

UNDER THE

Rainbow



BATSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

ORDINARY
BOY

*Extraordinary
Courage*



8

Do the Right Thing

14

Keep on Growing

18

Homeward Bound

Dear Friends,

It is the fall season once again and that means many things in Mississippi, including high school and college football and the fall edition of Under the Rainbow. You may be wondering what football and Batson Children's Hospital have in common. The answer is teamwork.

To be successful, each involves the carefully integrated work of a group of people to reach a common goal. In the case of the children's hospital and Children's of Mississippi, that goal is improving the life of every child in Mississippi. That is our vision and primary goal and drives everything we do.

In this issue, you will find articles about our community partners, our physicians and our patients. All are part of a team of dedicated citizens, doctors, nurses, employees, parents and many others who make a difference in the life of a child.

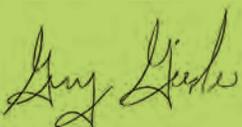
From the generosity of Sanderson Farms and Friends of Children's Hospital, to the dedication of physicians like Brad Ingram who desperately want to cure seizures in children, to families like John Matthew's, who will do anything to help their son - it is a team approach.

And as we always say, each of you is part of that team. Together we can meet the goal of improving the life of every child in Mississippi.

With gratitude,



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



Guy Giesecke,
Chief Executive Officer,
Children's of Mississippi





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Extraordinary Courage

John Matthew Davis Jr. bravely deals with a rare illness.



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Do the Right Thing

Joe Sanderson steps into the spotlight for sick kids.



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Keep on Growing

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Homeward Bound

Dr. Brad Ingram returns to expand epilepsy program.



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On the cover: John Matthew Davis Jr. with his German Shepherd, Max.

ORDINARY BOY *Extraordinary Courage*

In his struggle with a rare disease, 9-year-old John Matthew Davis Jr.'s courage is extraordinary - but he longs for a life that isn't.

John Matthew showcases his LEGO™ creations.





written by **Gary Pettus**

It comes out of nowhere, slicing deep into his gut and, in a way, his dreams, reminding him why he can't play football or baseball - games of hard knocks and sacrifices; things he knows so well.

Sometimes the pain is so cruel that even his mother's arms, wrapped around him, desperate as a prayer, can't comfort him.

Blue Rubber Bleb Nevus Syndrome: John Matthew Davis Jr. was born with it nine years ago, a disease that might sound ridiculous - if it didn't hurt so much.

A blood vessel disorder that manufactures tumors the way Detroit manufactures cars, it is the ringleader of a rabble of life-sapping hemorrhages and masses and agony that causes screams in the night.

"He's the bravest person I've ever known," says Mandy Davis, his mom.

This is why: He doesn't complain.

The boy who's like so many other boys of his age and time and culture is also just one of maybe 200 people on earth. A boy with a disease that is almost as rare as his courage.



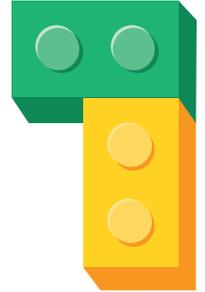
The cheeks in his otherwise pallid face are as bright and red as the fire truck he rides above, making his grand entrance over the police cars' flashing blue lights.

His eye wanders over the place that is his for a sultry May afternoon: the bears, monkeys,

"He's the bravest person i've ever known."

- Mandy Davis, mom

FALL 2013



giraffes, and a Sumatran tiger named Emerson that he was allowed to "adopt." All his.

It is John Matthew Davis Jr. Day at the Jackson Zoo, in honor of the new Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Mississippi Champion.

Along with fall trips to Disney World and Washington, D.C., it means a year-long ambassadorship on behalf of Mississippi's sick and injured children and, particularly, Batson Children's Hospital, where John Matthew is a patient.

It takes a remarkable child to earn this crown, to be one of only 52 champions in the country representing 17 million children seen at the network's 170 hospitals.

John Matthew is extraordinary in other ways, too.

Inside his body, blood pools and his tissues swell like flooded lakes and rivers. Polyps develop on his intestines; the bowel, mistaking them for food, tries to digest them.

And then the pain is too much, even for his big heart.

"On the day he was born, he screamed bloody murder for 24 hours," says Mandy Davis of Canton.

"He would take a bottle, and then he'd throw up. He could never sleep."

By the time he was 8 months old, it was becoming clear his problems went beyond reflux disease and the fatty tumor on his head that was supposed to disappear.

One night, John Matthew's mom raised his left arm to tickle him; the sight that confronted her made her head spin.



In his spare time, John Matthew builds houses.

He builds bridges and his own private derricks because he wants to work on oil rigs like his daddy.

In these moments, he, and only he, decides what his world will look and feel like. John Matthew loves his LEGOs.

He loves his golf cart, too. On his grandparents' 170-acre Crooked Creek Ranch in Farmhaven, he, alone, steers his course in the woods.

He is also fond of Christian music, the ocean, diving boards and soldiers – he always stops and shakes their hands to thank them.

“They fight for us,” he explains.

Football and baseball are his favorite sports, the ones he cannot begin to play because of the risks to his fragile body, which is often sentenced to a hospital bed or wheelchair.



In spite of everything, his favorite color is blue.



John Matthew pretends to hold the United States Capitol building during his Champions Across America tour in Washington D.C.



Blue Rubber Bleb Nevus Syndrome: “blue rubber” for its appearance and texture, “bleb” for pustule or blister, “nevus” for lesion.

Worldwide, there are only 200 reported cases, says Medscape, the medical news and reference website.

The cause and cure are not known, but this complication is: internal bleeding.

The culprits are the blebs, which resemble purplish-blue moles. They can hemorrhage, especially the ones on his colon.

Doctors have found masses in John Matthew's chest wall, shoulder, neck, back, knees and head.

The night she tried to tickle him, Mandy Davis found one, too.

“There was a bulge sticking out from under his arm,” she says. “I freaked out, thinking the worst.”



Mandy Davis remembers when doctors from Children's Hospital in Boston named her son's disease. They emailed it to her while she was at work.

“I sat there and my jaw dropped for an hour,” she says.

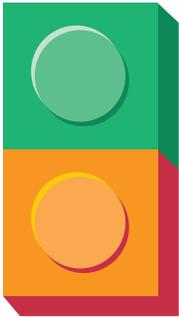
Later, they would rescind the diagnosis. But after Mandy Davis discovered the mysterious blue “dots” on the bottom of John Matthew's foot, the verdict, in Feb. 2008, was restored.

It wasn't “the worst” thing she had imagined – cancer. What John Matthew has instead would give the vilest forms of cancer a run for their money, in terms of time and tears invested.

“How in the world can my child have something like this?” his mom says. “All these years later, it still hasn't sunk in that my kid has something so rare.”

In Mississippi, there is no other child like him, as far as Dr. Betty Herrington knows.

A pediatric neuro-oncologist, Herrington is his “gatekeeper” physician at Batson, keeping track of the numerous other specialists who treat John Matthew.



"Because of the hospital, he is here with us today."

- Mandy Davis

"There is not just one medical home for this disease," Herrington says.

At Batson, John Matthew has been cared for by surgeons, radiologists, hematologists, oncologists, gastroenterologists – the list goes on.

"Because of the hospital, he is here with us today," Mandy Davis says.

When John Matthew was a baby, surgeons at Batson cut out a mass that was pushing his ribs so far apart it threatened to break them. No wonder he had been screaming.

They took out two ribs and part of his lung.

This was just the beginning. John Matthew has had two dozen operations to date, and some three dozen blood transfusions, about four for every year of his life.

He undergoes physical therapy, occupational therapy, chemotherapy and sclerotherapy, which forces blood to reroute through healthier veins.

He has anemia, asthma, urinary reflux, chronic lung disease and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) – each caused, or could be caused, by Blue Rubber Bleb Nevus Syndrome.

"I was pretty much a zombie for the first year of John Matthew's life," Mandy Davis says.

"Looking back, I don't know how I got anything done.

"I constantly had to take off work. He caught everything that was going around at the daycare.

"The doctors said, 'You have to quit work before he can get the surgeries he needs. And if he doesn't get the surgeries, he won't make it.'"

It was her job or her son.



As often happens in Mississippi to families in tight spots, the community has rallied around.

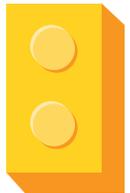
"You think, 'The money, the insurance – but it doesn't matter,'" Mandy Davis says of her decision to quit her job.

"We will make it work somehow."

Local fundraisers have helped make it work so far.

1 Surrounded by his family, **John Matthew** thanks everyone for attending the May 14 event in his honor at the Jackson Zoo. Introduced that day as the 2013 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Mississippi Champion, **John Matthew** is accompanied by, from left, mom **Mandy Davis**, dad **Matt Davis**, and sisters **Emme** and **Adee**.

2 **John Matthew** shows off a stuffed animal representing the real-life Sumatran tiger **Emerson**, a denizen of the Jackson Zoo. Zoo officials presented **John Matthew** a certificate of adoption for Emerson.



John Matthew's family makes it easy for those who want to help, especially when Mandy Davis says things like this: "It's a struggle; but it's also a blessing. I've got a reminder every single day that life's not forever. Most people forget that."

"I'm not going to sit around and cry about it and feel sorry for myself and for him. Because I know God has planned something amazing for him."

It's hard to turn away from Matt Sr. when he says of his son, "He's taken us places I thought we'd never go."

Then there are Adee, 7, and Emme, 4, who go with their brother to the hospital, climb into the bed and watch movies with him; they fetch his blanket.

"They're pretty rotten," John Matthew says of his sisters. "I love them anyway."

There's Gwennie Lynn Ozborn of Canton. After John Matthew's painful rib surgery, no one could calm him down, until she, his grandmother, held him.

There's John Matthew himself, who says he's glad he's the sick one in the family "because no one else has to hurt."

He hurts all the time.

The constant, everyday pain does not stop him.

Herrington, his physician, believes he's used to it by now.

"I think he's probably always had it," she says.

To John Matthew, it is like an intruder trying to get to him. So he shoves pleasant thoughts up against it, like furniture against a door.

"I think about my sisters and my mommy and daddy," he says, trying to explain his silence in the face of it.

**"i think about
my sisters and
my mommy and
my daddy."**

- John Matthew Davis Jr.



John Matthew is all smiles when meeting Miss Mississippi, Marie Wicks.



John Matthew with parents, Mandy and Matt

On The Web

- To check on or send messages to John Matthew, go to caringbridge.org/visit/johnmatthewdavis
- For more information about the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals 2013 Champions, visit childrensmiracletnetworkhospitals.org/About/Champions
- You can learn more about Blue Rubber Bleb Nevus Syndrome at emedicine.medscape.com/article/1082839-overview
- John Matthew's story is also available at youtube.com/batsonhospital by searching "John Matthew"



"I think about a lot of things when I go into surgery. I've just been through it so many times. I know how bad it's going to be."

Often, John Matthew must travel to Boston. There, Dr. Steven Fishman, a rare, world-renowned expert at this, performs specialized bowel surgery at Children's Hospital, where Herrington trained and did research.

But on a night three years ago, John Matthew woke up screaming and clutching his belly. By the time he arrived at the Batson ER in Jackson, he was vomiting blood.

There was no time to go to Boston.



Mandy Davis didn't know, at first, how close her son was to death.

She wouldn't know until doctors at Batson told her.

At that moment, she may have thought about her twins. No one knows what caused the miscarriage in her second trimester.

About 11 months later, John Matthew had been born; suffering from day one, but always surviving.

Now, this.

"They said, 'Your son will die if we don't operate immediately,'" Mandy Davis recalls.

Hours later, Dr. David Sawaya, a general pediatric surgeon at Batson, had repaired the bowel obstruction; one of the worst nights of John Matthew's life was over.

But the transfusions and surgeries will go on.

For a while, doctors have considered removing the bulk of a dangerous chest mass; but the surgery could jeopardize the use of John Matthew's left arm.

The thought of this haunts his parents.

"It's always something," Mandy Davis says.



You wouldn't know what his mom knows.

You wouldn't know that the boy smiling at the alligator, beaming at the orangutan and laughing at the random squirrels cannot move his left arm above his elbow.

You wouldn't know that his pain, on a scale of one to 10, is an eight.

Observing John Matthew on his day at the zoo, a stranger would be thoroughly fooled.

Even for outsiders who have heard his story, John Matthew's pain is like a clean windshield – they know it's there, but it's easy to look past it.

So, what they see, if they want to, is an apparently robust, inquisitive child with glasses and a buzz haircut, his mouth smeared with the ruins of a bubble-gum snow cone. Just a boy at the zoo. A boy like any other boy.

But if you ask him the question every adult asks a child – "What do you want to be?" – John Matthew answers, "Regular."

That means "normal," his grandmother says. 🌈



Joe Frank Sanderson Jr., CEO of Sanderson Farms, Inc., earlier this year stepped in to rescue the PGA tournament, now known as the Sanderson Farms Championship, which benefits Batson Children's Hospital.



Do the *Right Thing*

Joe Frank Sanderson Jr. steps into the spotlight to support Batson Children's Hospital

written by **Jennifer Hospodor**

When Joe Frank Sanderson Jr. walked onto the 18th green to present the winner of the Sanderson Farms Championship with a trophy, his daughter, Katy Sanderson Creath, was so overcome with pride that tears welled up in her eyes.

Sanderson was all smiles in his seersucker pants and navy sport coat as he walked out in front of hundreds of people, television cameras and photographers aimed his way. Truth be told, he prefers to support his community in a much quieter way, but there is a reason he was comfortable with all the attention that accompanies such a major philanthropic role – he knew it was the right thing to do.

For Sanderson, doing the right thing meant asking his company, Sanderson Farms, Inc., to step in as the title sponsor of the faltering PGA tournament that brings an estimated \$22 million to the state and benefits Batson Children's Hospital.

Losing the tournament “would’ve been bad for Mississippi,” said Sanderson, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of the company.



Considering the economic impact on the Jackson metro area and the hospital itself, Sanderson said, “I thought it would be the right thing for our company to do... If you do the right thing, it’s good for the corporation and the shareholders.”

It’s also good for the children of Mississippi, a detail Sanderson has emphasized in interviews about the tournament. He mentioned on several occasions that having Batson as a beneficiary was a driving force behind his decision to even ask the board of directors to consider the sponsorship.

However, he insists his personal experiences with Batson Children’s Hospital while visiting his granddaughter while she was a patient there, have nothing to do with his decision.

“For the children of the state, we have a responsibility for them as well.”

Thirteen-year-old Sophie, Creath’s daughter

Sanderson and one of his daughters, **Katy Sanderson Creath**, watch the 2013 Sanderson Farms Championship unfold from the 18th green at Annandale Golf Club.

and one of Sanderson and his wife Kathy's six grandchildren, has been hospitalized at Batson for chronic hereditary pancreatitis, a disorder that causes persistent inflammation and interferes with normal functions of the pancreas. Sanderson and Kathy visited each of the three times she's been hospitalized.

"It's the perfect environment for a child, she was sick but she wasn't afraid," he said.

"You know what's cool about it is that Batson has a vision for more and that's what I want to see – them not being static but continuing to grow and adding on."

That vision is the new building being planned for the space adjacent to the current children's hospital building. Among other things,

Century Club Charities

Century Club Charities, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is promoting the game of golf for the benefit of local charities.

Since 1986, Century Club Charities has

generated more than \$7.3 million for local charities.



the new building will house a new lobby and clinical space for the Children's Heart Center including surgical suites, a cardiac intensive care unit and an imaging center.

"I like that. Batson is one of a kind in Mississippi. Because it's one of a kind, I think it warrants special support," he said.

John Lang, president of Century Club Charities, the tournament's host organization, said Sanderson's passion and commitment are genuine.

"He is the real deal. His involvement with the tournament begins and ends with the children that will benefit from the incredible work being done at Batson Children's Hospital."

Lang called Sanderson in January 2012 about becoming the title sponsor for the

Sanderson, front row second from left, listens as **Governor Phil Bryant**, front row, right, addresses the crowd at the Sanderson Farms Championship. Winner **Woody Austin**, front row second from right, and **John Lang**, Century Club Charities president, front row, left, look on.





Sanderson, second from left, tours Batson Children's Hospital with former chair of the Friends board **Suzan Thames**, professor and chair emeritus of pediatrics **Dr. Owen B. Evans** and **Katy Sanderson Creath**.

“ Batson is one of a kind in Mississippi. Because it's one of a kind, I think it warrants special support. ”

Joe Frank Sanderson Jr.

tournament, which has been part of the PGA tour since 1968. Lang said prayers were answered when Sanderson and Sanderson Farms' board of directors said yes.

“His commitment involves not only a big sacrifice of his time but that of his family, their name, their company, and his incredibly talented team that leads Sanderson Farms,” Lang said.

Dr. Paul Parker, professor emeritus of pediatrics and the pediatric gastroenterologist who diagnosed Sophie, said the things Sanderson does are always done for the right reason.

“He's the kind of person that is reserved about his personal life and he is very generous and sincere and dynamic regarding his public participation in things he believes in such as Children's Hospital,” said Parker.

Sanderson is also very candid about his belief that Batson is not the only organization that warrants community support.

He and Sanderson Farms have championed

various educational funds at the University of Mississippi Medical Center as well, including the Paul H. Parker, M.D. Chair in Pediatric Gastroenterology. Many other colleges and universities throughout the state have also benefited from generous donations from the Sandersons – there are buildings inscribed with the Sanderson name at two of them.

Sanderson Farms has a long history of supporting a multitude of community needs ranging from product donations to angel flights to hurricane relief efforts, all of which are carried out, according to the company, “because it is the responsible and right thing to do.”

The sentiment, an echo from its founders, has been the company's – and Sanderson's – foundation since its humble beginning as a feed and seed store. Those founders, Sanderson's grandparents, father and uncle, have been quietly giving back to the communities in which they operate and live ever since.

After graduating from Millsaps College in

Friends of Children's Hospital

Friends of Children's Hospital is a non-profit organization created to benefit Batson Children's Hospital at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. It was formed by a group of dedicated members from around the state whose purpose was to support and promote Batson Children's Hospital. For additional information, call 601-984-5273 or visit www.foch.org.





Sanderson, second from left, talks with **Dr. Rick Barr**, Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics, left, while touring the Croft Cardiac Intensive Care Unit with **Dr. Mary Taylor**, professor of pediatrics, chief of the Division of Pediatric Critical Care and co-director of the Children's Heart Center, second from right, and **Dr. Owen B. Evans**, professor and chair emeritus of pediatrics.

“That hospital is a statewide hospital and somehow in the next three years, we want this to be a statewide event.”

Joe Frank Sanderson Jr.

Sanderson Farms

Sanderson Farms, Inc. is engaged in the production, processing, marketing and distribution of fresh and frozen chicken and other prepared food items. With 10 plants and over 11,000 employees nationwide, Sanderson Farms is the 3rd largest poultry producer in the U.S.



1969, Sanderson joined the family business. In 1989, he became president and CEO and began growing the organization into what is now Mississippi's largest public company, with more than 11,000 employees and more than \$2.5 billion in sales.

He and Kathy have three daughters who were imbued with the same sense of responsibility to the community that permeates Sanderson and the company.

Creath recalled a visit from her parents just weeks after she gave birth to Sophie.

“Here I was with a new baby and Dad tells me I needed to get out of the house and do something to give back to the community,” Creath said.

She has honored this family tradition in many ways, including serving on the board of Friends of Children's Hospital following Sophie's diagnosis.

Friends, named the primary beneficiary of the tournament in 2008, had received nearly \$375,000 from the Century Club Charities, but proceeds diminished in the years prior to Sanderson Farms' sponsorship.

When asked how he felt about the tournament's success, Sanderson said his first concern and that of the board of directors was to get money to the hospital.

"You evaluate it in a lot of different ways," Sanderson said. "If you look at it on different levels, that was job number one. It hadn't been done in a while and we got that done."

Although the exact donation was not available at press time, Sanderson declared that Friends was going to get "a nice check."

Other measures of success – economic impact on the state and return on investment for the company – Sanderson admitted are harder to measure.

Lang was thrilled with the results and turnout.

"There was great energy, which I think we can really build on," Lang said.

A few months removed from the first and, by all accounts, successful event, Sanderson Farms recently signed on to continue the title sponsorship for the next three years.

Some important changes are taking place that Sanderson hopes will help the event grow, including increasing the purse from \$3 million to \$4 million and moving the dates from July to late October.

"That hospital is a statewide hospital and somehow in the next three years, we want this to be a statewide event," Sanderson said.

That is Sanderson's vision for the tournament. He believes it can be bigger and better, which would mean many more sponsors, spectators and cameras watching him present that trophy. 🌈

🌈 Video available at youtube.com/batsonhospital

Taming Tummy Troubles

Sophie Creath was only four years old when her tummy aches got to be so bad that they alarmed her parents. She was hospitalized at Batson Children's Hospital and Dr. Paul Parker, professor emeritus of pediatrics and pediatric gastroenterologist, soon diagnosed her with chronic hereditary pancreatitis.

"I can remember the first day I laid eyes on them," said Parker. "The whole family was in the room and I was taking a history from Sophie and you get to a point where you're asking about family history. It turns out that grandmother had exactly the same thing."

The condition is characterized by abdominal pain and sometimes vomiting that comes in episodes. These episodes can be severe and painful, requiring hospitalization for intravenous fluid and pain medication.

The recurring episodes may damage the pancreas, resulting in a decrease in pancreatic function. This, in turn, causes difficulties with digestion and absorption of nutrients requiring supplementation with enzymes the pancreas is no longer able to make on its own.

Presently, there is no cure and Sophie will have to take medication to help her digest her food. When it begins to flare up and the pain starts, the only option is to try and ease the pain and rest the pancreas by not eating and taking IV fluids.

Parker says Sophie has done extremely well with her episodes.

"One of the reasons she's done so well is that her parents know the symptoms early and the minute that she has problems, they get treatment," Parker said.

Katy Sanderson Creath, Sophie's mom, said Sophie takes it all in stride.

"It's not a big deal, just watch your diet a little bit and take your medication," Creath said. "She'll have episodes of pain for the rest of her life."



Sophie Creath and her mom, **Katy Sanderson Creath**





Rebekah Cannada, who recently underwent limb-lengthening surgery on her left leg, is happy to be able to ride her bike again.

Keep on Growing



Innovative Technology Assures Rebekah Cannada Will Reach New Heights

written by **Jennifer Hospodor**

Eleven-year-old Rebekah Cannada of Vicksburg broke one of the bones in her lower left leg and nearly broke the other leg while playing on a trampoline. It's not an uncommon story, but that's not where Rebekah's story ends.

Six weeks later, while hobbling around on crutches at her grandmother's house, Rebekah fell and broke her left femur. Over the next eight months, Rebekah's leg gradually became shorter and started curving outward.

"It was driving me crazy to see my grandbaby walking around like that when she was a perfectly healthy child," said Sharon Forbes, Rebekah's grandmother.

Luckily for Rebekah, her story takes a turn for the better thanks to Dr. Craig Robbins, a limb deformity specialist at Batson Children's Hospital. Robbins is one of a handful of physicians in the country using a new technology called the PRECICE Intramedullary Limb Lengthening System

to lengthen shortened arms and legs, which he says is one of many steps in fixing limb irregularities like Rebekah's.

"Rebekah had an unfortunate injury with an unfortunate consequence," said Robbins, assistant professor of pediatric orthopedics. "The fracture occurred partly through the growth plate near her knee and permanently damaged it. Because she was only nine at the time of the injury, the deformity would become progressively worse until skeletal maturity in her early teens."

Rebekah's injury caused her femur to grow slower and become bowed. The stunted growth caused genu valgum, a condition commonly known as knock knee. Rebekah couldn't straighten her leg and was having trouble walking.

Robbins said often by the time patients get to him, traditional methods of healing have not worked.

"If the normal stuff doesn't work – plates,



Rebekah walks with one of her grandfather's horses.

"If the normal stuff doesn't work – plates, screws and rods –
I'm the guy of last resort."

Dr. Craig Robbins

screws and rods – I'm the guy of last resort," he said.

And he certainly was that for Rebekah. Her mother, Rhiannon, said that months of healing time and physical therapy had not helped, so they looked into what the University of Mississippi Medical Center had to offer.

When they met with Robbins and he presented the PRECICE system as an option, Rhiannon said she was initially concerned because the procedure was relatively new, but she and Rebekah researched the system before agreeing it was the best option.

"We chose PRECICE because we have such confidence in Dr. Robbins," she said. "He sent us home with several websites and videos on the procedure. We then decided that the PRECICE nail was the way to go."



Dr. Craig Robbins, pediatric orthopedic surgeon

Robbins said Rebekah has been a dream patient.

"She's very involved in this process and participates in the discussions and decision-making," he said. "Her family is incredibly supportive and understanding and they are an integral part of our team."

Any limb-lengthening process, including the PRECICE system, begins with cutting through the bone and then slowly, deliberately pulling apart – or distracting – that bone. This slow distraction process allows new bone to form in the cut and the surrounding soft tissue to respond.

The device typically used for this process distracts the bone by manipulating a sort of framework of rings, pins and wires attached to the bone from outside the leg.

PRECICE uses a telescopic rod to distract the bone. That rod is surgically placed within the bone, leaving nothing attached outside the leg. The rod is manipulated by a handheld magnetic device, called an External Remote Controller (ERC), which can be used at home, offering greater mobility and freedom to patients during the lengthening process.

Robbins performs between 50 and 60 limb-lengthening surgeries each year and said most will use the external method because the PRECICE rods require a minimum bone size and deformity characteristics.

"This new internal device has much narrower indications for use than the industry-standard external device, but when they're there, hallelujah, because it's much easier for everyone," said Robbins.

Robbins approached Rebekah's deformity in several steps. Her first surgery was an attempt to remove the damaged growth plate cells to prevent further deformity, but



Robbins shows **Rebekah** an x-ray of her leg after surgery and explains how the PRECICE Limb-Lengthening System works.

the damage was too great. Robbins then approximated the amount of leg shortening at the predicted time of skeletal maturity.

“Because this was much more than an inch or so, I suggested limb lengthening,” Robbins said.

Rebekah had her second surgery in March to implant the rod within her femur and despite the pain, returned to school less than two weeks later, anxious to get back to a normal life.

Rhiannon said using the ERC four times a day was hard for Rebekah at first.

“The more she healed, the easier it became for us to use the magnet,” she said.

Although lengthening her leg only took two months, Rebekah had a long way to go.

“In general you can lengthen about one inch per month on the fast side, but it takes twice as long to heal, so to gain an inch really takes at least three months,” Robbins said.

Rebekah is one of four patients he has used the system on since its approval by the

Food and Drug Administration in late 2011. According to *Scientific American*, only about 100 surgeons in the United States perform limb-lengthening procedures. Robbins says even fewer use this new technology.

“When possible, the internal method is preferred and is a new technique that not many people are doing. I’m part of a very small group of surgeons who use these techniques in general to treat our patients.”

Now that her legs are the same length, the next chapter in Rebekah’s story includes another surgery to remove the internal rod and correct the crookedness in her leg.

“As well, the final step in her deformity correction after the lengthening will be to acutely cut and reposition the crooked part of the bone.

“We are excited and terrified at the same time,” said Rhiannon. “We are so thankful that Dr. Robbins has been able to help us, and that soon Rebekah’s leg will be good as new.” 🌈



UMMC graduate **Dr. Brad Ingram** has returned to his home state after a fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic with high hopes to expand and focus the Medical Center's epilepsy services.

Homeeward BOUND



Young physician returns home with plans to expand epilepsy services at UMMC

written by **Matt Westerfield**

Just this past June, Dr. Brad Ingram completed a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology and epilepsy at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. In July, the Jackson native officially began his new role as assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric Neurology. Bridging the gap between the two required a 19-hour drive with a moving trailer and a screaming 5-month-old.

“I went to the Cleveland Clinic to do an epilepsy fellowship, and the first day we were there, we had a positive pregnancy test,” recalled Ingram, a young father who already had a 7-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old son. “So we had a baby this past February while we were there.”

The 2005 graduate of the School of Medicine sees his roles — a father and a pediatrician — as a calling. And after years of training, his new calling is to expand the range of epilepsy services provided at the University

of Mississippi Medical Center, particularly for children, and to lasso those services into a focused, comprehensive approach.

“Over the past 15-20 years the treatment of epilepsy has changed quite dramatically,” he said. “It used to be there were four medicines on the market. In the 1990s, researchers began to develop many more medications, and now there are around 23 medications on the market to treat epilepsy.”

On top of that, Ingram says there’s also a growing role for treatments such as epilepsy surgery, nerve stimulators and dietary therapies like the Ketogenic diet.

“All of those things have existed here before in some sort of framework,” he said. “I have so much respect for the pediatric and adult neurologists who have been here. My job will be largely to funnel all of that energy into one person and be the target person for those patients.”

Expanding the range of services will involve more advanced evaluation of patients using electroencephalogram (EEG) testing and other techniques that in the past patients have been referred out of UMMC for.

*When we first met,
he gave me a hug and said,
'We're going to be really
good friends.'*

A youthful 35-year-old, Ingram graduated from Jackson Academy before attending Ole Miss and arriving at UMMC in 2001. After earning his degree, he did his residency training in pediatrics at the Medical Center and served as chief resident from 2008-09. He followed that with a child neurology fellowship, which included a year of adult neurology and two years of child neurology. Then he took his family to Cleveland for a year to complete his training.

Ingram's passion for treating children with epilepsy stems from a very personal source: He has epilepsy himself. And he recalls the first neurologist he saw as a child didn't particularly like treating epilepsy patients.

"About three years into my own illness I met my first epileptologist, who was amazing," he said. The specialist put him on the correct combination of medications, improving his epilepsy and transforming his life.

"It really changed what I thought I was going to be capable of doing for the rest of my life because of the interaction with this person," he said. "The thing about epilepsy is that it's a difficult disease to treat well, a very humbling disease to treat well. No two patients are the same, and it's a very neglected population."

It's also much more common than people might assume, he added. For instance, about three percent of all children in the U.S. are diagnosed with epilepsy, and five to six percent of people in general will experience a seizure in their lifetime. Epilepsy peaks in the very young, Ingram said, in children under the age of two, and then again in the elderly.

"It's a population that I identify with very strongly," he said, "and with their parents because when I look at the parents in the emergency room or in the clinic I see a lot of despair and anxiety that I recognized in my parents' eyes when I was that age. That's what brought me into this field."

Oleisha Edwards of Byram knows that anxiety although she handles it with a natural grace. Her daughter, Olivia, was just two months old when she had her first seizure. Now at five-months-old, she's prone to seizure clusters that last 15-20 seconds each.

"If she has a seizure at home, depending on how many she has and the frequency, I'll call



Ingram confers with, from left, fourth-year medical student **Ryan Paulk** and pediatric residents **Dr. Meghan Luter** and **Dr. Anza Stanley** during rounds in the Batson Children's Hospital.

the ER and speak to the on-call neurologist and they usually advise me to bring her in the next day,” Edwards said in July. “Olivia got sick Tuesday night; I called the ER to see if I should bring her in and lo and behold Dr. Ingram was on call. When we first met, he gave me a hug and said, ‘We’re going to be really good friends.’”

Olivia was admitted to Batson Children's Hospital that week and underwent an EEG study aimed at mapping the areas of her brain that were active during her seizures to determine whether she was a good candidate for surgical treatment. Olivia also is on the Ketogenic diet, a high-caloric diet that forces the body to burn fat instead of carbohydrates and can help reduce seizures.

“We are hesitant to diagnose children with epilepsy until they’ve had multiple unprovoked seizures,” Ingram said. “The definition of epilepsy, medically, is two unprovoked seizures separated in time by no less than 30 days.”

Ingram says he tells his patients that a seizure is basically a lightning storm that gets out of control in their brain. So then the brain short-circuits itself and there’s loss of control of normal function in the body. And seizures can take on a wide range of appearances, from dramatic Grand mal seizures to short staring spells, he said.

“One of the biggest parts of our mission here is that we have to train good pediatricians to go out into the state and recognize different types of seizures and know the side effects of different types of drugs and also be prepared to at least stabilize children who are having seizures in their communities,” Ingram said.

And community is a key word for Ingram, who says he missed that sense of hometown family while working at the Cleveland Clinic. In fact, that’s what made it an easy decision to move back to Mississippi and rejoin the UMMC family.

“You wake up every day and you’re taking care of a population that you’re invested in. In your home state,” he said. “The medical staff here is fantastic; they’re easy to work with and so many of their hearts are exactly where they should be at a children’s hospital.” 🌈



Ingram checks in on five-month-old **Olivia Edwards** as she undergoes an EEG study to determine whether she’s a candidate for brain surgery to manage her epileptic seizures.

Batson social worker part of new degree program in play therapy

As part of a new online degree program through the University of Mississippi, Rebecca Prewitt, licensed clinical social worker in Batson Children's Hospital, is studying to become the first education specialist in play therapy and a registered play therapist at the Medical Center.

The program is the first of its kind in the nation according to Ole Miss, offering online classes and clinical experience resulting in a Specialist in Education degree with an emphasis in play therapy. Other students in the program are also currently mental health therapists – LCSW, LPC or LMFT for example – licensed to practice independently. As part of her practicum experience, Prewitt currently provides services in the Children's Justice Center and the Inpatient Child Psychiatry Unit.

Play therapy is a means of working with children generally between the ages of two and 12 in which

play, their natural way of experiencing their worlds, is the primary vehicle of communication.

“Developmentally, children may not yet be adept in talking out their issues. So, in play therapy, a child is brought into a playroom and is allowed to 'play out' whatever is troubling him or causing disturbance,” Prewitt said.

“Many childhood issues and disorders respond well to the therapy and it can also be effective for issues surrounding medical protocols and procedures, so we would love to see it used on a bigger scale throughout Batson in the future.”



Rebecca Prewitt

Heart Center hosts 'Cardiac Boot Camp' for hospital staff



Dr. Mary Taylor talks about caring for patients with congenital heart defects to a group of Batson Children's Hospital staff during a recent Cardiac "Boot Camp" put on by the Children's Heart Center.

The Children's Heart Center recently held a "Cardiac Boot Camp" to educate Batson Children's Hospital employees about the complexities of caring for patients with heart disease.

“We have put this 'boot camp' together because we have hired so many new nurses and heart center employees and the growing population of congenital cardiac children that affects all aspects of the hospital,” said Ashley DiBardino, cardiac ICU educator.

Nearly 200 staff members attended the camp, which explored different aspects of caring for patients with heart disease, including surgical options for correcting defects, how to identify various lesions, medications patients may be taking and ECMO's role in transplantation.

“With the development and growth of the Congenital Heart Program, we now have a new population of patients - those with complex congenital heart disease,” said Dr. Mary Taylor, chief of pediatric critical care and co-director of the Children's Heart Center. “These children will require specialized care when they present with other childhood illnesses and injuries.

“It is important that we include all parts of our medical community in the education about the care of patients with congenital heart disease.”

Taylor said plans are to make the conference an annual event.



Former pediatric chair receives alumni award

Dr. Owen B. Evans, chairman emeritus of pediatrics and professor emeritus of pediatric neurology, was recently awarded the Distinguished Medical Alumnus Award for dedicating his life, both personal and professional, to providing Mississippi's children with the best health care available without having to leave the state.

Evans began his tenure at the University of Mississippi Medical Center as division chief for pediatric neurology in 1983 and continued treating patients until June 2013. Having served as chairman of the UMMC's Department of Pediatrics from 1989-2010, Evans developed new pediatric programs, recruited subspecialists and oversaw multimillion-dollar building projects designed to provide comprehensive care for children in the state.

"Bev's No. 1 accomplishment besides improving facilities, which he did, was to increase the number of general pediatricians in the state. He moved pediatric care up to an incredibly high level. That is a huge legacy," said Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs at UMMC and a former pediatric urologist who joined the department during Evans' tenure.

Evans graduated from Vanderbilt University Medical School in 1973 and interned at Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle. After a tour in the Navy and service in the Medical Corps he returned to Vanderbilt. He completed his residency in pediatric neurology in 1980 and served on the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital faculty until 1983 when he moved to Mississippi. Five years later, he was appointed the second chair for the Department of Pediatrics, following Dr. Blair E. Batson.



Dr. Owen B. Evans, former chair of pediatrics, receives the Distinguished Medical Alumnus award from Dr. Scott McPherson, president of the Medical Alumni Chapter of UMMC.

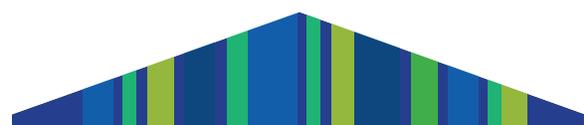
Pediatric NP attains SANE certification

Children's Justice Center family nurse practitioner Regan Doleac attained the honor of certification through the International Association of Forensic Nurses as a Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE-P). According to IAFN, Doleac is the only Certified Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner practicing in the state of Mississippi. This certification enhances Doleac's expertise in caring for pediatric victims of sexual abuse.

"This certification is an invaluable resource for the Children's Justice Center, Batson Children's Hospital, the University of Mississippi Medical Center and for the state," said Rebecca Mansell, director of the Children's Justice Center.



Regan Doleac



Hyundai Motor America lends hand, raises hope



Jaylen Greer, 4, of Durant puts his painted handprint on a 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe with help from child life specialist Michelle Chambers.

Hyundai Hope On Wheels® and Jackson-area Hyundai dealers have awarded Batson Children’s Hospital with a \$250,000 Hyundai Hope Grant for pediatric cancer research. The grant funds will support the work of Dr. Chindo Hicks investigating why American children of European ancestry have higher survival rates than American children of African ancestry when faced with lymphoblastic leukemia. Batson was one of 41 recipients of Hope On Wheels’ 2013 Hyundai Hope Grants.

The donation is part of Hope On Wheels’ annual September Campaign celebrating National Cancer Awareness Month. Hyundai Hope Grants fund research projects with the greatest potential to improve the lives of children battling cancer. Since 2010, Batson Children’s Hospital has received more than \$350,000 from Hope On Wheels.

“Advances in systematic genomic research and the launching of the Pediatric Oncology Genome Project provide an unprecedented opportunity to make new scientific inroads in childhood cancer,” said Hicks, associate professor of medicine. “This grant will mark the launching of research in genomic medicine in childhood cancer at the Children’s Cancer Center.”

The grant was officially presented during a Hope On Wheels Handprint Ceremony. Batson cancer patients dipped their hands in colorful paint and placed their handprints on a white 2013 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport, the official vehicle of Hope On Wheels.

Video available at youtube.com/batsonshospital, search channel for "hyundai"

New pediatric specialists added to faculty

The University of Mississippi Medical Center added the following specialists to the staff recently to meet the growing needs of our patients. For more information about our services or to make an appointment, please visit www.ummhealth.com/children.

Michelle Grenier, M.D.....	Cardiology	Cynthia Karlson, Ph.D.....	Hematology-Oncology
Praveen Kumar, M.D.....	Newborn	Mufeed Ashraf, M.D.....	Neonatology
Nick Rutledge, LCSW.....	Child Development	Brad Ingram, M.D.....	Neurology
Whitney Herring, M.D.....	Ambulatory	Carrie Freeman, M.D.....	Critical Care
Ivonne Galarza, M.D.....	Ambulatory	Barbara Saunders, D.O.....	Child Development
Fernando Gomez, M.D.....	Emergency Medicine	Sarosh Batlivala, M.D.....	Cardiology
Puja Craddock, M.D.....	Emergency Medicine	Rana El Feghaly, M.D.....	Infectious Diseases
Jessica Lilley, M.D.....	Endocrinology	Steven Bondi, J.D., M.D.....	Critical Care
Sarah Conerly, M.D.....	General Pediatrics	Collier Anderson, M.D.....	Hematology - Oncology
David Gilliam, M.D.....	General Pediatrics	Simon Karam, M.D.....	Neonatology
Katie Berg, M.D.....	General Pediatrics	Nina Washington, M.D.....	Rheumatology

Video available at youtube.com/batsonhospital, search channel for "1000th"

Congenital Heart Surgery celebrates milestone

Batson Children's Hospital's congenital heart surgery program celebrated its three-year anniversary by marking another important milestone – its 1,000th operation on four-month-old McKinley Davis of Waynesboro.

Davis was born with a rare heart defect called Taussig-Bing syndrome requiring extensive complex operations. Her first operation, when she was a mere eight days old, partially corrected the defect. It was her April surgery to replace a leaking heart valve that put her into the record books.

During the program's rapid growth, the heart team met another important measurement of a program's success.

While caring for all children with heart defects – even those that other heart centers turned away – the team hit patient outcome numbers rivaling the country's largest and most-established heart programs.

"This has been a multidisciplinary effort," said Dr. Jorge Salazar, associate professor of surgery and co-director of the Children's Heart Center. "Only because of the hard work and sacrifice of our team have these outcomes been possible."

Outcome data for 2012 shows the program has a hospital discharge mortality rate of less than 1.5 percent.

"Very few programs achieve less than two percent discharge mortality, particularly when you factor in the case complexity we see here in Mississippi," said Dr. Daniel DiBardino, assistant professor of surgery and congenital heart surgeon. "Given the youth of the program, it is almost inconceivable."



Mackenzie Davis of Waynesboro watches over her 4-month-old daughter, McKinley, who underwent the 1,000th operation completed by the congenital heart surgery team at Batson Children's Hospital.

PICU establishes leadership award to memorialize nurse

Ami Risher, a respiratory therapist in the PICU, was presented the inaugural Elaine L. Seid Pediatric Critical Care Leadership Award. Seid, a long-time nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at Batson Children's Hospital, died from multiple myeloma in March 2012. Seid's former PICU colleagues conceived the award as a way to keep her enthusiastic and kindhearted spirit alive in the unit.

"For my coworkers to look at me as a compassionate leader meant the world to me. I am honored to be the first recipient," said Risher, a member of the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) team.

Risher married fellow ECMO team member, David, last year. The two postponed their honeymoon so ECMO services would not be compromised by short-staffing.



Ami Risher, second from right, receives the inaugural Elaine L. Seid Pediatric Critical Care Leadership Award from Elaine's brother, Dennis Seid and PICU staff, from left, Elizabeth Christ and Cristy Crowson.

Safety and Community Outreach hosts baby safety showers

The Children's of Mississippi Safety and Community Outreach program recently implemented the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Baby Safety Shower Initiative to provide education and hopefully decrease infant injuries and deaths in the state.

The initiative uses the evidence-based, CPSC toolkit that illustrates important safety information to parents through educational games, safety prizes and other activities.

The safety shower curriculum is divided into five topics addressing everything from proper feeding and shaken baby syndrome to safe sleep, childproofing and child passenger safety.

"For a long time Mississippi has led the nation in infant mortality," said Elizabeth Foster, project manager of the Safety and Community Outreach program. "Although we have provided parent education since 2009, with funding from Ronald McDonald Charities, we've been able to include innovative methods in our efforts to take parent education to new heights."

Unlike most parenting or safety classes, this interactive "baby shower" teaches the proper safety techniques in several key categories and follows up with safety-themed baby shower games. After learning about each category, the mothers-to-be receive safety items related to the presented topic, such as car seats, baby swaddles, child safety gates, childproofing kits, emergency contact magnets and social services resource guides.



Elizabeth Foster

Palliative care awarded \$10,000 grant from LIVESTRONG®

The Division of Palliative Care at Batson Children's Hospital has received a \$10,000 grant from the LIVESTRONG® Community Impact Project.

The money will help implement the Joint Commission's Advanced Certification for Palliative Care. Nearly 200 organizations across the country were selected to participate in the online voting campaign that accumulated more than the 200,000 votes over a two-week period. Batson was among 15 new sites announced as beneficiaries.

"I am very grateful to supporters of Batson Children's Hospital who helped us to achieve this important and generous award," said Dr. Rick Boyte, professor of

pediatrics and director of pediatric palliative care. "This will take a lot of hard work but soon we'll be among only a handful of children's hospitals in the country with this designation."

Pediatric palliative medicine is an option overlaying and enhancing traditional care for children with life-limiting illnesses. By focusing on a child's total pain – whether physical, spiritual or psychosocial – palliative care enhances the quality of life for a child and family by minimizing suffering and offering support in whatever capacity it is needed.

The Joint Commission's Advanced Certification for Palliative Care sets standards and acknowledges hospitals providing state-of-the-

art palliative care services that relieve symptoms and stress of serious illness and improve quality of life for patients. The Joint Commission is a non-profit organization that accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health-care organizations and programs in the United States.

"Advanced Certification in Palliative Care will help highlight the concern that Batson has for the quality of life of children with life-limiting and medically-complex conditions," Boyte said.



Dr. Rick Boyte



Amanda McCullough, nurse on 5C, discusses Jarvis Holmes' care with his mother, Jamese Wiley.

Children's of Mississippi becomes lead agency for Safekids Mississippi

Children's of Mississippi is now the lead agency for Safe Kids Mississippi, part of a global organization dedicated to preventing injuries in children. As part of Safe Kids, staff members educate the community about safety issues that impact children, such as bicycle and car seat safety.

"This is a great opportunity to expand the outreach and education provided by both of our organizations," said Elizabeth Foster, program manager of the Safety and Community Outreach program and current chair of the Safe Kids Mississippi board. "Our children's hospital is the leader in children's health for our state, so it's only fitting that we lead the state in childhood injury prevention as well."

For tips on how to keep your kids safe, visit umc.edu/safekids.



New initiative brings nurses, patients, families in on treatment discussions

The Patient Satisfaction Committee at Batson Children's Hospital has been piloting a new program, called Patient and Family-Centered Rounding, on the hospital's fifth floor.

The new rounding initiative includes the nurse and the patient and family in reviewing the patient's condition and any changes in the past 24 hours in addition to laying out the plan for the day.

"This type of rounding gives the family a sense that we are all involved in this together and that we are a cohesive group," said Ashley Ramage, nurse manager of 5C. "We're involving the nurses and family together so that we're all saying and doing the same thing."

The initiative is ultimately aimed at raising patient satisfaction scores that showed dissatisfaction with the family's input into the care of their child.

"We want them involved in their care," Ramage said. "This is the most stressful time in a parent's life. Any semblance of control or ownership or involvement that we can give them helps decrease their anxiety."

To that end, the health care team, patients and families set daily goals together. Ramage said having these goals helps families feel empowered and less anxious because they know what the plan is for the day.

"It helps them be an active participant in getting the child well and then when the next day's rounds happen, the parents can speak to those goals."

a little Sunshine

A spectrum of visitors who brightened our halls

1	Jasmine Murray , Miss Mississippi State University, compares crowns with Rilee Harris of Crystal Springs.
Coach Dan Mullen and Bully hang out with Jeremiah Dawson of Jackson during a recent visit from a group of Mississippi State athletes.	2
3	Chelsea Rick , Miss Mississippi 2013, signs the cast of 6-year-old Batson Children's Hospital patient McKorie Taylor .
NBA Charlotte Bobcats player and Mississippi native Al Jefferson plays with Batson patient Irihanna Montgomery of Crystal Springs.	4
5	Jackson native and Ole Miss football player Charlie Scott spends time with Aiden Johnson , also of Jackson, in one of the activity rooms.
Shanus Strahan of Jackson plays "Don't Wake Daddy" with Mississippi Braves pitcher Gary Moran .	6
7	Dr. Rick Barr , Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics, fourth from right, stops to talk with members of the Ole Miss chapters of Sigma Pi and Alpha Omicron Pi, from left to right, Jeremy Robertson , Jake Brady , Brendan Roberts , Randle Caldwell , Brittany Dean , Barr , Glen O'Reilly , Shawn Buelow and Brad Dillon .
Scott Stallings , 2012 True South Classic champion, chats with Melysa Smith of Carriere while promoting the upcoming Sanderson Farms Championship.	8



Video available at youtube.com/batsonhospital, search channel for "Ole Miss"



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.



Batson patient Mary Ellis Cravey meets Marie Wicks, Miss Mississippi 2012, during the annual parade kicking off pageant festivities in Vicksburg.



Chelby Tucker takes a break in the shade during the 9th Annual Kristy's Trail Ride. The benefit is held each Memorial Day weekend in memory of Kristy Lynn Davis, a former Batson patient and Tucker's cousin. This year's event raised \$25,000, bringing the grand total to nearly \$130,000 raised since its inception.

St. Joseph's Catholic School students, from left, Teryn Yazdani, Miranda Barrett, Shannon Harkins, Kathryn Sckiets, Kylan Toohey and Will Lindsey, display the total amount raised during their 3rd Annual Dance Marathon at their Madison campus.





Ashley Ramage, front row, third from left, nurse manager, and Michelle Palokas, front row, fourth from left, clinical director, accept a \$10,000 donation from Gary Fairley, front row, second from right, president and chief executive officer of Jackson Area Federal Credit Union and other staff. Credit unions across the state participate in the Credit Unions for Kids program through Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.



Employees at the Flowood Dairy Queen share a Blizzard treat with Batson patient Tykiera James during the 2013 Miracle Treat Day. Dairy Queens across the nation donate \$1 or more for each Blizzard sold on Miracle Treat Day to local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals like Batson.

Inspiring
HOPE
Saving
LIVES



The Clinton Fred's store celebrates its annual Children's Miracle Network Hospitals fundraising campaign with a cookout and grill giveaway. Those attending the event included employees from left, Libby Bankston, Nickie Bankston and Jackie Jenkins.



Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics, accepts a check from Governor Phil Bryant at the 2nd Annual Governor Phil Bryant's 5k Run for Health.



Batson patient Jacob Partlow sits atop a lead pony at the Mississippi Charity Horse Show. The show has donated more than \$183,000 to the hospital in the last seven years.



Members of the Spirit Riders and other supporters gather for the McComb Walmart Miracle Ride held during the Walmart and Sam's Clubs annual Children's Miracle Network Hospitals fundraising campaign. More than 130 motorcycles took part in the ride, which raised \$3,000.

Video available at [youtube.com/batsonhospital](https://www.youtube.com/batsonhospital), search channel for "Miracle Ride"



Members of Phi Mu at Millsaps College present an \$11,000 donation to Dr. Rick Barr, Suzan B. Thames Professor and Chair of Pediatrics. The funds were raised during Phi Mu's annual Casino Night fundraiser.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jingle Bell Jog
December 7

Batson Christmas
Tree Lighting
December 10

Radiothon
February 26, 27 & 28

IHOP National
Pancake Day
March 4

Mal's St. Paddy's
Parade & Festival
March 15

Zippity Doo Dah
Parade & Festival
in Fondren
March 20, 21 & 22

Mississippi Charity
Horse Show
March 27, 28 & 29



A snippet of the mural on Batson Children's Hospital's first floor.