A PUBLICATION FOR THE FRIENDS OF MEMORIAL HERMANN

Memorial Hermann Foundation
Winter 2021

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ADVANCING THE

COVID-19 OPERATIONS

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THE FETAL CENTER

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DEAR FRIENDS,

ello, 2021! Who among us isn't ready for a new year of improving health and even stronger community spirit? That's not to say 2020 didn't have its shining moments. It certainly did.



Unprecedented difficulties brought out the best in the Memorial Hermann Health System family.

Leadership successfully implemented operational strategies and launched our *Shot of Hope* vaccine distribution initiative and other healthcare innovations to keep us all safe and well cared for in dealing with COVID-19.

The pandemic further illuminated the special struggles so many face, spurring a grassroots effort to reach residents in especially dire need of medical help and information.

And let's not forget the awe-inspiring work going on at The Fetal Center at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital even as the coronavirus steals center stage.

Through it all, our donors have pivoted with the times, supporting vital causes with unwavering generosity through spectacular virtual events. Words cannot express our appreciation for each of you.

To the future,

Anne E. Neeson

Executive Vice President & CEO Memorial Hermann Foundation



Earning a slot in Erin Asprec's and Dr. Jamie McCarthy's schedules for a quick interview is an honor, especially these days.

She is Memorial Hermann's Executive Vice President and COO. He is the Executive Vice President of Acute Care Services and the system's Chief Physician Executive. Along with their high-level responsibilities under normal circumstances, they are also leading Memorial Hermann's COVID-19 response operations.

We caught up with them on the latest coronavirus developments just as a front-line RN at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center became the first in Houston to receive a long-awaited vaccine.

Conversations with Ms. Asprec and Dr. McCarthy are a comforting reminder that our community is in very capable hands as we make our way together through these strange and scary times. Here are the highlights.



Q: So, the Pfizer vaccine is here. What are your thoughts about it?

Ms. Asprec: It's a very exciting time. We've scrutinized the data showing that it's 95% effective after the two-dose regimen. We believe that data. We believe it will make a difference. And we're very proud to have been the first to administer it here.

Dr. McCarthy: Right now, we're heavily involved in the logistics of vaccine distribution and getting all of our staff, all of our employees, all of our physician partners into the right queue for prioritization. It's going to take us a couple months to work through that process as the whole world is looking for the exact same doses.

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Q: Let's go back a bit. Give us a glimpse of what's happened since Day 1.

Ms. Asprec: When we first heard about the virus out in the world, that was the trigger. Our team went into action, standing up our command center and creating a six-phase pandemic plan, based on best practices around the world and guidelines set by the World Health Organization and the CDC, to be ready for when COVID-19 hit Houston. We had to secure the necessary resources, PPE and additional ventilators, make sure we had enough staff and establish processes.

Dr. McCarthy: Yes, so in the beginning, we were focused on how to keep our employees, physicians and staff safe. We figured out how to do that. We figured out the supply chain and how we can safely take care of patients in this COVID-19 era. Now, we know what needs to happen in terms of supplies and protocols.

Q: So how have your priorities changed over time?

Dr. McCarthy: Now, we're getting back to the regular business of healthcare maintenance, encouraging our patients to come back in for routine doctor visits, screening exams, having necessary procedures done—all things they were putting off as COVID-19 monopolized everyone's attention.



Ms. Asprec: COVID-19 highlighted some of the social determinants of health. Hit us in the face, frankly. Health is more than the care we provide. We've got to think more holistically about our patients, especially the vulnerable populations. So we've accelerated our efforts to make sure these populations have a medical home with a regular doctor, we help them sign up for Medicaid or on an exchange, we've worked with the Houston food banks for those with food insecurities. We've educated our staff to help make sure we prescribe medications our patients can actually afford and have access to.

Q: It sounds as if COVID-19 has inspired some new and improved ways to care for patients in the future.

Ms. Asprec: Yes, COVID-19 forced us to change the way we operated. We completely accelerated our offerings in virtual care. Now, you can get a full physician's visit virtually. But we also extended that service to include pre-admission visits to help patients understand what to expect and post-visits to follow up and make sure outcomes are good.

Dr. McCarthy: And now that COVID-19 volumes are surging back, we're hoping, because we have better supplies and know more about how to keep everyone safe, not to slow down people's elective surgeries or health maintenance, but to keep both things moving at the same time.



Q: How do you keep everyone on the same page, both inside and outside the system?

Ms. Asprec: I'd say that's one of our biggest challenges. Making sure that we're being transparent and that we're



constantly communicating with our hospitals and support departments and, for me, sharing best practices with my fellow COOs at the Texas Medical Center to try to be consistent with our policies and coordinate resources.

Dr. McCarthy: Internally, we're doing town halls with the executive leadership that are open to the entire organization. I send out a weekly newsletter, Dr. Callender sends out a weekly system update, and we have frequent updates with our board members. We're trying to push information out as fast as we can in a regular cadence, being careful not to overwhelm anyone.

Q: Any closing advice you'd like to offer?

Dr. McCarthy: My strongest advice for everybody out there right now is we've just got to keep following the safety guidelines a little longer. The vaccines are out. They're going to be in people's arms today and tomorrow. It will take a while to get everyone vaccinated. We've been patient for nine months now and we've got another handful to go, but there is truly a light at the end of the tunnel. It's not time to give up.

Ms. Asprec: What I'd like to say is that we have very strict safety protocols, and you really shouldn't delay your health care. If you need a mammogram, get a mammogram. If you need a colonoscopy, get a colonoscopy. If you are feeling like there's not something quite right, please do not sit at home because you may be having a heart attack or stroke.

My strongest advice for everybody out there right now is we've just got to keep following the safety guidelines a little longer.

Dr. McCarth

The interviews with Dr. McCarthy and Ms. Asprec took place Dec. 14 and 15, 2020, respectively.

A SHOT OF HOPE



Through a spectacular show of ingenuity, operational excellence and commitment to our community, Memorial Hermann opened a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination center in the parking lot at NRG on Jan. 28. In four short days, 14,500 aged 65 or older, conveniently received their first dose of the vaccine.

No one left their cars. The volunteers, 80 percent of whom were Memorial Hermann employees, administered the shots and monitored those vaccinated, both Memorial Hermann patients and area residents, for side effects for 15 minutes, and sent them happily on their way. Starting Feb. 12, the

VACCINATIONS BY THE NUMBERS*

Drive-thru clinics

14,500 at NRG in Houston

4,000 at an extra day at NRG in Houston

17,000 at Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land

7,000at Woodforest Bank
Stadium in
The Woodlands

2,160
volunteers including
Memorial Hermann staff,
Houston Livestock Show
& Rodeo, and others

96,354

Total vaccinations via drive-thrus and other Memorial Hermann locations

teams will do it all again as people return for their second dose.

This marked the first step in the large-scale vaccinations needed to eventually reach herd immunity, and a giant step in the right direction—getting us all past the COVID-19 pandemic.

The success of the initiative sparked expansion of the drive-thru program across the Greater Houston area, including Sugar Land and The Woodlands, providing shots of hope to more than 28,400 eligible people.



DOOR-TO-DOOR CARING

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital is fighting the spread of COVID-19 in one of Houston's hardest hit neighborhoods, one household at a time.

RAPID CASE GROWTH SPARKING CONCERN

The battle against COVID-19 has brought into stark relief the chasm between those who have the means to protect their health and those who do not.

While many of us may be tuned in to every update from the CDC or local leaders, others in our area are not.

Residents in some of Houston's most diverse communities have much higher rates of chronic disease as well as other social, economic and environmental barriers that keep them from maintaining good overall health, and are, as a

DEMOGRAPHIC STATS

47% lack health insurance

40% experience food insecurity

32% have high blood pressure

19% have diabetes

19% suffer from depression

result, also disproportionately affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Gulfton and Sharpstown neighborhoods, for example, are home to two of the top five ZIP codes in Harris County with the highest coronavirus positivity rates.

Many of the people in these communities are essential workers whose jobs put them in direct contact with the general public and do not allow the option to work from home.

They often live in multigenerational homes with school-aged children, middle-aged workers and elderly grand-parents under the same roof.

A lack of health insurance and health care access is widespread in these populations. That can mean waiting to seek care until an illness has turned into an emergency. In the case of COVID-19, that delay in care can be devastating.



The absence of regular health care also means an increase in the prevalence of chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. Again, these factors increase the chances of succumbing to the worst impacts of the coronavirus.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Memorial Hermann Health System continues to lead in the fight against the pandemic, proudly sharing breakthrough practices so that other care providers—and patients—across the country can benefit from lessons learned.

The teams at Memorial Hermann are also working directly in our communities to empower the most at-risk populations with the resources to protect themselves and avoid becoming patients in the first place.

In the case of southwest Houston, that support came in a very personal and intentionally back-to-basics way—door-to-door advocacy.

HOUSTON-AREA DONORS JOIN FORCES TO GET THE WORD OUT

Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, located in the middle of some of Houston's most at-risk communities

for contracting COVID-19, is determined to help neighbors lower the positive test rate, stay healthy and stay out of the hospital.

Partnering with key local management districts, teams from the hospital quickly deployed across southwest Houston, knocking on doors at apartment complexes and businesses to deliver supplies and information on how to stay safe from the virus.



We realized the best strategy was to meet the community locally and get the necessary resources and information directly into their hands.

Malisha Patel, Senior Vice President & CEO, Memorial Hermann Southwest and Sugar Land







Thanks to a shared investment of more than \$500,000 in funds and in-kind contributions from Memorial Hermann Health System and local donors, residents received cloth reusable masks, hand sanitizer and large bottles of 80% alcohol solution along with education packets in Spanish and English, which included the basics of effective COVID-19 resistance: to wear a face mask, maintain a physical distance of at least six feet whenever possible and minimize contact with people from outside the household, especially while indoors and in poorly ventilated areas.



The disproportionate impact that COVID-19 was having on the southwest Houston community early in the pandemic was astonishing. The investment and coordinated effort provided by Memorial Hermann at that time in terms of education and protective masks truly saved lives.

Murad Aslam, MD, Chair of Hospital Medicine, Memorial Hermann Southwest MEMORIAL HERMANN SOUTHWEST HOSPITAL DISTRIBUTED

75,200 cloth reusable masks

16,000 hand sanitizers

23,600 education packets in Spanish/English

13,900 quart-sized bottles of 80% alcohol solution Local businesses supported the effort by hanging campaign posters with tips on staying safe.

Through this accelerated grassroots effort, Memorial Hermann Southwest encouraged the people who so often take care of others to take care of themselves, too.

A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Memorial Hermann is dedicated to improving health across communities to create a better future for us all. The impact of overall community health has never been more evident than during this pandemic, and this work has never been more crucial.

The news on COVID-19 vaccines is promising, but we still have months to go before vaccinations reach the broader community. In the meantime, Memorial Hermann's boots-on-the-ground teams are going the extra mile to support us on that journey.

VIRTUAL PERFECTION

THE 2020 CIRCLE OF LIFE GALA RAISES SPIRITS AND \$2.6 MILLION

In line with a year of many firsts, our 2020 Circle of Life Gala, "PUMPED," went virtual in a big way. Donors took the changing venue, format and rescheduling in stride, a testament to the dedication and generosity our supporters have always shown to Memorial Hermann Foundation. Donors at the \$10,000 level received custom cheese and charcuterie boards from Central Market, and Tony's provided a lavish spread delivered to the homes of those who contributed \$25,000 or more.

Thank you to Elizabeth and Gary Petersen, who chaired this reimagined signature event with grace

and good humor as we honored our special friends, Alice and Keith Mosing, for whom The Fetal Center at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital is now named. We also owe special thanks to the patients of The Fetal Center who shared their stories of triumph in an inspiring tribute video.

And, of course, our most heartfelt appreciation goes to our donors for contributions of \$2.6 million to benefit Memorial Hermann Adult and Pediatric Heart and Vascular Services.







Yvonne Cormier, N



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Honorees Alice and Keith Mosing with their sons

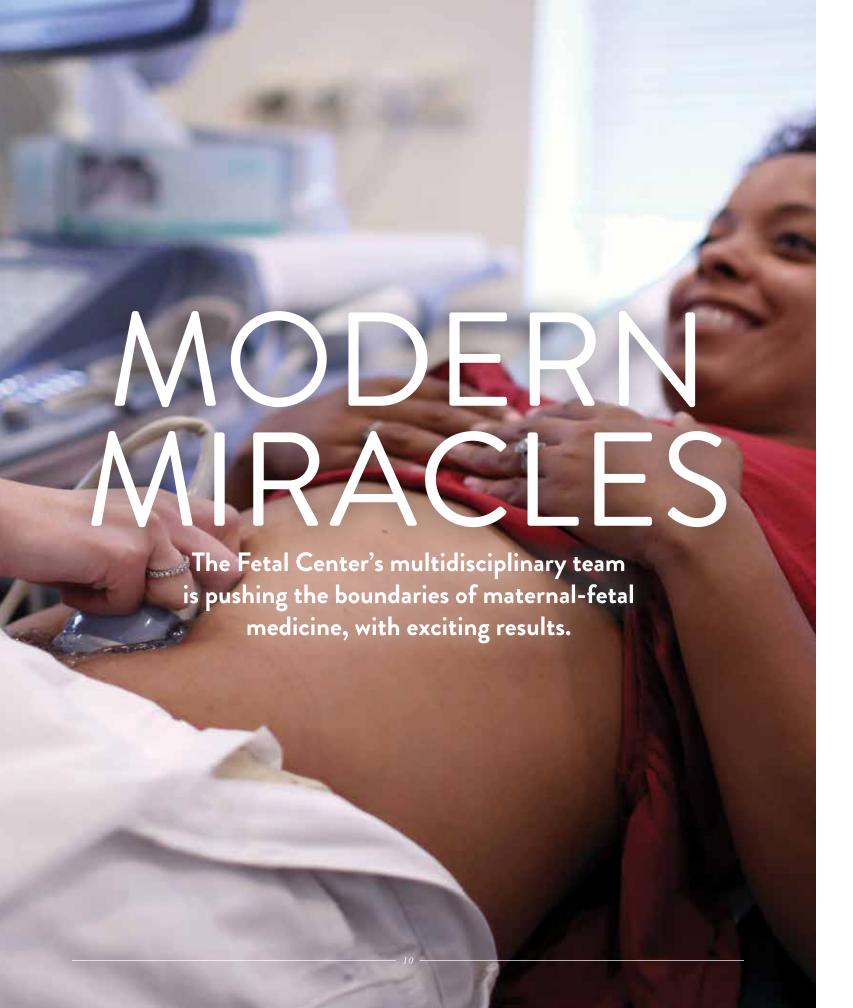


Bob and Ann Crovle



Co-Chairs Elizabeth and Gary Petersen

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A research leader, The Fetal Center at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital is one of only three U.S. centers to hold membership in all three key maternal-fetal research networks—the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network, the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network and the North American Fetal Therapy Network.

he Fetal Center began in 2011 as an initiative to develop an outstanding multispecialty group to serve the maternal-fetal needs of mothers, their families and referring physicians. Today, it's become a national referral center and international leader in fetal diagnosis, fetal intervention and comprehensive fetal care for infants with congenital anomalies or genetic abnormalities.

We meet these babies before they're babies. These families trust us to do what we do. So we take it very seriously. – Dr. Johnson

A United Nations of care

In collaboration with pediatric sub-specialists at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, the team offers patients a complete range of prenatal testing, including ultrasound imaging and fetal interventions with a coordinated program for mother and child before, during and after birth.

"What has really revolutionized our ability to make the fetus a patient is our ability to see the fetus," Dr. Johnson said.

The Fetal Center focuses on research and on providing evidence-based care and treatment, support, counseling and education. Dedicated nurse and scheduling coordinators make sure





Anthony Johnson, DO

Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences

Professor, Department of Pediatric Surgery

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

Co-Director, The Fetal Center, Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital



that all care remains centered around the patient.

"The advantage I have is this bridge that goes across to the hospital." Dr. Johnson says, referring to The Fetal Center's physical connection to Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital within Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center. That connection means mother and child are never far away from each other, whatever the situation. "When there is a problem, we have a conglomerate. It's kind of like the United Nations of fetal care."

Overachieving as a matter of course

The Fetal Center treats more than 50 complex fetal conditions. In the next few pages, you'll read about three of the more prevalent ones: Twin-twin transfusion syndrome, complications that result when identical twins share one placenta; spina bifida, when the spine and spinal cord don't form properly; and congenital diaphragmatic hernia, when an infant's diaphragm fails to close during prenatal development.

Centers treating twin-twin transfusion syndrome are considered experienced if they are doing 30-40 cases per year. At The Fetal Center, we're doing 75 to 80.

— Dr. Johnson

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.

SERENDIPITY

The Bicknell's journey to find help for their unborn baby's spina bifida led them to a happy place.

In the spring of 2017, Lindsay and Kendall Bicknell were living a nice life in Temple, Texas. They had careers they loved—she's a dermatologist; he's an ophthalmologist. They had a 15-month-old boy named Hays and a new baby on the way. Still, the faith-based couple heard God whispering to them that this pregnancy was going to be different.

An ultrasound at 18 weeks confirmed their fears



Their baby had spina bifida. A portion of her lower spinal cord was exposed. The long-term effects could be seizures, bowel and bladder control issues, and difficulty walking. She might also need

a special shunt to regulate her brain's fluid levels.

"It was gut-wrenching," said Lindsay. But she knew in her heart they would find their way through.

Early in-utero spinal repair offered hope. The Bicknells met with specialists at two prominent centers in Houston, including The Fetal Center. There, they met with Stephen A. Fletcher, DO, associate professor in the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, and his team.

Life-altering surgical decisions

After exhausting interviews, tests and scans, they chose The Fetal Center's approach, which involves two C-sections, one to close the spinal cord, the other to deliver their baby girl, Eliza. It would be difficult on Lindsay, but she accepted that.

"Memorial Hermann felt more comfortable to us, more like home," Lindsay said.

"They spent so much time with us, answering all our questions," Kendall added.

At 21 weeks, the results of a fetal MRI, extensive 3D ultrasounds, echocardiograms, EKGs and blood tests were more encouraging than expected. Eliza's brain growth was still an issue, but she was moving her legs a lot and showed no signs of club feet, which was very promising.

"While none of this is a guarantee, she may be able to walk!" Lindsay blogged to friends and family.

Praying for courage and life

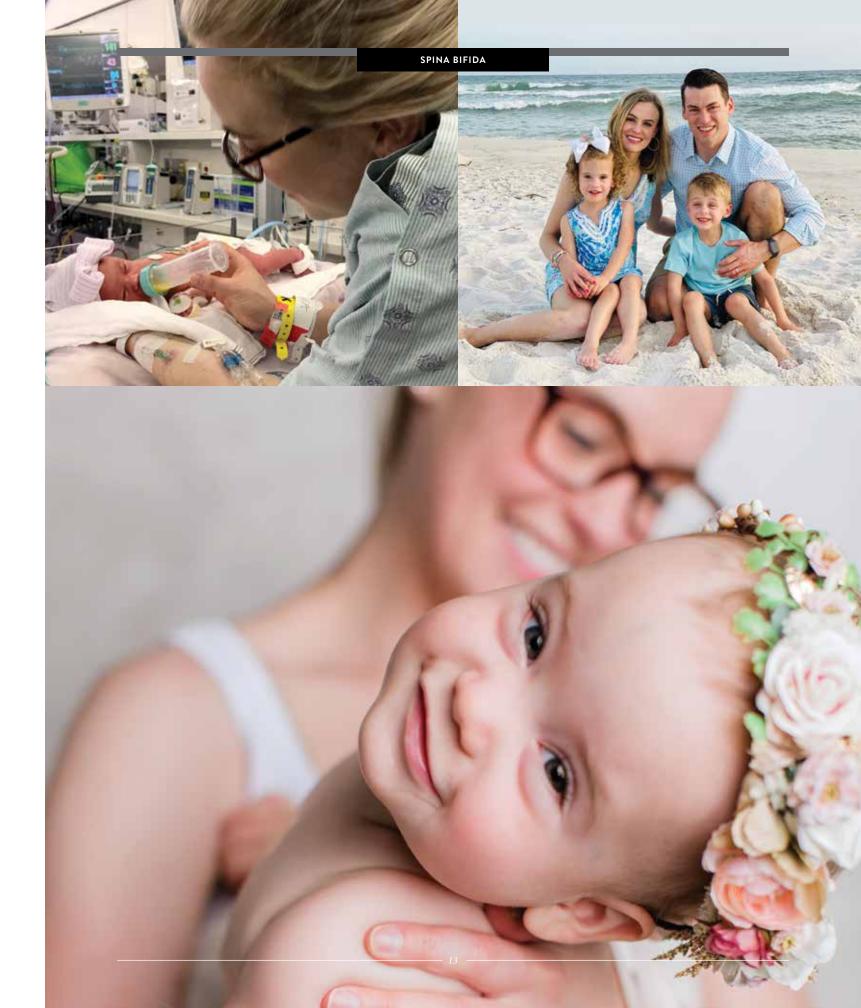
At a day shy of 25 weeks into Lindsay's pregnancy, Dr. Fletcher. and his elite surgical team performed their "Lucky #50" repair procedure on what Lindsay describes as the "single scariest day of her life."

The surgery went perfectly. Lindsay spent the next 77 days on bed rest. Eliza made steady progress.



On August 24, mere hours before Hurricane Harvey hit Houston, Eliza was "reborn," weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces. After 13 days in the neonatal ICU and 10 days recovering in Houston, all four

Bicknells headed home to Temple, eager to enjoy their miraculous "new normal" together, something they could hardly imagine when their journey began.



RAZZLE DAZZLE, ZOOM!

SEW)



This year's *Razzle Dazzle*, "We've Got You Covered," luncheon tugged at the heartstrings as it made an undeniable point crystal clear: Cancer doesn't wait for COVID-19. Guests joining the online event generously contributed more than \$500,000 in support of education and outreach programs at Memorial Hermann, such as the Bobetta C. Lindig Breast Cancer Center at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center.

Local stars shared their talents and stories of personal experiences with breast cancer through an opening video



featuring a fabulous pink gown by designer Chloe Dao as well as live performances from singer Nicole Hurst and Steve Tyrell and a celebrity cameo appearance by *Vogue's* André Leon Talley, all in honor of renowned physician, long-time supporter and fashionista in her own right, Chealci Eddins, a young mother diagnosed with breast cancer just before COVID-19 hit, told her story of being successfully treated at Memorial Hermann Cancer Center-Texas Medical Center. Tony Bradfield, who co-chaired the event with Lynn Wyatt, paid tribute to his mother, who lost her battle with breast cancer on his 25th birthday.



Ann Cazalot

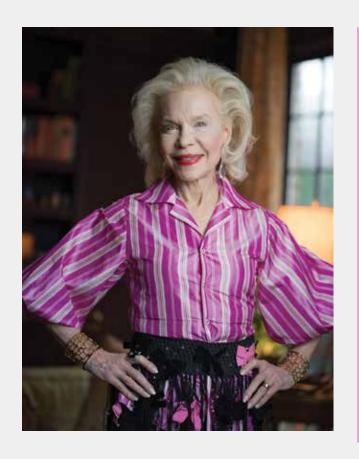




Bobetta Lindig and Terry Peterson

Caroline Brown

A STAR-STUDDED 30-MINUTE VIRTUAL AFFAIR GARNERS \$500,000 FOR BREAST CANCER DETECTION AND OUTREACH



LYNN WYATT

The life and times of a legendary Houston philanthropist and social icon

An homage to Vogue Videos' popular "73 Q's," Razzle Dazzle co-chair Lynn Wyatt invited virtual guests into her home to answer a slightly abbreviated 43 questions about her life, home, travels and fashion choices over the years. Among her many fascinating insights, we noticed a few recurring themes—gratitude, for one, along with an insatiable thirst for knowledge. "Always be learning," she advises. When we discovered that Lynn is a first-degree black belt, ready to protect us all, it was hardly surprising when she concluded the question-and-answer segment with a crisp and confident comment about the importance of breast cancer awareness and early detection.

"The sooner, the better."







e Vanderhider Sherelle Washington Suzie Johns



Cancer survivor Jacqueline Jacobs

Co-Chair Debra Cooper during Zoom event

Longtime volunteer and supporter Kelly Hull

IN THE PINK AND ON THE PORCH

MEMORIAL HERMANN'S VIRTUAL IN THE PINK OF HEALTH
RAISES MORE THAN \$500,000

he 20th anniversary of *In the Pink of Health*, typically an in-person event for 1,200 attendees, also pivoted to become a lively virtual event called "A Porch Affair," with guests staying at home to celebrate safely from their porch, patio or backyard. Through community sponsorships, a live auction via Zoom and a special program, this creative two-day event raised more than \$500,000 to support vital breast and ovarian cancer outreach initiatives.

While the approach for this annual gathering may have been novel, guests had little trouble adapting. Bidding during the live auction was fast and festive, with bidders competing against each other in the chat function on Zoom for items such as a year's supply of flowers or cookies for every holiday.

Kudos to event co-chairs Dee Gelsomini and Debra Cooper for their hard work and spectacular success under decidedly unusual circumstances. "We knew that cancelling our event was not an option because there are many who rely on our funds to support their work," Debra said.

Special thanks to all our wonderful donors, including the incredibly generous Tricia and Jack Futcher. Tricia has been a passionate champion of *In the Pink of Health* events since 2004.

"My thoughts on supporting Memorial Hermann Foundation are centered on how fortunate we feel as family members of cancer survivors.

Both our mothers have had cancer and survived. Jack's sister is battling it now. We understand the pain a family goes through when a diagnosis is made, but also the hope that fills one's heart when you have a wonderful team of doctors involved in the treatment of your loved one. Our goal is to make certain the best care is avail-



able to every person with a diagnosis of cancer, regardless of their financial situation.

Memorial Hermann has shown a great deal of compassion toward our community. It's up to those of us who are in a position to help to come forward and support others who lack financial stability or emotional support during a very difficult time. I truly believe when we combine the two forces—Memorial Hermann and community sponsors—amazing things happen."

FEEDING THE FRONT LINES

56,000+ meals

120 deliveries

15 Memorial Hermann campuses

restaurants and caterers







As the number of COVID-19 cases in our community continues to rise, our frontline heroes soldier on, day after day, to care for those affected. Memorial Hermann's Feeding the Front Lines initiative provides frontline staff with meals from a variety of local restaurants across the Houston area. Thank you to those who have generously donated to this cause, and, please, remember, it's not nearly over yet.

Let's continue to show our appreciation for these teams' extraordinary commitment.

Every gift of \$100 provides 10 meals. To donate, please visit memorialhermann.org/heromeals



Memorial Hermann Foundation

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VISION

Memorial Hermann Foundation

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



SAVE THE DATE Memorial Hermann Circle of Life Gala

> CHAIRS <u>Leticia</u> and Stephen Trauber

HONOREES
Beverly and Jim Postl
Phillips 66
Memorial Hermann Frontline Heroes

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

Plans are under way!
Visit circleoflifegala.org for up-to-date
details on a safe, fun and
unforgettable evening.

For More Information, Call 713.242.4450 or Email cathleen.fishel@memorialhermann.org

CIRCLEOFLIFEGALA.ORG