



UNDER THE **Rainbow**

BATSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

change
of
heart

Christopher Peña's
remarkable journey

2 Helmets a Must

7 Celebrating Each Day

22 An Extraordinary Gift

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of this publication dedicated to Mississippi's one-and-only children's hospital.

The unique responsibility we have to the children and families of Mississippi is not something we take lightly. We continually look for ways to improve and expand our spectrum of care. Two of our most recent achievements include expanding our children's emergency department and reactivating heart transplant services through our thriving Children's Heart Center.

But our accomplishments only gain meaning through the profoundly touching stories of our young patients. We believe you will be inspired by them. We certainly are, and so are the physicians, nurses and other health-care providers who work tirelessly every day to make our children well.

As you read through these pages, remember that you are an integral part of our mission here at Batson. From the specialized health-care teams to the child-friendly facilities, we simply couldn't do what we do without support from our community. Together, we are bringing a healthier future to Mississippi.

Thank you for **your continued dedication.**

With gratitude,



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



Guy Giesecke, Chief
Executive Officer, Batson
Children's Hospital





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Under the Rainbow is published twice a year by **The Division of Public Affairs at The University of Mississippi Medical Center.**

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On the cover: Christopher Peña plays on a fence at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum.



HEADS UP

Luke Smith
knows helmets
a **MUST** for
ATV riders



written by **Jennifer Hospodor**

A year ago, 8-year-old Luke Smith could have died when the back tire of his all-terrain vehicle went off the gravel road, flipping the vehicle and trapping Luke beneath it.

He wasn't wearing a helmet and he wasn't critically injured either. What he is, according to doctors at Batson Children's Hospital, is extremely fortunate. Many children involved in ATV accidents while not wearing helmets suffer severe injuries; some die.

At the Selby and Richard McRae Children's Trauma Unit at Batson Children's Hospital, ATV accidents are the fourth-leading cause of admission with more than 60 documented cases seen in 2011. Mississippi ranks among the worst states in the nation for ATV-related injuries, with 290 deaths between 1982 and 2008, 58 of them in children.

"Mississippi has such a high rate of ATV accidents mainly because we are a rural and agriculture-based state," said Elizabeth Foster, project manager of Batson's Safety and Community Outreach program. In 2009, the last year for which fatality numbers have been released, 10 Mississippi children died.

"Other states have skiing or surfing for outdoor recreation, Mississippi has 'mudding' on ATVs," Foster said. "It's a way of life here."

That's true for the Smiths. Luke is one of five raised in a family of ATV riders who don't regularly wear helmets while riding

around their sprawling family property. Luke's mother, Ashley Smith, calls him the "careful child," not one to race around like his older brothers, but with a habit of turning around to look behind him.

...Mississippi has

MUDDING

on ATVs.

It's a way of **LIFE** here.

This habit probably caused his ATV to veer off the road, snagging the back tire and causing the machine to roll over on him, pinning his unprotected head between the back tire and fender. Ten minutes passed before his grandfather found Luke and moved the ATV with help from a neighbor.

- Elizabeth Foster

Dr. Melissa Frascogna, assistant professor of pediatric emergency medicine, who did not treat Luke but sees many accident victims in the Children's Trauma Unit, said Luke's accident is typical. "It's a misconception that most of these accidents are caused from excessive speed. It's really rollovers, which can occur at any speed," she said.



A CT scan at King's Daughters Medical Center in Brookhaven revealed Luke had fractured his pelvis. Doctors worried that he would hemorrhage and immediately called for the University of Mississippi Medical Center's AirCare helicopter. Within the hour, Luke was headed to the state's only Level I pediatric trauma center.

Once at Batson, doctors discovered that Luke had not only fractured his pelvis in five places, he had also chipped his spine. Pediatric orthopedic surgeons decided Luke's injury did not warrant surgery, but fitted him with a complete body cast.

HELMETS are the
single most
effective means
of preventing
injuries...

- Elizabeth Foster



Elizabeth Foster, project manager of Batson's Safety and Community Outreach program, believes helmets are the most effective means of preventing ATV-related injuries.

Luke spent less than a week in Batson Children's Hospital, but was in the body cast for six weeks. Once the cast was removed, weeks more of wheelchairs and walkers followed.

"He could have been paralyzed or killed," Ashley Smith said. "As bad as it was, it could have been so much worse. We had a long road ahead of us, but he was going to be fine and that was all that mattered."

Frascogna said Luke's story is a cautionary tale. "Some of the worst traumas I have seen - lots of head injuries - are ATV-related," she said.

Across the country, injury and death rates related to ATV accidents, especially among children, have risen. While the American Academy of Pediatrics cautions against ATV use by children under age 16, the staff at Batson Children's Hospital understands this recommendation isn't always heeded, so they do what they can to keep kids as safe as possible.

"These recommendations are in place for a reason, but we know children are going to ride them anyway, so we try to educate on safety as much as we can," Frascogna said.

Foster blames a lack of ATV regulation that only recently was remedied. A law requiring children under age 16 to wear helmets when riding ATVs on public property passed in July 2011. Until then, Mississippi was one of five states that had no ATV safety regulation.

She believes it is a step in the right direction, but notes that there is still no ATV registration requirement and the new law only applies to ATV use on public roads with relatively small fines for violation, between \$25 and \$50.

"We still lag tremendously compared to other states' laws," she said.

So Foster spends her time dedicated to curbing the state's accidental death rates for children, which are among the highest in the nation. To that end, ATV safety and bicycle safety are just two of many topics she addresses.

Luke Smith shows off his ATV and new helmet recently at the spot where the 4-wheeler flipped over on him near his house in Sontag, Mississippi. It is the same ATV that seriously injured him in the May 2011 accident.



“While doctors and nurses treat the injury, I look at the environment,” she said. “It’s the main difference between health care and public health.”

She works closely with doctors, nurses, child life specialists and social workers at Batson Children’s Hospital to educate families about ways to prevent accidental injuries.

Foster would like her work on ATV safety to mirror her work on bicycle safety, which includes not only teaching safe riding practices, but also providing proper helmet fittings.

“Helmets are the single most effective means of preventing head injuries that could kill or permanently disable a child,” Foster said.

And although her community partner, the Mississippi Brain Injury Association, has staff members certified to administer safe rider training and a supply of helmets, she is restricted to educating about safe riding practices.

“For liability reasons, we cannot provide helmets to children unless they are on the correct ATV for their size during the safe rider training,” Foster said. “Most of the children we see in the hospital and at community events don’t have the proper size ATV or a way to transport it to the training courses.”

She hopes to expand the outreach program by purchasing an ATV simulator that provides interactive training for riders. Offering proper riding instruction and emphasizing safety gear will allow Foster to also fit each child with a helmet, she said.

“We are trying to secure donations to purchase the simulator, which will allow us to give away the helmets and hopefully save a few more lives.”

Ashley Smith and her husband, Mike, say the accident changed their lives. Aside from an occasional backache and regular trips to Batson for check-ups, the only major change in Luke’s life is that now, he always wears a helmet.

“You think about it every day,” Ashley Smith said, “and some days when I watch him walk and run I think, ‘What a miracle.’”

What a MIRACLE.

— Ashley Smith



Luke Smith sits in the pilot’s seat of an AirCare helicopter after recovering from his accident.



Luke (second from left) sister, Erica, and father, Mike visit with AirCare flight nurse, Bo Sullivan, after Luke’s accident.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Trauma Center a critical resource for hospitals statewide

Luke Smith's remarkable recovery from an ATV accident shows the importance of the state's only Level I pediatric emergency and trauma center as a resource to all hospitals in the region.

The children's emergency room where Luke received treatment was replaced in late 2011 by the new Colonel Harland Sanders Children's Emergency Department and the Selby and Richard McRae Children's Trauma Unit. Construction on the \$5.8 million facility began in late 2009 and was partially funded by individual \$1 million gifts from the Colonel Harland Sanders and the Selby and Richard McRae Foundations. The 16,000-square-foot facility tripled the treatment area available and replaced a 5,100 square foot facility built 30 years ago to handle a 15,000 per year patient volume. On average, the children's ED and trauma unit will see 32,000 to 35,000 patients annually.

The new facility has 23 treatment rooms, including several reserved for patient overflow, as well as two designated trauma areas, two waiting areas and separate rooms for family consultation, cast treatments and triage.

"This new Children's Emergency Department enables us to serve even more children in the Jackson area and throughout the state of Mississippi," said Guy Giesecke, chief executive officer of Batson Children's Hospital. "The additional space and better flow will help provide better service and privacy to our patients and families, and optimally respond to major pediatric traumas as well."

 Video available at childrenshospital.umc.edu



Christopher enjoys feeding the chickens.



Celebrating each day

Given six months to live as a newborn, 4-year-old Christopher Peña continues to defy odds with tons of personality and his family's faith

written by **Patrice Guilfoyle**

The **Peñas**, from left, seated, **Christopher Jr., Kristi, Justin**, and standing, **Chris** and horse, **Ziggy**

Richland residents Chris and Kristi Peña Sr. and their children Justin and Christopher Jr. regularly spend afternoons at a farm feeding and exercising their horses, a momentary escape from their day-to-day worries.

"Let me show you Whitefoot," says Christopher, 4, looking up with sky-blue eyes. His dimpled hand reaches up and wraps around a finger as he leads the way to the barn. Sure enough, there's a chicken with white feathers covering its feet.

The pint-sized cowboy clad in brown boots and jeans struts through the barn to show his favorite part of visiting the farm: a tire horse swing. It's time to ride, and he directs his mother to give him a push.

"Swing me. Swing me fast," he yells. "Go Mustang Go! Vamanos!" Christopher's Spanish is courtesy of Dora the Explorer.

It doesn't take long to see this toddler has spunk. "That's been a big part of his saving glory, his attitude," Kristi Peña says.

Christopher celebrated his fourth birthday at the farm, surrounded by family and friends. All of his birthdays are grand occasions and this one was no exception.

"It was a big milestone for us. We never dared look too far in the future," Kristi Peña says.

To the casual observer, Christopher seems like any other rambunctious boy, except for a shiny, silver medical alert bracelet dangling from his wrist. It's a reminder that Christopher is unlike most other boys. In fact, there's only one other boy like him in the entire state of Mississippi (his cousin) and only 150 known cases worldwide.

Christopher was born with Barth syndrome, a very rare neuromuscular and metabolic disorder that affects boys. As this year's Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Mississippi Champion, Christopher is serving throughout 2012 as an ambassador for Batson Children's Hospital and all sick and injured children in the state of Mississippi. Each year, the Children's

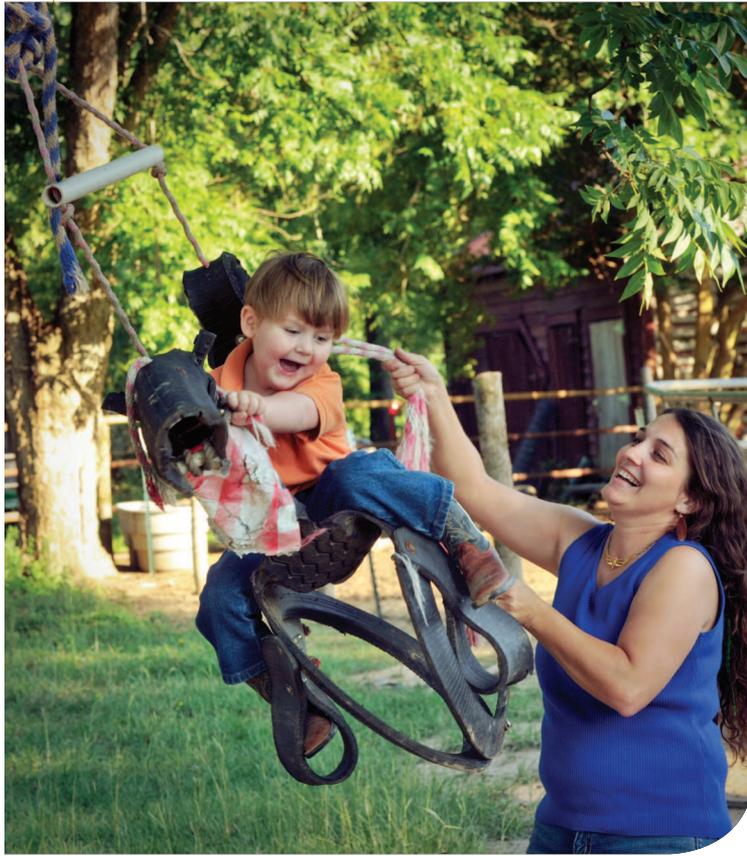


"That's been a big part of his

saving glory, his attitude"

- Kristi Peña

Mom **Kristi** pushes **Christopher** on his tire horse swing.



start the process of putting him on the transplant waiting list.

While in Arkansas, the Peñas began questioning if this was the right choice for their son, who was so weak from his condition. They were not against transplants. They knew of lives saved through transplantation.

“For us, for our child, it was not the answer,” Kristi Peña says. They decided to not go through with the transplant and returned home to Mississippi with Christopher.

Doctors gave Christopher about six months to live, and the Peñas were told to enjoy him as long as possible. At 45 days old, Christopher was admitted to hospice care where he would remain for 15 months.

At that time, big brother Justin, now 14, didn’t know what to make of it all. He had been waiting on his little brother to arrive. A time of celebration had turned into a time of sadness. On top of that,

his parents weren’t home much, traveling to Arkansas to be with Christopher. Though he

questioned the circumstances, Justin never doubted the outcome.

“I think I had the most faith. They were planning his funeral and I was thinking that he’s going to make it,” he says.

The Peñas’ faith is central to their lives, and they speak of it often. In their most difficult times during Christopher’s hospice care, they relied on prayer and the support of family and friends. Kristi Peña wrote on Christopher’s Caring Bridge page:

“... we believed that the doctors could tell us what they knew from books, but our Mighty God is the Great Healer and could fully heal his heart either way. We placed him at the Lord’s feet and asked Him to give us strength for whatever was His will.”

They celebrated each passing week and month of Christopher’s life in hospice with a birthday party, cake included. He had

Going from hospice to riding a tire horse swing is a wonder.

Miracle Network Hospitals Champions program identifies a child with a remarkable medical story from each state.

Remarkable doesn’t begin to describe Christopher’s story. Going from hospice to riding a tire horse swing is a wonder.

“Everything happens for a reason”

Chris Peña had a feeling something was wrong. It was taking too long for the nurses to bring Christopher to them following his first check-up in 2008. An X-ray eventually revealed Christopher’s enlarged heart.

Ultimately, Christopher was diagnosed with noncompacted cardiomyopathy, which causes a weakened heart. Physicians told the Peñas that a heart transplant was Christopher’s only chance for survival. Because Batson Children’s Hospital didn’t have a pediatric heart transplant program at that time, the family traveled to Arkansas to





During a trip to the Mississippi Children's Museum, **Christopher** grabs a pulley while his brother **Justin** tries to move it.

surpassed so many milestones that Christopher was released from hospice after an echocardiogram showed that his heart function had improved immensely.

“He made it, and the most interesting thing is his heart function is almost normal now,” says Dr. Avichal Aggarwal, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Christopher’s cardiologist. “It’s very incredible.”

In 2010, the Peñas learned the underlying cause for Christopher’s illness. Dr. Omar Abdul-Rahman, UMMC associate professor of pediatrics who specializes in genetic medicine, diagnosed Christopher with Barth syndrome. There is no specific treatment for the condition, but symptoms can be successfully controlled through medication.

The condition causes hypotonia (low muscle tone) and dilated cardiomyopathy, which results in labored breathing, poor appetite and/or slow weight gain. Other complications of Barth syndrome include bacterial infections because of neutropenia (a reduction in the number of white blood cells called neutrophils), muscle weakness, fatigue and short stature.

Up until a few years ago, Aggarwal says, the life expectancy for children with Christopher’s condition was only a few years. “It’s still very detrimental these days, but now with improved medical management, some can make it,” he says.

Christopher has defied the odds his entire life. He’s a source of inspiration for many, says Chris Peña.

“At first I thought, ‘Why me, God?’ But then everything happens for a reason. Christopher has touched a lot of people,” he says.





Christopher steers construction equipment at the Children's Museum.

“He’s a firecracker.”

Christopher has had 160 clinic visits in his four years and has seen 13 specialists. He takes nine medications orally each day and receives three injections weekly. He started walking when he was 2 and wears cowboy boots to support his weak ankles.

At the farm, Christopher can forget about his physical challenges and play like any other boy, but under the watchful eyes of his parents.

“He likes to climb but I don’t let him,” says Chris Peña. He diverts his attention to the tire swing and Christopher: “Kristi, be careful, baby. He’s leaning pretty hard.”

He returns to the conversation. “You want him to do things like other kids, but you know that everything may have a consequence,” he says.

The Peñas worry about things that most parents don’t. What if the children he’s playing with have a virus? Could he get sick? What germs lurk on that shopping cart handle? How many other people have touched those buttons?

Dr. Will Sorey, UMMC professor of pediatrics and Christopher’s pediatrician, says children with neuromuscular disorders have a tough time fighting infections. The muscle weakness robs them of strength that healthy children use to resist an illness. When Christopher has a fever, he needs to see his doctors immediately.

“Children with neuromuscular disorders can go from the good side of being well to the bad side in a short amount of time. They can get sick pretty quickly,” Sorey says.

Children’s hospitals like Batson have made a difference in the lives of chronically ill youngsters like Christopher, Sorey says. It also doesn’t hurt that Christopher’s energy level runs high.

“His illness has not dampened his enthusiasm. He’s a firecracker,” Sorey says.

At a clinic visit, Christopher enjoys playing the board game Operation while waiting in the Children’s Cancer Clinic lobby to get his finger pricked. It took several visits for Kristi Peña to become comfortable enough to let him play with the toys, but she was reassured by Batson staff that Christopher would be fine.

The Peñas are still working on letting go and enjoying time with Christopher. “We still take it one day at a time,” Kristi Peña says. “We don’t know what the future holds. We let him guide us,” she says glancing at Christopher, “and the Lord.” 

Christopher plays the game “Operation” while Batson volunteer **Olivia Clanton** helps.



“our Mighty God is the Great Healer

and could fully heal his heart either way.”

- Kristi Peña

Christopher and fellow Batson patient **Caylen Ayscue** hug outside the Mississippi Children’s Museum.

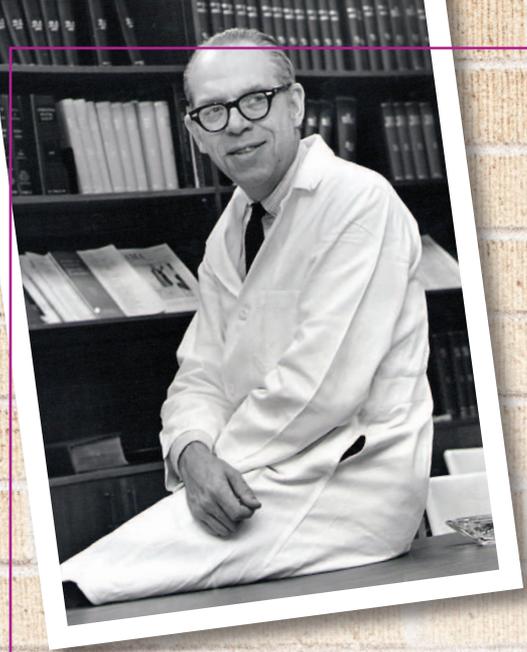


REMEMBERING OUR PAST Envisioning Our Future



12-year-old Batson patient, **Kambree Burton**, of Mize

Fifty-seven years ago, when Dr. Blair E. Batson joined the Medical Center to chair the Department of Pediatrics, a revolution in the quality of patient care for Mississippi's children began in earnest. Ahead of his time, he believed that children were not miniature adults; they needed a facility, equipment and specially-trained physicians of their own. A dozen years later, his dream was realized when the Medical Center's first hospital for children opened. As its beds and its mission continued to expand, so did its patient load. Use this timeline to follow our story, from our humble beginnings as a 40-bed subdivision of University Hospital to our present-day role as a destination for Mississippi families seeking the best possible care for their children.



1955

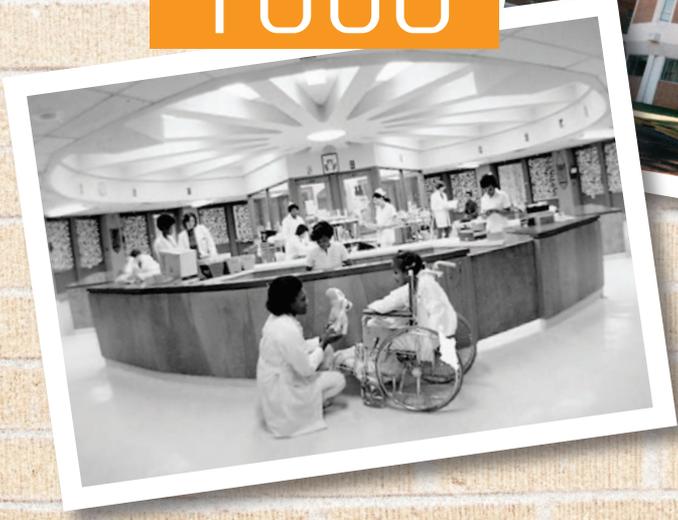
Dr. Blair Batson arrived at the Medical Center to chair the Department of Pediatrics. The original makeup of beds on 7 West of University Hospital included 28 for general pediatrics and 12 for pediatric surgery patients. Some rooms had four beds, others had two, and only four rooms had one bed. The pediatric clinics were located with the adult clinics along the original north-south corridor leading from the School of Medicine to the hospital.

1965

Vice Chancellor Dr. Robert Q. Marston appointed Dr. Marion Myles as assistant professor of pharmacology, the first African American on the faculty. The same year, Batson offered a residency slot to Dr. Aaron Shirley who became the Medical Center's first African-American resident.



1968



The Medical Center's first hospital for children opened. The completed three-story hospital would add 100 pediatric beds. The rooms fanned out from the central core of the nurses' stations, designed so patients could always see the activity on the floor and so nurses could easily check on the patients and see inside the rooms. Almost as soon as it opened, construction began on the fourth floor of the round wing, a nursery.

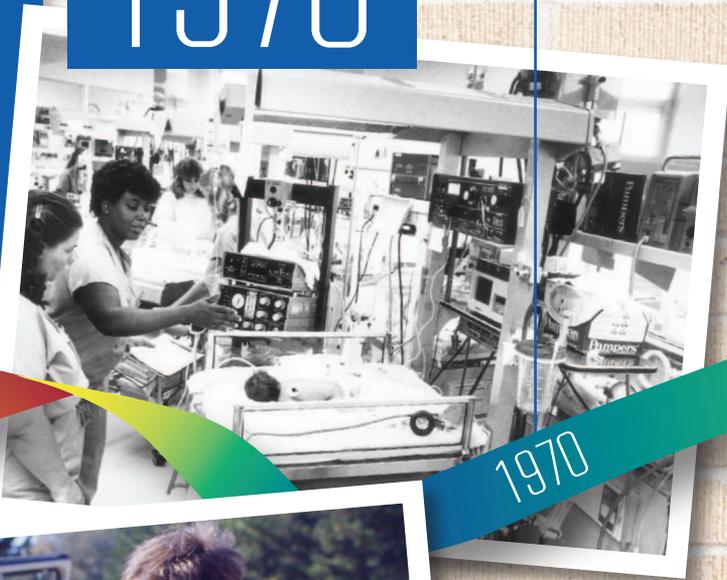


1969

The pediatric oncology program began with the recruitment of Dr. Jeanette Pullen, right, a pediatric oncologist, and Dr. Richard Miller, not pictured, a pediatric surgeon. Prior to their arrival, all of the pediatric cancer cases had to be sent out-of-state.

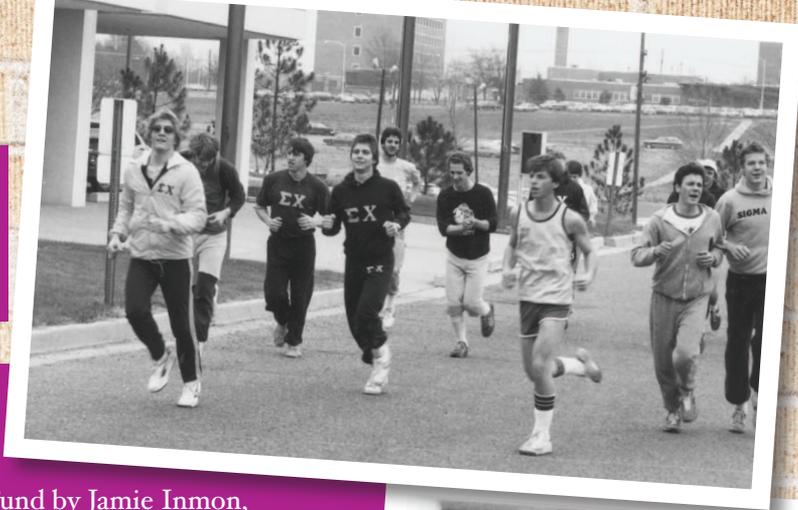
Dr. Al Brann started the newborn division and established the Medical Center's first newborn intensive care unit, taking advantage of the great advances in newborn care developed in the 1960s. The unit, which offers the state's highest level of care for premature and sick newborns, shares its experience with other hospitals to improve newborn care statewide and significantly improved the state's infant mortality rate.

1970



1979

Fundraising began for the Children's Hospital with the establishment of the Children's Cancer Fund by Jamie Inmon, whose daughter Courtney lost her battle with cancer. Proceeds from the 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1983 Derby Day intramural sports events at Mississippi State University raised \$100,000 for the fund. Parents and friends of children with cancer then formed the UMC Candlelighters, whose major fundraiser is an auction of original, donated art, followed by sales of calendars. A portion of the auction and calendar sales collections goes into the Children's Cancer Fund.



FALL 2012



1985

1979



1985



The Medical Center became a member hospital of the Children's Miracle Network and participated for the first time in CMN's Celebration broadcast, which applauded the past year's fundraising efforts. Now known as Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the non-profit organization raises funds through grassroots community support, from paper balloon icons to dress-down work days to spare change drives. Since the Medical Center joined, nearly \$14 million has been raised for our children's hospital.



Dr. Owen B. "Bev" Evans, third from left, pediatric neurologist, became chairman of pediatrics at Batson's retirement. Friends of Children's Hospital was established to raise funds for needed services as well as generate public support for the hospital. The Ronald McDonald House also opened as a "home away from home" for families of patients in Children's Hospital.

1989



1989

1991

1991

The Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic opened. The \$2 million project was made possible by fundraising efforts of the Junior League of Jackson, the largest fundraising project ever undertaken by a junior league. Medical Center administration insisted that the foundation of the building be constructed to accommodate upward expansion in anticipation of a new children's hospital.





1997

The Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children officially opened. The \$17 million building incorporated all the modern concepts of pediatric care. In less than half a century, the department had moved from seeing patients in a ward with multi-bed rooms, to a round hospital considered the best design of its day, and finally to this monument to the triumph of modern pediatrics. Seven years later a surgical suite comprising the sixth and seventh floors was added. The addition was funded entirely by donations from the community.



2009

The \$2.5 million Eli Manning Children's Clinics were completed. The 15,600 square-foot clinics are housed in 2 South of the former University Hospital. There are 24 exam rooms, one of which houses a Pulmonary Function machine specifically designed for assessing conditions such as asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, and cystic fibrosis. There are also two treatment rooms and an infusion area that accommodates up to three patients.



2011

Dr. Frederick “Rick” Barr was appointed the third chairman of pediatrics. The newly-endowed chairmanship, officially titled the Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics, represented only the second endowed position in pediatrics. The first was the D. Jeanette Pullen Professor of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology.

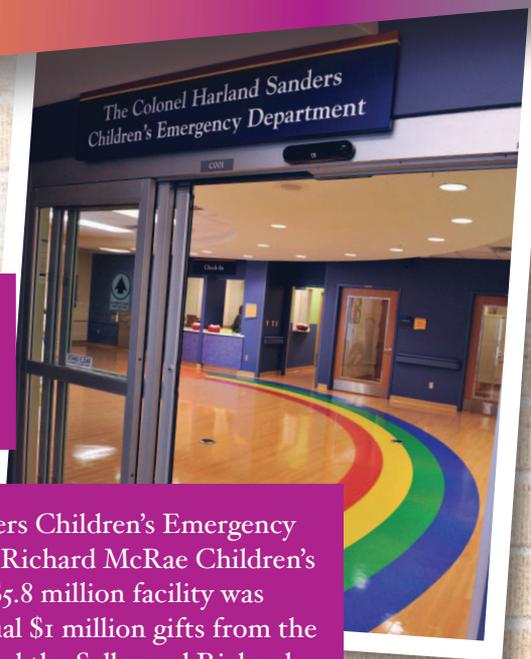


2011



2011

The Colonel Harland Sanders Children's Emergency Department and Selby and Richard McRae Children's Trauma Unit opened. The \$5.8 million facility was partially funded by individual \$1 million gifts from the Colonel Harland Sanders and the Selby and Richard McRae Foundations. The new 16,000-square-foot space tripled the treatment area available for the state's only Level I pediatric emergency and trauma center and replaced a children's ER built in 1982 to handle a 15,000 per year patient volume. Currently, the children's ER sees 32,000 to 35,000 patients annually.

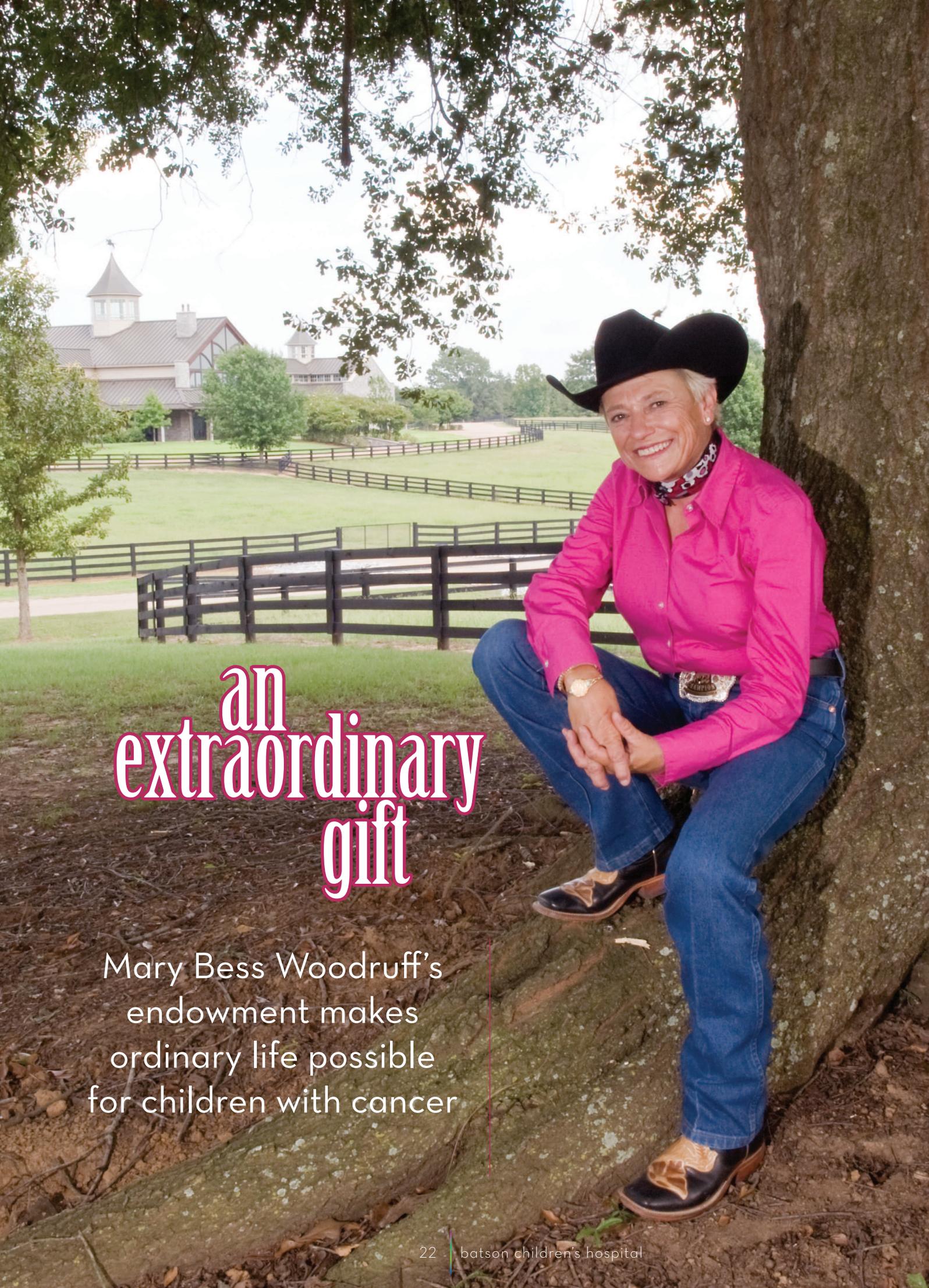




The Journey Continues...

Over the past fifty-seven years, Batson Children's Hospital has experienced tremendous growth thanks to dedicated staff and unwavering support from our community. We are now embarking on an exciting new phase - construction of a \$10 million, 100,000 square-foot addition adjacent to our existing facility. The expansion will house not only a new lobby and main entrance to the hospital, but also provide space for our burgeoning Children's Heart Center, which is the only one of its kind in the state and quickly becoming a regional referral center. Plans for the new space include surgical suites, an intensive care unit and an interventional and imaging suite - all dedicated to our heart patients. Currently scattered throughout the Medical Center, these services will be brought together under one roof ultimately making life easier for our patients and families. Stay tuned as this amazing new chapter in our story unfolds.



A woman with short grey hair, wearing a black cowboy hat, a bright pink long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and black cowboy boots with tan tips, is sitting on a large tree trunk. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a large, light-colored house with a tower, a green lawn, and a black wooden fence. The scene is outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

an extraordinary gift

Mary Bess Woodruff's
endowment makes
ordinary life possible
for children with cancer



Swayze Woodruff and her horse, J.R.

written by **Jennifer Hospodor**

Mary Bess Woodruff of Inverness learned countless things during her only child’s battle with cancer. But perhaps the most significant was that even one hour of normalcy – free from shots, transfusions and scans – is a gift. More than a decade after her daughter, Swayze, lost her struggle, Woodruff wants to give that gift to other cancer patients and their families.

The Swayze Woodruff Memorial Endowment will benefit patients and families of the Children’s Cancer Center at Batson Children’s Hospital. Woodruff hopes the endowment, a planned gift from her estate, will help make life a little easier for cancer patients and their families.

“I wanted a fund that would maybe make the awful stuff you have to go through a little better,” Woodruff said. “It’s an awful journey, not just for patients and parents, but for brothers and sisters too. If there’s something that can give them two hours that might make them laugh, that’s what I want it to do.”

Dr. Gail Megason, professor of pediatric hematology and oncology and director of the Children’s Cancer Clinic, said these types of

funds are essential to providing the most well-rounded care for patients; they also support both curative treatment and emotional well-being of the patient and family.

“This fund may be used for anything from travel expenses and medications to books and toys,” Megason said.

“I wanted a fund that would make the awful stuff you have to go through a little better.”

~ Mary Bess Woodruff

Woodruff’s gift was born out of a conversation she had with a fellow caregiver during one of Swayze’s appointments. She was a single mother of two with custody of her sister’s two children, one of whom had cancer.

“She was not whining, not complaining; she was just saying how hard it is to work, do stuff with the kids and take care of a sick child,” Woodruff said. “She said something as simple as going to Pizza Hut was a big deal for them.”

Woodruff was moved by the conversation because, on the one hand, she recognized what she, Swayze and her husband, Garry, were failing to appreciate.

“When Swayze was sick, we were fortunate enough to be able to go get her something



Mary Bess Woodruff, second from left, receives recognition as a member of the 1848 society from Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs, Dr. Jeanette Pullen and Dr. Gail Megason. Members of the 1848 Society are donors who show support through planned and deferred giving. The group's name comes from the year the University of Mississippi opened its doors to the first students.

from Red Lobster, if that's what she wanted, and never thought twice about it."

Woodruff also was moved by the woman's statement because she understood the value of normal in the all-too-abnormal world that children with cancer inhabit.

"I used to pray for just a normal day, one without shots. That's something we all take for granted."

Swayze's normal was her horse, Two-Steppin' Oreo, better known as J.R. Before her diagnosis, Swayze was an active 12-year-old who loved showing J.R. at Quarter Horse Association events across the southeast.

That all changed in April 1994, when doctors discovered Ewing sarcoma, a bone tumor in her pelvis, which had metastasized to her lungs and liver. Because of the location of the large mass in the pelvic bone, surgery was not an option.

During intensive chemotherapy and radiation therapy, Swayze's determination to enjoy her riding grew stronger. Still, doctors advised against riding because her bone was too thin to handle the jarring and might break. She began asking for blood transfusions so she would feel better and be able to attend the horse shows.

"The horses were Swayze's lifeline," Woodruff said. "We begged the doctors to let her ride." When they finally agreed, Swayze's attitude turned around.

"Swayze was a real trooper throughout intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy," said Dr. Jeanette Pullen, professor emeritus



of pediatric hematology-oncology and one of Swayze's physicians. "She did her very best not to let her illness interfere with the activities she enjoyed with her parents and friends."

Swayze's treatment lasted until January 1996 and, much to everyone's delight and surprise, she went into remission.

"I think being on that horse was one of the reasons she did better than expected," Woodruff said. "When she was on that horse, she was normal. She could be exactly who she'd always been."

The next two years saw the Woodruffs getting back to being an ordinary family, save the occasional visits to the clinic for check-ups. They traveled extensively to attend horse shows and Swayze racked up ribbons and trophies.

"When she was first diagnosed, they gave us a 20 to 30 percent chance of her making it two to three years," Woodruff said. "We really felt like we had beaten it and wanted to give it all we had."

Their joy was short-lived.

In December 1998, a then 16-year-old Swayze went for one of her regular clinic visits. Her blood work showed that she now had leukemia, a blood cancer. Her dad opted not

to tell her until they returned home. Swayze immediately called Pullen, with whom she had become close. She asked her if she was going to die. She then talked Pullen into postponing her leukemia treatment so that she could participate in a couple of more horse shows, which she won. Once treatment began, Swayze would leave the hospital only once more. She died April 15, 1999.

Sometime after Swayze's death, Woodruff and her husband decided if they had to do it all over again, they would make the exact same choices on every issue.

"I used to pray for just a normal day, one without shots. That's something we all take for granted."

~ Mary Bess Woodruff

"Quality was more important than quantity to us," she said.

This resolve carried Woodruff through Swayze's and then Garry's death in 2009, and guided her choice to establish the endowment.

"After I lost Swayze, I started praying that I could touch one life. Hopefully, this gift will give the patients and families just a touch of happiness for a minute," she said.

"I think Garry and Swayze would be proud." 🌈



Mildred Hudson

Retired manager: Nursing a ‘privilege’

Mildred Hudson, who worked for 22 years on the hematology/oncology floor in Batson Children’s Hospital, retired last year.

Treating children with cancer, sickle cell and seizure disorders was her privilege, said Hudson.

“Children don’t see illness like adults. Adults have responsibilities. They worry about who’s going to take care of their families. Children want to know if they are well enough to go to school or to the activity/playroom.”

Dr. Gail Megason, director of pediatric hematology oncology, said Hudson was instrumental in building relationships with nurses, physicians and patients on 3C.

Hudson said she planned to do some traveling during her retirement, but, in a letter to the staff on 3C, she admitted that completely forgetting about the Medical Center may prove impossible.

“If I wake up in the middle of the night or call during the day to check on you all and the patients, just say, ‘Let it go!’ Thanks for allowing me to be a part of such a great team,” she wrote.

Heart surgeons best national averages

The congenital heart surgery team has better patient outcomes than the national average for patients expected to do worse, as measured by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) Congenital Heart Surgery Database.

“When we look at the data over the 18 months, we’ve excelled in every major category in the STS database,” said Dr. Daniel DiBardino, assistant professor of surgery and congenital heart surgeon.

In the first of two separate analyses of outcomes from the STS database, DiBardino found that outcomes for seven benchmark procedures performed between April 2010 and November 2011 were better than the national average for hospital discharge mortality and within the expected norms for lengths of stay.

Major categories included some of the most complex operations to repair congenital heart defects. Before the recruitment of DiBardino and Dr. Jorge Salazar, associate professor of surgery and chief of congenital heart surgery, patients needing these operations were sent out of state for these procedures.

In a second separate analysis of outcome data, DiBardino looked at outcomes for more than 20,000 patients in the database, and found that African-American patients had significantly higher mortality rates, more complications and a longer length of stay than other races. The analysis also found that females had a significantly shorter hospital stay than males.

Considering males make up the largest percentage of patients that have undergone congenital heart surgery at Batson and that many of their patients are African-American, the team knows the odds are already stacked against them.

“As a program, we know that the majority of our patient population, based on STS data, can be expected to have higher mortality and complication rates and longer hospital stays,” DiBardino said.

“Despite the fact that the national statistics show that these things affect outcomes, we are demonstrating that the very best outcomes can be achieved independent of race and gender,” Salazar said.



Dr. Jorge Salazar



Dr. Daniel DiBardino

Liver transplants on his horizon

Dr. Chris Anderson, who specializes in adult and pediatric liver and kidney transplants, joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center with clear plans to offer Mississippians liver transplants.

A Lucedale native, Anderson is plowing new medical ground in Mississippi. He returned to the state to lead the transplant division, start a liver transplant program and launch Mississippi's pediatric abdominal transplant program by offering transplant surgery to children with kidney disease.

A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Anderson earned the M.D. at Emory University in

Atlanta. He finished residency training in general surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he also completed a fellowship in hepatobiliary surgical research.

Anderson also served stints at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri at Barnes Jewish Hospital, Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital and St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Up to 70 Mississippians travel out of state annually for liver transplants, said Dr. Marc Mitchell, chair and professor of surgery. With Anderson's arrival, these patients will be able to remain in Mississippi for their surgery and care.



Dr. Chris Anderson



During the Enchanted Evening gala, Friends of Children's Hospital announced a \$2 million pledge for the new children's heart center. Sara Ray, center, chairman of the Friends board, looks over the architect's model with Dr. Rick Barr, left, and Dr. James Keeton.

New heart center nets \$2M pledge

A proposed Children's Heart Center has received a \$2 million head start from the Friends of Children's Hospital.

"Friends of Children's Hospital is proud to support the efforts of Batson Children's Hospital in providing a state-of-the-art heart center for our state's children," said Sara Ray, chairman of the Friends board.

Funds pledged by Friends will be raised over five years through annual Enchanted Evening events, with BankPlus as the lead sponsor. Previously, the group raised nearly \$3 million for the Eli Manning Children's Clinics at Batson Children's Hospital.

Performing more than 400 operations per year, the children's heart team has rapidly outgrown existing facilities.

"The Medical Center thanks Friends not only for this spectacular fundraising event but also for their ongoing commitment to the children of Mississippi," said Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

Bill Ray, BankPlus president and CEO, said he was pleased that his organization is playing such an "integral part" in raising funds for the Children's Heart Center, "a facility that will benefit all of Mississippi's children."



Dr Rathi Iyer and sickle cell patient, Jada Head.

Sickle-cell patients are Iyer's passion

For her nearly four decades of work with sickle cell patients, Dr. Rathi Iyer was celebrated as Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation's celebrity roast honoree during its annual fundraiser last fall.

It was the third time the foundation had so honored Iyer, professor of pediatrics and director of the Pediatric Sickle Cell Program. In her nearly 39 years in the field of sickle-cell patient care and research, she has also tried to promote awareness of the genetic blood disorder that is most common among African Americans.

"We have a very large population of sickle cell individuals and we need to do better by them," Iyer said. "It's a population that needs more attention through medical care and education."

Jefforey Stafford, program director for the Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation, said Iyer's dedication to her patients and

the parents of those suffering from sickle cell disease has promoted a greater quality of care and preserved a higher quality of life.

Iyer worked with the Mississippi State Department of Health to ensure that every newborn is screened for the disease. Beginning at three months of age, those who have it are followed by Iyer and her colleagues. She estimates that 1,000 people — 800 of them children — go through the sickle cell programs at the Medical Center each year.

Iyer also is responsible for an active clinical research program for sickle cell and served as the principal investigator for the Medical Center on a majority of studies and grant-funded cooperative clinical trials. In 2008, she received the Gold Award for Excellence in Research at UMMC for research grants totaling more than \$1 million.

Church wing to convert for children

A year-long effort to address the need for a long-term acute care facility for medically-dependent children living at Batson Children's Hospital ended when Governor Phil Bryant signed into law Senate Bill 2700.

The bill gives the St. Margaret's Foundation of New Orleans, Woodward Design+Build of New Orleans and Calvary Baptist Church in Jackson a Certificate of Need to renovate a three-story wing adjacent to Calvary's sanctuary into a skilled-nursing facility for these children. Infrastructure work has already begun at the church.

According to John Brashier of the St. Margaret's Foundation, the facility will be the first of its kind in the United States and will be designed as a more "homelike" facility for these patients.

The endeavor was led by a group of Batson staff, including Teresa Fink, nurse manager on 2C, and Dr. Rick Boyte, professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric Palliative Care.



Gov. Phil Bryant, left, shares congratulations with Dr. Rick Boyte, as patient William Currie looks on.



Dr. Susan Buttross

Surgical fellowship debuts

Batson Children’s Hospital has been approved to host a two-year fellowship in pediatric surgery by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The plan is to eventually have two fellows in the program, one in each of the two years. The first fellow, Dr. Tamara Westmoreland, began training this month. The Children’s Hospital is the only training site for these specialized surgeons in Mississippi, fulfilling a critical role for the benefit of the state. Dr. Christopher Blewett, associate professor of surgery, worked to establish the fellowship.

Children’s development expert takes to the airwaves

Child development expert Dr. Susan Buttross has taken to the air waves to discuss issues ranging from Internet dating to intrusive grandparents to bullying.

Buttross, professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Child Development and Behavioral Pediatrics, began co-hosting Mississippi Public Broadcasting’s *Relatively Speaking* in July 2011. The show, which airs at 9 a.m. Mondays on MPB, is billed as a “safe place to discuss interpersonal issues.”

Buttross, who has spent more than 25 years researching and treating behavioral and developmental problems in children, said “I love my practice,

I love what I do, but it’s nice to stretch yourself sometimes.”

“She has an engaging personality that comes across on air,” said Kevin Farrell, assistant director of MPB radio and Buttross’ co-host on the show.

The challenge — what she calls the fun part — comes from covering topics on the show that don’t fit squarely into her area of expertise. But she has never flinched, citing a deep-seated belief that in medicine, everything overlaps.

“Even though I’m a child expert, I’ve learned that you really need to be more than that to do a good job in my field,” Buttross said.

Boyte completes bioethics course

Dr. Rick Boyte, professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric Palliative Care, is



among 17 graduates of the Children's Mercy Center for Pediatric Bioethics 2011-2012 Certificate Course in Pediatric Bioethics.

Dr. Rick Boyte

The Children's Mercy Center for Pediatric Bioethics Certificate Course is a nine-month program designed to help clinicians understand common pediatric bioethical issues. It is the only ethics program in the United States that focuses exclusively on pediatrics.

The program covers a number of key topic areas in pediatric bioethics, including the role of ethics committees, practical techniques in ethics consultation, futility and moral distress, end-of-life decisions, pediatric palliative care, research ethics, biobanking and genetics, enhancement, issues in adolescent medicine, and immunization controversies.

Rounding restores higher patient marks

After noticing a slight dip in their above-average patient satisfaction scores, the nursing staff at Batson Children's Hospital responded with a model of patient care that restored its higher marks.

The system, called hourly rounding, also decreased patients' use of the call light and boosted time management for the nursing staff.

With hourly rounding, nurses or nursing assistants visit each patient's room at least hourly and address the "4 Ps" — pain, p.o. (a medical abbreviation for "by mouth"), play and parent.

During the four months following the introduction of rounding, the "likelihood to recommend" scores — a key indicator of patient satisfaction — rose and have remained high. Nearly 1,400 fewer patient call-light rings were reported on the four floors, or, on average, about 25 fewer call-light rings per floor each day.



Mary Katherine Brooks, RN on 4C, checks on 1-year-old Darius Calvin during hourly rounds.

Batson patients benefit from Ole Miss and Mississippi State partnership

Patients at Batson Children's Hospital have one more reason to root for two of the state's largest universities, the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University. At each of the school's last three home football games, the universities will feature the state's only children's hospital in a publicity and fundraising campaign aimed at raising awareness of the hospital's critical mission and needs.

Prior to the coin toss at each game, Batson patients will be brought onto the field and recognized as honorary team captains. Videos will highlight the hospital and patients. Outside the stadium, volunteers will have a tent inside Fan Fair at Mississippi State games and at Rebel Fanfare at Ole Miss where fans can learn more about the hospital and donate five dollars to receive an "Our Kids Got Game" bracelet in the respective school colors.

Video available at childrenshospital.umc.edu





Dr. Frederick "Rick" Barr

Dr. Frederick "Rick" Barr was appointed the Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics on July 1, 2011.

"I'm just delighted to be here," Barr said. "This is such a great opportunity, not just for me personally, but I just think this institution and this state are

Pediatrics chair touts research, clinics

poised to make some really significant advancements, and people around the country are really noticing."

After receiving his B.S. in animal and veterinary science from West Virginia University and his M.D. from the University of Virginia, Barr completed residency training in pediatrics at Vanderbilt University. He also completed a clinical fellowship in pediatric critical care at the University of California, San Francisco and a research fellowship at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco.

Similar to his predecessors, Dr. Blair E. Batson and Dr. Owen

B. Evans, Barr spent many years on faculty at the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. Before joining the Medical Center, he was an endowed professor of pediatrics in pediatric critical care medicine at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where he was also director of clinical and translational research.

Barr's vision for Batson includes expanding some of the hospital's "many great clinical programs," reaching out to underserved areas of the state; fostering the relationship between the Medical Center, community and pediatricians; and focusing on offsite clinics and programs.

'Homegrown' pediatric dentist makes young patients smile

Dr. Sara Jane McCrary is the School of Dentistry's first homegrown specialist, having graduated and completed her residency before joining the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Community Oral Health at Batson Children's Hospital last year.

McCrary, who completed her residency training in July 2011, has two years of specialized pediatric dentistry training.

"The most fun thing for me is just interacting with the kids and working to make coming to the dentist a fun thing to do," she said. The Jackson native graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2004, where she majored in the communication of science and

medicine. She graduated from the School of Dentistry in 2009, then entered the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program.



Dr. Neva Eklund

The School of Dentistry's pediatric residency was introduced in 2003 by founding director Dr. Neva Eklund, chair of Pediatric Dentistry and Community Oral Health. The residency has enabled her and the clinic's other partner, Dr. Lubna Fawad, to treat more patients.

Since Eklund joined the Pediatric Dentistry Clinic at Batson Children's Hospital in 1995, the need for the clinic's services has exploded – from about 200 to 600 cases a year, she said.

The two-year program trains dentists in specialized care for infants, adolescents and patients

with special health-care needs. Pediatric dentists provide treatment options to patients based on each child's ability to cooperate.



Dr. Sara Jane McCrary makes dental hygiene fun for her young patients.

a little Sunshine

A spectrum of visitors who brightened our halls

1

During his annual trip to Batson, **Eli Manning** meets with the **Sykes** family, from left, **Addison, Ansley**, dad **Stephan**, patient **Griff** and mom **Marie**.



2

While visiting patients room to room, Secretary of State **Delbert Hoseman** reads a Valentine's Day card to 2-year-old **Christian Halle Stamps** of Fayette.

2

3

The Band Perry visited patients last fall. Pictured left to right are **Reid Perry**, patient **Allyson Cole**, **Kimberly Perry** and **Neil Perry**.

1

4

Mississippi State head football coach, **Dan Mullen**, right, visits with the **Carter** family, mom **Rebecca**, dad **Casey** and patient **Wilks**.

4

5

Deborah Bryant, Mississippi's First Lady and her husband, **Governor Phil Bryant**, visit with **Hayden Casavechia** at the hospital.

6

Tykiera James practices her smile with Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen, **Molly May**, left, and Miss Mississippi, **Marie Wicks**.

7

Malcolm White, executive director of the Mississippi Arts Commission, brings his friend, **Curious George**, to hang out with Batson patients, including **William Currie**.

8

Rodney Atkins, country music star, visits with Batson patient **Kinsley Sanders** during a trip to the hospital.



Video available at childrenshospital.umc.edu



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.



John Matthew Davis gets his Blizzard® treat from Dairy Queen on Miracle Treat Day.



Dwayne and Judy DeLaet of Forest, left, winners of the Patty Peck Honda Doo Dah Day Blue Car Giveaway, picked up the keys from General Manager Bob Aubrey and Sweet Potato Queen Jill Conner Browne



The Hands of Hope awards luncheon recognized donors who made significant contributions to the Batson Children's Hospital. Honorees were the Joseph C. Bancroft Charitable and Educational Fund, Southgroup Insurance, Feild Co-Operative, Viking Range Corporation, Jill Conner Browne, the Madison Charitable Foundation, Walmart, Sam's Club, Lamar Advertising, Eli Manning, Junior League of Jackson, Christina Marie Lawrence, Zippity Doo Dah Parade and Festival and Century Club Charities.

Among those who accepted awards were (second and third from left) Sam's Club representative Adam Miller and Walmart Associate Pam Barnett. Presenting awards to all the honorees were (left) Guy Giesecke, CEO of Children's Hospital, Batson patients Kambree Burton and Sydney Gholar, and back row, Miss Mississippi Outstanding Teen Molly May with Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics.



Video available at childrenshospital.umc.edu

Students at St. Joseph's Catholic High School celebrate the money raised during their 2nd Annual Dance Marathon.

FALL 2012

CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS PARTNERS

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals. Each year the 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide the finest medical care, life-saving research and preventative education to help millions of kids overcome diseases and injuries of every kind.

Batson Children's Hospital partners with some of the most generous companies in Mississippi. The employees and customers of our partners have created countless miracles for our patients and families, \$1 at a time. From selling Miracle Balloons to hosting bake sales to washing cars, every sponsor supports Batson in their own unique way. And together, we are making a difference in the lives of our patients and their families.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jingle Bell Jog
December 1

Batson Christmas Tree Lighting
December 4

Southgroup 5K Run/Walk
February 16

Radiothon
February 27, 28 & March 1

IHOP National Pancake Day
March 5

Mal's St. Paddy's Parade
March 16

Zippity Doo Dah Parade in Fondren
March 21, 22, 23 & 24

Mississippi Charity Horse Show
March 28, 29 & 30



What's in a Name?

When we set out to create this magazine, we knew it needed to offer a glimpse into the emotional, uplifting and sometimes miraculous events that make this hospital such a special place. Thanks to Friends of Children's Hospital, we recently received a new sign atop the hospital that includes our much-loved rainbow logo. The name, Under the Rainbow, represents a peek into what happens under that rainbow every day. We hope you enjoy the view.