

# Cheerio Chats

A Quarterly Publication of the Memorial Auxiliary



## “My Experience in 2024 Was a Learning Moment!”

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Happy New Year! This is a familiar greeting to wish our friends, family, and others the very best. We all know that life isn’t perfect, and as volunteers, we see it often. But if something unthinkable happens to you, how will you react? Could you be better prepared? What will you learn?

In August of 2024, it happened to us. We were notified a family member had suffered a stroke and a fall. She was 685 miles away with no family nearby. So, Lee and I jumped on a plane to get to the hospital and support her in any way possible. She had a broken shoulder, many bruises, and was quite confused. Lee was named the Power of Attorney (POA)\* for her financial and medical needs. Suddenly, we found ourselves with a huge responsibility, and we were strangers in her city.



Sue, Lee ,and Rudy wish you a Happy New Year!

As POA, Lee was asked to make all decisions for her care and finances, and she would have to be transferred from the hospital to a skilled nursing facility. More than a tiny bit of panic set in, as we had read horror stories of the challenges of elder care.

We worried a lot, took lots of notes, and Lee had many tough conversations. She did not always like his decisions, but they had to be made. She is now in a secure memory care facility and has healed physically, but she still has cognitive challenges. We have more decisions to make and more to learn about dealing with unthinkable challenges from afar. Right now, we count our blessings that she is safe, well-nourished, and happy most days.

**So, what have we learned?** (1) the role of POA is challenging! (2) Networking is key to finding resources in an unfamiliar city. That’s how we found a wonderful professional social worker to act as case manager. (3) Legal caregiving is not to be taken lightly; you become responsible for another human’s wellbeing and finances. Tough decisions must be made, and they may not be popular with your loved one.

**How could we have been better prepared?** Many things you can’t prepare for, but you can have discussions with your partner and loved ones about what you or they would want if suddenly unable to make decisions. You can select a POA now - before something unfortunate happens. You can talk to professionals and become familiar with resources available, and learn what to look for to ensure the best possible care.

The responsibility is great and time-consuming, but we are grateful to have been able to be an advocate for our loved one. We pray that nothing like this happens to you, but I am sharing our story to illustrate the importance of preparation. Taking a few moments to learn about the significance of the POA and to discuss these issues with loved ones could be a huge step for success. Preparation is everything.

I truly wish you much Happiness and the best of Health in 2025!

Sue Culpepper, Auxiliary President

*\*A POA is a legal document that grants an individual, known as the agent or attorney-in-fact, the authority to act on behalf of the other person, known as the principal. The primary purpose is to ensure that someone can manage the principal’s affairs if they become unable to do so themselves due to illness, disability, or absence.*



# Celebrating 20 Years of Impact!

CHI Memorial Foundation is thrilled to announce the 20th anniversary of our signature black-tie event, Pink!, taking place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Chattanooga Convention Center!

This year, we're celebrating in style with special chairs Alex and Lacy Burd, son and daughter-in-law of the late MaryEllen Locher, a beloved local news anchor and breast cancer advocate. "Alex was in high school when his mother died," Foundation CEO Jennifer Nicely says. "He has been involved in every **Pink!** Gala since the beginning.

"It's our family's honor to continue the work my mom started. She was in a unique position as a news anchor to go through her cancer treatment with the support of thousands of viewers in the Chattanooga area rallying around her," shared Alex Burd. "Those viewers and our community are what inspired the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center at Memorial Hospital 20 years ago."

"Mom felt every patient going through cancer treatment should have a support team like she had and should have access to the best level of care possible, right here in Chattanooga. It's been nearly 20 years since the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center opened its doors, and our family is extremely proud to have been a part of it. "

Lacy and I are looking forward to chairing the 20th anniversary of Pink! and helping continue my mom's mission to support each and every patient and their families at the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center."

Join us for an unforgettable evening of celebration, support, and hope as we raise vital funds for the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center at CHI Memorial and the MaryEllen Locher Scholarship Fund.



*Lacy and Alex Burd, son and daughter-in-law of MaryEllen Locher, are chairs of the 2025 Pink! Gala, raising funds for the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center and the Scholarship Fund.*

## Volunteers needed to Help with Set up for Gala

In order to have another successful gala, we will need lots of hands! Pink! 2025 Gala set-up day will take place on Friday, January 24th from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm at the Chattanooga Convention and Trade Center. Please contact Karen Sloan at 423.619.2255 if you can help for any amount of time. Help is needed with a variety of tasks. Wear comfortable shoes. Lunch will be provided. This event cannot be a success without volunteers like you!

CHI Memorial Auxiliary Board			
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# One Big Step for Tessa - And Promise of Sweet 'Baby Steps'

Volunteer Coordinator Tessa Long used to be scared to death of hospitals and medical offices.

"I would pass out going to the dentist or walking into a hospital," Tessa admits. "My parents were worried when I took my job with Lifeline Services because my office was in the hospital at Hixson. They were fearful I would pass out walking through the halls."

Instead, Tessa was inspired.

"During COVID, I worked side-by-side with nurses in the GI Lab and learned a lot about patient care and helping patients and families. I found it to be very rewarding."

"When my husband Rob was diagnosed with kidney cancer eight years ago and had to have a kidney removed and years of follow-up

care, I realized how overwhelming it can be to deal with medical issues and how important it is to have compassionate care – people who listen and understand. I think that experience helped me empathize better with patients and family."

People have often told Tessa she would make a great nurse, but she didn't think she could possibly do it.

"I never went to college. After I graduated, I went to work at Disney World to make money and have fun. I have really enjoyed all my jobs, especially since I started working for CHI Memorial and with the volunteers."

But the idea of nursing simmered. Rob and her team at CHI Memorial encouraged her, and she realized how comfortable she now felt working in the hospital, helping patients and families in various ways. At age 48, she applied to Chattanooga State for the Nursing Program.

"I had to take all the pre-requisites, going to school three nights a week from 5-8:30pm for two years, including summers. I am grateful for TNReconnect, which helps adults who have not finished college, get a degree; it helped me."

### She Can Give Flu Shots!

Two years later, Tessa was accepted into the Nursing Program, which is 3 nights a week from 4-11pm. And she's continued to work full-time.

"My teachers and advisors are wonderful. They want us to succeed and are very supportive."

Just before the required inservice days for volunteers, she had completed classes and clinicals on giving shots, and several volunteers benefited from her caring touch and almost painless shots.

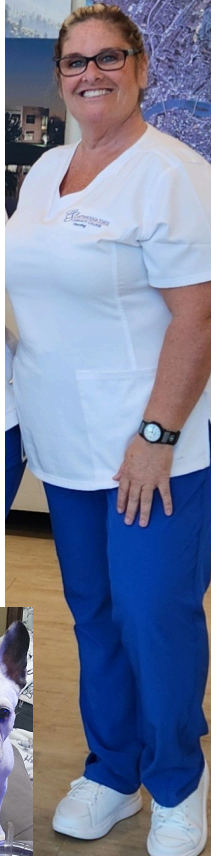
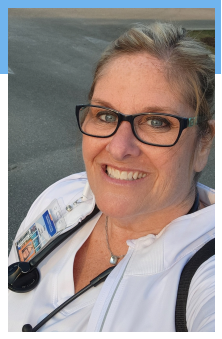
### Looking Forward to Her First Grandbaby

Rob (also known as Bert to many at CHI Memorial) and Tessa are looking forward to becoming grandparents. Their son Brian married Abigail in January 2023, and the young couple is expecting their first baby

"They have known each other for years - went to school together, and she fits beautifully into the family," Tessa says. "We are all excited."

Paisley Grace, their COVID rescue pet, will continue to hold a top spot in their home - even with the new grandbaby.

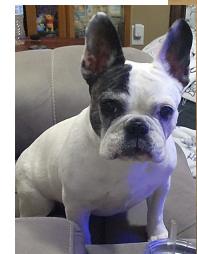
*Tessa proudly wears her scrubs. Husband Rob is also proud! Paisley loves them all.*



*Tessa working with Julie Touché, Jean Payne, and all the volunteers. Everyone has been supportive of her dream to do patient care as a nurse. "We are very proud of Tessa, and she will be an amazing nurse. She puts her whole heart into everything she does," Jean says.*



*Volunteer Susan Potts benefited from Tessa's newly-mastered shot-giving skills at the required inservice training for volunteers.*



*Rob and Tessa's son Brian and his wife Abigail are expecting their first baby soon. Grandparents live just seven minutes away.*



# Jean's Jazz

*"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." -- John Holmes*

**Happy New Year to All!** We wish everyone the very best in 2025! As always, I open my Jean's Jazz with a quote, and this one reminded me of how much "exercise" your hearts get when you generously share your time and talents with us. Your hearts definitely get a great "workout" in lifting people up as you help them on their health journey. Thank you so very much!

The spirit of giving is alive and well at CHI Memorial. Donations from several departments and individuals made a powerful difference in bringing Christmas to many of our employees in need. Our Volunteer Courtesy Shuttle drivers helped that cause. Many times the individuals who use this free service want to give the shuttle drivers a tip. While our volunteers are not allowed to receive "money" for their service, if people are insistent, our volunteer drivers accept the tip and bring it to our office. We give the money to our CHI Memorial Foundation to use for our greatest needs. Our volunteer drivers were excited about giving to the Christmas Assistance Program. There are endless ways we can all work together to lift people up. (see page 14).

**The Volunteer Christmas Reception** At CHI Memorial, we celebrated Christmas and the holiday season in many special way. Many sacred and festive celebrations are highlighted in our newsletter! Our Volunteer Christmas Reception was wonderful; we had one of our best turnouts ever! We love kicking off the Christmas season celebrating and honoring YOU...our amazing Volunteer Team! (see page 8). Our next Volunteer Christmas Reception is set for Sunday, December 7, 2025, so mark your calendars now for an event you won't want to miss!

**CHI Memorial Georgia Hospital** If you joined us at the Georgia Hospital "Topping Out" Ceremony, you know how special and meaningful it was! This event celebrated the final beam being placed on this structure for the new Georgia Hospital with plans for this hospital to be completed and opened in December 2025. The blessing, topping out ceremony, and recognition of the McCarthy construction and special trades teams along with CHI Memorial staff and all community volunteers, leaders and politician partners who have made it happen was most impressive. It was a historic event, and all felt the excitement and promise of what this facility will be to the North Georgia community who have been working behind the scenes and patiently waiting for this day to arrive! (see page 16) **I am excited to say that while there, I recruited two more volunteers to join our ranks! We will be working to recruit some 30 additional volunteers to join our current Georgia volunteers at our Battlefield Parkway campus to be ready to start their service when we open our new Georgia Hospital. If you know anyone who may be interested, let us know and we will follow up with them.**

**Student Volunteer Summer Program** Julie Touche is working her magic and planning for an even more robust student volunteer program this summer with lots of creative ideas and strategies. If you know of any 16-year-old or older student who would be a wonderful addition to our team, who will be dedicated to our values and ministry and honor the time commitment required, please send them our way. Our students are our future healthcare professionals and so many have flourished because you have encouraged them and made them feel welcomed, modeled a strong work ethic, mentored and took interest in them sharing your life experiences and wisdom and made them feel part of the CHI Memorial family. This is just another way you help lift people up.

**Fitness Center Membership** In closing, as we kick off the New Year, don't forget that there is another way you can "exercise your heart" that will provide great benefits to you, help make you stronger and is available to you at no cost since you are a CHI Memorial Volunteer. It is a free membership to our state-of-the-art Fitness Center! Once you have donated 40 hours of volunteer service with CHI Memorial, if you are interested in a membership, reach out to Matt Thomas, manager of our Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab and Fitness Center, and he will guide you on next steps.



*Volunteer Services Team Jean, Julie, Tessa. And Julie's son Levi enjoyed Donuts (and a picture) with Santa and his elves from Human Resources.*



*Director Jean Payne posed with CEO Janelle Reilly at the "Topping Out" Ceremony. Newsletter editor Joyce Dick is behind Jean.*



## Farewell Party for Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kodsí



Marketing Director Ronelle Sellers and Dr. Matt Kodsí

To wish Chief Medical Officer Dr. Matthew Kodsí the best on his new adventures as an executive coach for physicians, colleagues and friends staged a colorful Disney-themed party. Dr. Lee Jackson is the new Chief Medical Officer

Among the many tributes to Dr. Kodsí, Marketing Director Ronelle Sellers' is quoted below.

**“To say we will miss him is an understatement!”** Ronelle says. “Dr. Kodsí has more energy than anyone I know! I’ve never seen anyone multi-task as well as he does! And he cares about people more than anyone could imagine.”

“If someone on our staff was hurting, whether they lost a loved one or made a mistake, he would immediately call to encourage them. He had our executive leadership team writing notes of encouragement to others during a weekly meeting. No matter what was going on he was willing to put on a Buc-ees outfit to encourage staff, film a video to reach patients or figure out the best path for a physician project.” (Or wear a bow on his head or a Cat-in-the-Hat t-shirt that said “Trust Me! I’m a Doctor!”)

“He went door to door with vaccines during Covid, created a talent show for employee bonding, and always thought of new ways to recognize staff. It literally took the entire marketing staff to keep up with him!”

“In addition to always encouraging others, the other two things I’ll always remember about him is his love of oatmeal and his ability to deliver a 20 point, 10 minute video message in one take! Thank you for loving us all so well, Dr. Kodsí! Best wishes on your new adventure!”

In his reflection to end his final safety huddle, Dr. Kodsí spoke on how we may best measure our success.

***“Perhaps what matters most is the road we not only paved with good intentions, but cleared for others with every attempt to find common ground, every effort to establish mutual respect and understanding, and every simple demonstration of gratitude.”***



Reminding Dr. Kodsí he was a piece that made a difference, guests signed puzzle pieces. Arts Therapy Director Chyela Rowe adds hers.



Dr. Arlene Donowitz hugs Dr. Kodsí. Several physicians attended.



Retired colleagues returned to express their appreciation and listen with Dr. Kodsí to tributes and stories of the work he has done as Chief Medical Officer.



Members of the leadership team voiced their appreciation to Dr. Kodsí at his final daily safety huddle.



# Volunteers Enjoy Required Safety & Compliance Inservices



Director Jean Payne, Volunteer Coordinator Tessa Long, and Guest Services Manager Julie Touché were in the Halloween and Thanksgiving Spirit.

To maintain knowledge and awareness of hospital safety and compliance policies, volunteers must review them every year and keep up with any changes.

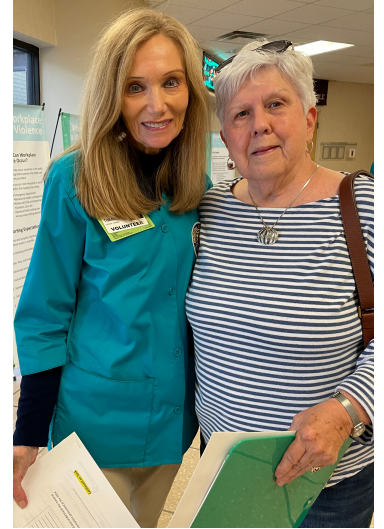
“We try to make it interesting, convenient, and fun, as well as comprehensive and informative,” says Director Jean Payne. “The Poster Fair has been receiving positive comments every year and gets the best response. Volunteers could come to the Chattanooga or the Hixson campus for an hour or so, see friends, enjoy a snack, and get their required forms signed.”

Those unable to attend these special one-day presentations need to make arrangements through the Volunteers Services office.

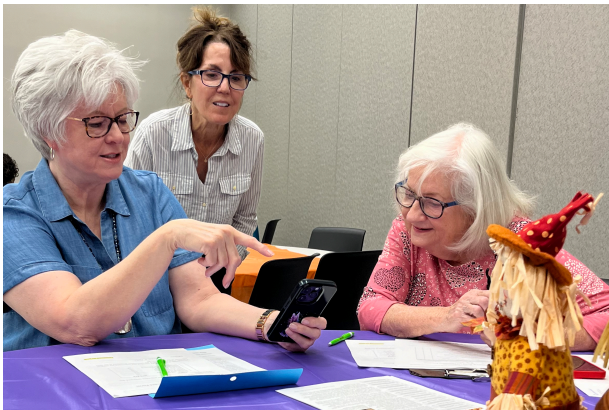
### A few important reminders:

- **Protect Patient Privacy.** Never walk away from a computer screen showing patient information, and never purposely access patient data without a job need or share any patient information on social media or where you may be heard.
- **Be Safe and Keep Others Safe.** Be alert to surroundings and activities and report any suspicious behavior, the presence of weapons or any safety hazard.

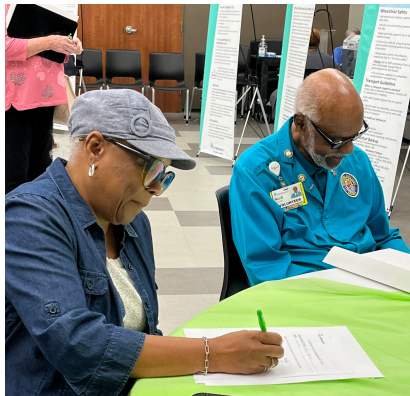
### ● Learn Where Safe Rooms Are in Your Area.



Theresa Gribben and Georgene Gunnon found Hixson convenient.



Susan Potts, Debbie McClanahan, and Judy Hall also catch up on family pictures and activities.



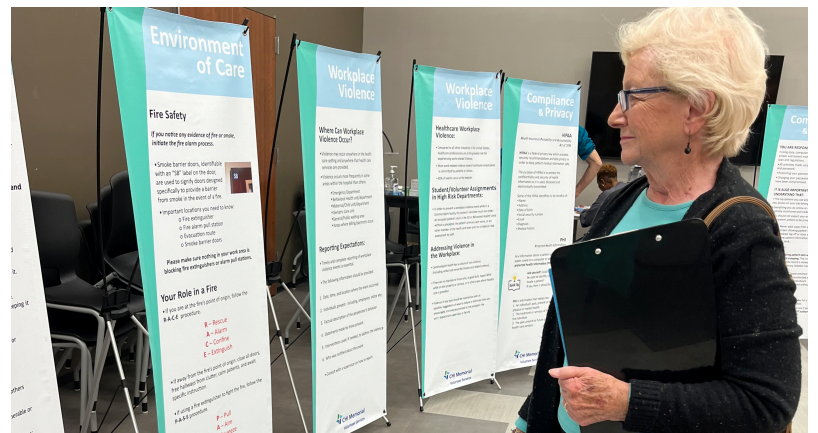
Valerie Barber and Willie Harvey fill out forms after reviewing information.



Lillian Jones and Sandy Zuckerman have a chance to read the newsletter.

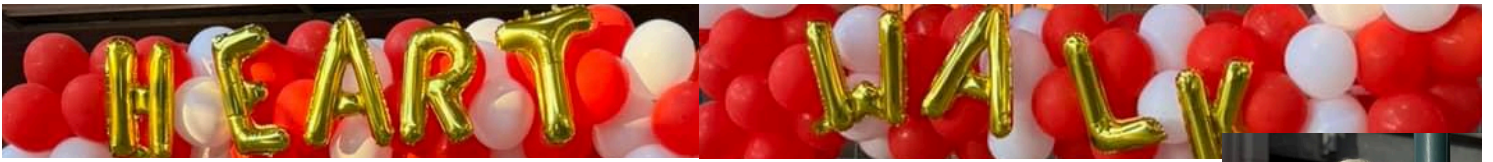


Dennis Call, John LaPoint, Julie Touché and Linda Thompson. Jimmy Sissom is at Hixson Information desk.



Emily Perrine reviews the posters, which were set up on both campuses.





**The goal for the 2024 Chattanooga Heart Walk: \$400,000. Amount Raised: \$433,720.62!**

CHI Memorial has had a long and rewarding partnership with the American Heart Association and celebrated this Centennial year as one of the top five fundraisers with more than \$26,000. It was a beautiful day and a time of celebration and fun.

Walk Chairperson for 2024, CHI Memorial CEO Janelle Reilly ranked in the top five individual fundraisers, and the hospital provided screenings, health information, and art and music therapy at the walk site. She spoke of the great work of the Heart Association and the significant need for more education and awareness of the risks factors for heart disease and stroke.

A total of 2,357 registered to walk, many of them survivors of heart disease. Hundreds more donated to help the AHA fund more research, more people trained in lifesaving CPR, more medical breakthroughs, and more champions for equitable health.

Moving into its second century of work fighting heart disease and stroke, the AHA is strengthened by Chattanooga's overwhelming show of support.



CEO Janelle Reilly, Heart Walk Chairperson



Janelle and Pat Reilly and COO James Williams and dogs.

Heart disease is still the number 1 killer in the nation, and stroke ranks fifth. Thank you for any help you can give.



After the 3.1 mile walk this tired puppy was ready to rest.



Memorial was Signature Sponsor of Heart Walk 2024. "I walk for my loved ones."



Kevin Hopkins, VP of Cardiovascular Services.



Warm-up shot shows a few of the more than 2,300 participants.



A Family Walk: Children had heart checked.



Chyela Rowe and Lexi Rodriguez shared Arts Therapy and Well Being tools.



Little girl was fascinated with the stethoscope.



This little guy loved the Arts Therapy bongos.



# Volunteers Enjoy Annual Christmas Reception

Nearly 250 volunteers were welcomed warmly by hospital leadership at the annual Volunteer Christmas Reception at Notre Dame High School.

“This is one of our favorite events,” Volunteer Services Director Jean Payne says. “Leadership loves it because they have a chance to visit with volunteers in a relaxed, fun, and festive atmosphere. It helps bring in the Christmas Spirit. It’s a beautiful way to recognize and honor volunteers. We had everything except real chestnuts roasting on an open fire!”

The amazing meal included appetizers like pecan-crusted chicken bites, chicken wings with rice pilaf, stuffed mushrooms, meatballs, vegetarian spring rolls with duck sauce, and jumbo shrimp cocktail.

Prime Rib with rolls and shrimp and grits provided the entree choices. A “dip” station offered spinach and artichoke dip and bruschetta with garlic crostini, pita chips and crackers.

A fresh fruit and cheese tower was beautifully served alongside caprese kabobs with fresh mozzarella and tomatoes.

Desserts included assorted cheesecakes, petit fours, banana pudding, chocolate cake with ice cream, and Christmas cookies.

Chef Dale Williams and Creative Dining Services did a fantastic job!



CEO Janelle Reilly and Director Jean Payne



Karen Sloan and Christine Willingham



Karen and Jerry White, Brenda Wrape, and Martha Greene



Director Jean Payne, Eileen and Jim Ransom, Donna Bailey, Darla Steadman, Karen and John Carden



Dennis and Ann Meinert



(Back) Tessa Long, Janet Christoph, Chrissie Poarch, Pam Reeves, Hannah Sheetz, Charlita Wellington. (Front) Debby Williams, Julie Touché



Darlene Petite and Jean Moore



Ann and Alan Schide



Matt and Linda Brown, Bobbie and Gene Burnett



Nicole Brown and Linda Thompson



COO James Williams and daughter Pearl



Susan Martin, Lillian Jones, and James Marrow



Jimmy Sissom



Steve and Katie Dowlen



(Center) Debbie and Jon Garvich and Mike and Beegie Garvich



# Pop Star Usher Spreads Thanksgiving Cheer at Memorial



Usher looks at Bessie Smith Hall exhibit with CHATS article on early Black nurses at CHI, including his grandmother Ernestine Carter. (See picture below)

CHI Memorial employees,

As we enter the season of giving thanks and spending time with family, I wanted to do my part by making sure you were all taken care of while you take care of others.

My roots are here in Chattanooga, with my Nanny and Pop living right here on Robbins Street. This is the hospital where my Grandma Tina worked as the first Black admissions nurse and as the first Black nurse for the "Ask a Nurse" program. They continue to be my inspiration for my service to others.

Thank you for all you do. Enjoy your meal. Happy Thanksgiving!

Usher

Employees on all three campuses of CHI Memorial were treated to a special dinner on Thanksgiving Day - courtesy of Usher Raymond IV, who wanted to honor his beloved "Nanny and Pop" (Nancy and James Lackey) and his grandmother "Tina" (Ernestine) Carter, who was the first Black admissions nurse at CHI Memorial and first at Ask-a-Nurse.

Usher grew up in Chattanooga and attended Dalewood Middle School. A portion of the street by the school is named Usher Raymond Parkway. Usher joined the local church youth choir when he was nine years old, where his singing talent was realized and encouraged by Nancy "Nanny" Lackey.

In 2016, Usher established the Nancy Lackey Community Education Fund in memory of his beloved "Nanny," with the goal of providing resources and support for other children. Thousands of students in Hamilton County have felt the impact of the Foundation through the schools, ArtsBuild opportunities, and the Dance Teachers in the Schools program.

The gift of the special meal was spearheaded by Julie Sanders, CEO of the Nancy Lackey Community Education Foundation, who reached out to Community Benefits and Equity Manager Nicole Brown with the plan. "Julie and I have known each other for years and worked at UTC at the same time," Nicole says. "Leadership was excited and honored by the idea, and we made it happen."

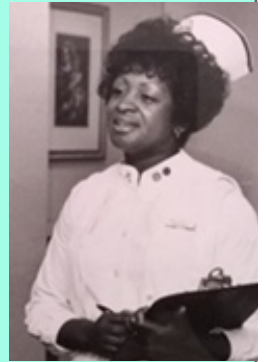
Members of Usher's family were greatly involved in planning and delivering the meals to the Chattanooga campus. The caterers - Davis Wayne Restaurant in Cambridge Square in Ooltewah - took care of delivering meals to the Hixson campus. When some workers from Sam's Club heard of the project, they wanted to be involved in giving back to our community heroes, and they took meals to CHI Memorial Georgia.



Julie Sanders, CEO of Nancy Lackey Community Education Foundation, and Nicole Brown, Community Benefits and Equity Manager at CHI Memorial with framed photo of Usher's Nanny and Pop, Nancy and James Lackey.

## Ernestine Carter: Trailblazer

She came in 1974 and was one of the first Black nurses at CHI Memorial. She became certified in critical care and was one of the first Admissions Nurses and with Ask-a-Nurse, a sophisticated service answering medical questions according to a computerized protocol.



The celebrity singer Usher is one of her nine grandchildren. She died Christmas Eve 2022.



Julie Sanders (left) stands with members of Usher Raymond IV's family, who were proud to be involved in providing a Thanksgiving meal for the "heroes" at CHI Memorial.



# Educational Opportunity for Volunteers, Friends of Memorial



*Dr. Deanne Brown*

Several volunteers attended a special presentation in November to hear about advancements in healthcare at CHI Memorial. Drs. Deanne Brown, Dermatologist, Dr. Mark Fugate, Vascular Surgeon, and Dr. Rishabh Shah, Bariatrics/General Surgeon spoke of new procedures and technology in their specialties.

Dermatologists have extensive training to be able to treat more than 3,000 diseases of the skin, hair, and nails, as well as cosmetic concerns. Dr. Brown spoke of the types of diseases she sees and emphasized the importance of having your skin examined and taking precautions against skin cancer.

Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer and years of exposure to the sun increases an individual's risk. The good news is that over 95% of skin cancers can be successfully treated if they are found early.

Dr. Fugate described vascular specialists or surgeons as those who diagnose and treat conditions that affect blood vessels, veins, and lymphatic vessels in every part of the body except the brain and the heart.

The good news is that procedures for improving the blood flow throughout the body have become less invasive and faster because of advances in technology. This means lower risk and easier recovery, and the possibility for more patients to benefit.



*In the audience: Bariatric Surgeon Dr. Jaime Ponce, and Patti Dungan, co-chair of Friends of Memorial*



*Volunteers Karen and John Carden, Dr. Fugate, and Auxiliary Board member Kim Crabtree*



*Guests included Liz Huntенburg, Kathy Mahn, Krisie Long-Withey and Anthony Byrne.*

They treat carotid disease, peripheral artery disease, aortic aneurysm, renal artery stenosis, dialysis access, venous thromboembolism, venous insufficiency, and more.



*Dr. Mark Fugate and Rishabh Shah*

Dr. Fugate told of the benefits of the multi-disciplinary approach at CHI Memorial and the highly advanced technology.

Dr. Shah, Medical Director of the Bariatric and Metabolic Care Program at CHI Memorial, focused on the benefits of robotic surgery and the skills of surgeons.

CHI Memorial is the only health system in the area to offer the advanced robotic Whipple procedure for treatment of pancreatic cancer. This complex and lifesaving operation involves removing the head of the pancreas, part of the small intestine, gallbladder, and bile duct. Patients that undergo the robotic procedure experience small incisions, less inflammation, and a shorter recovery time.

Dr. Shah is double board certified in both general surgery and obesity medicine, a significant need when approximately 40% of the population struggles with obesity. CHI Memorial's program uses a holistic approach to treatment of obesity.

These special educational programs offer a unique opportunity for volunteers to learn more about the hospital and our physicians as they share with visitors and patients at the hospital. Watch for your invitation to the next program.



*Barbie Standefer, Betty Whaley, and Eleanor McCallie appreciate the opportunity to listen to physicians and ask questions.*



*Guests sat at tables in the Mac Avenue Event space on McCallie Avenue and enjoyed a variety of hors d'oeuvres.*



## Family Priorities Led Her to Teaching - and Chattanooga



*Rosemarie Kos volunteers at Hospital Hixson.*

Rosemarie Kos, a volunteer in Imaging at Hixson, majored in nutrition at Youngstown State University, near where she grew up in Ohio. She planned to work in hospital dietary programs, and did for several years after she married John Kos.

Her career direction changed after their children started school. "I realized a teaching schedule would work best for me," Rosemarie says. "Having weekends off, the same holidays, and especially summer vacation. When the kids were home in the summer, I wanted to be with them."

Wanting to teach math, Rosemarie went back to school, received a secondary teaching certificate with classes at George Mason University in Virginia and earned a degree in math from the State University of New York in Cortland, where John's work in insurance had taken them. His work gave him opportunities to advance in new locations, which meant moving, and the family lived in five states before settling in Chattanooga in 1996.

"Our oldest son graduated from college and moved here with us to work, but the girls were in college. Our youngest son was still in high school. Moving wasn't always easy for the children, but I was always able to find a teaching job, which I enjoyed. And we were able to do lots of camping and traveling with the family."

In Chattanooga, John worked at Unum, and Rosemarie taught at Notre Dame High School – algebra, pre-calculus, advance placement calculus, and some dual enrollment classes with Chattanooga State. At least one student, Lindsey Peterson, tells of being inspired by her math teacher and following in her footsteps to teach high school math. The Carden boys also greatly appreciated "Mrs. Kos" teaching.

Rosemarie retired in 2014, but taught online for four years and then started volunteering at several places, including St. Augustine Church and the Bachman Community Center on Signal Mountain.

"Several church members who volunteer at CHI Memorial asked if I would be interested in volunteering at the hospital and put me in touch with Jean," Rosemarie says.

"I had been driving from Signal Mountain to Notre Dame High School, which is near the Glenwood campus, every day for nearly 15 years. I was happy to be able to go to Hixson, which is closer to home. I enjoy spending one morning a week meeting patients and taking them for whatever tests they need."

John, now retired from Unum, stays busy at home. One project in December was getting a generator installed to help during power outages, which occur all too frequently on Signal Mountain.

Rosemarie and John's four children and four grandchildren were home for several days during the holiday season. "It was very nice to be all together for special times together."

Their son Jason and his wife Amanda live in Ooltewah. He is director of IT at Unum. Their daughter Julia is 16, and attends East Hamilton High.

Son Matthew, an E-commerce specialist, and his wife Kathleen live in Ooltewah. Their two sons: Sean and Ryan attend Wallace Smith School in Ooltewah. John and Rosemarie enjoy attending sports events, recitals, and special school events.

One daughter Allison, a physician, lives in Milwaukee with her husband Ron, Director of the lead abatement program for the city, and their daughter Ava.

Their youngest daughter Kristen lives in Charleston, South Carolina, and is office manager for TEC Company, which does audiovisual for large festivities.

Family continues to take center stage for Rosemarie and John.



*Grandchildren Sean, Ryan, and Julia enjoy a Walden tradition - Santa riding on the Fire Engine through neighborhoods.*



*Granddaughter Ava is a soccer star.*



## The 'Angels' Who Helped Zarious on His Journey



Zarious Peavey loves volunteering at Memorial.

In June 2024, Zarious Peavey started volunteering at the outpatient and main entrances of CHI Memorial, and he loves it. He comes three or four afternoons a week.

“I love helping people, and I love meeting new people,” the 26-year-old says. “I also love the people I work with every day.”

He admits that it took him a while to find his way around the hospital, and a few times he had to call his adoptive sister Chasity Jackson, who works in Medical Records, for directions. But now, he confidently escorts patients and family members to their destinations.

Volunteer Carol McCamish, a co-worker, says, “Zarious is very conscientious and delightful to be around.”

His journey began in Detroit, and it has not been an easy one. When he was only 8 years old, Zarious and his 10 siblings lost their mother to breast cancer.

Zarious and his younger sister Georgetta were sent to Chattanooga to live with their grandmother, while the older children stayed in Detroit. Leaving a lively home filled with love and lots of activity was difficult even though he was in touch with his siblings.

Shortly after the move, it was determined that their grandmother was unable to care for the children, and they were placed in foster care, with an uncertain future.

That’s when a CNA at CHI Memorial, Deborah Peavey and her husband Alphonso, stepped in, first as foster parents, who fell in love with the two children and adopted them. Zarious became part of another loving family with a brother and two sisters, two uncles, and other foster children.

### “Because She Is an Angel”

Associates at CHI Memorial recognized Deborah Peavey’s loving spirit in 2016 on “Pay it Forward,” a

program on NewsChannel 9 that surprised deserving individuals.

A fellow CNA made the presentation saying, “She is loved by her patients and staff members for her compassion. She also fosters children and helps anyone in need. When my stove stopped working, she gave me one she wasn’t using.”

A fire had damaged the Peavey home, and they were living in a hotel at the time of the “Pay it Forward” gift of \$500.

Not even the house fire caused her to frown. She said, “Things might seem bad, but they could be worse. My family made it out. We have each other.”

Zarious attended Hunter Middle School and graduated from Central High School in 2017, the same year that his stepfather Alphonso died. Zarious continued to live with his adoptive mother and work at various jobs – housekeeping, catering, and as a school bus monitor.

Two years ago, Deborah Peavey died of breast cancer. Following the example of her mother and father, Chasity took responsibility for care of Zarious and her uncles. She also has a daughter and two adopted sons. “My parents were great role models,” she says.

The Peaveys also encouraged Zarious to talk to his siblings in Detroit, and one sister (Danyell) continues to be a mentor. He has gone back to visit his biological family, which has greatly expanded in the past 15+ years.



Deborah Peavey was totally surprised by the “Pay it Forward” gift. The family picture used to tell Deborah’s story includes Zarious and his sister Georgetta.



(Left) Zarious’ birth mother. (Above) Zarious and several of his biological siblings who gathered to welcome him on one of his visits to Detroit. Many have children of their own.



Zarious’ sister Georgetta took this selfie with Zarious, Chasity and Chasity’s daughter Lahja.





Look for this sign!

## You Are Invited to Join the Memorial Credit Union!

### Yes, the hospital really has a Credit Union!

The new Manager, Derrick Rumph, wants volunteers to know that they and their family members are eligible to join and enjoy the benefits of this financial institution that offers all the services of other credit unions.

The Memorial Credit Union is located at 6800 Longview Road, looking like a home in a quiet neighborhood at the intersection of Hickory Valley Road and Lee Highway, across from a CVS Pharmacy. You could mistake it for a neighbor's house, except for the convenient drive-up window and extra parking.

“The thing I love about this Credit Union is that we can give you all the services of most other Credit Unions - mortgage, auto loans, credit cards, checking, and saving accounts. Most importantly, we can give you a lot of personal attention,” the new manager says.

“All decisions are made in the office by people who really care about our members. We try to work with each individual to see how we can make things work best for you. We have a passion for serving our members.”

### Member Reviews of the Credit Union Express Satisfaction

One says, “I couldn't be happier with the way everything was handled.”

Another writes “I love this place and all the people working there. I have done business with them for over 30 years.”

Volunteer Services Director Jean Payne, a member of the Credit Union Board, is impressed with the new manager and loves the rest of the staff.

“Buffy Davis has been working there for 35 years. She is the backbone and the heart of the service. Kena Davis, who is not related to Buffy, has been serving members for 12 years, and Sonya Moore for two years. They are all dedicated, friendly, and ready to help.”

Derrick, who only recently joined the team, wants to continue that kind of service for employees and volunteers who join the Credit Union and be members for life.

He grew up in a small town near Macon, Georgia, and graduated with a degree in computer science from Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Georgia. He soon found he liked interaction with people more than computers and tried other things until he found the perfect fit as a

### The Credit Union Began in the 1960s to Help Hospital Employees

When Administrator Cullen Davis began working at Memorial Hospital in 1958, Sister Marie Victoria was Administrator, and he quickly became one of her most trusted colleagues. But when he suggested starting a Credit Union, she initially resisted, until he explained how it could help employees.

He told her, “With a small loan, a nursing assistant, who makes \$50 a month, would be able to buy a refrigerator or washing machine. I know they will pay it back.”

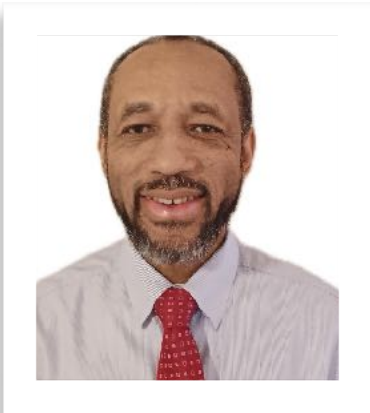
Sister finally agreed, and Cullen paid the initial fee and became the first manager. The motto was, “Not for profit, not for charity, but for service.”



Sister Marie Victoria, First Administrator



The Memorial Credit Union offers personalized service to hospital employees and volunteers in a friendly, environment like a neighbor's home. It provides a convenient drive-through window and parking for walk-in service.



Derrick Rumph, Manager  
Memorial Credit Union

Credit Union Branch Manager in Warner Robins, Georgia, where he served for more than 20 years.

In 2022, he left the Credit Union to work with a non-profit, but soon realized he missed the credit union world, and began searching for possibilities.

“The opening at CHI Memorial attracted me - and Chattanooga is close to home. I sent a resume and talked to several board members on the phone before coming for an in-person interview.”

“I quickly realized this was a great team and a great place to work, and I am loving it.”

Derrick and his wife have moved to this area. Their two adult children still live in Georgia.





# Christmas at Memorial

As a faith based hospital, CHI Memorial has always celebrated Christmas, remembering the birth of Jesus, God’s gift to save mankind. This year, the beautiful season was celebrated throughout the month with Advent Mass, musicians playing inspiring music, the stable scene, and beautiful decorations. The entire staff got into the spirit of fun with colorful Christmas attire.

A giant star once shone from the top of the hospital during the season, and a star-lighting ceremony marked the beginning of the season. The star is gone, but the ceremony continues. Music by the Super Stars Pre-K day care class highlighted the “annual” ceremony this year. Their talent and enthusiasm truly brightened the day.

The Spirit of Giving inspired departments and individuals to sponsor 154 employees with children or grandchildren and give them a merrier Christmas. They gave gifts totally \$125 for each child and a Walmart gift card for the family. Anyone who works within the CHI Memorial system was eligible to apply for assistance.

Volunteer Service got involved by giving all the tip money from the shuttles to the Christmas Assistance Program.



Memorial Leadership displayed the fun spirit of Christmas with this greeting on social media.



The Super Stars Pre-K daycare class performed adorably for the Star Lighting.



The community rooms were filled with gifts for 154 employee families, as the staff and physician offices responded to needs of their co-workers.



Was she naughty or nice? Santa reacts to Nicole Brown’s report.

At a new Donuts (and pictures) with Santa event, Santa (Tim Yonts) and his elves from the Talent Acquisition team: Abby Jordan, Cheyenne Sanchez, Jamie Elliott, and Shelbie Collins posed for pictures with employees and volunteers, including our canine volunteers and their handlers.





# Christel Hancock: Her Journey from La-Z-Boy to Hixson Hospital

Not many years after graduating from Soddy Daisy High School, Christel Hancock, a house administrator at CHI Memorial Hixson, went to work at the La-Z-Boy Manufacturing Plant in Dayton along with her sister and her mother. She met Robert (Bob) Hancock there and they married. Then, unexpectedly, her life took a different path.

“Some of our jobs were threatened to be outsourced, and my sister suggested we go back to school and take nursing,” Christel says. “I wasn’t too sure about it. I didn’t know adults went to college, and we would have a lot to do to qualify for the nursing program. But we were able to take our prerequisites at Chattanooga State in Dayton and found lots of older people taking classes. When we got off work, we would go straight to school.”

“Somehow we were able to keep the same schedule when we had to go to the Chattanooga campus for the CNA classes. We were able to study together.”

Christel began working at CHI Memorial Hixson as a CNA 17 years ago. She continued school to become an LPN and then earned her RN Associate degree. She completed her BSN at Jacksonville University and then her MSN. Her roles at the hospital changed, too. “I continued working on Unit 2 as an LPN, then as an RN, and a Charge Nurse. I moved to Intensive Care and became a Charge Nurse. Five years ago, I moved to administration.”

“I like the Hixson Hospital. It’s close to home, for one thing, and it’s small enough that it’s easy to get to know everyone, even many physicians. We are like family.”

Christel and Bob celebrated 22 years of marriage in December. For the past few years they have taken her favorite kind of vacation - a cruise to “someplace tropical,” but this year they cruised in July and are celebrating the anniversary by painting their bedroom.

“We bought this house with the intention of remodeling it, but it has been a slow process. We have gradually done six rooms – changing doors, baseboards, flooring. We are trying to do it ourselves as much as possible and fit the projects around our schedules.”

Bob has continued to work at La-Z-Boy, having been there 33 years now – mostly on the night shift. “He’s tried to change to days, but I don’t think they want him to leave his position or shift. He’s a supervisor and does training for new hires. But it works with me also working the night shift at Hixson.”



Christel and Bob Hancock with their youngest grandson Lucas.



Christel and her daughter Savannah, a flight nurse.

## They Will Eat Their Anniversary Dinner in an Igloo

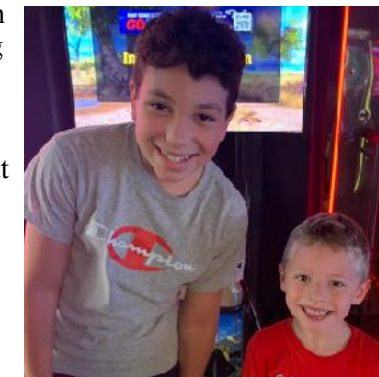
“Besides doing the painting project and getting ready for Christmas, we are also eating out to celebrate our anniversary. We’ve both picked a favorite restaurant and made reservations. We’re going to eat in an Igloo at Top of the Rock\*\* on Jasper Mountain and also at the new Malone’s Chattanooga at Hamilton Place”



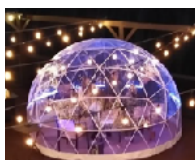
Bob, Bobby, Jr., and Owen

Christmas will be celebrated with their children and grandchildren. “We had his and hers when we married,” Christel explains. “His” son Bobby, Jr. works at Volkswagen as a supplier and gave them their oldest grandson – Owen (12). “Her” daughter Savannah, a flight nurse, is mother of Lucas (6) and married to Cory Prater, a paramedic.

Squeak, a 13-year-old Shih Tzu, follows a long line of Hancock pampered pets, and was the center of Christmas celebrations.



Christel and Bob’s grandsons: Owen and Lucas



\*\*Top of the Rock has been named the most beautiful restaurant in Tennessee by People Magazine. The large patio (where the igloos are located in winter) overlooks the Tennessee River. At Christmas you can drive or take a tram through the area to see thousands of lights, waterfalls, and bridges. Malone’s at Hamilton Place is described as a fantastic addition to the local dining scene.



# “Topping Out” Celebrates Reverence for Life, Collaboration

Many watched with tears in their eyes as the final beam rose into the sky to be placed on the steel framework of the long awaited new hospital in Georgia, with an evergreen tree and a flag symbolizing reverence for life, freedoms, and hope.

“It is a dream come true,” says Administrator Angie Stiggins. “A testament to the remarkable dedication of our leaders at CHI Memorial and CommonSpirit, of the great partnership we have with our design team Hoefler Welker and McCarthy Construction, the wonderful support of the North Georgia area, and all who are invested in this hospital.”

**“Most of all this ceremony is a time to celebrate the work of our ironworkers, electricians, plumbers, and other tradesmen and women, who have gotten us to this pivotal moment safely and on schedule to open and begin treating patients in December 2025.”**



Georgia Hospital Administrator Angie Stiggins and CEO Janelle Reilly clapped for the skilled crafts people. Janelle also praised Andrew McGill and Angie, who navigate and move along the complexities of the project.

“They spent months on the underground infrastructure which no one sees but is vital - plumbing, electricity, planning for all the analyzers, the operating rooms, and imaging equipment,” Angie points out.

**“The integrity of the building depends on the foundation.”**

This Topping Out Ceremony also celebrates remarkable collaborative efforts and is a time of bonding. CEO Janelle Reilly said, “We are grateful to countless people - Larry Schumacher, who gave birth to this vision as SE Division leader, our design and construction teams, our local, state, and federal government partners, our CommonSpirit leaders, and more.”

Representatives of Catoosa, Walker, and Dade Counties spoke in praise for what the hospital means for a healthier community, sharing personal experiences of the need for excellence in healthcare close to home.



Workers paused in their work to enjoy the excellent meal and the bond of common purpose that strengthened the team spirit.



“Looking up at the steel beams, the backbone of this structure, it’s hard not to feel the promise and excitement of the healing miracles that will take place in this sacred edifice.” - CEO Janelle Reilly



(Center) Janelle Reilly and Andrew McGill stand between two leaders in McCarthy Construction. Janelle says, “We have incredible partners.”



Beau Barth, VP of Operations at McCarthy signs beam. The tree symbolizes reverence for life.



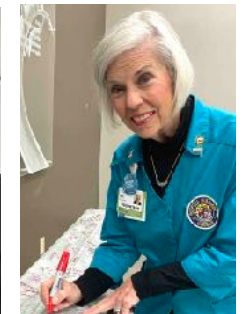
It’s a dream come true for long time GA employee Pam Lawson and volunteer Hally Barnett.



Major donors in attendance included Rich and Barb Kramer, here with Jennifer Nicely and Jake Johnson of the CHI Memorial Foundation.



Sister Judy Raley and COO James Williams were among nearly 400 braving the cold.



Auxiliary President Sue Culpepper signs the beam.



## A Journey from the Cruise Missile Program to Knoxville Diocese

Marian Christiana was born in Los Angeles, one of six children. She was 15 and attending St. Mary's Academy, an all-girls' school when she met Ralph, who had just graduated from an all-boys' school.

"One of my sisters was dating Ralph's best friend, and Ralph often came to our home," she says. "I attended San Diego State University and received a degree in Community Organization."

"I love San Diego and was fortunate to find a job there working in the aerospace industry on the Cruise Missile Program. They were just starting to hire women for positions other than secretaries. When my sister married Ralph's best friend, Ralph and I were both involved in the wedding and spent a lot of time together. We eventually started dating long distance."

"When we began talking about marriage, we realized he had the better job opportunities through Provident/Unum, and we found a home in El Segundo, near the LAX and his job. I got into computer science. Our first two children were born there: our son Patrick and oldest daughter Madeleine."

"As we thought, Ralph kept moving up and was transferred to Phoenix in 1984. While we were there, I stayed home with the children. Three years later, we came to Chattanooga. Our youngest daughter Marie was born here. The children all attended OLPH, Notre Dame, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville."



*Marian Christiana and husband Ralph both volunteer at the Surgery Waiting Room Desk. Marian also visits cancer patients.*

### **In Chattanooga, Marian's career direction changed dramatically, and she finally began using her degree.**

She became Director of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment for the Diocese of Knoxville. She conducted Marriage Enrichment Seminars in different parishes throughout the Diocese.

"These might be weekend retreats or one day seminars to discuss and practice different types of communication and build a strong and joyful marriage. I would help the couples form a follow-up group if enough wanted to continue to meet and learn as a group on their own. I also conducted engaged or marriage preparation retreats."

"Every year my office would host three marriage celebrations in different parishes around the diocese. The Bishop would celebrate Mass, and the couples would renew their vows. The reception gave them opportunity to take pictures.

"Ralph sometimes helped with the retreats, which involved presenting couples speaking and often sharing examples of how they resolved conflict or shared responsibilities."

"My son and his wife went through one of my marriage preparation retreats, which was fun for us. My married daughter attended another retreat in Texas."

By the time she and Ralph retired in 2019, they knew many of the area priests very well, and considered them good friends.



*(Left) Marian and Ralph's youngest daughter Marie and their son Patrick and wife Alison, who visited for Christmas*

### **Volunteering at Memorial**

"We were having lunch with Father Mike Creson one day, and he asked me what I was doing since I retired. I had to say nothing. He told me I needed to volunteer at Memorial and told me I should do rounding on the cancer floor.

**"More volunteers are needed to visit cancer patients. I would love to talk to anyone interested. You meet some beautiful people and listen a lot."**

Jean asked Marian and Ralph to work at the Surgery Waiting Room desk and coordinate with Rich and Barb Kramer, who happened to be old friends.

"They work mornings on Fridays and we work afternoons. We've known each other since our children were in pre-school together. It's been great to rekindle our friendship."



*Granddaughters Violet (6), Rosalie (8)*



*Daughter Madeleine, husband Steve Frampton, and daughters Violet (6) and Rosalie (8) live in Texas.*



# Creating Lung Cancer Awareness; Santa Screened



*Dr. Rob Hendrick is Chief of Thoracic Surgery at CHI Memorial Rees Skillern Cancer Institute. He specializes in chest and lung cancer care.*

Lung Cancer Awareness Month is observed annually in November. This month aims to raise awareness about lung cancer, promote early detection, and support those affected by the disease.

CHI Memorial partnered with Girls Preparatory School this year to raise awareness about lung cancer and its impact on women. Students learned about the importance of early screening, explored the factors driving the disease, and discovered exciting career opportunities in lung cancer research, medicine, and



*Dr. Hendrick posed with the white ribbon symbolic of lung cancer and with the faculty at Girls Preparatory School*

biotech. In Tennessee, someone dies of lung cancer every two hours.

Dr. Hendrick and CHI Memorial are trying to change those statistics by empowering the next generation with knowledge and tools to create a healthier community and a future with less lung cancer. When lung cancer is detected at an early stage, there is a significant increase of survival.



*Dr. Hendrick spoke to students at Girls Preparatory School to create awareness of the risks of lung cancer and the importance of early detection. He also discussed career opportunities.*

The Buz Standefer Lung Center at CHI Memorial is this region's best and only comprehensive lung center, offering the most advanced detection capabilities, interventional procedures and surgical treatments for lung cancer.

Lung cancer care is extremely complex because most patients need surgery, radiation and chemotherapy – or a combination of all three – to provide lifesaving treatment. Coordinated care by a team of experts can mean the difference between life and death.

Memorial's Breathe Easy mobile lung CT coach allows us to take low-dose CT lung screening out into our communities and reach people who may not have access or the opportunity to get this scan otherwise. It is saving lives.



*Santa enjoyed a laugh with the Breathe Easy Mobile Van Driver Danny Hill in Dayton before getting the CT Scan to check his lungs.*

## Santa Gets Lung Scan

### Even Santa takes care of his health!

Before his big night, Santa stopped at the CHI Memorial Breathe Easy Mobile Lung Screening Unit in Decatur to check his lungs and delight the staff.

Even jolly old St. Nick knows the importance of early detection - and of creating awareness and encouraging everyone with risk factors to have the lung scan.

Christy Rutledge, the CT Technologist was quite surprised and honored to have such a distinguished guest. The screening

also captures an image of the heart to calculate a cardiac calcium score which can help people understand their risk for heart disease or heart attack. Other incidental findings have been identified during this screening as well (i.e gallstones, thyroid masses, etc).





# CHI Memorial News Briefs

## Dr. Bhadra Performs 300th Robotic Surgery

Huge congratulations to Dr. Krish Bhadra on performing his 300th robotic surgery with the Galaxy Robot! This milestone, achieved with his exceptional team represents a significant step forward in our fight against lung cancer. The Galaxy Robot provides precise bronchoscopic visualization and access for diagnosis and treatment, improving patient outcomes and giving them the best chance at recovery.



## Angie Stiggins, Catoosa Chamber Chair

Angie Stiggins, a long time member of the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, was installed as the 2025 Board Chair at the recent annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.



CHI Memorial Georgia Administrator Angie Stiggins recently took office as Board Chair of the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce. (Above) Past Chair Ben Friberg passes the gavel to Angie and Chamber President/CEO Amy Jackson welcomes Angie to this new position.

Amy Jackson, President and CEO of the Chamber, spoke at the Topping Out Ceremony for CHI Memorial Georgia.



(Above left) Amy Jackson speaking at Topping Out Ceremony. (Above right) Ronelle Sellers and Andrew McGill showed support for Angie at the Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce meeting.

“We are thrilled to have Angie serve as Chair of the Catoosa County Chamber Board, and I have been thrilled to watch the steel beams of the new hospital rise. It will be a significant boost to the economy of this area. Construction jobs have already injected vital funds into our community, and the hospital will create hundreds of high-quality jobs and attract skilled professionals and their families to our area.”

“The hospital will also increase access to quality care. My family experienced that convenience when my husband had cancer treatment 20 days in a row and only had to drive five minutes to the CHI Memorial Parkway Cancer Center.”

To reach the Construction Site live camera, click on link: [https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://share.earthcam.net/tJ90CoLmq7TzrY396Yd88H2\\_DvjtHMDCbK28wck2wHk\\_!!CqLityr3mSQ!E9YXyazaI7do5iHVpSWVF4qDuRxSbqmNELEZ1ouNuACFzkstl0bJmwGRrNnKSh6rGz3CDT6qoRMkycX7HMR8cs5k2MMzhRol-g\\$!](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://share.earthcam.net/tJ90CoLmq7TzrY396Yd88H2_DvjtHMDCbK28wck2wHk_!!CqLityr3mSQ!E9YXyazaI7do5iHVpSWVF4qDuRxSbqmNELEZ1ouNuACFzkstl0bJmwGRrNnKSh6rGz3CDT6qoRMkycX7HMR8cs5k2MMzhRol-g$!)

## Partnering with Police to Promote Proper Firearm Storage in Vehicles

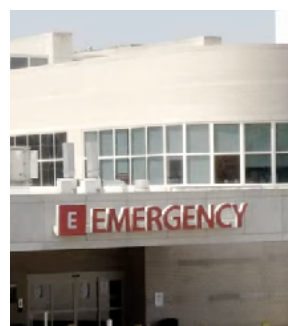


According to CPD data, nearly 400 guns were stolen from vehicles in the Chattanooga area last year. Almost half of those vehicles were not locked.

Together with CPD, CHI Memorial created an educational video that promotes proper and secure storage of firearms in a vehicle, as well as the importance of also locking the vehicle. Proper storage is critical to community safety because it deters car break-ins.

“Our mission is to improve the health of the people we serve, and that extends outside the hospital walls. By educating our friends and neighbors how to properly store firearms in their cars, we hope to drive a positive change in the number of guns that are stolen and help reduce gun violence in our community,” shared Betsy Kammerdiener, Market Director of Mission Integration.

## Invest in the Best Brings a Chaplain Dedicated to Emergency Department



Family members whose faith is important to them and who have had good experiences at CHI Memorial have made an endowed gift to support a chaplain in the Emergency Room for years to come. This will make a tremendous impact on patient

satisfaction and excellence in wholistic care and fulfillment of the mission of CHI Memorial.

Friends of CHI Memorial is also raising funds to renovate and create an outstanding Emergency Room. Anyone and any size gift will benefit this project.



# Announcements and Important Dates

## Gold Certification for Cardio-Oncology



Dr. Henry Cheng

CHI Memorial has received the prestigious Center of Excellence Gold certification from the International Cardio-Oncology Society for our cardio-oncology program, thanks to the incredible work of Dr. Henry Cheng!

This achievement makes us the first in Tennessee to have this designation and one of the few health systems in the Southeast with a cardio-oncology program. The cardio-oncology program provides specialized screenings and treatments to protect the heart health

of cancer patients.

## Peace, Love, and Unity Service

The 32nd annual Peace, Love, and Unity Service to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be a special Facebook livestream event on Monday, January 20 at 4pm EST. This program features speakers from CHI Memorial and the Chattanooga community and music by local organizations.

## Fourth Quarter Sales Report



Three sales events resulted in rebates to the Auxiliary for use in patient services. In October, Tri-State Books brought in a net of \$14,514.05 The Auxiliary rebate was \$2,171.71.

The Southern Comfort Bedding online sales total was \$6,279.26; our rebate came to \$1,255.85. The December Masquerade Sale did well with \$13,845 in sales, and a rebate of \$2,769 for the Auxiliary.

Upcoming sales are posted below. If you can help, please notify Beverly Sanders or Linda Thompson, your

## Remember These Sales

- Sterling, Purses & More Sale  
January 27-28 - Hixson Campus  
January 30-31 - Glenwood Campus
- Tri-State Books Sale  
March 11-12 - Glenwood Campus;  
March 18-19 - Hixson Campus

## Help Color Chattanooga Pink! T-Shirts Available



Wendy's is again the sponsor for Color Chattanooga Pink, and they will be promoting mammograms and early detection and hosting the Mobile Van at several of their locations. Many other businesses are raising money for the MaryEllen Locher Breast Center through this community-wide effort.

The new Pink! T-shirts have been designed by local artist Danita Nobles, and they are on sale in several locations,

including the Cloverkey Gift Shop at CHI Memorial Glenwood.

## MaryEllen Locher Scholarship Applications

Children of current or previous breast cancer patients are eligible to apply for a scholarship for the 2025-26 school year. Applications are due on Feb. 21. The application has an online format to make it easier to access an application and information on the scholarship. Find the application at <https://maryellenlocherscholarshipfund.grantplatform.com/>



The River City Ribbon 5K and Fun Runs will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at Chattanooga State Community College. Plan ahead to

participate in this event which unites all cancer patients, families, and survivors to provide funds for local treatments. You may walk or volunteer to help.

You will be helping to increase mobile screenings for early detection, provide comprehensive assistance to all patients, and/or increase treatment options and opportunities at the Rees Skillern Cancer Institute at CHI Memorial, the leading provider of adult cancer services in the region.



The rewarding camaraderie of our volunteers is demonstrated above by the Monday morning volunteers at CHI Memorial Main Entrance. They are saluting staffer Gail Hawkesworth, who'll be missed as she moves out of state to be with family in Virginia. Pictured are John Vass, Brenda Carson, Gail, Mike Doubleday and Webb Tallon.