what lay ahead.

*"My doctor told me I had to go on immediate bed rest at home until I reached 24 weeks,"* remembers Lindsey, *"and then, I'd be admitted to the hospital."*

Her chances of making it another 6 weeks were slim, as were her son's chances of being born healthy, if he even managed to be born alive.



Lindsey worked in radio at the time and had a very busy schedule. The idea of stopping all activities to lie in bed was hard to imagine. She did it anyway, taking a medical leave that very day, determined to do all she could to protect her unborn baby's life.

## COUNTING THE DAYS

At 24 weeks, she checked into Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, where her care team and other staff members became her new family, working together to keep her healthy and strong for as long as possible. Despite several complications along the way, she passed intermittent goals and made it to 32 weeks before she went into labor.

Due to her high-risk issues, it wasn't an easy birth. She experienced pre-eclampsia, which can lead to serious problems for both mother and child, and placental abruption, an extremely rare condition that robs oxygen from the baby. With every contraction, her son's heart rate would drop. But he hung on, and so did Lindsey.

## NO TIME FOR HUGS

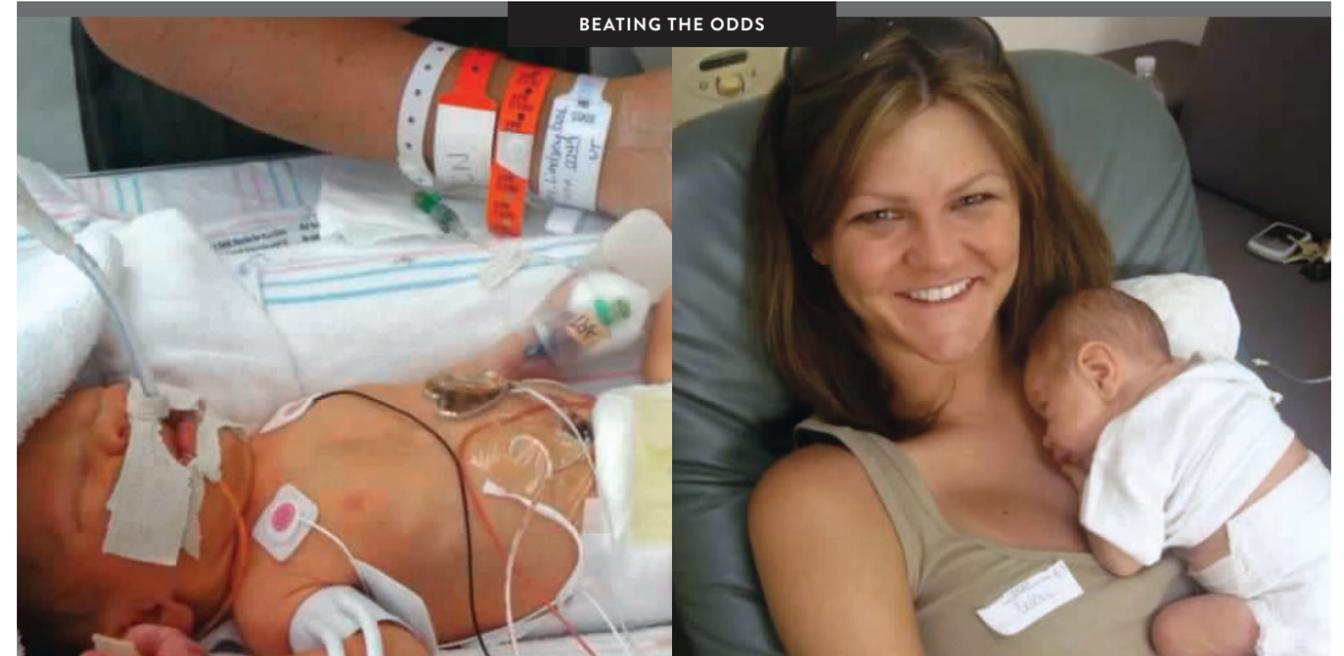


Little Kai had to be rushed to the NICU immediately, where he stayed for 6.5 weeks, on a breathing machine at first and then CPAP, as his premature lungs gained more strength. After spending more than 3 months at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, Lindsey was almost sad to leave the place where she felt comfortable and safe.

*"Kai is so smart, so strong and so sweet. He's my little miracle man."*

Lindsey Oakley Garcia

Today, Kai is a healthy and active 12-year-old. Each year since his birth, Lindsey and her husband, Kai's little sister Sunny and the rest of her family walk for the March of Dimes in honor of the "amazing and gracious" support they received from the organization and Memorial Hermann.





# BOOM TOWN

**M**emorial Hermann's latest expansion brings specialized health care facilities, technology, services and jobs to The Woodlands, now and well into the future.

## A THRIVING COMMUNITY

Since its founding in 1974, The Woodlands has grown from a concept of a totally integrated hometown into a bustling master-planned community that's home to more than 118,000 residents. Since 1985, thanks to those residents and the corporations that also call The Woodlands home, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center has grown right along with it.

The most recent example is the \$250.6-million expansion of the campus. The centerpiece of the expansion is the new South Tower. Now, with a total of 500+ beds, 25 operating rooms and a Level II trauma center, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands is one of the largest hospital systems outside the Texas Medical Center, capable of handling some of the most acute care needs, short of burns and transplants.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As Memorial Hermann continues to invest in the community, the community is joining in. Woodforest National Bank and the Howard Hughes Corporation, two national companies headquartered in The Woodlands, made generous gifts to the South Tower project. While financial support rightfully gets the headlines, the two corporations also supported the hospital staff throughout the pandemic with meals and messages of encouragement.



*"I think the South Tower is a continuation of the tremendous growth we've been realizing up here ever since this hospital started,"* said Justin Kendrick, senior vice president and CEO, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center.



# GROWING POSSIBILITIES

## LOYAL SUPPORTERS STEP UP AGAIN

The Greater Lake Houston area just north of Houston is home to nearly 300,000 residents. That number is expected to grow by more than 10% in the next five years, with young families representing most of that growth. Lake Houston is also home to Memorial Hermann Northeast, which has served the area for more than 30 years. Memorial Hermann is dedicated to advancing the health of this area, as evidenced by the system's investment of \$125 million there to date.

Memorial Hermann Northeast recently opened the Family Life Center, a \$10 million renovation that expands women's services, allowing the hospital to provide more obstetrics, gynecology and fetal intervention services. This expansion was made possible through the philanthropic support of the Northeast Hospital Authority, which also supported a 2018 expansion of Northeast's neonatal intensive care unit. The Northeast Hospital Authority's involvement greatly expedited both projects, positively impacting hundreds of families in the area.

*"Our partnership with Memorial Hermann spans decades,"* said Roy Hearnberger, president of the Northeast Hospital Authority. *"We are so pleased to see the new Family Life Center providing care for families as they welcome our growing community's newest residents, and proud to be a part of bringing this project to fruition earlier than anticipated."*

## PHILANTHROPY PAVES THE WAY

As Memorial Hermann continues to invest in the booming north Houston area, we gratefully acknowledge the generous spirit and philanthropic contributions of the people, the companies and the governing bodies in these communities that help make such vital advancements a reality.

*"The philanthropic support from Northeast Hospital Authority is at the heart of the transformation underway at Memorial Hermann Northeast, and we are so very grateful."*

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

# MEMORIAL HERMANN Foundation

## Memorial Hermann Foundation

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## VISION

### Memorial Hermann Foundation

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## Your generosity makes a difference.

Nurses are a rare and wonderful breed. They heal our bodies and touch our hearts with their special skills and determination to find a way to meet any challenge. We are grateful for donors whose philanthropy helps show our appreciation for all that they do for the health of our community.

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We celebrate our Heroes in Health donors for their especially generous annual gifts.

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

MEMORIAL  
HERMANN  
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