

UNDER THE

Rainbow



BATSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL/CENTERS FOR CHILDREN OF MISSISSIPPI



DESIGNING THE FUTURE

Architects, doctors and patients' families team to build the future of pediatrics at UMMC

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Furry Therapists

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Dr. Gail Megason

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Partners for Life

Growing.
So they can grow.

Dear Friends-

"Growing. So they can grow." Those words are the motto of the Children's of Mississippi capital campaign, but they're more than just a slogan. They speak to the heart of our efforts at Batson Children's Hospital and clinics throughout the state.

Giving Mississippi's children the best chance to grow up is the reason we do what we do. And we can't think of a better cause.

Patient outcomes at Batson Children's Hospital place Children's of Mississippi at the forefront of pediatric care in America, but they save lives in a facility that has been outgrown. Growing is what Children's of Mississippi must do if we are to fulfill our calling. The needs are too great and the lives too precious for us to do less.

One of the most ambitious capital campaigns in the state's history will transform pediatric care in Mississippi by funding the construction of a new children's tower with more space for our neonatal intensive care unit, more surgical suites and pediatric ICU beds, a pediatric imaging center, a larger Children's Heart Center and a new clinic to put pediatric outpatient care in one location.

It will be a bricks-and-mortar testament to what we work toward every day: Mississippi's children having the best opportunity for happy, healthy lives.

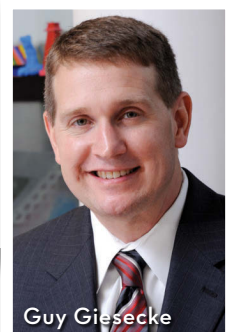
With gratitude,

Frederick "Rick" Barr, M.D.
Suzan B. Thames Professor
and Chair of Pediatrics

Guy Giesecke, D.H.A.
Chief Executive Officer,
Children's of Mississippi



Dr. Rick Barr



Guy Giesecke



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Pet therapy dogs help patients heal.



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Partners for Life

Junior League of Jackson has long history of support for UMMC.



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On the cover: A trio of Batson Children's Hospital patients, **Kaylen Crayton, Josh Sexton and Kingston Murriel**, cheer on plans for future Children's of Mississippi growth on the UMMC campus.

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Inspiring Hope, Saving Lives

Individuals and organizations making a difference in our patients' lives

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Request an appointment at mississippikids.org or by calling (888) 815-2005.

A Growing FUTURE

As Batson Children's Hospital's current home turns 20, plans for new construction are underway

By Annie Oeth

If you were going to build a place where children are healed and lives are saved, where would you start? How would it look? Would there be bright colors and plenty of sunlight? What would be included? How can a building be part of a care team? Those were a few of the questions asked when leaders at Children's of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Medical Center began to look at the critical needs in pediatric care at UMMC.



A healthy history

Batson Children's Hospital, built with \$7 million in philanthropic funds, opened its doors two decades ago. Since May 1997, thousands of children have been restored to health inside those red, yellow and blue walls and corridors lined with framed children's artwork.

At the time of its opening, Batson Children's Hospital stood tall as a tribute to progress made since 1968, when UMMC first opened a hospital for children, and since 1955, when Dr. Blair E. Batson arrived to serve as the Medical Center's first chair of pediatrics.

The growth of Children's of Mississippi, which encompasses Batson Children's Hospital, all pediatric care at UMMC and a network of specialty clinics around the state, can be traced through one building project after another, each additional room a space dedicated to medical excellence and compassionate care.

New growth, new needs

But just as children outgrow blue jeans and sneakers, Children's of Mississippi has outgrown its space.

A hundred babies are cared for in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) that should hold about 30 babies. Surgical suites are at capacity. Imaging demands call for a new center for pediatric patients. More clinic visits mean a new space is needed for medical professionals to improve the health and lives of Mississippi's children.

"We have significant needs to address," said Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's of Mississippi. "It's very difficult to say which one is the top priority, because they all are critical needs. That's why this project is so large."

The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, a volunteer-driven philanthropic effort with a goal to raise \$100 million, was announced April 25, 2016. Since then, more than \$50 million has been raised for the expansion project.

Highlights of the project include:

- A new NICU with private rooms
- More private rooms in the pediatric intensive care unit
- Mississippi's first imaging center designed exclusively for children
- Additional, and larger, surgical suites
- A new home for pediatric clinics adjacent to Batson Children's Hospital.

"This is a big project for UMMC and for the state," said Travis Bradburn, chief development officer for UMMC. "The size of the project, though, is dwarfed by the impact it will have on the future of pediatric health care in Mississippi and for families."

Said Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and chair of pediatrics at UMMC: "It will determine the health of our state's future, because our children are our future, and they deserve the best care in the best setting possible."

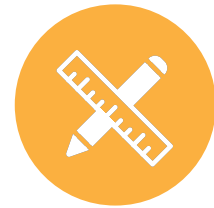
The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi is chaired by Sanderson Farms CEO and board chairman Joe Sanderson and his wife Kathy. Dr. LouAnn Woodward, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, launched the campaign in 2016 with the announcement of a \$10 million personal

BIG GOALS



\$180 MILLION:

Amount needed to complete construction of updates and expansions.



300,000:

Number of square feet to be added. The current square footage of Batson Children's Hospital is 254,400.



SURGICAL SUITES:

10 surgical suites to be added to Batson Children's Hospital.



NICU BEDS:

88 private NICU beds are proposed with the expansion.



DEDICATED ELEVATORS:

UMMC currently has no dedicated patient elevators.

gift from the Sandersons, above their already significant support through the Sanderson Farms Championship.

The Sandersons' gift represents their love of Mississippi and deep commitment to the health of all children in the state, Woodward said.

"We believe that the hospital is at maximum capacity and needs to be improved in several vital areas," Joe Sanderson said. "The hospital is beyond capacity in the neonatal intensive care unit and is badly in need of additional space. Children have to be transported to the main facility at UMMC for imaging procedures because of a lack of equipment at Children's. Children sometimes need sedation. And further, there needs to be additional and enhanced facilities for pediatric surgeries, particularly cardiac surgery." One of the state's leading businessmen, Joe Sanderson said a state-of-the-art children's hospital would draw the best employees to the state. "Knowing the state has resources to care for children of their employees would certainly be a comfort to any business or family considering Mississippi as a potential home."

Building for tomorrow

When a child is cared for at Children's of Mississippi, it is a joint effort involving everyone from parents to physicians. The planning and design of expansions of pediatric care at UMMC is no different, requiring that patients' families, medical professionals and staff members work with architects to create a children's hospital ready for the challenges of today as well as tomorrow.

"When we build, we have to build the hospital of the future and not for the future," said Patrick Casey, executive director of planning, design and construction at UMMC. "What that means is that we don't want it to look dated in 10 to 20 years. We're analyzing data to see what our future needs will be. We need to do much more than make our facilities at Children's of Mississippi current; we want to accommodate the future."

With that in mind, rooms in the new clinic portion of the expansion will be modular, with the flexibility of changing purposes as circumstances change. Four clinical rooms, for example, could be changed into one imaging room, Casey said. "It's like Legos."

The building work began with the formation of teams, Casey said. "We started by assembling the best teams to build and plan and set up executive oversight for governance so decisions can be made and the right people have the right information at the right time."

UMMC leaders are familiar with building, given the numerous construction projects on campus including the new School of Medicine set to open this summer, but Children's of Mississippi has engaged experts from across the country to ensure that the pediatric expansion will be smooth as well as far-sighted.

Locally, the Jackson architecture firm of Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons is working with the Omaha, Nebraska-based firm HDR.



Children's of Mississippi seeks to touch the lives of all children in Mississippi, including **Madalyn Davenport**, who is featured in literature for The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi. Photo by Robby Followell, followell photography

A team effort

From there, the process of gleaning ideas from those who will provide and receive care, learn and train, work in and maintain the new facilities began. "We talked to doctors," Casey said, "but also clinicians, administrators and support staff. We've spent a lot of time gathering information."



Cayson Sanderford is the first child to have all three surgeries to repair hypoplastic left heart syndrome in Mississippi. The Children's Heart Center at Batson and its patients will benefit from plans included in The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi. Photo by Robby Followell, followell photography

Among those on the team are patients' families. "This is really important, as a parent," said Lauren Clay, director of operations at UMMC's Office of Development, and mother of John Pearson Clay, who was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. The heart defect and the care their son required had her and husband Wesley at John Pearson's side in the PICU during much of the five months of his short life.

"Parents sleep outside the ICU, and, in effect, live there in the waiting room while their children are in the PICU. They are going through one of the hardest situations anyone could go through. We should show them more hospitality..."

-Lauren Clay

"Parents sleep outside the ICU, and, in effect, live there in the waiting room while their children are in the PICU," she said. "They are going through one of the hardest situations anyone could go through. We should show them more hospitality, have food closer to them,

access to coffee, a washer and dryer they could use. We need more things like this. They would make a huge difference in the lives of our patients' families."

Another concern shared by parents and hospital leaders alike is the matter of elevators. The current elevators at Batson Children's Hospital are shared by visitors and patients, laundry and gurneys, and are barely able to accommodate the space needed when a care team transports a patient.

Casey said, as part of the construction, there will be an "on-stage, off-stage" concept, with some parts of care, such as the removal of medical waste or transport of laundry to be washed, done out of the view of patients, family members and visitors. The result of the design, inspired by the service at Disney theme parks, will be quiet areas where patients, visitors and staff can focus on healing.

Another key area where UMMC leaders and parents agree is in the importance of private rooms for neonatal and pediatric intensive care units. "For parents to be able to stay in the room with their babies is huge," said Clay.

The designs are evidence-based, said Casey. "Research shows that when a family is engaged in their child's care, the results are better, and there is less time spent in the hospital. It leads to improved outcomes."

Thankful family makes \$1 million gift to campaign

By Amanda Manning Markow



The Triplett siblings made the gift to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi in part because of their personal experiences with UMMC. From left: **Lou Ann Woidtke, Suzy Fuller, Felton** and **Liz Walker, Diane Holloway, and Chip Triplett**.

Thanks to many personal experiences with the University of Mississippi Medical Center over the years, the Triplett family recently made a \$1 million gift to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi.

One of five Triplett siblings, Liz Walker may have the closest ties to UMMC. She worked as a pediatric oncology social worker for 13 years and has since stayed involved through Friends of Children's Hospital and the UMMC Candlelighters, a group that offers support for families with children undergoing cancer treatment. Her 10-year-old son, Felton, is also a Batson Children's Hospital patient.

When Felton was 4, the Walkers started a new journey with UMMC. "Felton has mitochondrial myopathy," said Walker. "He started walking on his tip toes out of the blue. His pediatrician sent him to a physical therapist, and then we saw Dr. Lawrence Haber, a pediatric orthopaedist."

Mitochondrial myopathies are a group of neuromuscular diseases caused by damages to mitochondria, the intracellular structures that produce energy. Felton now sees several specialists at UMMC, including Dr. V. V. "Veda" Vedanarayanan in neurology, Dr. Wade Shrader in orthopaedics, Dr. Jennifer Shores in cardiology, Dr. Phyllis Bishop in gastroenterology, Dr. Mark Reed in otolaryngology, Dr. Nils Mungan in ophthalmology and Corinne Sampson in physical therapy, to monitor his disease.

Felton's many experiences at UMMC helped inspire the family to make their recent gift to the campaign.

"I have a passion for the Children's Hospital, especially since it's Mississippi's only one, and we have seen first-hand the benefits of having wonderful physicians in our backyard," said Walker. "My siblings have also seen what the hospital has done for Felton and others, and they wanted to give back so the care can continue and improve."

The gift was made through the family's foundation, the Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Faser Triplett Foundation, named in honor of their parents, Faser, the first board-certified allergist in Mississippi, and his wife Jackie.

Liz's brother Chip Triplett agreed. "We would support anything involved with the children's hospital."

"The tour (of Children's of Mississippi) was great, and eye-opening. It gave an overall view of the wonderful job they do with the resources they have. But by enlarging the NICU and pediatric critical care, it will be better for families going to see their children, and will help with some crowding issues they are currently facing," said Triplett.

"My parents have always instilled in us giving back and sharing when you can," said Walker.

UMMC philanthropist among Children's of Mississippi campaign supporters

By Amanda Manning Markow



Philanthropist **Robbie Hughes** has strengthened her support of UMMC with a significant contribution to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi.

Robbie Hughes recently made a generous gift to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, specifically to the Children's of Mississippi \$100 million capital campaign.

In early 2015, Hughes and her late husband Dudley made a gift of \$2 million to endow the faculty chair for the Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia (MIND) Center, a cause near to their hearts since Dudley suffered from dementia. Hughes has requested the amount of the gift to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi be kept confidential.

During their first involvement with UMMC and the MIND Center, Hughes met Dr. James Keeton, former vice chancellor of UMMC and dean of the School of Medicine. Hughes stayed in touch with Keeton and others at UMMC, and eventually took a tour of the hospital and then Children's of Mississippi.

"After I found out the mission of the hospital and became acquainted with the responsible people, I was so impressed with the excellent caliber of care here," said Hughes. "Dr. LouAnn Woodward, the vice chancellor, is wonderful; being around her, I can tell how much she cares. It's not just a job for her.

"And Dr. Keeton, well, I'm impressed by not only what he has done for the hospital but also his outlook on life. He's interested in what he's doing and the success of the hospital. It makes me want to support UMMC because I learned the money is carefully allocated and put to good use," said Hughes.

The tour of Batson Children's Hospital made an even deeper impact on Hughes.

"To know there were cardiac surgeons operating on teeny, tiny babies blew me away. I was impressed with the degree of caring they showed, and I wanted to be a part of it," she said.

Keeton has become good friends with Hughes over the past few years, and the two share a mutual admiration for each other. "Her quest for knowledge is amazing. She wants to know everything," said Keeton, adding, "After multiple visits, she told me she was going to do something (for the Children's campaign), and I had no doubt in my mind that she would and she would do it in her time."

As a part of her tour and subsequent meetings, Hughes learned about the plans for the new addition to Children's of Mississippi, which was further affirmation that her gift would be put to good use. "I was really bothered that the children had to be moved to the main hospital for imaging, and I'm thrilled to know about the imaging and surgery units planned for the new hospital. I also know that the present neonatal unit is crowded, so that new part will be just fabulous."

"We are very lucky to have a person like her who is committed to us and now also to the children of Mississippi," said Keeton. "I haven't met many people in my life who care as much as she does."

Hughes might argue that her husband Dudley, who died in 2015, cared about philanthropy as much as she does. "Dudley would be extremely pleased to know about this gift - that we were able to do this. He was always helping people, and his daddy was the same way," said Hughes.



Lauren and Wesley Clay shared their views with planners to improve experiences for patients and their families. Photo by Robby Followell, followell photography

Building better care

Children's of Mississippi is relentlessly focused on improved outcomes for its patients.

"We want the most up-to-date facility and tools to provide better care for Mississippi's children," said Casey.

Creation of the space where children's health will be nurtured is underway. "Now we're at the design stage," Casey said. "We've completed the schematic designs and are working on design development."

First to be built will be the critical care tower, which will include a larger and updated NICU and PICU, new surgical suites and a pediatric imaging center. Next will come an outpatient clinic and a parking garage, Casey said.

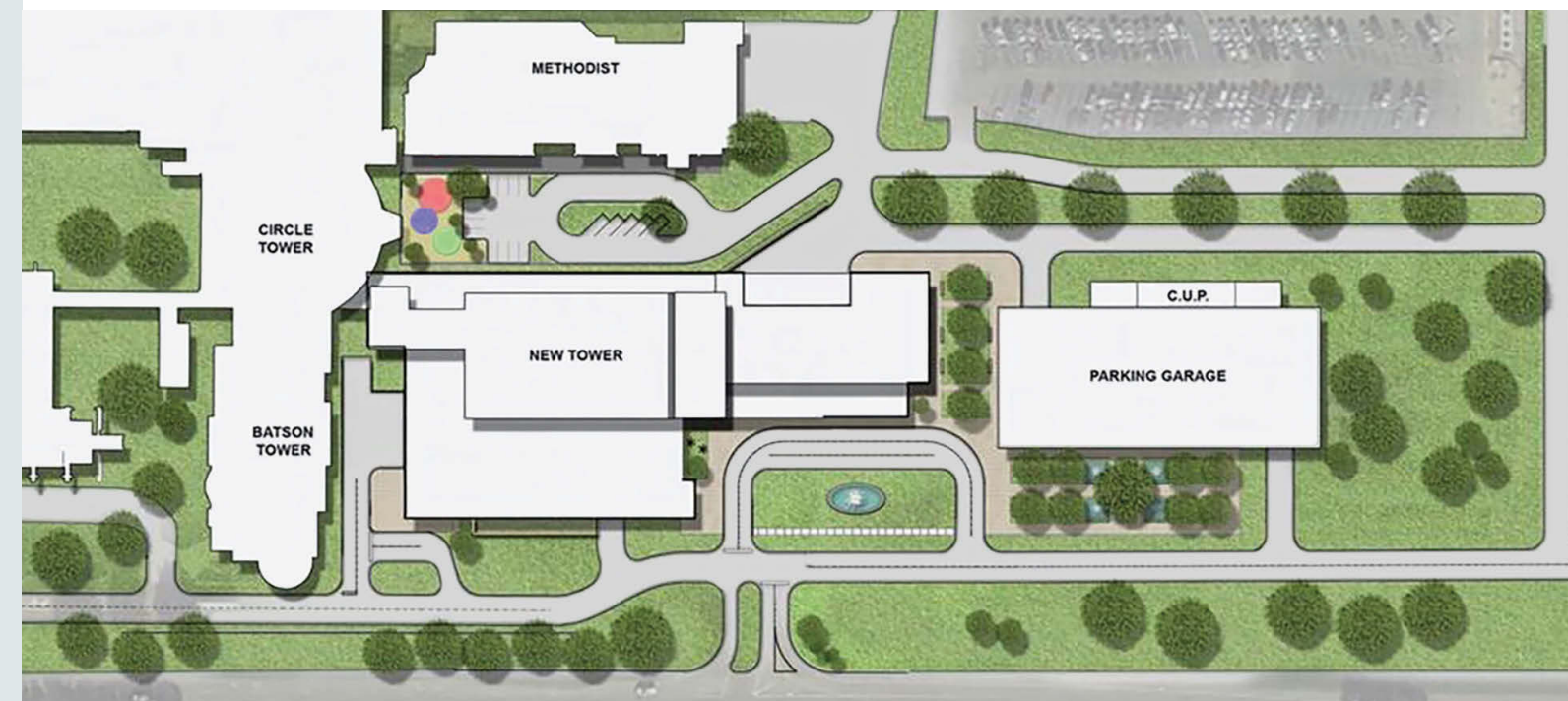
When construction crews go to work, they'll be building while Batson Children's Hospital is caring for patients, as it has since its beginning.

"The challenge is to build on a campus that is running 24/7," Casey said. Building will have to go on while outpatients visit the Eli Manning Children's Clinics, children visit the Emergency Department and come to Batson Children's Hospital for surgery.

Meanwhile, volunteers working on behalf of The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi continue to raise funds to finance the construction project, among the most ambitious pediatrics initiative in Mississippi's history.

The Sandersons are optimistic the \$100 million goal will be reached because the campaign's mission is too vital not to be realized.

"Kathy and I feel like Children's of Mississippi is the most important and most worthy charitable endeavor in the state at this time," Joe Sanderson said. "This project is most important to the state and to the children of Mississippi now and for years to come."



New construction at Batson Children's Hospital will face Woodrow Wilson Drive and will be separated from Methodist Rehabilitation Center by a landscaped drive.



Hannah Abercrombie of McHenry visits with therapy dog **Honey**, a red poodle, while at Batson Children's Hospital.

FURRY

THERAPISTS

By Annie Oeth

Call them kids' best friends.

Lyla, Honey and Uno, the canine pet therapy team at Batson Children's Hospital, help patients forget about being ill or injured for a while. When these dogs, ranging from a Shetland sheepdog to a Labrador-chow mix, stop in, they offer children the healing power of petting a dog.

That power, it turns out, is fairly potent. The simple act of petting a dog can lower stress and blood pressure and help humans from children to adults make connections among each other as well as with the canine.

Alan Beck, director of the Center of the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University, said even a brief visit with a therapy dog can have an effect on young patients.

"Even a short interaction a dog has a relaxation response," Beck said. "We demonstrated a small but consistent decrease in blood pressure, and facial expressions indicated relaxed features. The effect is probably stimulated for two reasons. We are genetically coded to find reward with contact – gentle touch among welcomed partners lowers blood pressure – and we view dogs as members of the family."



Aubrey Thomas of Columbus and daughter **Brookelle Perrigin** visit with **Uno**, a pet therapy dog who visits Batson Children's Hospital regularly.

Kamiya Wofford of Cedar Bluff greets **Lyla**, one of the pet therapy dogs at Batson Children's Hospital at a fall festival on Halloween.

LYLA

Furry friends such as Lyla, a 7-year-old Shetland sheepdog, can be a distraction for kids who need something to take their minds off being in the hospital. "Anything that helps you focus your attention on the present relaxes," Beck said.

It worked for Maggie Jim of Philadelphia, a shy 4-year-old who broke into a smile at the sight of Lyla, who, on that mid-October afternoon, was wearing a tulle Halloween collar that framed her soft brown and white face. Soon Maggie was petting the friendly dog and telling stories of her own dog back home.

"This is why we do this," said Susan Raphael of Madison, who has brought therapy dogs to hospital patients in the Jackson area for 14 years, starting with another Shetland sheepdog, Molly. She now brings Lyla, who she describes as "gentle and ladylike."

Raphael's Shetland sheepdog puppy, Piper, "has a completely different personality," she said. "We call her 'Hyper Piper.'" Plans are for playful Piper to get certification as a pet therapy dog when she grows up.

HONEY

Alvin and Nancy Youngblood of Byram bring Honey to Batson each month.

An impeccably groomed red poodle who loves to snack on Cheerios and Lucky Charms, Honey always gets ooohs and ahhs from those who meet her.

"We love coming," said Nancy Youngblood. "We get more out of the visits than the children do."

That's saying quite a bit, as patients find time spent petting and playing with Honey as sweet as her name.

After seeing how much her mother enjoyed pet therapy while a nursing home resident, "I knew I wanted to do this," she said.

UNO

Nancy Speed of Yazoo County felt the same way as Nancy Youngblood when she heard about pet therapy at a dog owners' event.

That her adopted dog, Uno, needed some manners didn't deter her.

"This," said Speed, "could only be from God."

Uno got a dose of divine help as a puppy. A Yazoo County pastor, Dr. David White of Black Jack Baptist Church, had found her abandoned by a Dumpster and took her in, but the Labrador Retriever in her showed out in well-meaning rambunctiousness.

The church is across the street from the church cemetery, and the parsonage, Uno's new home, was nearby. "She started dragging home the flower arrangements from the cemetery," White said.

Then there was the matter of romping into the sanctuary and jumping on churchgoers to greet them with a wagging tail and muddy paws.

Uno, the deacons said, had to go.

"He knew that I love dogs, so he called me," Speed said.

"Uno is the kindest dog in the world," White said, "but she was more than we could handle. We still visit with her and love her, but visiting patients at Batson Children's Hospital is her calling."

Once the idea of the friendly, energetic Uno becoming a pet therapy dog took hold, the training began. Speed's preferred method of positive reinforcement with treats was a big hit - Uno likes treats very much.

Patients enjoy the now-well-trained Uno, who entertains them by fetching a dumbbell toy as many times as they will throw it.

"The kids just love her," said Speed. "It doesn't take much to entertain them. They're just happy to pet her, and she's happy to let them."

"Dogs," she said, "are wonderful healers." 🐾

"Even a short interaction with a dog has a relaxation response."

Alan Beck, director of the Center of the Human-Animal Bond at Purdue University



While visiting Batson Children's Hospital, **Baker Cline** of Brandon gets a greeting from **Uno**.

(Continued on page 13)

happily ever after

featuring
PAISLEY BENSON

Surgery gives Paisley Benson healthy start

By Annie Oeth

What was one of Kristie Benson's happiest days was also one of her scariest.

She and husband Patrick of Florence weren't expecting any health problems when daughter Paisley was born Oct. 1, 2015, but within 10 minutes of her birth, they were told she'd need surgery quickly to repair a number of birth defects, among them digestive system problems and kidneys that were enlarged and putting pressure on her lungs. Her right lung had already collapsed.



Paisley Benson is an energetic toddler who loves pageants, ruffles and bows.

"It was one of the scariest days of our lives," said Benson. "We had to place our little girl's life into the hands of people we didn't even know and pray that God would watch over her and the doctors."

Paisley was transferred to the NICU at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and was placed on a ventilator. She then got a feeding tube, drain and catheter. At less than 12 hours old, she was taken into surgery at Batson Children's Hospital for a colostomy, her first surgery.

The Benson family found that, during Paisley's first surgery and recovery, they had a support network.

"The nurses were amazing, and now we consider them and the doctors to be like family," Benson said. "I learned a lot while I was there so I would be able to properly care for Paisley at home, and I felt overwhelmed at times. The NICU team was always there to help me when I thought it was too much. The doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners made our stay so much easier."

Paisley stayed in the NICU for a month. "That's not long for many babies," she said, "but it felt like forever to us. I cried every day going to and from the hospital. Remaining strong was difficult for my husband and me, but it was necessary. We also have a 6-year-old, Hunter, and he didn't understand why he couldn't see his sister."

Now a busy toddler, Paisley participates in pageants, enjoys playing with her brother and loves ruffles, bows and all things girly.

She continues to see Children's of Mississippi specialists, as most surgeries are in her future. "The NICU was only the beginning of our journey," Benson said. "Paisley will need more surgeries, so we still have a long road ahead of us."

Dr. Barry Berch, associate professor of surgery at UMMC and a pediatric general and thoracic surgeon at Batson Children's Hospital, said correcting Paisley's birth defects involves very complex surgeries in the future, "but she's doing very well. She should live a long, happy, healthy life."

Being close to home and near their Children's of Mississippi care team is a comfort, Benson said. "My family and I are forever grateful for the outstanding care Paisley has received from the team of doctors and nurses at Batson."



Paisley Benson with mother, **Kristie**, of Florence.

Standing by the art-lined hall near the entrance of the Children's Cancer Center at Batson Children's Hospital, **Dr. Gail Megason** is known for her compassion as well as her candor when dealing with patients and their families.

DR. GAIL MEGASON

Fond of families, mysteries and making discoveries, Children's Cancer Center director sleuthing for cure

By Gary Pettus

If the bill for services rendered to Christopher Stamps Jr. had been completely accurate, said his father, it would have said his family owed this much to Dr. Gail Megason: "Everything."

Anyway, that's the view of Christopher Stamps Sr., whose older son, now 7, is free of the pain, swelling, vision problems, infections and more associated with sickle cell anemia, thanks to the skills of the Children's Cancer Center team led by Megason, professor of pediatrics and clinic director.

"This hospital, this state and these children are fortunate to have her," Stamps said.



In this December 2010 photo, **Dr. Owen B. Evans**, then-chair of the Department of Pediatrics, is joined by **Dr. Jeanette Pullen**, professor emeritus of pediatrics, center, and **Dr. Gail Megason**, who was named the D. Jeanette Pullen Endowed Professor of Pediatrics Executive Vice Chair.

The Department of Pediatrics, which includes the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, has had Megason since her return to the Medical Center in 1994; from that point on, the department has recorded about 200 pediatric bone marrow transplants; that number for 2016 alone was 10.

Because Megason and her team make a living pursuing and foiling a killer, it should surprise no one that the Gulfport native fills some of her spare time absorbing murder mysteries and tracking down antiques - mostly for the challenge of the hunt.

More surprising, possibly, is the fact that the woman who works so hard to fight cancer in young patients had once vowed she would never be a pediatrician.

The great equalizer

She was born in Gulfport, but her military family also made temporary homes in, among other places, Idaho, Texas, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and even Europe.

Still, she is a child of the Gulf Coast, an alumnus of Gulfport East - the former name of Gulfport High School - and frequent visitor to Mississippi's shore, where many of her aspirations were born as well, including her desire to become a physician.

That ambition was also influenced by the career choice of her older brother, Dr. William Owen, now a psychiatrist in Laurel.

"He told me, 'If I had been a Roto-Rooter Man, you would be one, too,'" she recalled.

But during her freshman year at Mississippi College, she was "sidetracked," she said, by love. She married, moved to Germany and had a daughter named Candy.

Later, back in the United States, she started her life over as a single mom. Alone with a child, she "lacked the confidence" it takes to apply to medical school, she said.

Instead, at the University of Southern Mississippi, she enrolled in nursing school, where her organic chemistry professor pulled her aside and suggested that her original dream did not deserve to die.

Encouraged, she started her first year of medical school the year her daughter started first grade. "Medical school is the great equalizer," Megason said. "Everyone there is smart. But when you're young, you think you can do anything."

She did it, of course, helped along by her parents, who supported her; a fellow medical student, who sometimes babysat for her; and her daughter, who occasionally labored outside the Gross Anatomy Lab

on her math and English homework, deconstructing or classifying her subject, while, inside the lab, her mother did the same.

That early exposure to medical school ambience did not color too much the career choice of Candy Jones, now 40. On the other hand, as an accountant, she is working in a profession that, like her mother's, was dominated by men not so long ago.

Even then, when Megason finished medical school, in 1985, "women were supposed to be pediatricians," she said. "And I was going to break that stereotype."

In love again

On her first rotation in medical school, she met a group of people known for healing themselves. They are resilient, and beyond long-suffering, she said.

"They will let you do terrible things to them and then hug your neck." They are children.

That first rotation was in pediatrics. "And I fell in love with it," she said.

The would-be pathologist changed her mind about becoming a pediatrician. In fact, over the years, she became ever more engaged in the specialty, at one point serving for 10 years as the residency program director in pediatrics.

"I saw those residents change when they became parents themselves," she said. "They saw the parents' side of things as well; you can appreciate the angst parents have."

"It's amazing how much better pediatricians they are once they have children."

For her part, Megason expanded her practice above "runny noses and obesity." Her decision to take on hematology/oncology - treating cancer and blood disorders - was personal; it was about family.

Her mother-in-law had been diagnosed with a blood disorder that portends cancer. She eventually died of the disease, but Megason had been inspired by the skills of Dr. Joe Files, now a professor emeritus who directed the Division of Hematology at the time.

She was also swayed by the work of several other physicians she admired, including Dr. Jeanette Pullen, also a current professor emeritus, who was leading pediatric hematology then.

Megason eventually inherited Pullen's job and, in a way, her name. Today, she is the Jeanette D. Pullen Endowed Professor of Pediatrics Executive Vice Chair and is the director of pediatric hematology/oncology.

"I spent my young, formative faculty years under her direction," Megason said. "When she retired (in 2005), I said I didn't want the job; her shoes were too big to fill."

"But she's been fabulous. She's always available to give me advice when I ask for it."

Pullen, who is actually partially retired, praised Megason's training - including a six-month visiting



Dr. Gail Megason shares a laugh with patient **Sydney Holfield** of Laurel.

professorship in bone marrow transplant at Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in 1994.

This expertise enabled Megason and her staff to give new life, so far, to 16 sickle cell anemia patients through bone marrow transplants, the only known cure for the disease.

"She's very conscientious," Pullen said, describing Megason as a leader and physician. "She has a good sense of humor, and one needs that."

"You follow families for a long time in this work. That makes it even harder when a child doesn't make it. But you feel that you've helped them through it. And now,



Christopher Stamps, right, now 7, and **Cameron Stamps**, now 2 1/2, enjoy sharing time together, as they're doing in this photo taken in November. In August 2015, Cameron shared his bone marrow with his brother.

“She’s a plain speaker, a straight talker; and that’s refreshing. She’s also laser-focused. Every time I talk with her, she brings it back to one thing: how to better take care of kids with cancer.”

Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and chair of pediatrics at UMMC

the overall cure rate is 85 percent for ALL (acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most prevalent type of leukemia among children), and greater than 95 percent for low-risk patients.

“So, many do better who wouldn’t have not so long ago.”

Pediatric oncologists do have a lot of successes these days, said Dr. Rick Barr, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

“They are also special people; they realize that even when patients don’t survive, they make a difference. They make a difference as far as how these children live out their lives.”

Blood brothers

Soon after completing her residency, Megason entered private practice, where she encountered a world of office politics and occasional personality clashes.

“Lord, I just wanted to take care of children,” she said.

After leaving that practice, she returned to the Medical Center and Batson Children’s Hospital, where she has been able to treat the children who need her most, such as Christopher Stamps.

Born with sickle cell anemia, a painful blood disorder that disproportionately attacks African Americans, Christopher endured the disease for five years as his family searched in vain for a donor match. They found him when Christopher’s brother Cameron was born, in July 2014.

But, not until after his first birthday would Cameron be old enough to face the rigors of the bone marrow harvest. So, in the late summer of 2015, Christopher, now 6, got his transplant.

“It changed my son’s life forever,” said Latasha Pusha Stamps, mother of the two boys. “Now, Christopher

has a chance to be a regular child; he’s able to participate in sports, and we don’t have to be worried about him being around other children and getting sick.

“And through it all, Dr. Megason was kind and understanding; she took the time to explain things to us. Our concerns were not brushed off. She has a very good spirit about her. You trust her.”

This approachability makes her a good physician and leader, Barr said. “She’s a plain speaker, a straight talker; and that’s refreshing.

“She’s also laser-focused. Every time I talk with her, she brings it back to one thing: how to better take care of kids with cancer.”

Megason’s compassion extends beyond the boundaries of the Medical Center and outside her regular schedule. She has directed and helped raise money for Camp Rainbow, the five-day summer getaway for children with cancer and for those who have survived it.

She has been a force for Candlelighters, which offers comfort and support for the families of children who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Among the most memorable for her is Mark Ely, whose cancer was detected when he was a month shy of his third birthday. He was nearly 16 when he died, but his mom remains active in supporting the work of Children’s of Mississippi, Megason said.

“It was a long, hard time for her. But we are family for many of these parents. Other people don’t know what to say, and don’t bring it up.

“It may be 15 years after the death of their children, but they know they can come here and hug our neck and tell stories. We remember their children with them, because they don’t want anybody to forget.” 🌈



On hand for the Neonatal Cradle's christening party were, from left, **Helen Dalehite**, UMMC vice chancellor **Dr. Norman C. Nelson**, contest winner **Grady May**, **Alabel Liles** and **Judy Porter**.



Junior League of Jackson 2016-2017
President **Melanie Hataway**

PARTNERS

For life

Junior League of Jackson has

long history of support for

UMMC and its youngest patients

By Amanda Manning Markow



From rocking babies to raising millions of dollars to fight childhood cancer, the Junior League of Jackson has worked for decades to help the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Since its inception in 1941, members of the nonprofit group have continuously sought out ways to work for the betterment of their community. The JLJ's official mission is to promote voluntarism, "developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers."

Health care has been a top priority among the League's community projects from day one. In the early 1940s, the Junior League of Jackson helped find a location for and maintain the Community Hospital, which had developed from the merger of the Free Baby Clinic and the County Maternity Center in 1940.

The 1950s mark their first involvement with the University of Mississippi Medical Center. They helped endorse and advocate to the Mississippi Legislature for the establishment of a four-year medical school and teaching hospital in Jackson.

"For as long as I can remember, we've been somehow partnered with UMMC," said 2016-2017 JLJ President Melanie Hataway. "Children's Hospital really does hit on two of our three impact areas, including children's health and social development. It aligns perfectly with what we're doing in the community."

Starting in the 1980s, the League turned their attention toward what is now Children's of Mississippi. JLJ purchased and donated a "neonatal cradle," an ambulance designed for neonatal care, in conjunction with the launch of their project, Rockin' Mamas.

Rockin' Mamas is one of the League's oldest projects. Volunteers rock and provide stimulation to premature infants at UMMC when parents or caregivers can't be there as often as they would like. The project started in 1980, and was always a top choice for volunteers. In the last couple of years, it has evolved into an opportunity for Sustaining Members. These are members who have fulfilled their required years of active service and are still involved in the League.

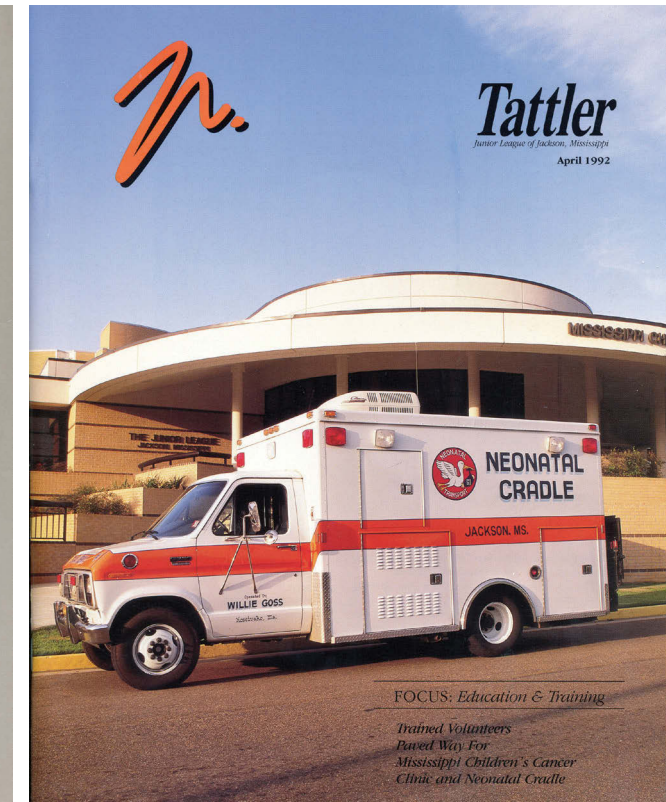
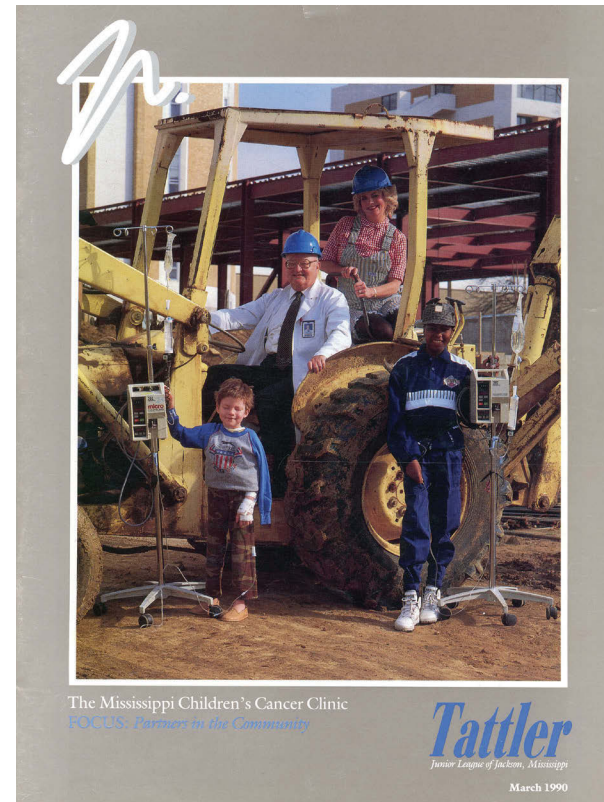
Shortly after Rockin' Mamas was initiated, REACH, an acronym for Recreation, Enrichment, and Assistance for Children's Health, was launched. Today, volunteers interact with patients in the hospital activity rooms and at bedside. They play games, make crafts and try to help the children take their minds off treatment for a little while. They also plan and host seasonal parties for patients, keeping their health needs in mind.

"There's something for every child—gluten-free cupcakes, for example," said Hataway. "We try to ensure that everyone is included."

When REACH first began, the volunteers had no idea it would quickly become one of the League's largest and most significant signature projects to date, fundraising for the Children's Cancer Center.

"We had the idea to help start the Ronald McDonald House, and I went to see Dr. Jeanette Pullen," said Sandra Maris of Jackson, an active JLJ member in the mid-1980s. Pullen is now professor emeritus in pediatric hematology/oncology.

A property had already been secured for the Ronald McDonald House, but Pullen said the hospital needed help checking in pediatric cancer patients.



Two outstanding examples of the effectiveness of the trained volunteers of the Junior League of Jackson are the Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic and the Neonatal Cradle. League members spearheaded efforts to raise \$2 million necessary to build the Cancer Clinic. The Neonatal Cradle, which transports critically ill children, is an earlier product of a highly successful League project.

"The outline for the project was to assist families with children with cancer," said Suzan Thames of Jackson, honorary chair of Friends of Children's Hospital, a nonprofit group dedicated to raising funds for Batson Children's Hospital. "We could help the entry lines move faster. We checked height, weight, temperature and expedited that process. We tried to make the whole process of a child having cancer and coming to the clinic weekly smoother and friendlier."

"All volunteers immediately saw the desperate need for a new facility," she said.

At that time, all patients were held in one waiting area, which left children with compromised immune systems exposed to everything that came through the door. The space was small, too, meaning there was no true sound barrier from procedure rooms.

"It was so obvious, working there, that we needed more space," said Nancy Studdard, who chaired the project for two years.

Said Thames: "We knew we had wonderful doctors and good treatment, but attracting and keeping physicians in a facility that needed so much work was getting harder."

Maris called the Association of Junior Leagues International to ask if any League had ever taken on a project like this; they initially said yes. "When I called back later to get more information, they said no one had ever done it before."

On blind faith, dedication to children's health and sheer determination, the women set out to raise \$2 million for a new Children's Cancer Clinic.

"The biggest hurdle was that this had never been done before. This was totally new turf. We had to learn as we went, but we never doubted we could do it," said Thames.

The committee had put together an advisory board of outside members, including Howard McMillan and Bryan Jones, among others. One of their main roles was to help set up meetings and get the League invited to present at various groups across Mississippi.

The committee traveled around the state in teams of two presenting their slideshow of everything that UMMC accomplishes and needs to anyone willing to listen. They even presented to the Legislature, although they had been told not to try.

"This was unheard of, women coming in asking for money," said Maris.

In addition to the presentations, they came up with a "Buy a Brick" campaign. "We sent out thousands of letters asking people to buy a brick with their name on it," said Ann Calhoon. "We waited and waited and nothing was coming in. I still remember the phone call, 'Due to an overwhelming response, we have your mail at the counter.'" There were bags and bags of orders.

In just under three years, the committee had reached their fundraising goal and celebrated at the groundbreaking in 1989.



Care Seat volunteers **Barrett Brown**, left, and **Lyn Brewer** demonstrate the proper use of an infant car seat.



Ann Calhoon and **Dr. Jeanette Pullen** took turns with the shovel at the Cancer Clinic's Aug. 30, 1989, groundbreaking ceremony. Smiles were unrestrained in the knowledge construction would start.



Rockin' Mamas chair **Pat Ammons** rocks **Christopher Orry Black**, son of **Christopher** and **Lisa Black** of Forest. He was born at UMMC weighing 2 pounds in 1989, when his mother was 26 weeks pregnant. At the time the photo was taken, **Orry** weighed 5 pounds, 2 ounces.



This file photo includes those who helped make the Children's Cancer Center a reality: back, from left, **Suzan Thames**, Advisory Board member; **Howard McMillan**, Advisory Board chair; **Nancy Studdard**, project co-chair; front, **Ann Calhoun**, project chair; and Advisory Board members **Sandra Maris** and **Helen Ridgway**.

"How can you refuse a child with cancer? It's the easiest fundraising I've ever done because you believe in what you're doing. And Dr. Pullen was so special. You wanted to do anything you could for her," said Calhoun.

"It was such an honor to help Dr. Jeanette Pullen and Dr. Rathi Iyer (pediatric professor emeritus). They both are such dedicated doctors and were so appreciative of our work. They were very helpful as far as what they needed and would bend over backwards to help. I think they were both in tears the day we opened the clinic," said Studdard.

"It was a giant group effort of the Junior League and the people of our state," added Maris.

"When you get Junior League behind you, both with support, funding, and volunteers, you can get a whole lot done," said Thames.

Not long after the Cancer Center fundraising was complete, the JLJ launched the Care Seats project, in which they gave car seats to new mothers in need of safe transportation for their newborns.

Nearly 30 years later, the League has stayed active with UMMC, planning a new project for 2017 with the Center for Advancement of Youth.

"The goal of CAY is to provide the best evidence-based

care for children with developmental and behavioral disorders," said executive director Dr. David Elkin.

Not only do they strive to be a "one-stop shop" where children can receive care quickly and conveniently, but they also aim to provide resources and education to their families and caregivers. The center has been in place four years and receives about 300 new referrals each month.

"One of our goals this year is to do more with the patient experience," said Elkin. Starting in August, JLJ volunteers will host families on UMMC's campus once a month, with caregivers attending seminars while JLJ volunteers provide activities for CAY patients.

"We will be training the volunteers on how to interact with these kids," said Elkin.

A former UMMC employee, Hataway is excited for the League to be involved in this project.

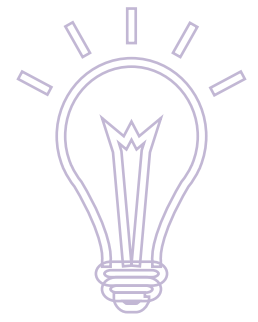
"We love the work CAY is doing, attempting to focus the care in one place," she said.

And as much as the League has done for UMMC over the years, JLJ members are also grateful to UMMC. "Children's of Mississippi cares for all economic backgrounds and that also aligns with what we do," said Hataway. "It allows for our care to reach beyond the Jackson area." 🌈

At Children's of Mississippi, our team of medical professionals is working to improve already high levels of care. **Better and Better**, in each issue of Under The Rainbow, will focus on an area of quality improvement.



BETTER & better



SPRING 2017



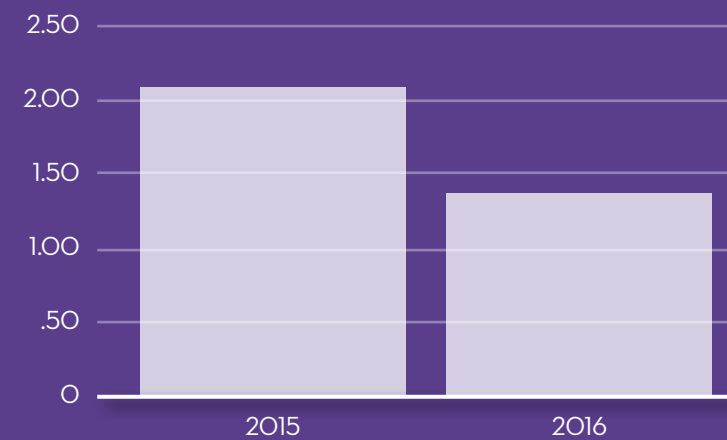
CLABSI

CENTRAL LINE ASSOCIATED BLOOD STREAM INFECTION

A central line is a catheter that specially trained nurses and providers often place in a large vein in the neck, chest or groin to give medication or fluids or to collect blood for tests. These can remain in place for weeks or months.

INFECTION CAN OCCUR WHEN GERMS ENTER THE BLOODSTREAM THROUGH THE CENTRAL LINE.

CLABSI Rate/1000 line days



WHAT WE'RE DOING:

- 1 Children's of Mississippi, in spring 2016, joined the Solutions for Patient Safety Network (SPS), in which children's hospitals collaborate to improve patient safety.
- 2 In August 2016, Children's adopted central line care and maintenance best practices put forth by SPS in effort to reduce harm to patient's through CLABSI reduction

RESULTS:

Since working through SPS to standardize best practices on central line care, Children's of Mississippi has a CLABSI rate below the SPS average. Some areas of Batson Children's Hospital have seen more than 300 days since their last CLABSI.



CF patients' journeys traveled one bead at a time



Braeden Johnson of Philadelphia and social worker Melissa Underwood show their Beads of Courage.

For every bead, there's a story of courage.

Red ones tell the story of blood transfusions. Magenta beads tell the tales of courage during ambulance rides. Pokes from blood draws turn into jet black beads, and aqua ones represent catheters and tubes. Silvery anchors tell of bravery and support during the "stormy seas" of treatment, and meeting medication and mobility challenges are symbolized by beads that are bumpy, just as life sometimes is for a child with cystic fibrosis.

Patients with CF being treated by pediatric pulmonologists at Batson Children's Hospital get their bling-bling from the "bead fairy," social worker Melissa Underwood. For the past two years or so, Batson Children's Hospital has been the only site in Mississippi to implement the Beads of Courage program as a psychosocial and emotional intervention. Through the program, children and teens are able to record, own, and tell their stories of courage.

"My favorite one is the blue swirly one," said patient Braeden Johnson of Philadelphia, "and the stars. Those show I've had surgery."

Founded by Arizona pediatric oncology nurse Jean Gribbon, Beads of Courage seeks to give children undergoing lengthy and arduous treatments for serious medical conditions something tangible to represent the courage to face what they've gone through. Starting with children and teens

with cancer and blood conditions, the meaningful arts-in-medicine program has expanded to, among others, patients with cardiac conditions, neonatal intensive care unit stays, burn injuries and other chronic illnesses, including CF.

Through Beads of Courage, children receive colorful beads that symbolize each step of their treatment journey.

Batson Children's Hospital, the only accredited CF treatment center in the state, follows 72 pediatric patients with the disease. Since 2004, all newborns are tested for CF, so patients here start their Beads of Courage collections early with a cord, a Children's of Mississippi bead and a Beads of Courage logo bead.

Dr. Marc Majure, professor of pediatric pulmonology at UMMC, said the beads are "a tangible way of telling the entire family's journey, and it's a common bond for patients, who can show each other the beads they've collected."

Staff members including doctors and nurses get into wearing beads of their own, and just like the kids, each bead tells a story.

Dr. David Josey, assistant professor of pediatric pulmonology, has fish and frogs among the other beads on his string, but his favorite is the red heart. "That one symbolizes caring for children."



Better images with a fraction of the radiation: Children's of Mississippi adds EOS imaging

Sara Lacy gets her picture taken often. She always has.

There are loads of family photos, of course, but there has been plenty of medical imaging for Sara, too. Born with hip dysplasia, doctors at Batson Children's Hospital later discovered she had developed scoliosis, a curvature of the spine that must be checked with X-rays at nearly every clinic visit.

Over time, the exposure to radiation from those X-rays can add up, giving patients a higher risk of cancer later in life.

Children's of Mississippi has seen that amount of radiation drop to just 20 percent of a normal X-ray through the purchase of an EOS imaging system with funding from donors in the community.

EOS, the only system of its kind in Mississippi, takes three-dimensional images of patients while they are standing or sitting, giving physicians a clearer picture of a patient's condition while keeping the patient comfortable.

"It increases the quality of images while exposing the patient to a fraction of the radiation," said Dr. Wade Shrader, professor and chief of pediatric orthopaedic surgery at UMMC.

The reduction in radiation is particularly advantageous for scoliosis patients, who

have frequent X-rays in the torso area.

"Since scoliosis occurs more often in adolescent females, and they are X-rayed in the chest and abdominal area, you do worry about overexposure to radiation in breast tissue and the ovarian area. EOS is a big game-changer in that regard."

"Over time, I do worry about the effect of radiation on her," said Sara Lacy's mother, Patricia Lacy, "so we are really happy Children's of Mississippi made this purchase."

The availability of the system is also an upgrade for area pediatricians, as they can access EOS through referring patients for imaging.

"The money raised through Children's Miracle Network Hospitals campaigns and sponsors is meant to be used for things like the EOS system," said Jen Hospodor, manager of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and Community Based Fundraising at UMMC. "That machine is the best, the latest and greatest, and our patients deserve that level of care. It's a perfect example of why the unrestricted dollars raised through CMN Hospitals are so important. When there is a need, we can meet it; where there is a void, we can fill it, all thanks to those donations from our community."

Patient Sara Lacy of Meridian stands by the EOS imaging system, the only one in the state. The system exposes a patient to a fifth of the radiation of a standard X-ray.

Sanderson Farms Championship donation to Friends of Children's Hospital sets record



Century Club Charities, the host organization of the Sanderson Farms Championship, Mississippi's only PGA TOUR event, donated a record \$1.125 million from the 2016 tournament to Friends of Children's Hospital, topping its previous record-setting amounts for three consecutive years.

The donation from the 2016 tournament exceeded the \$1.109 million raised in 2015, the \$1.102 million raised in 2014 and the 2013 tournament, which raised more than \$500,000. Since tournament host Century Club Charities announced Sanderson Farms as the tournament's title sponsor in 2013, nearly \$4 million has been donated to support Mississippi's only children's hospital.

"As a parent, this gift means so much," said Katherine Beck, mother of Jamie Beck, a curly-haired toddler whose life was saved through heart surgery at Batson Children's Hospital. "This means our children can have the best health care. We think care at Batson is already awesome, but with this gift, it's going to be stellar."

This year's gift is earmarked for Friends of Children's Hospital's \$20 million pledge to The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, which is funding construction to update pediatric care at UMMC.

Century Club Charities President Peter Marks said the donation is helping build the future through a tradition of philanthropy.

Smiling with the \$1.125 million donation to Friends of Children's Hospital are Batson Children's Hospital patients, front, from left, **Felton Walker, De'Nahri Middleton, Blake Stone, K.J. Fields, Tucker Jones** (kneeling), and **Jamie Beck**, held by dad **Carson Beck**. Looking on are, from left, Century Club Charities president **Peter Marks**, Sanderson Farms Championship executive director **Steve Jent**, University of Mississippi Chancellor **Jeffrey Vitter**, Sanderson Farms CEO and board chair **Joe Sanderson, Dr. Rick Barr**, Suzan B. Thames Professor and chair of pediatrics, and Friends of Children's Hospital board chair **Sara Ray**.

"We at Century Club Charities believe in the future of Mississippi's children," Marks said. "There is no better way to invest in our state than to invest in the health of our children. This is what we work for all year."

Since 1994, Century Club Charities has helped more than 66 charities, including Friends of Children's Hospital, as a result of hosting the state's premier PGA TOUR event.

Joe F. Sanderson Jr., CEO and board chairman of tournament sponsor Sanderson Farms, sees the tournament's donation as part of being a good corporate citizen.

Sanderson Farms became a title sponsor of the tournament, Sanderson said, "because of its philanthropy. As a good corporate citizen, Sanderson Farms gives back to others in the communities where we live. Making a contribution of this magnitude to Children's of Mississippi at a time when expansion and updates of pediatric care at Batson Children's Hospital and UMMC are being planned is a heart-warming experience for myself and my wife as well as all Sanderson Farms employees."

Sanderson and wife Kathy Sanderson are chairing The Campaign for Children's of Mississippi, a drive to raise \$100 million, and they personally donated \$10 million to the cause.

The 2017 tournament, set for Oct. 23-29 at the Country Club of Jackson, will be the 50th anniversary of the event.



Batson Children's Hospital patient **Tucker Jones** pets the rooster atop the Sanderson Farms Championship trophy.

Specialty care closer to home for coast families



Care from **Dr. Mark Lee** is just minutes from home for **Andrew Fillingame** and his family, **Lauren** and **Russell Bradshaw** of Long Beach.



Smiling at the opening of the new Children's of Mississippi specialty clinic on the Gulf Coast are, from left, **Dr. Rick Barr** and **Dr. John Purvis** from UMMC and **Dr. Mark Lee** and **Dr. Brad Troutman**, who will practice at the clinic.

Andrew Fillingame, an 11-year-old from Long Beach, has severe refractory epilepsy, at one point suffering some 50 seizures a day. After a hemispherectomy at Batson Children's Hospital, the number of seizures has dropped to about two a week.

At one time, Andrew's mom, Lauren Bradshaw, was taking him more than an hour away to see specialists in New Orleans, which meant juggling the schedules of everyone in the family and a long car ride.

Then they met Dr. Mark Lee, who is now practicing in a new Children's of Mississippi clinic at 1721 Medical Park Drive in Biloxi's Cedar Lake area. "This makes getting the best care so much easier," Bradshaw said. "It's been amazing for our family. We have three other children, so traveling for us can mean days of planning. To have something so close to home is so important to us, especially with a child who is prone to seizures."

The clinic, which celebrated its opening with a January ribbon-cutting ceremony, is where Lee and pediatric cardiologist Dr. Brad Troutman will practice. Part of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Children's of Mississippi encompasses all pediatric services available at UMMC including Batson Children's Hospital and clinical sites throughout Mississippi.

"Having experienced subspecialists locally is so much easier for patients," said Dr. Bryant McCrary, senior pediatrician at Gulfport Memorial Pediatricians in Biloxi and Gulfport. "They don't have to travel far for care, and that is a major benefit for families. Otherwise, patients in our area would have to travel to New Orleans or Mobile for that level of care."

The opening of the Children's of Mississippi Gulf

Coast clinic follows the opening of a Children's of Mississippi Tupelo clinic, offering pediatric cardiology and endocrinology, in January 2015. With the addition of the Gulf Coast clinic, there are now more than 10 Children's of Mississippi clinics in the state.

Children's of Mississippi has, for the past three years, offered monthly clinic visits by commuting specialists in child development, hematology and orthopaedics at other locations on the Coast. The new clinic will expand to include nephrology, pulmonology and telehealth access, linking the Coast with experts at UMMC.

"Specialized care also needs to be in the reach of local pediatricians whose patients need subspecialty care such as neurology or cardiology," Dr. John Purvis, associate professor of pediatric orthopaedic surgery and lead physician in the UMMC Office of Physician Relations, said.

For families with children who see more than one subspecialist, such trips can be lengthy, expensive and difficult to schedule around work, school and the needs of other family members.

"The opening of the new Children's of Mississippi Gulf Coast clinic will provide families here with better access to other subspecialties," said Lee, who was inspired to become a pediatric neurologist by the seizure disorder of one of his children.

Troutman, who served as chief of pediatric cardiology at the Air Force's Keesler Medical Center in Biloxi while it was a pediatric residency teaching hospital, agrees. "The Coast has had access to pediatric cardiology services for the past 20 years, but this clinic will provide continuity as well as multiple specialties."

Bryant's painted lily pads a tribute to Batson patients



Joe Bryant used to live next door to Analiese Cook in Jackson.

It was a normal thing to see the active little girl playing nearby, but then she was diagnosed with leukemia. The high school freshman and his family would visit the Cooks at Batson Children's Hospital.

"I'd see Analiese at the hospital with a (lily pad) base on her IV pole, and it was colorful and had characters painted on it," Bryant said. "She'd stand on the base and really loved it. Seeing the colors made her happy. I wanted to make sure that every child had something like that to make something difficult, like having an IV, easier. I knew then that this was what I wanted to do for my Eagle Scout project."

The Bryant family, Tim, Rana, Joe, Anna Blaire and Isabella, is also friends with the family of Campbell Dale, a Batson patient who fought a two-year battle with cancer. The lily pad project is also in Dale's memory.

The Jackson Prep student and member of Boy Scout Troop 18 at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson went to work, getting the approval of Michelle Welander, head of nursing at Batson Children's Hospital and then enough wood, sandpaper and paints to make 20 such lily pads.

"I wanted my project to have color," he said.

After the wood was cut into 14 lily pads, mom Rana Bryant said, "we had wood left over, so we said, 'Let's keep cutting and make it an even 20.'"

Joe sanded each lily pad until the edges were smooth and splinter-free, and then gave them all a base coat. For the artwork, he recruited his mother and artist Stephanie Pack-Tatum of

Forest to decorate the wooden discs. The 20 had designs ranging from Bart Simpson and Daniel Tiger to Sofia the First and a pink frosted doughnut with sprinkles.

When adding the color and characters to the lily pads came to mind, the Bryants thought of her.

"Joe told his mom he wanted me to paint the lily pads," she said, "and I was excited to participate in something that would benefit Batson Children's Hospital."

Said Michelle Welander, chief nursing and clinical services officer at Batson Children's Hospital: "We are blessed to have the support of our community organizations that enable our young leaders to learn and grow through these projects."

Showing some of the lily pads are, from left, **Isabella Bryant, Michelle Welander, Joe Bryant, Avery Dale** and **Jill Dale**.

CMN Champion gets a big-rig ride to Walmart for campaign kick-off

Walmart driver Billy Tingle smiles as Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion Jordan Morgan sits in the cab of one of the company's 18-wheelers. The pair rode to the Clinton Walmart for the launch of the retailer's annual fund drive. Walmart and Sam's Club associates, customers and members in the U.S. and Canada have raised more than \$870 million for pediatric hospitals since 1987. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals raises funds and awareness for 170 children's hospitals that provide 32 million treatments each year to kids across the U.S. and Canada. Donations stay local to fund critical treatments and health care services, pediatric medical equipment and charitable care.



New neonatal ambulance commissioned



Commissioning new AMR neonatal ambulance by splashing its windshield with IV fluid dyed pink and blue are, from left, AMR driver **Robert Whitley, Kristie Benson** and daughter **Paisley, Morgan Strickland** and son **Jack Reynolds**, held by neonatal transport care team nurse **Emily Jones**.

QUESTION IT? DISCOVER IT!

Programs let kids explore health, science



Each hexagon of the soccer ball **Elizabeth Foster** holds has a physical activity, giving young visitors to the Mississippi Children's Museum a way to work out. Photos by Lindsay McMurray of the Mississippi Children's Museum

A tap, tap, tap, tap sounded as the "Wheel of Fortune"-style game spun, selecting the topic of safety question in a game show of sorts for parents and kids at the Mississippi Children's Museum.

It was Question It? Discover It! Saturday, a day once a month when Children's of Mississippi staff members provide an interactive lesson for museum-goers free with the price of admission.

"Road safety!" exclaimed game show host Elizabeth Foster, manager of the Safety and Community Outreach Program at Children's of Mississippi. "If you are in a car, what should you have on at all times?"

"A seatbelt!" a young visitor answered before collecting his prize of a pair of plastic sunglasses.

Departments throughout Children's of Mississippi take turns hosting the lessons, which can boost the creativity level, Foster said. "It gets competitive."

Keeping displays, games and activities fresh is key, said Keisha Luckey, a diabetes educator at the Batson Specialty Clinic.

In February, the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology cooked up a sweet display, gathering up ubiquitous snacks such as fruit leather, cookies and 20-ounce soft drinks. Beside each snack was a clear container showing

the grams of sugar each contains. "If you choose the 20-ounce soft drink, you're choosing to drink more than 65 grams of sugar. More than a fourth of that bottle is sugar," Luckey said. "Scary, huh?"

Susan Garrard, president and CEO of the Mississippi Children's Museum, says Children's of Mississippi's participation is just what the doctor ordered.

"The monthly program, Question It? Discover It!, has been a substantive, interactive and, more importantly, fun way for children to engage in exploring more about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), particularly in the medical field, as well as to learn more about their bodies," she said. "We have been very grateful to our partners at Batson and Children's of Mississippi for joining with our education and programs staff to create experiences that are unique, hands-on and informative."

Getting the seatbelt question right was Jake Furman, 7, of Pearl.

"We love this," said his dad, Robert Furman. "These events help parents educate their children, and that's very important. The kids are involved, and they learn that way."

"We enjoy these Saturdays," said Foster. "We always see so much parent participation, too. It's really a two-for-one, because it's for the kids, but the parents and grandparents learn something, too."

New heart surgery leader put gloves on right after Batson arrival

Dr. Brian Kogon was eager to begin his new job as the chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery for Children's of Mississippi. His first day of work was Monday, Jan. 30, and by Wednesday evening, Feb. 1, he was in the operating room, mending the heart of a newborn patient with a congenital heart defect.

"It was good to get away from unpacking," quipped Kogon, who, with his wife and three children, is settling into life in the Jackson area. "It was time to put the gloves on and go to work."

Kogon comes to UMMC from Atlanta, where he was chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery at Children's Healthcare and director of adult congenital cardiac surgery at Emory University.

Also a professor of surgery in the School of Medicine, Kogon plans to actively grow Batson Children's Hospital's Children's Heart Center, which is nearly six years old, as well as UMMC's adult congenital heart program, alongside its director Dr. Mike McMullan.

"Dr. McMullan is one of the main reasons I'm here," Kogon said. In conversation at a medical conference, Kogon learned from McMullan of the position when it became open in 2016.

"Brian is just a great, likable guy," McMullan said. "It was very fortuitous for UMMC that we sat at the same table at our recent Adult Congenital Heart Association meeting in Washington. As the chief of pediatric heart surgery at Emory, one of the leading medical institutions in the country, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help serve the unique and often challenging patient population that



Dr. Brian Kogon is chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery at Children's of Mississippi.

we have here in Mississippi. We are excited to have him as an integral part of our team."

A native of Ohio, Kogon is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed fellowships at Indiana University Medical Center and Emory University.

Kogon's addition brings "world-class" skill to the Children's Heart Center, said Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and chair of pediatrics at UMMC. "Dr. Kogon has a great amount of experience in leading teams of cardiovascular surgeons at a nationally recognized children's hospital. We are very fortunate to welcome him here."

New pediatric specialists added to Children's faculty

To meet the growing needs of its patients, Children's of Mississippi added the following specialists to its staff recently. For more information about Children's of Mississippi services or to make an appointment, visit www.ummchealth.com/children.

- Mary Morgan McLeod, M.D. Ambulatory
- Padma Garg, M.D. Critical Care
- Marcus Lee, M.D. Neurology
- Claudia Lares Romero, M.D. Emergency Medicine
- Muhammad Ubaidulhaq, M.D. Neurology

a little Sunshine

Snapshots of visitors and events that brightened the lives of our patients

Our Child Life Specialists oversee many of these special visitors and events for our patients. This part of their job - the "play" part - ensures our patients maintain a sense of normalcy in their lives while hospitalized.

1 Batson Children's Hospital patient **Jessica Starks** plays a board game while visiting with Jackson State University head football coach **Tony Hughes**, his wife **Marion Hughes** and **Theresa McCall**.



Miss Mississippi High School Rodeo **Korlie Holland**, Miss Rodeo Mississippi **Emma Jumper** and Miss Dixie National Rodeo **Mackenzie Richardson**, let Batson Children's Hospital patient **Bailey Barrett** of Forest try a pair of chaps on for size.

2



Secretary of State **Delbert Hosemann**, visiting Batson Children's Hospital for Valentine's Day, found out patient **DeAsia Scott** had turned 18 and registered her to vote.

3



Reservoir Police Sgt. **Trevell Dixon** greets **Kayden Kidd** of Columbus during a car show held for Batson Children's Hospital patients.

4



Tawny Minton of Snap Happy Face Painting makes the arm of Batson Children's Hospital patient **Gracie Harrison** of Brandon a work of art during the "Pop Into Comics" fall festival brought to the Wiser Courtyard by the Mississippi Children's Museum.

5



Batson Children's Hospital patient **Nolan Irby** of Enterprise is testing out his super power of cuteness during a "Pop Into Comics" fall festival.

6

Colorful tambourines were part of a celebration dance performed by Ballet Magnificat! in December. Among dancers was **Rebecca Gregory**.

7



Colin Henderson of Brandon enjoys a Sno Biz snow cone during a car show held for Batson Children's Hospital patients by Opulence, Xplizit, Team Shelby and Genesis car clubs.

8



SPRING 2017

Inspiring HOPE Saving LIVES

Support from our community is instrumental to our success. These connections with you, our supporters, inspire hope in our hearts and those of our patients and, in turn, save lives.

SPRING 2017

Chief Ambulatory Officer **Karen Dowling** is presented with a donation from 9-year-old twins **Sydney** and **Rylee Hardin**, who raised more than \$600 for the state's only children's hospital by holding a bake sale at the Holiday Market in Clinton.



Every year, Express Employment Professionals clients decorate pumpkins for Batson Children's Hospital. For Halloween 2016, Express Employment Professionals delivered 20 festive pumpkins and donated \$2,000 to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in honor of the winning pumpkin, "Spooky Cinema" by Precoat Metals. Second runner-up was "Oscar the Grouch" decorated by Steel Services and the judges' third pick was "Horton Hears a Who" by Continental Carbonic Products. **Luellen McPhail**, left, accepts the donation from Express Employment Professionals representatives **Tim Dillard** and **Kelli Blackwell**, center, accompanied by **Chelsa Jones** and **Randy Ahrend** of Steel Services.



Express Employment Professionals hosted a concert featuring **Hope Cassity**. From left, **Bob Dillard** of Express Employment Professionals presents \$1,200 to Batson Children's Hospital representatives **Driscoll Devaul**, director of respiratory care, and **Jennifer Stephen**, director of emergency services.



Brown Bottling Group, Dr. Pepper and Canada Dry made a donation to Batson Children's Hospital each time a product was sold at area Kroger stores. Brown Bottling Group representatives **Emily Helm** and **Mel Burgess** join Kroger manager Chuck Head and Chief Marketing Officer **Shelley Brown Floyd** to present \$10,000 to **Dr. Renate Savich**, **Dr. Mobolaji Famuyide** and **Carla Gill** of the NICU.



Jones County Junior College volunteers helped make a recent monthly birthday party for Batson Children's Hospital patients fun.

Inspiring HOPE Saving LIVES

Support from our community is instrumental to our success. These connections with you, our supporters, inspire hope in our hearts and those of our patients and, in turn, save lives.



Avery Dale, center, and the Adams brothers, Abbot, left, and Staton, were showing their super powers at Southern AgCredit's Fit for Agriculture and Jingle Bell Jog.



Mississippi Natural Gas Association executive director **Cherrell Grogan** presents a \$3,451 donation to director of inpatient services **Skye Stoker**.

From left, **Driscoll Devaul**, director of respiratory care, accepts a \$3,174 donation from Mutual Credit Union representatives **Susan Mandarino**, **Paula Knapp**, **Trae Wells** and **Michael Mathews**.



At the groundbreaking ceremony for Continental Tire's \$1.4 billion plant in Clinton, Executive Vice President **Paul Williams**, right, announced a \$25,000 donation to The Campaign for Children's Hospital. This is Continental's first corporate grant to their new community partner, Children's of Mississippi. From left are **Niko Setzer**, who leads Continental's worldwide tire division; Gov. **Phil Bryant**; and **Thorne Butler**, UMMC major gifts officer.



Statewide FCU helped sponsor festive Batson Children's Hospital holiday T-shirts. Patient **Caroline Lowery**, center, created the artwork for the shirt.

Inspiring HOPE Saving LIVES



The Threads of Love sewing group, organized by **Marcia McCall**, meets at Center Point Church in Ocean Springs to sew layettes for stillborn babies at UMMC, among other hospitals and medical centers.



Phi Mu sorority at the University of Southern Mississippi presented \$20,000 they raised for Batson at their annual BonnaMu fundraiser. Batson patient **Lucy Weathers** and her sister **Jamyla** helped celebrate the gift.



The Zoe Rose Memorial Foundation and Wynndale Baptist Church Quilters create quilts for NICU babies. **Rita Norton** and **Keira Sorrells** present the handmade items to **Dr. Mobolaji Famuyide**, **Dawn Eifling** and **Tanya Willis**.



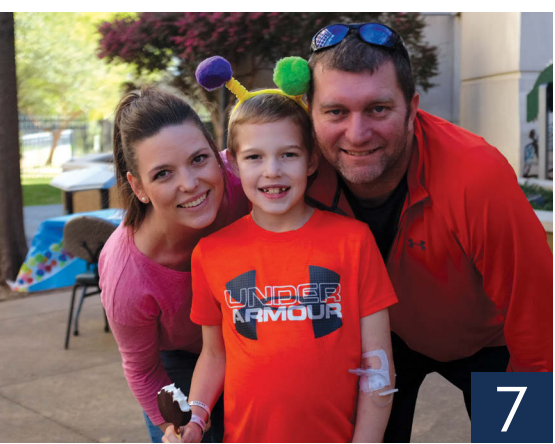
Members of Phi Mu Sorority at the University of Southern Mississippi visit with **Jenna Wilson**, a heart transplant patient at Batson Children's Hospital.



Radiothon

On-air personalities from The Radio People's stations across central Mississippi celebrated Batson Children's Hospital patients and families during the 16th annual Mississippi Miracles Radiothon March 1-3. The broadcast raised a record \$504,360 from listeners to fund equipment purchases, research and programs at the state's only children's hospital.

Watch the video at youtube.com/batsonhospital, search channel for "Radiothon"



1. **Nicki Dunaway** and daughter **Hannah**, a former Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion, tell their story.
2. **KJ Fields** gives Batson Children's Hospital a thumbs up.
3. **Mary Ellis Cravey** smiles during her radio interview.
4. **Malia Croom** awaits her on-air time.
5. **Derrick James** awaits the announcement of the Mississippi Miracles Radiothon total.
6. **Ben Sigler** has his radio mic in hand.
7. **Donavan Hamilton** and his family enjoyed a picnic at the Wiser Courtyard to celebrate the last day of the Mississippi Miracles Radiothon.
8. U.S. 96.3's **Scott Steele** interviews **Lundy Thompson**.
9. **Sophie Mead** speaks to radio listeners.
10. **Carter Griffin** and his family share their Batson experience with listeners.



Q&A: ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT HEALTH CLINIC

Children's of Mississippi's Adolescent and Young Adult Health Clinics, located at the Jackson Medical Mall at 350 W. Woodrow Wilson in Jackson and at the University Physicians Grants Ferry Clinic at 1010 Lakeland Place in Flowood, provide specialty care for teens and young adults ages 10 to 21. Adolescent Medicine division chief Dr. Sadhana Dharmapuri, Dr. Demma Cabral and Dr. Nneka Holder are specialists in the care of adolescents and provide a holistic approach to teen health. They provide youth-friendly, confidential health services while collaborating with family members. The clinic supports teens during their transition, teaching them to self-advocate and to prepare for successful and healthy adulthoods.

Dharmapuri, Cabral and Holder are board certified in adolescent medicine and pediatrics. Dharmapuri and Holder completed fellowships in adolescent medicine at Children's National Medical Center, and Cabral completed an adolescent medicine fellowship at Miami Children's Hospital.

The clinics have seen 400 new patients from August 2015 to May 2016, and they've had about 1,000 office visits during their first year.



The Children's of Mississippi Adolescent Medicine team, from left, **Dr. Maria Demma Cabral**, **Dr. Sadhana Dharmapuri** and **Dr. Nneka Holder**, help ease the transition from pediatrics to adult care.

What services do you offer?

The Adolescent and Young Adult Health Clinics offer guidance on risk-taking behaviors and advice on general adolescent issues, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, menstrual management, contraception, screening and support for uncomplicated depression and anxiety, treatment for eating disorders and health care for special populations including LGBTQ teens and teenage mothers. The clinics also treat teens who have chronic illnesses and help in coping with their conditions.

Dharmapuri said the clinics also follow up with their patients on vaccines, making sure they have doses needed during the teen years including HPV and meningitis inoculations.

Patients who have chronic illnesses will transition to adult care providers, said Holder, "but the adult care system can be very different than pediatric care." Adolescent medicine bridges that gap between childhood and adulthood.

How do you complement other medical subspecialties?

Chronically ill children grow into teens, said Dharmapuri, "and they go through everything all teenagers go through," including, for some, high-risk behaviors. Adolescent medicine can help teens and their families cope with treatment as well as the sometimes stormy time of the teen years.

"We're there to reinforce treatment plans," said Dharmapuri, but also, the clinics offer treatment for other matters teens face, from bullying and ADHD to menstrual difficulties and eating disorders. All patients are screened for depression, as that can be a threat to teens' well-being.

For teen patients, adolescent medicine is an added layer of care, providing counseling and care to help teens and their families navigate their way to adulthood.

How does adolescent care fit into the mission of Children's of Mississippi?

While small children and babies come to mind when Batson Children's Hospital and the Children's of Mississippi mission are mentioned, not all Children's of Mississippi patients are that young. They're caught between childhood and adulthood. For teens, adolescent medicine is that path toward becoming a healthy adult and going from pediatric care to adult medical care.

How did you become interested in adolescent medicine?

"I started with a pediatric residency," said Holder, "and toward the end, I had a keen interest in gynecology and in improving doctor-patient relationships. And I enjoy talking with teens."

Cabral also started her career with a pediatric residency, discovering that she enjoyed treating teenage patients the most. "They communicate well, and I am drawn to talking with them. Plus, they make you feel young!"

Dharmapuri's interest in pediatrics as well as reproductive health led her to adolescent medicine. What's kept her there is seeing the many facets of the practice, which include treatment of eating disorders, depression and other life-altering issues. "I love talking to patients and having the ability to influence someone's life for the better."

What is the goal of adding adolescent medicine as a layer of care?

On their journey into adulthood, children go through many social, emotional, and physical changes. The Adolescent and Young Adult Health Clinics provide a holistic approach to adolescent care. Adolescence is a time of transition for parents and teens. To help ease this transition, Dharmapuri, Holder and Cabral provide confidential, youth-friendly services while working with families to provide additional support. The goal of the clinics is to help adolescents learn how to understand their own needs, care for themselves and prepare for a successful and healthy adulthood. Said Dharmapuri: "Isn't that what we all want for our children?"

REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

To make an appointment, visit www.ummhealth.com/children/ or call (888) 815-2005.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DAIRY QUEEN
MIRACLE TREAT DAY
July 27

BANKPLUS PRESENTS
ENCHANTED EVENING
August 26

FRIENDS OF
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
TRUSTMARK PRO-AM
September 25

SANDERSON FARMS
CHAMPIONSHIP
October 23-29

SOUTHERN AGCREDIT'S
FIT FOR AGRICULTURE
& JINGLE BELL JOG
December 2

BATSON CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTING
December 5



Batson Children's Hospital patient **Kylan Guy** of Brandon gets a visit from Batman during the "Pop Into Comics" fall festival at the Wisner Courtyard.