2015 Circle of Life Gala
A SLAM DUNK

The 2015 Circle of Life Gala was the ultimate three-pointer, raising a record $3.3 million to benefit Memorial Hermann’s Orthopedics and Sports Medicine programs. Chaired by Leslie Alexander and the NBA Houston Rockets, the hoopla-themed event honored Leticia and Steve Trauber for their longtime support of Memorial Hermann. On Saturday, April 11, 2015, the Memorial Hermann Foundation hosted the popular, sold-out event with more than 1,800 guests to celebrate their achievements and to honor Memorial Hermann’s talented orthopedic team, under the direction of Dr. Walter Lowe, Medical Director of Memorial Hermann’s IRONMAN Sports Medicine Institute and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at UTHealth Medical School at Houston. Dr. Lowe is also the official Head Team Physician and preferred orthopedic surgeon for the Houston Rockets.

continued page 3—

1. Dwight Howard, Dr. Walter Lowe and James Harden
2. Memorial Hermann President & CEO, Dan Wolterman, Dwight Howard and Leslie Alexander
3. Lori and Dan Wolterman, Leticia and Steve Trauber, Janice and Tad Brown, CEO, Houston Rockets
I am proud of Memorial Hermann Health System’s constant progress. A vital part of the gulf coast region, our goal is to provide the highest levels of life-saving, quality healthcare for our community. As the largest private employer in Houston, Memorial Hermann commands a multi-disciplinary team of 23,000 exceptional employees who seek to support patients whether during a one-time appointment at an outpatient facility or an extended encounter as an inpatient at one of our hospitals. While the population and our patient volumes increase, Memorial Hermann is consistently recognized as a national leader and model health system. I believe our success is due to our extraordinary physicians and employee base, with each wanting to do their best, and be at their best, for our patients in need.

In addition to earning a number of prestigious quality, safety and achievement awards based on Memorial Hermann’s tremendous performance and measurable, clinical outcomes, Memorial Hermann was in the national spotlight recently because of our partnership with the Lifetime cable network. The documentary-style series, Life Flight: Trauma Center Houston, premiered on March 2. It highlighted the team at Memorial Hermann–Texas Medical Center and gave a national audience insight into the everyday realities at Memorial Hermann’s Texas Trauma Institute, the busiest Level 1 trauma center in the country. Productions like this bring attention to our world-class trauma program, but also help us to educate the community. At Memorial Hermann, we strive to find new ways to connect with the public about wellness and preventative health measures through innovative forms of social engagement.

As advocates, you play a significant role in Memorial Hermann’s continued progress. Your commitment to our community and to Memorial Hermann is recognized and sincerely appreciated. On behalf of our staff and patients, thank you for your continued friendship and support. Together, we will continue to advance health.

Sincerely,

Dan Wolterman
President & CEO
Memorial Hermann Health System
“Memorial Hermann has been the Official Healthcare Provider of the Houston Rockets and Toyota Center for almost a decade,” said Leslie Alexander. “We’re both committed to the Houston community and care deeply about our city and the people who call it home. The Houston Rockets are proud of their long standing relationship with Memorial Hermann and are thrilled to chair this year’s Gala.”

When Clutch and the Rockets Power Dancers took to the stage and team announcer, John Paul, began to introduce the hometown heroes, it was the energetic entrance of the players amid cryo fireworks that thrilled the audience. Joining Alexander, were Houston Rockets, Dwight Howard, James Harden, Trevor Ariza, Corey Brewer, Patrick Beverley, Clint Capela, Nick Johnson, Terrence Jones, Kostas Papanikolaou, Pablo Prigioni, Joey Dorsey, Josh Smith, and KJ McDaniels. Former Rocket, Clyde Drexler, was also attendance, as were many of the team’s coaches and trainers.

In keeping with the basketball theme, opulent floral basketball hoops filled the Hilton Americas ballroom and guests were offered sweatband accessories in a fun contrast to their elegant, black-tie fashions. The inspirational program focused on the evening’s beneficiary: the highly specialized, cutting-edge sports medicine and orthopedic programs at Memorial Hermann. Dwight Howard spoke briefly to express his personal gratitude to Dr. Lowe, Memorial Hermann, and the generous donors and event sponsors who made the evening possible. Then, following a delicious dinner, the audience packed the dance floor to enjoy the good music long into the night.

Key contributors and major event sponsors enjoyed private photos and conversation with Houston Rockets team members. The exclusive VIP reception, which preceded the gala event, was held in the Skyline Lounge and boasted beautiful views of downtown Houston.
As highly regarded philanthropists and civic leaders, the evening’s honorees, Steve and Leticia Trauber, understand the effort necessary to produce a successful event. In addition to chairing the Circle of Life Gala in the past, they have selflessly served on numerous committees and guided the Memorial Hermann Foundation as members of the Board of Directors. For more than a decade, the Traubers have generously given time, talent and financial support to advancing health. Accepting the Circle of Life award, Leticia Trauber spoke humbly at the event. “We could not be more delighted to be honored this evening. We are constantly impressed with Memorial Hermann’s quest to provide outstanding quality to patients from around the world.”

Mark your calendar for the 2016 Circle of Life Gala, which will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

1. Arthur and Philamena Baird
2. Susan Sarofim, Sheridan Williams and Ileana Treviño
3. Maria and Neil Bush
4. Gerald and Anita Smith
5. Clyde and Tonya Drexler
6. Jim and Vicki Montague
7. Dwight Howard with Aaron Berry
8. Donna and Tony Vallone
9. Yvonne and Rufus Cormier
10. Dr. Walt and Dawn Lowe
11. Leslie Alexander with James Harden
12. Honorees Steve and Leticia Trauber
13. Sherry and Jim Smith with Susan Sarofim
14. Kay and Fred Zeidman
On Tuesday, February 26, more than eighty business and community leaders joined physicians from the Texas Trauma Institute (TTI), as well as Memorial Hermann President and CEO, Dan Wolterman, to hear about exciting developments at Memorial Hermann in critical care. The dinner, which was held at Tony’s, was kicked off with a sneak preview of Life Flight: Trauma Center Houston, the unscripted docudrama that followed critical care specialists at Memorial Hermann’s TTI over several months.

The six-episode show, which was produced by Brad Bogart of The Boardwalk Entertainment Group, showcased the daily routine of Memorial Hermann’s Life Flight® crew. Episodes began with Life Flight rescuing a patient and then followed the patient through his or her hospital journey. “Everyone will be able to see firsthand just how much, and how many, it takes to save a life,” said Craig Cordola, Senior Vice President and Regional President of Memorial Hermann.

After the preview, Wolterman shared information regarding the $650 million capital renovation and expansion project at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. The highlight of the project is the construction of a new 15-story patient care tower to house Life Flight and the TTI, including an expanded burn center, as well as additional patient care services.

As Houston’s only Level 1 trauma center with air ambulance capabilities and a verified burn center, the TTI provides a vital safety net for Houston and surrounding areas. While the community grows and patient volumes increase, Memorial Hermann and the TTI continue to operate at capacity. “Without this vitally important expansion, we will be unable to keep up with the growing demand for services,” said Wolterman.

As the nation’s busiest Level 1 trauma center, the TTI is home to one of the finest trauma programs in the world. However, it takes a monumental amount of resources, both private and public, to ensure the Houston community has the level of care necessary for those who need it. “Memorial Hermann is investing significant resources in this project and seeks the partnership of the philanthropic community to assist with these efforts. We can’t do it alone,” said Wolterman.
Millions of Americans suffer from chronic joint pain. For many, this pain is immobilizing. Memorial Hermann Joint Centers offer relief. Each year, Joint Center physicians perform more than 3,000 hip and knee joint replacement procedures, more than any other hospital system in the Greater Houston area. The medical team, comprised of highly skilled orthopedic surgeons, specialty-trained nurses, and other caregivers work together to give patients the most advanced treatment options available, including the latest prescription medications, joint injections, and minimally invasive surgical options.

On May 11, Memorial Hermann Foundation board member, Lisa Simon, and her husband, Jerry, generously opened their home to host a reception in honor of Dr. W. Lin Jones for his pioneering work in joint replacement. More than eighty people attended the event which was organized by the Women’s Advisory Council at Memorial Hermann Southwest and supported the Memorial Hermann Southwest Joint Center. In an effort to enhance the patient experience, the Joint Center is expanding and enhancing the physical therapy area. When complete, the space will accommodate 40% more patients than its current capacity.

1. Dr. Derek Jones, Lori Jones, Candy Jones, Dr. Lin Jones
2. MHSW Hospital Women’s Advisory Council members with Lisa and Jerry Simon
3. Philamena Baird with Lisa Simon
4. Dr. Lin Jones, Erin Asprec, Gary Kerr
5. Jerry and Lisa Simon
6. Polly and Michael Hrebenar
7. Jim and Sherry Smith

To learn more about the project, call Debbie Lackey at 713.242.4409.
Sporting Clay Shoot is a Hit

On March 2, hundreds of sharp shooters became Heroes at the second annual Heroes in Health Sporting Clay Shoot. This year’s event benefited Memorial Hermann Life Flight®, Houston’s first and only hospital-based air ambulance service. The shoot raised more than $136,000 to support this vital program.

Founded in 1976, Life Flight operates around the clock retrieving critically ill and injured patients within a 150-mile radius of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. “Life Flight flies more than 3,000 missions each year and reaches patients as far as Louisiana in times of crisis,” remarked Memorial Hermann Foundation CEO, Ileana Treviño.

As Foundation CEO, Treviño is pleased to see the next generation of Memorial Hermann’s leaders become more educated and engaged. “Events hosted by Heroes in Health not only generate funds, but increase awareness for Memorial Hermann. I am excited to see so many people turn out for a day of friendly competition in support of Life Flight.”

Heroes in Health Steering Committee members and event co-chairs Ben Buchanan, Stacy Johnson, and Judy and Jacob Roberts helped to oversee the busy day, hosted at the Greater Houston Gun Club. Following the shoot, guests enjoyed Becks Prime sponsored by Anslow-Bryant Construction along with beverages provided by Silver Eagle Distributors. Teams taking aim this year included shooters, Steve Strake and son Stephen, Tom Mach and brother Butch, Dr. Richard Ruiz, Jason Johnson, and Max Mischer. Top sponsors like Tech Systems, Inc., Crothall Healthcare, D.E. Harvey Builders and TME were also represented.

Memorial Hermann Heroes in Health coordinates a number of fundraising, volunteer, educational and networking events throughout the year. The philanthropic membership program supports the many hospitals, clinical areas and research initiatives within Memorial Hermann Health System.
Wolterman Discusses The Business of Health

On May 6, Memorial Hermann Heroes in Health hosted its annual The Business of Health breakfast featuring a presentation by Memorial Hermann President and CEO, Dan Wolterman. The event, underwritten by Crothall Healthcare, focused on Memorial Hermann’s Texas Trauma Institute (TTI) and how Memorial Hermann–Texas Medical Center (TMC) became the nation’s busiest Level 1 trauma center.

The opportunity for young professionals to mingle with more established, influential advocates and leaders within the community is one of the benefits of Heroes in Health membership. Speaking to more than 100 attendees, Wolterman began to tell the story of Memorial Hermann from its infancy. In 1925, the hospital that is now known as Memorial Hermann–TMC was the very first hospital established in the Texas Medical Center. Heralding a century of firsts and generations of innovation, key moments in history include the first flight of Memorial Hermann Life Flight® in 1976 and the establishment of Memorial Hermann’s TTI in 2012.

Wolterman explained how growing patient volumes and limited resources for trauma care have resulted in an emergency situation for Houston. Public health experts, including the American College of Surgeons, recommend one Level 1 trauma center for every one million residents. Instead, Wolterman reminded the assembled group that Houston has only two certified Level 1 trauma centers to serve the growing city of six million. Then, he shared statistics that indicate that many times, due to high volumes and capacity issues, both Level 1 trauma centers are on “divert”. During these times, patients must be transported to emergency centers that are further away or may not be equipped to handle the higher levels of acuity.

To meet Houston’s demanding critical care and emergency response needs, Memorial Hermann has announced the Breaking New Ground fundraising project. The $200 million philanthropic initiative will support enhanced facilities, equipment, programs, research and education, including those provided through trauma and critical care services.

In closing, Wolterman thanked the audience for their interest, participation and continued support of Memorial Hermann.
Memorial Hermann Foundation celebrated Donate Life month in April by inviting Houston’s young professional community to “Talk Transplant with Dr. Mark Hobeika.”

As a member of the incredible transplant team at Memorial Hermann, Dr. Hobeika specializes in both adult and pediatric organ transplantation as well as laparoscopic donor nephrectomy for living donor kidney transplantation. Sponsored by Heroes in Health, the happy hour at Triniti Restaurant featured an in-depth presentation given by Dr. Hobeika about the unique realities and rewards of organ donation and transplantation.

Co-hosts, Margot and Mari Treviño, welcomed the audience of more than 50 guests and expressed their unending gratitude for the highly skilled doctors and nurses at Memorial Hermann and the generosity of organ donors. A few days before Thanksgiving, 2014, their father, Michael Treviño, received the lifesaving gift of a liver transplant. For these Heroes, the mission to recruit more organ donors is personal – and urgent.

Only 38 percent of Texans are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. Unlike other specialties facing high demand for service, transplant resources are limited, often leaving doctors unable to help their patients. Representatives from LifeGift joined Dr. Hobeika at the event to answer questions. LifeGift is the federally regulated, not-for-profit organ and tissue procurement organization, responsible for all transplant coordination within the Houston area. According to Dr. J. Steve Bynon, Chief of Abdominal Transplantation at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Texas has significantly higher wait times compared to other states which makes it even more difficult to find organs for people in need.

“As Heroes,” said Margot Treviño, “we pledge to create more opportunities, like this event, to celebrate life, second chances, and the generosity of organ donation, in hope that we can spread this lifesaving message throughout our young professional community and beyond.”

1. Dr. Mark Hobeika with co-hosts, Mari Treviño and Margot Treviño
2. Charles Rossen, Mari Treviño, Dr. Mark Hobeika, Ileana Treviño, Mari Treviño, Bryan Glass

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ORGAN DONATION AND REGISTRY, PLEASE VISIT MEMORIALHERMANN.ORG/TRANSPLANT AND LIFEGIFT.ORG.
On Tuesday, April 23, Suzanne and Charles, Gill and Mike, and Shawnee and Steve McCord hosted more than 450 guests at River Oaks Country Club for a cocktail reception honoring their brother and sister-in-law, Rick and Jane McCord. The evening highlighted Dr. Robert J. Amato, Medical Director of the Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center (TMC) Cancer Center, and brought awareness to his novel Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) research. Dr. Amato is one of the world’s leading experts in the treatment of bladder, kidney and prostate cancers.

As guests gathered in the main ballroom, the evening opened with remarks from Jane and Rick’s daughters, Anne Goss and Meredith McCord. They introduced a video, which presented the groundbreaking work being done at the Memorial Hermann-TMC Cancer Center, as well as Dr. Amato’s personalized approach to treating kidney cancer. Later in the evening, Dr. Amato addressed the group informing them of his current research, which focuses on molecular-targeted therapeutics to halt the progression of metastatic kidney cancers.

“We are at a unique time in history where technology and medicine are converging and enabling personalized treatment of cancer. Hopefully this field of research will mature rapidly and make the lives of many much better,” said Ryan McCord in his closing remarks.

The evening brought awareness to the lack of resources surrounding kidney cancer research. Each year, there are approximately 65,000 new cases of renal cell cancer in the United States, but little federal money is allocated for research. Since the April event, $1 million has already been raised to support the efforts of Dr. Amato and his team. Additionally, an anonymous donor has generously agreed to match up to $250,000 to help reach the $1.5 million goal to continue Dr. Amato’s specialized research.
Memorial Hermann is advancing the health of our community. Because of its relentless focus on quality, safety, and patient-centered, compassionate care, Memorial Hermann is widely acknowledged as one of the preeminent healthcare systems in the country. Your support fuels the discoveries of tomorrow and enables Memorial Hermann physicians and researchers the opportunity to innovate leading-edge treatments and to focus on wellness and disease prevention.

VISION

MEMORIAL HERMANN FOUNDATION

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