

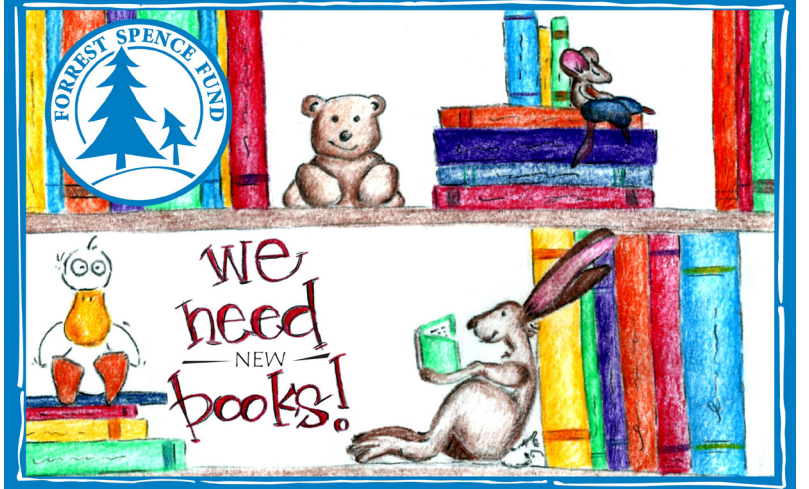


FUND NEWS

Making a Difference.

December 2012 • Fifth Issue

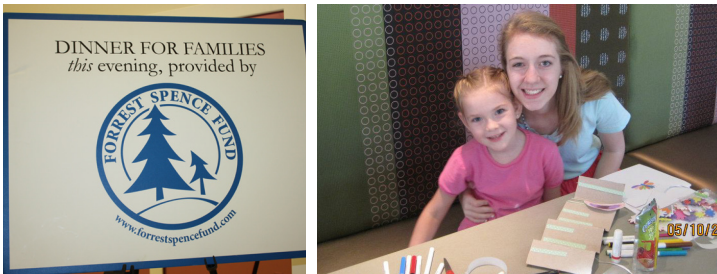
2012 has been a great year. Here are a few things the FSF has been doing...





Dinner Events at FedEx Family House and Le Bonheur Hospital

On the second Thursday of each month, dedicated Forrest Spence Fund volunteers gather at the FedEx Family House to serve dinner and encourage families with ill children. In addition to preparing and serving a warm meal, our volunteers visit with



families, offer support, and often coordinate a creative activity. The FedEx Family House exists to provide families with children at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital a safe and comfortable "home away from home." Their goal meshes perfectly with our mission and it is a privilege to work alongside the FedEx Family House each month and offer support to hurting families in our community.

Every month four to eight volunteers perform meal preparations, decorate and set tables, and make the homey FedEx Family House even more welcoming. A short time later we welcome

families in for the meal and attempt to lessen the stress they feel. We serve their plates, refill drinks, and offer delicious desserts. Early in the year, we decided to also offer a craft for young siblings or patients to enjoy, but soon learned that many parents find this artistic outlet therapeutic as well. Some keep their finished crafts in their room at the FedEx Family House, while others take them to Le Bonheur to brighten a hospital room.

In addition, we offer similar dinner events at Le Bonheur once per quarter, complete with creative activities and thoughtfully decorated tables where families can relax and unwind. We are fortunate to be able to use the Physicians' Dining Room for these events, which is comfortable and private. Providing a delicious meal in a welcoming environment meets a tangible need that many families have for a refreshing change of pace, and for connection with other people who care about their situation and can offer support.

Each Le Bonheur dinner this year has been met with a wonderful response; we have been able to serve between 100 and 125 people each time. We often see people walking into the dining room with Forrest Spence Fund bags, and items from the care baskets we provide... an encouraging sight for us to know that our gifts are helping meet day-to-day needs in a meaningful way. Our in-hospital location allows many patients themselves to attend the dinner with their parents and siblings. Walking through the dining room during a meal, one sees tears at some tables and hears laughter coming from others as our volunteers sit down to visit with families and offer understanding and emotional support.

The dinners that we offer are a joyful time of service. Fund volunteers have often helped families from thousands of miles away get more acclimated to Memphis, and have worked alongside families to solve problems and overcome logistical difficulties. We are thankful for the willingness of our volunteers to donate their time and talent for these special dinner events. It is a joy to see our volunteers reach out to these families, and to see smiles on faces in return. - **Donna Nash**, *Volunteer Coordinator for the Forrest Spence Fund*

<https://www.facebook.com/ForrestSpenceFund>



Find us on **facebook**.

For opportunities to volunteer or give to the fund, visit www.forrestspencefund.org

Meal Voucher and Gas Card Program

Many of our NICU patients are hospitalized for months, and traveling back and forth to Le Bonheur places a financial strain on these families, especially those from outside Memphis. Families in this situation are forced to juggle spending time with their hospitalized child and addressing other responsibilities at home, and often make several trips per month, or per week, to visit their sick child at Le Bonheur. The Forrest Spence Fund is happy to help ease this financial strain by providing pre-paid gas cards for families at Le Bonheur. We have teamed-up with the Social Work Department at Le Bonheur to identify and help distribute this means of support. Each card provides \$25 and we have been able to distribute over \$5000 in gas cards this year so far.

In addition, we joyfully provide families with meal vouchers to the Le Bonheur cafeteria. Families that must stay at Le Bonheur for an extended period of time either spend hundreds of

dollars on meals in the cafeteria, eat snack foods to get by, or eat cold meals of sandwiches as they can. There are very limited dining options surrounding the hospital and many parents cannot take precious time away from their sick child to leave the hospital for a meal. The meal vouchers provided by the Forrest Spence Fund allow the patients' families to get a warm meal from the hospital cafeteria without worrying about draining personal resources that are so often already stretched thin. So far in 2012, over 665 meals have been provided for families using the Forrest Spence Fund meal vouchers and we hope to increase this number in the coming months and years.

"As a staff member of Le Bonheur Hospital, I am so thankful for the mission of the Forrest Spence Fund, which I get to see in action on a daily basis. The families and patients in our care truly benefit from these programs and are so grateful when they receive meal vouchers or gas cards from the Forrest Spence Fund."

-**Kimberly Volner**, *Social Worker at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital*

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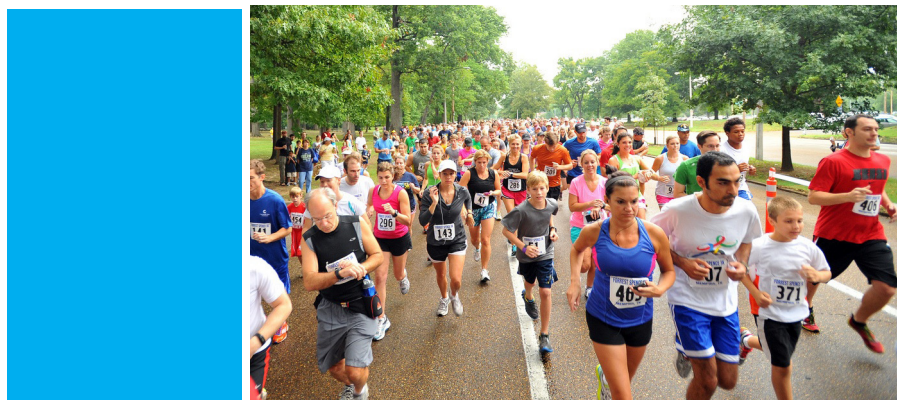
forrest spence | 5k

overton park • august 25, 2012

The annual Forrest Spence 5K is our biggest event and fundraiser each year. This year the race took place on a rainy Saturday morning in August at Overton Park in Memphis. The 5K is a wonderful event for the entire family, and we were delighted as always to see children laughing, playing and participating alongside their parents. Throughout the morning, families that have been impacted by the Fund publicly shared their stories and winners of various door prizes were awarded. In addition to the 5K, there was also a one-mile "Fun Run" and 100-yard dash for the children in attendance.

Despite the weather, the atmosphere this year was exciting and cheerful as usual! Rain-soaked runners enjoyed delicious food under a covered pavilion after the race and children enjoyed the "Kids' Station" area, full of games, large inflatables, and the great playground at Overton Park.

We are humbled by the turn-out this year, especially given the soggy conditions of Saturday morning! Although the wet morning hampered our numbers and financial goals to some degree, there were still 958 participants and approximately \$37,750 was raised toward the operating budget for the Fund. It takes a full team of hard-working volunteers and incredible sponsors to make the 5K happen each year. THANK YOU to our generous sponsors and volunteers! We cannot accomplish our mission of love without your support and commitment. - **Melody Burchett**, *volunteer Sponsor Chair for Forrest Spence 5K*



Thank you to our generous 5K sponsors...

diamond level sponsor

(\$5000 donation)

- Olympic Industries

platinum level sponsors

(\$2000 donation)

- Anonymous Donor
- Campbell Clinic Orthopaedics
- Harris Madden & Powell – Insurance and Bonds
- Joyce Signs
- LSI – Identifying Your World
- Walnut Grove Animal Clinic

gold level sponsors

(\$1000 donation)

- Anonymous Donor
- The Colton Cockrum Family
- Central Printing
- Fleet Feet Memphis
- Lucas Orthodontics
- Mark Loft – UBS
- The Paxton/Allen Family
- Utley Orthodontics

silver level sponsors

(\$500 donation)

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- The Sage Downey Family
- East Memphis Pet Hospital
- Elizabeth Wiggs Photography
- Fleming/Associates/Architects, P.C.
- Independent Presbyterian Church
- Kid Station
- Laura McKay - State Farm
- Memphis Children's Clinic
- Parker Rhett - State Farm
- Pediatric Dental Group
- SportsTurf Solutions
- State Farm – Parker Rhett
- The Fred Stukenborg Family
- The Mark Weatherly, MD Family
- The John Wittber Family

bronze level sponsors

(\$250 donation)

- Adelman Law Firm
- Eclectic Eye
- Elliott Lawn Care
- Grady Coleman Family
- Green Family Materials

Unit Adoption

In February of this year, we launched the Forrest Spence Fund Unit Appreciation Program. The goal of this program is to support and give back to the staff at Le Bonheur... to offer encouragement to those caring for patients and families all



day, every day. Each month different Units throughout the hospital are selected to receive small tokens of thanks and support. As of November, 20 units and 949 staff members have received treat bags from the Forrest Spence Fund! The treat bags range from a holiday-themed bag of Valentines candy, to a "Bag of Sunshine," filled with yellow items like Fig Newtons and Juicy Fruit gum. It is our goal to remind the wonderful staff of Le Bonheur that their positive attitudes, compassion in care, dedication to the patients, and kindness to patients' families are valuable and appreciated. Unit Adoption has been well-received and we are excited to move forward with it in 2013. - **Holly Kulp**, *volunteer Unit Adoption Director*

Forrest Sibling Room

Imagine receiving a phone call from your child's teacher, explaining that your child was involved in an accident requiring immediate medical attention, and he/she has been transported to Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. Many questions may immediately rush to mind, such as, "Where will my other children go on such short notice?" We now offer a solution to that problem with "The Forrest Sibling Playroom" at Le Bonheur. This playroom is a safe, fun, and interactive place for healthy siblings of patients, ages 18 months to 11 years. This free, short-term child care service provides parents and caregivers peace of mind, so that they can focus on the well-being of their ill child at Le Bonheur. The Forrest Sibling Playroom is completely designed, implemented and paid for by the Fund, and features state-of-the-art gaming, arts & crafts, toys, a sensory table, and board games that are designed to peak the imaginations of children in the room. The Sibling Playroom is supervised by a full-time staff person of the hospital as well as carefully selected volunteers.

The Sibling Playroom is open for use during business hours of the week, but there is a great need to increase these hours to include early evenings and weekends. The Fund is currently raising resources to make this possible, with a goal of

\$15,000 to pay an additional staff person to keep the room open every evening until 7pm and provide Saturday and Sunday care. To contribute to this special mission, volunteer your time, or donate toys, please visit www.forrestspendfund.org or call (901)287-6188. Thank you! - **Michelle Williams**, *Director for Forrest Sibling Playroom at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital*

Counseling

At the Christian Psychological Center of Memphis we are privileged to partner with the Forrest Spence Fund to provide counseling to parents who have lost children. According to grief experts, the loss of a child is the most painful experience a human can endure. Sometimes these parents are alone in their intense grief, without supportive families or spouses to support them through the initial shock. Our goal is to walk alongside these families in a way that reflects God's hope and love. We provide a safe place for the wide range of their emotion to be expressed, educate them about normal aspects of trauma and grief, and encourage them to find a positive community. While some families may need practical advice about how to communicate their loss, manage their stress, or transition back to life outside of the hospital, other families need guided trauma work or treatment for Major Depression. The Christian Psychological Center wants to thank the Forrest Spence Fund for the honor of participating in their important support for grieving families. Together, our mission is to point hurting families to the one true source of comfort and healing. - **Murff Galbreath**, *Licensed Clinical Social Worker at the Christian Psychological Center of Memphis*

Christmas Gifts

Every year Le Bonheur Children's Hospital strives to meet the needs of children and families who are hospitalized over the Christmas holiday. Through the assistance of community organizations and giving individuals, we are able to provide each patient with a Christmas bag stocked full of fun items based on the child's age and gender. Every year, the Forrest Spence



Fund is a faithful sponsor of this venture. So far the Fund has donated approximately 300 gifts, reaching children in every age group. We are so thankful for the Forrest Spence Fund's ongoing support of the children and families of Le Bonheur not only at Christmas time, but all year long. - **Lauren McCann**, *Child Life Director at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital*