Spotlight
Groundbreaking heart and vascular care

Views from the Top
What Chuck Stokes has in mind for the future

Generosity Shines
Special events bring our donors together
Dear Friends,

This January marked my one-year anniversary with the Memorial Hermann Foundation. I can hardly believe it—time really does fly. Still, with each passing day, I am even more impressed by the Memorial Hermann Health System we support.

Innovation is key to our continuing success, as is the philanthropy that makes it all possible. This issue features Memorial Hermann’s exceptional heart and vascular care programs, as we present profiles on some of our many miracle workers and families whose lives have been forever changed because of them.

Thanks to the highly skilled work of surgeons and their teams of researchers, specialists and medical professionals at every level, Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute and Children’s Heart Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital give hope of recovery to adults and children facing the most complex, life-threatening issues. They come from around the world, often for care no one else can provide. As time goes on, we look forward to sharing more stories of the innovative work being done here every day.

I am also honored to be a part of important events like the recent President’s Club Reception and the CEO’s Circle Dinner, where President and CEO Chuck Stokes shared his insights and vision for the future. It was wonderful to mix and mingle with so many of our generous friends and supporters.

My first year has been truly inspiring. Without a doubt, I know that Memorial Hermann simply could not be the phenomenal health system it has become without you.

Anne E. Neeson
Executive Vice President and CEO
Memorial Hermann Foundation

Cover: Drs. Salazar and Hanfland with tiny heart-surgery patient Hayes Yepes and family
Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Care

The world is watching, and seeking, the modern miracles performed daily.

Many people have no idea about the extraordinary work being done for adults and children at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center until they need it.

Heart and vascular specialists here conduct research trials on the latest devices. They perform, and help perfect, the most advanced open-heart surgical techniques available. Using more and more minimally invasive procedures, they routinely save the lives of people with high-risk issues that prohibit surgery of any other kind. And they’re changing what’s possible across the Memorial Hermann Health System by enormous leaps and bounds.

It’s no wonder both patients and fellow health care professionals around the world seek their expertise, advice and treatment.

**FIRST**

**In the world**
- to show heart disease can be reversed with a state-of-the-art PET imaging center dedicated to preventing and reversing coronary heart disease

**In Texas**
- to give patients clot-dissolving drugs to stop heart attacks
- to perform cardiac catheterization surgery
- to offer cardiac risk screening designed specifically for women

**In Houston**
- to implant a transcatheter heart valve, replacing a diseased aortic valve without open-heart surgery
- to perform minimally invasive surgery to correct atrial fibrillation
“If you read any literature anywhere in the world, the center for aortic surgery is Memorial Hermann.”

Hazim Safi, MD Chief, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute • Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth
Nearly 20 years ago, Hazim Safi, MD, accepted the challenge to build a first-rate cardiothoracic and vascular surgical program at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

Today, in collaboration with McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, Dr. Safi and his carefully assembled team provide world-class care at the Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute.

Dr. Safi’s specialty is aortic surgery featuring advanced techniques few others are qualified to perform. He learned the basics of these special skills from renowned heart surgeons Michael DeBakey, MD; Denton Cooley, MD; and his longtime friend, colleague and hero, Stanley Crawford, MD.

“Dr. Crawford was a pioneer in aortic surgery,” Dr. Safi says. “When it comes to aneurysms, he was a god.”

Over the years, Dr. Safi has refined his complex surgical techniques for aortic aneurysms and dissections, making Memorial Hermann Heart & Vascular Institute a global center of excellence in the process.

Sharing discoveries and techniques around the world

The Institute is a vital center for research and clinical trials to improve techniques, treatments and patient outcomes. Dr. Safi, who has co-authored 30 books and hundreds of scientific articles, is quick to acknowledge the contributions of his fellow surgeons, who produce an astounding 30 to 40 abstracts every year.

Together, they have established the Institute’s annual Houston Aortic Symposium, considered one of the best in the country, and they travel the world giving lectures and workshops.

“We go to Singapore, we go to London, Germany, Israel, Australia, everywhere but Antarctica,” he says, “to operate and show our technique.”

“I’m not only a proud member and supporter of the Memorial Hermann organization, I’m also a grateful patient. I have Dr. Safi and his skilled team to thank for my own successful cardiac bypass.”

Chuck Stokes President and CEO
Memorial Hermann Health System

Why Memorial Hermann?

Dr. Safi had a successful private practice back in 1999. Still, he came to Memorial Hermann, “for the opportunity to build something good.”

Mission accomplished.
Decades ago, Memorial Hermann pioneered the idea of expanding high-quality care into communities throughout Greater Houston. The latest example of this mission in action is the recent addition to the Heart & Vascular Center at Memorial Hermann Southeast. The hospital had already built a team of top cardiovascular specialists. All they lacked was a cardiac surgeon. Until now.

Cesar Nahas, MD, FACS, one of the Clear Lake area’s foremost cardiac surgeons, along with several of his seasoned team members, has joined the program and closed the gap. Dr. Nahas serves as medical director.

“‘The important thing is to have the right ingredients—not only a good surgeon, but a good support staff.’

Cesar Nahas, MD, FACS Medical Director, Cardiac Surgery at Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital • Associate Professor, Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

System-wide
41 affiliated surgeons
200,000+ procedures per year
4 Heart & Vascular Institutes
8 Heart & Vascular Centers

Highest inpatient market share in Greater Houston

Saving lives, close to home

“We are thrilled with the launch of this open-heart surgery program,” says Kyle Price, senior vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Southeast. “Dr. Nahas’s expertise brings an invaluable service to the communities we serve.”

Board certified in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery with a medical degree from St. Joseph University in Beirut, Dr. Nahas completed his training at Baylor College of Medicine under the legendary Michael DeBakey, MD. Dr. Nahas brings more than 20 years of experience to Memorial Hermann Southeast. Together with his distinguished teams, they make it possible for residents of Southeast Houston to receive advanced cardiac treatment options right where they live.
“With the addition of Dr. Nahas and the UT cardiovascular program, we’re setting the pace in Southeast Houston.”

Kyle Price  Senior Vice President and CEO,  Memorial Hermann Southeast Hospital
Children’s Heart Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital

Revolutionary pediatric heart care is rebuilding hearts and hope

A well-organized, well-integrated, multidisciplinary team is the key to a patient’s long-term success. It’s also what sets Memorial Hermann apart.

Extraordinary skills and compassion
Jorge Salazar, MD, can’t change the fact that one percent of children are born with a congenital heart condition. But he can change the quality of life for the young patients he and his team see.

The pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon built an enviable reputation at Boston Children’s Hospital before coming to Houston in 2017 to serve as co-director of the Children’s Heart Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann with John Breinholt, M.D., chief of pediatric cardiology at McGovern Medical School.

“I was attracted by the incredible opportunity to make an impact here,” Dr. Salazar says. “Not just in Houston or in Texas, but around the country and the world.”

The future is now: rearranging anatomy
Dr. Salazar specializes in the most complex, advanced pediatric heart procedures. He has established a unique program, biventricular conversion, that has already turned Children’s Memorial Hermann into a national referral center for congenital heart disease.

Dr. Salazar’s team can rearrange the anatomy and connections inside a heart, so a child with only a single ventricle or single pumping heart chamber can have a two-ventricle or normal-heart repair. Most of the surgeries the team performs carry a success rate greater than 99 percent. The surgery is the beginning of a lifetime of care, but it’s also a beginning these children otherwise might not have.

And the world outside of Houston has taken notice. In only a few short months, the program has attracted families from the Pacific Northwest, Chile and the United Arab Emirates.

The bigger picture
Dr. Salazar is quick to credit the cardiologists, critical care doctors, fellows, nurses, respiratory therapists, anesthesiologists and neonatologists who make up his team.

CHILDREN’S HEART CENTER AT CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
Highly specialized surgical techniques

A Recent Gift of $500,000 from G.C. Broughton Foundation
1 ECMO + 1 heart-lung bypass machine

In support of Children’s Memorial Hermann’s ongoing technological advances, this generous donation provided vital new equipment that gives tiny hearts time to function, heal or undergo life-saving surgery.

SPOTLIGHT: THE HEART OF INNOVATION
Hayes Yepes’s parents didn’t get much time to celebrate his birth. He was only three hours old when a nurse heard a heart murmur.

A rare congenital heart disease had left him with a dangerously narrow aorta, while a blockage above his aortic valve restricted nearly 90 percent of the blood flow from the infant’s heart.

“It all happened so fast,” Hayes’s father Jeremy said. “We were terrified.”

The birth hospital knew about Jorge Salazar, MD, a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon who had only recently joined Children’s Memorial Hermann. Dr. Salazar was leading a new program to treat complex pediatric heart cases other facilities couldn’t, or wouldn’t.

Memorial Hermann Life Flight® brought Hayes to Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. Dr. Salazar and Dr. Robert Hanfland performed a six-hour surgery when Hayes was four days old. They opened the area above the valve and relieved the obstruction. Two weeks later, they operated again on a different area.

Hayes came home in early January of this year. He is doing well, and his parents have finally exhaled. They know he faces a lifetime of care. But they take comfort knowing where that care will come from.

“He also knows the critical role philanthropy and the Memorial Hermann Foundation play in the program’s success, and he is confident that with the right guidance and resources he and his team can more than triple the volume at Children’s Memorial Hermann.

“We’re talking about strategic investing, not massive investments,” Dr. Salazar says. “This is a real opportunity for global leadership for the Memorial Hermann Health System.”

An unwavering commitment

Dr. Salazar’s vision is global, but his focus is on the children directly in front of him. A father of seven, he’s fond of telling anxious parents that he’ll care for their children the same way he’d care for his own. And he means it. He’s determined to give these children the care and the lives they deserve.

“We are glad we ended up in Dr. Salazar’s steady hands. And thankful for the great support system at Children’s Memorial Hermann.”

Jeremy Yepes, Hayes’s father
Under his visionary watch, first as COO and now as President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Health System, Charles (Chuck) D. Stokes has been instrumental in earning Memorial Hermann unprecedented recognition for patient safety, high-quality care and operational excellence.

We asked him a few questions about the disruption of the healthcare industry and his vision for the future of Memorial Hermann.

Beginning with the understatement of the decade, health care is in a transition period, wouldn’t you agree?

Absolutely. And that includes a major shift in expectations. Today, the demand from government, employers, payers and even consumers themselves is not only for better care, but greater value.

Meaning what, exactly?

To us, it means living up to our name, Memorial Hermann Health System. Rather than waiting to treat people who are sick, our vision is to create a healthier Houston by getting involved in people’s lives early on, providing access to things like nutrition, exercise, mental health services and, of course, a strong primary care network.

Can you give us an example of how that works?

Take someone with type 2 diabetes. Under the old model, we might not have seen this person until he required hospitalization or worse, say, an amputation. By intervening earlier, we help people better manage their disease. That’s how we keep people out of the hospital, living healthier lives. I’m very proud of our leadership in this area and the healthy results we’re seeing.

So what else is Memorial Hermann doing differently these days?

Innovation is key. We have to make it quicker and easier for people to get healthcare services, which is why we offer special digital resources, like one-on-one online video consultations with doctors.

“Rather than waiting to treat people who are sick, our vision is to create a healthier Houston by getting involved in people’s lives early on.”

Chuck Stokes President and CEO, Memorial Hermann Health System

And we offer a free 24/7 Nurse Health Line that lets people speak to a bilingual registered nurse, day or night—and that’s for anyone living in Harris County, not just our patients.

It’s interesting that Memorial Hermann is doing things for people who may not ever use its hospitals or other facilities.

That’s what creating a healthier Houston is all about. No one healthcare institution can do it alone. We all need to share ideas and resources.

Besides what you’ve mentioned, there’s the nationally acclaimed Red Duke Trauma Institute with its Level 1 trauma center, plus Memorial Hermann Life Flight®, the neurosciences program and so much more. How does a nonprofit organization manage to do such extraordinary things?

We’ve done it for 110 years through the support of many incredibly generous people who find it in their hearts to give. With their continuing support, we pledge to use those gifts to help keep our community healthy.
President’s Club Reception

November 28, 2017

Honoring annual contributors of $2,000+

Memorial Hermann established its President’s Club more than a decade ago. Susan and Fayez Sarofim hosted this year’s reception, celebrating the generosity that helps Memorial Hermann provide exceptional patient care, research, education and special programs.

Above Outgoing Memorial Hermann Foundation Board Chair and All-Star team quarterback Susan Sarofim.

1. Anne Neeson with Susan and Fayez Sarofim
2. Drs. Michelle McNutt and Billy Gill
3. Valerie and Sam Golden with Dr. Yvonne Cormier
4. Bill Easter, Susan Sarofim and Deborah Cannon
5. Keith and Diane Mosing
6. George and Kristi Lindahl, Linda Nelson, Cheryl Brady, Tiffany and Justin McClung
7. Philamena Baird and Chuck Stokes
8. Will and Mary Williams
Above Dr. Milton “Chip” Routt describes the care and rehabilitation Anthony Vallone underwent after suffering a life-threatening accident.

1. Roland and Karen Garcia with Lisa and Jerry Simon
2. Melinda and Mike Perrin
3. Leila and Walt Mischer
4. Tony and Donna Vallone with Ashley Vallone and Anthony Vallone
5. Brian Dean with Deborah Cannon
6. Chuck and Judy Stokes with Beverly and Jim Postl
7. Don and Rose Shepard
8. Gregg and Jo Lynn Falgout with Mary and John Eads
9. Rufus and Dr. Yvonne Cormier
Razzle Dazzle Radiance

October 12, 2017
Benefiting the Bobetta C. Lindig Breast Care Center at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center

This year’s annual luncheon sparkled in unity as chairs Philamena Baird and Regina Garcia, honoree Hallie Vanderhider, and over 500 women and men passionate about cancer awareness enjoyed the melodies of Steve Tyrell.

1. Philamena Baird and Regina Garcia
2. Bill King, Steve Tyrell and Arthur Baird
3. Bobetta Lindig and Jona Lindig
5. Jacqueline Kinloch, Merele Yarborough and Gina Gaston
6. Ann Cazalot, Dr. Sherri Levin, Nini Hale and Annie Tan
7. Chuck and Judy Stokes
8. Susan Sarofim, Kristina Somerville, Sandy Barrett and Cheryl Byington
Memorial Hermann Highlights

**The first in Houston to implant a bionic eye**
*January 2018*

The only retinal prosthesis ever approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration was implanted in the left eye of a Memorial Hermann patient.

**TIRR No. 2 in the country**

TIRR Memorial Hermann ranks No. 2 in U.S. News & World Report and has been recognized on the list for 28 consecutive years.

**A new Level II trauma center**
*January 2018*

Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center has enhanced its trauma capabilities, becoming an official Level II trauma center designated by the American College of Surgeons.

**635,001**
Emergency Center Visits

**3,725**
Life Flight® Missions

**The country’s busiest trauma center**

Memorial Hermann operates the busiest Level I trauma center in the country out of the Red Duke Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. The trauma center also has one of the lowest mortality rate in the country.

**The first health system in Houston to launch Virtual Clinic**
*January 2018*

Virtual Clinic is a digital platform that allows consumers to get a diagnosis with a single click.

**The first Comprehensive Stroke Center**

Memorial Hermann’s neurosciences network is the first Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center in Houston.

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**2,200**
Research Studies

**24,764**
Babies Delivered

**171,526**
Inpatient and Outpatient Surgeries

**6,469**
Active Medical Staff
A magnificent gift from the Sarofim family

In support of Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center’s Breaking New Ground expansion and renovation project, Susan and Fayez Sarofim recently donated an extraordinarily generous $25 million, the largest contribution Memorial Hermann has ever received.

In grateful recognition, the new 17-story patient care tower currently under construction is to be named the Susan and Fayez Sarofim Pavilion, the future home of the Red Duke Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann-TMC, the John S. Dunn Burn Center and Memorial Hermann Life Flight®.