

A Very Big THANK YOU!

Your generous donation of prayer, time, gifts, or resources is the backbone of the Fund; your contribution is bringing our mission to life one precious family at a time. Children and families in our community have been encouraged by the baskets you filled, comforted by the hospital amenities that you funded, and given hope and strength through the emotional support that you have made possible. As Fund members and volunteers, we are blessed to be on the "front lines," participating first-hand in the wonderful difference that your donations make in the lives of families struggling for hope, peace and comfort. Each and every donation that we receive – tangible or intangible, and regardless of size – helps us reach out to a specific family in need. We are so grateful for your donation and offer you a humble thank you for your sacrifice.

As a donor, you have made our mission possible and there are many new projects on the horizon as we move forward. One such development is literally groundbreaking, as we have the opportunity to be part of the new state-of-the-art Le Bonheur hospital. We are contributing to the development and construction of a sibling room, a project that is currently underway. The new sibling room will provide a fun and

safe place for siblings of all ages to play while parents spend precious time with their child in the ICU and we feel honored to be a part of its development over the next year. We have been able to connect with families not only at Le Bonheur but also Baptist East in Memphis, Germantown's Methodist Hospital, Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville. Throughout the next several years we hope to reach further, to grasp wider, and fulfill our mission to help children and families all over the mid-south region. We are actively seeking partners in hospitals beyond the Memphis city limits while still maintaining our devotion to Memphis families.



An objective of the Forrest Spence Fund is to grow solutions larger than the needs presented to us. As you can imagine, this is a lofty goal that even be imagined without your support. Be sure to visit www.forrestspencefund.com for more information about our mission, opportunities,

how to donate, and to stay up-to-date on events and Fund activities. For general inquiries or to be added to the Forrest Spence mailing list, please contact the Fund by email at info@forrestspencefund.com or by phone at (901)313-0012. We welcome your involvement!



Forrest Spence Fund Board Members

David Spence
Brittany Spence
William Martin
Laura Sessions
Gregg Smith
Halley Williams



About Your Donation

We are pleased to let you know that our long wait time is now behind us and the IRS has officially issued the Forrest Spence Fund a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. In most cases, your donation directly to the Forrest Spence Fund will be tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor to verify the tax deductibility of your donation. Our tax exempt status provides more flexibility in how we can distribute your donations to families of chronically ill children. We are thankful for the Hope Foundation, which provided a way for our supporters to donate over the past three years.

Donate online, www.forrestspencefund.com/donate or you may also mail a check attention to: **Forrest Spence Fund / PO Box 770478 / Memphis, TN 38177**

You may email us at info@forrestspencefund.com with any questions!

Searching or Shopping Online? - See How This Can Benefit The Forrest Spence Fund

Make a donation to the Forrest Spence Fund every time you search the internet or make a purchase online with **GoodSearch.com**, a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half of its advertising revenue to the charities you designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! You can also use **GoodShop.com**, a new online shopping mall, which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Every time you place an order, you'll be supporting the Fund. Download the GoodSearch – Forrest Spence Fund toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/forrest-spence-fund>



FUND NEWS

Making a Difference.

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Fingerprints of the Fund

The Forrest Spence Fund touches countless lives each year, leaving fingerprints of compassion across our community. Each individual touched by the Fund has a unique perspective on the personal assistance that the Fund offers to families across the Mid-South and beyond. Below are several personal accounts of how the Fund has affected members of our community written by the families and medical staff on the front lines of our mission.



Tessa Pressgrove, mother of a patient - "Shortly after we arrived at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, we met Brittany Spence and she shared her story of her family's time at Le Bonheur. Although our stories are different, many points hit home as being the same. Brittany gave us the option of someone to talk to about what we were going through. She offered advice as well as a listening ear. Through the fund that she and her husband set up in memory of their son Forrest, she offered us assistance to meet a need we had outside of our daughter's medical bills. I needed a portable breast pump to help me continue storing milk for our daughter when she could begin getting fed. The Forrest Spence Fund purchased the breast pump I needed to make sure Autumn Marie receives all the breast milk I can give her. That small gift allows me to feel like I am doing something for her while we wait to be able to take her home someday, God willing. The support the Forrest Spence Fund offers us is wonderful. I know if I need to talk I can call the Fund anytime and I look forward to seeing Brittany at Le Bonheur on Wednesdays. We cannot thank you enough."

Ruth Munday, Lactation Consultant at Le Bonheur - "The Forrest Spence Fund has made a remarkable impact in the lives of many families at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, particularly in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The fund offers hospitality to families from out of town through care baskets and financial assistance for an occasional night in a hotel in the local area. Counseling services are provided and encouraged for parents to work through the grieving process when faced with their baby's chronic health condition or in the event of infant demise. The fund gives out tote bags, lovies, journals, pens, hands-free pumping bras and cooler bags to support breastfeeding mothers in the NICU. Magazine subscriptions for the lactation

rooms and family waiting rooms are a constant gift that the fund provides for families to enjoy. It is the little things that can make a huge difference in the lives of families going through a tough situation. I have heard comments like 'How did you know my baby needed socks?' or 'The lovie is perfect, I wanted her to have one, but did not know where I would get one' or 'It's so nice to know someone cares and has been where I am now.'

I have seen many parents' faces change from tearful and worried to a soft smile, in the midst of their own pain, when they are touched by the story of Forrest and the outreach ministry of the Forrest Spence Fund."

Dr. Mark Bugnitz, Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Residency Director, Critical Care Physician - "The Forrest Spence Fund, specifically Brittany and David, have been very important contributors to the pediatric residency program at the University of Tennessee Memphis. For the last several years they have unselfishly given of their time to be part of our 'Communicating Difficult News' seminars. As part of the program they have shared their experiences at Le Bonheur with their beautiful son, Forrest. Their poignant story has had a huge impact on our trainees. Their insights have helped the pediatric residents gain the perspective of parents in a very stressful environment. Their honesty and empathy for other patients and their families is an inspiration to me and our pediatric residents."

Mondi Cobble, mother of a patient - "The Forrest Spence Fund was a great help to me while my baby Briton Cobble was very ill and passed away. I was not able to work for over 5 months. The fund allowed me to keep my cell phone bill paid, provided Christmas gifts for my 12 year old son-Blake, myself, and for Briton. The Fund also provided counseling for us upon the loss of Briton through the Christian Psychological Center. Most of all, the friendship and knowledge that someone was there to help me continue to be by my precious baby for every moment possible was the best gift anyone could have ever given me. The Forrest Spence Fund helped me in so many ways... I can never say thank you enough."

Lauren McCann and Jenny Shelton, Child Life Specialists at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital - "The impact of The Forrest Spence Fund can be seen in numerous areas at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. In the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, The Forrest Spence Fund works to provide non-medical items to (continued inside)

The 2010 Forrest Spence 5K



Early in the morning on Saturday, August 28, approximately 500 runners crossed the starting line of the annual Forrest Spence 5K to show their support for our mission and run for Forrest! The beautiful 5K course began and ended in Overton Park in midtown Memphis and was dotted all along the way with enthusiastic volunteers, cheerleaders, and Fund supporters. Children who participated in the race day also enjoyed a 1-mile fun run and a 100-yard-dash. The "Kids Station" area was packed all morning with children and families enjoying the giant inflatable slide and bouncy house, the beanbag toss, face painting station, playground, and more! While participants enjoyed delicious food and live music, awards were presented for each race event according to gender and age group. Likely the most meaningful part of the morning was the testimonies that were shared by those who have been touched by the benevolence of the Fund. These parents shared with the crowd their personal stories of joy and sorrow, confusion and pain, as they struggled with their child through pediatric illness. They highlighted the role that the Fund played in their journey and how they were each supported and encouraged in a unique way as they saw their own physical, spiritual and emotional needs met by Fund volunteers who quickly became like family during some of the darkest days of life. One father in particular was so grateful for the support that the Fund offered him while his daughter was at Le Bonheur that he really "ran" with the 5K spirit and recently completed the New York marathon to raise support for the Forrest Spence Fund! (Read more about Danny Prestage's story on our website at <http://www.forrest-spencefund.com/events/>.)

We are so grateful to the 800 race participants and 100+ volunteers who made the 2010 5K a huge success. It was an exciting morning of celebration and remembrance, and we are encouraged and humbled to see what a meaningful event it has become for hundreds of precious families in Memphis and beyond. Over \$36,000 was raised toward our mission, all because of our incredible sponsors and race participants! Thank you! To see pictures and full race results please visit our website at <http://www.forrestspencefund.com/events/>. If you are interested in sponsoring our 2011 5K, please contact Halley Williams at halleywilliams@hotmail.com. Planning is underway and we welcome your inquiries or involvement!



Photography by Mark Loft



The Forrest Spence 5K 2010 Sponsors

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About the Forrest Spence Fund

After nine months of joyful planning and anticipation, Robert Forrest Spence was born on September 10, 2007. Complications arose at his birth and he was transported to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee, where he fought for his life for weeks. After a tumultuous 55-day journey Forrest passed away due to an infection, but he left behind a lasting legacy of bravery and love that continues today.

During Forrest's brief life a large community of people in Memphis and beyond came together to rally behind this precious life and his family. Near and far, friends and strangers alike were moved to serve the Spence family and to offer support and encouragement. In the midst of heartache and exhaustion the Spences were sustained through their Faith and the encouragement they received from the community of people who rallied on their behalf. Upon Forrest's death the Spences were inspired to pass it on... to help other families find peace and reassurance

In Support Of Our Families

Our donors' loving support allows us to place resources at area hospitals or directly in the hands of hurting families across the mid-south. Through developing a relationship with families in the hospital, we are able to identify and alleviate some of their situation-specific difficulties and provide key comforts. One such resource that we provide is a care basket. Each basket includes a handmade blanket, a roll of quarters for the hospital vending machines, hand sanitizer, chap-stick and lotion to help with the dry hospital air, magazines, a stuffed animal, children's books, a journal, the book *Praying the Scriptures for Your Child*, baby socks, a baby hat, decorations for the child's bed, note cards, snacks and water. We have also been able to provide a medical grade recliner for a mother's nursing room, magazine subscriptions for a nursing room, a medical wagon for transportation of ill children inside the hospital, hands-free pumping bras for mothers, a lactation room microwave, digital camera



The Prestage family at the 2010 FS5K.

Fingerprints of the Fund (continued) patients and families in an effort to increase their ability to cope with the highly stressful environment they are in. The Fund also graciously contributes to Le Bonheur's yearly Christmas Bag project. By purchasing items for all age groups, the Forrest Spence Fund has been instrumental in assuring that each hospitalized child is provided for on Christmas morning. The Fund recognizes the unique and personal needs of our patients and families and provides for those needs accordingly each time, for which we are so very thankful!"

Murff Galbreath, *Licensed Clinical Social Worker for Christian Psychological Center of Memphis* - "We at the Christian Psychological Center have been privileged to partner with the Forrest Spence Fund to provide counseling to parents who are struggling after their baby's death. During the last year, the Forrest Spence Fund

in the midst of a desperate and daunting journey. The Spences founded the Forrest Spence Fund in partnership with the Hope Christian Community Foundation and Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center. David and Brittany Spence and an Executive Board made up of six volunteers manage the direction of the Fund and its day-to-day operations. The mission of the Fund is to assist with the non-medical needs of critically or chronically ill children and their families throughout the Mid-South. In its three years of operation this has been achieved through various means of physical, emotional and spiritual support to families of patients, as well as enhancing the hospital environment and providing service to the pediatric medical staff.



Brittany and her son, Forrest.

with printing dock, Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts for specific families in our care, 180 coolers for nursing mothers to store their breast milk, and 250 tote bags, notebooks and love blankets for newly admitted babies. We are currently in the process of gathering resources and volunteers to serve 120 families a holiday meal at Le Bonheur and to provide Christmas stockings for children in the hospital.

Beyond physical resources for families, we also offer emotional and spiritual support. Over the course of the past three years, we have had the opportunity to talk with parents, offer advice based on our experience, listen to their fears and frustrations, and refer them to professional Christian counseling if necessary. This personal contact is the heartbeat of our mission, and it allows us to pinpoint the specific needs of each family and offer solutions as we are able.

In addition to the support we offer the families of sick children, we are also always aware of the medical staff serving those children and the requests that they have for improving their floors. Based on those requests, we have been able to provide crib mobiles, CD players and CDs, books, blankets, baby clothes, teething toys, crib mirrors, sound machines, night lights, excer-saucers and blankets for PICU and NICU floors in our region.

has afforded the families in their care psychological counseling services during their time of grief. The Spence family identifies the parents through their relational ministry at Le Bonheur and makes the referral to us at the CPC. According to some grief experts, the loss of a child is one of the most traumatic life events that can happen to a person. What is more, this traumatic loss may be complicated by other stressors such as financial hardship or a weak support system. Also, it may be difficult for parents to transition back into routine life or to know how to handle questions from friends or family. We are honored to come alongside these resilient parents to problem solve and to listen as they share their little one's significant life story. The Forrest Spence Fund facilitates grace to these families at a very critical time by bringing them to us, and supporting their psychological care and wellbeing."