Spotlight
Anthony Vallone’s journey back to life

Action Ready
A behind-the-scenes look at real-life trauma

Rise and Shine
2018 Circle of Life Gala raises $3.32 million
Dear Friends,

Our 2018 Circle of Life Gala certainly lived up to its Rise and Shine theme. Thanks to our many generous supporters, we raised a record $3.32 million to benefit Memorial Hermann Health System’s trauma and critical care services.

This was my first year to help plan the event. I was excited to showcase what makes Memorial Hermann unique in Houston—the extraordinary resources of Memorial Hermann Red Duke Trauma Institute, Memorial Hermann Life Flight®, TIRR Memorial Hermann and all the exceedingly talented people who routinely save lives in horrific circumstances. And showcase them we did.

We were also especially moved to see Anthony Vallone walk on stage with the doctors who treated him after a similar accident that very nearly took his life. The evening’s honorees, storied restaurateurs Donna and Tony Vallone, are Anthony’s grandparents and some of our biggest supporters.

I want to sincerely thank all our donors and express my gratitude and appreciation to two more of our favorite people, Anna and Scott McLean, for chairing such a spectacular event.

I can honestly say I’ve never been more excited about our future. What an incredible group of people we have in the Memorial Hermann community.

Rise and shine, indeed.

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

Anthony Vallone has driven from Dallas to Houston a hundred times. He remembers one trip in particular all too well. Early on a September morning in 2015, a vehicle going 80 mph the wrong way on I-45 hit the 25-year-old energy trader’s car head on.

“The accident happened on a Monday. I woke up the following Saturday.”

Anthony Vallone

In an instant, life changes

The terrifying accident flipped Anthony’s car and left him unconscious with a severely shattered ankle, broken pelvis and collapsed spine. Trauma physicians in Waco stabilized him. Two days later, Life Flight carried him to the Red Duke Trauma Institute in Houston.

The power of talent, teamwork and determination

Orthopedic traumatologists Milton “Chip” Routt, MD, and Shah Dodwad, MD, spent a full day in surgery repairing Anthony’s spine and pelvis. In two separate procedures, orthopedic surgeon William McGarvey, MD, and his team repaired Anthony’s shattered ankle.

Anthony spent three weeks at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and a week at TIRR Memorial Hermann before going home to months of physical therapy and recovery. A year after the accident, he was able to walk without crutches, a cane or a walker.

The grandson of famed Houston restaurateurs Donna and Tony Vallone credits his family for keeping him going, saying they “truly dropped everything to take care of me.” And he has the utmost respect for all of his doctors and therapists at Memorial Hermann. “Without Memorial Hermann,” he says, “I wouldn’t be where I am today.”
A conversation with board member, friend and fan, Scott McLean

Scott McLean and his wife, Anna, have long been allies of Memorial Hermann. The relationship began in 2002 when he joined the finance committee, which he served on for many years before becoming a board member.

We’re always curious to know what inspires people to give so much of their time, talents and financial support to our organization. So, we were pleased to speak with Scott recently to get his personal perspective.

Some of our biggest supporters have had firsthand experience with Memorial Hermann. Have you?

Raising three kids, we naturally used their ER and physicians over the years. Additionally, Anna’s older brother, Mike, worked in the dining services area for six years and had a chance to experience the Memorial Hermann culture from the ground up.

This year’s Circle of Life Rise and Shine Gala broke the all-time fundraising record, thanks to Anna’s and your hard work as chairs. How do you feel about that?

It’s terrific, but it was the message of our trauma and critical care services—Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center being home to the nation’s busiest Level I emergency room (with the lowest mortality rate), Life Flight and TIRR—having the whole package. That’s what did it. No other healthcare system in the region has these resources. Houstonians are very giving by nature, and because of the uniqueness of the message, they responded in a record-setting way.

What did you think of the Memorial Hermann trauma team’s live re-enactment of a car crash at the gala?

I think most people’s reaction was like mine—Holy catfish! Now I really understand. It was a first for the event, and so was the special pass-the-hat appeal that night for contributions. The message was so powerful, we raised an extra $120,000 in about 10 minutes.

Have you ever seen Memorial Hermann Life Flight® in action?

Yes. I think anyone who lives in Houston has probably seen Life Flight in action because trauma happens all the time, which means they’re flying all the time. And when you hear those helicopter propellers and see Life Flight touch down, it just gives you goosebumps.

What can you tell me about the Life Flight relocation campaign?

This is to raise funds to relocate Life Flight from its historical site to the new Susan and Fayez Sarofim Pavilion to provide state-of-the-art emergency air ambulance services in Houston for the next 30 years. We’ve received gifts of over $3.5 million in the last month, and three of our lead donors were with us at the gala: Gary Petersen, whose Petersen Family Foundation contributed a $1.25 million gift, and Jim and Beverly Postl, who made a $500,000 gift to the campaign.

Why is Memorial Hermann so important to our community?

Memorial Hermann is the largest healthcare provider in our community, the top provider of charity care in the region and the best, most effective trauma care services in the US. The most important thing, though, is that excellence and patient safety are the top priorities of the doctors, nurses and staff.

“If a friend or family member suffers a traumatic injury at work, on our interstates or even falling from their roof, there’s only one answer. Memorial Hermann’s Level I trauma care services, Life Flight and TIRR.”

Scott McLean
President and COO, Zions Bancorporation / Chairman, Amegy Bank / Board Member, Memorial Hermann Health System

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ACTION READY
THE TEAM THAT FIGHTS FOR YOUR LIFE
Lights, camera, action ready

Memorial Hermann trauma stars

Shown on the previous page are some of the many talented people who fight for our trauma patients’ lives. Some are also the stars of a re-enactment video that gives you a tiny glimpse of the miracles they perform every day. If you haven’t seen it, buckle up and prepare for an unforgettable experience.

memorialhermann.org/action-ready

BEHIND THE SCENES

The making of a video to capture the trauma and critical care experience

The goal was ambitious: To present an accurate portrayal of the five stages of real-life trauma care, from pre-hospital to rehab. Planning began in January, with meetings to coordinate schedules, approve scripts, scout locations and cast lead actors.

“Doing this in real life is easier than doing it for the camera.”

Ethan Taub, DO, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Acute Care Surgery, Trauma & Critical Care, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

The shoot took three full days and then some, including one rainy night in early April to capture a Life Flight crash scene. For that, TXDOT blocked off a major stretch of I-10; District 48 EMS personnel supervised accident scene details; and Memorial Hermann doctors, nurses, physical therapists and staff, many giving up their personal time, became actors.

“We knew we were in a very special place telling a very important story.”

Erie Rea, Video Producer, Ward & Ames Special Events

Everyone involved was fanatical about creating an authentic look at trauma care, from the intentional calm of EMS teams to the placement of simulated bruises to the 911 dispatch dialogue. Some of the trauma team members also made time to rehearse for their show-stopping live performance that accompanied the video at the gala, another major feat of collaboration, coordination and talent.

“Seeing people react live made us realize how important our jobs are.”

Rachael Chapple, BSN, RN, CCRN, Shock Trauma Intensive Care Unit, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center

This year’s Circle of Life Rise and Shine Gala benefited Memorial Hermann trauma and critical care services. More than 1,500 guests were treated to an inside view of the incredible life-saving work that takes place every day at the nation’s busiest Level I adult trauma center. The guests responded by donating a record $3.32 million to the Foundation.

1. Donna and Tony Vallone
2. Yvonne and Walter Johnson
3. Lyndan and Marilyn Rose
5. Glen Reyes with Pahle Vanderhider

1. Maurice Campos Jr., MD, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center
2. Dawn VanHeldorf, RN, Critical Care, Memorial Hermann-TMC
3. Dr. Timothy Hodges, Trauma Director, Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center
4. Dr. Hilary Fairbrother, Emergency Medicine, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Children’s Memorial Hermann
5. Dr. Kevin Schulz, Emergency Medicine Specialist, Memorial Hermann-TMC
6. Adam Owens, Life Flight Pilot
7. Dr. Michelle McNutt, Chief, Trauma, Red Duke Trauma Institute
8. Dr. Kulvinder Bajwa, Physician, Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital
9. Olumfumilola Oyetunji, RN, Critical Care, Memorial Hermann-TMC
10. Dr. Gerard Francisco, Chief Medical Officer, TIRR Memorial Hermann
11. Daniel Vela, RN, Critical Care, Trauma ICU, Memorial Hermann-TMC
12. Dr. Ethan Taub, DO, Surgery, Memorial Hermann-TMC
13. John Cornell, Life Flight RN

Above

The trauma team’s live gala performance inspired spontaneous donations.

1. Donna and Tony Vallone
2. Yvonne and Walter Johnson
3. Lyndan and Marilyn Rose
5. Glen Reyes with Pahle Vanderhider
“We have seen firsthand how Memorial Hermann trauma and critical care services save lives, and for that we are eternally grateful.”

Donna and Tony Vallone, who were honored at the gala for their legacy of support.

On behalf of everyone involved with Memorial Hermann trauma and critical care services, we extend a heartfelt thank you to all our donors for your support.

Above Scott and Anna McLean with Judy Stokes and Chuck Stokes
6. Philomena and Arthur Band
7. Fred Zuidman, Kim Craig, Bill King with Barbara Easter and Bill Easter
8. Roland and Karen Garcia
9. Kevin Black and Tony Bradfield
10. Michelle and Brian Dean
11. Savannah Smith, Sherry and Jim Smith, and Tracey Smith Hassett
12. Ed and Nina Hendee with Lisa and Jerry Simon
13. Margaret Alkek Williams and Jim Daniel
14. Ben and Bethany Buchanan
15. Jake and Judy Roberts with Anat and Jay Zuidman
16. Craig Janies and Anne Neeson with Beverly and Jim Postl
17. Gwen Emmett and Judge Ed Emmett
18. Doug and Wined Herron
19. Joe and Cathy Clancy with Lacey and Matt Gossen
20. Laurie and Tracy Krohn
21. Jo Lynn and Gregg Falgout
22. Gardner Cannon, Deborah Cannon, Craig Janies, Anne Neeson, Tony Zuidman, Donna Zuidman, Chuck Stokes, Judy Stokes, Jim Postl, Beverly Postl, Anthony Valione, Ashley Valione, Michelle Dean, Brian Dean, Anna McLean and Scott McLean
23. Chuck Stokes with Life Flight
24. Dave Norman and Tom Flanagan
25. Walt and Leila Mischer, Susan and Ward Pennebaker
VISION

Did you know? On average, 99 medical professionals touch a trauma patient during treatment at Memorial Hermann, including surgeons, doctors, nurses and other medical experts specially trained in adult and pediatric trauma care.

Scott is an Olympic gold medalist and world champion figure skater, TV personality, founder of the CARES Foundation, and cancer survivor. His mission to raise awareness and challenge cancer with innovations in treatment and research strikes a chord with all of us dedicated to the cause at In the Pink of Health, and he’s sure to bring a wonderfully inspiring message and energy to this year’s event.