



# FUND NEWS

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

DECEMBER 2015 • 8TH ISSUE

## Who We Are... Empathy. Understanding. Hope.

The Forrest Spence Fund exists to offer hope and lifelines of support during one of life's darkest journeys. We forge relationships with individual families facing critical or chronic pediatric illness and determine the most effective ways we can help. The practical measures taken to accomplish this mission fall into four categories of care...

1. Meeting physical, non-medical needs of patients and families.
2. Working closely with administrators and medical teams at local healthcare institutions to recognize the unmet needs of patients and families, and help them meet those needs.
3. Helping families navigate the confusing waters of counseling and support groups, and funding professional bereavement counseling for grieving families.
4. Providing grants up to \$5000 for families in need.

Addressing physical need is often the first step we take, and it provides a wonderful platform for introduction, connection, and an ongoing relationship of support and encouragement. Eight years ago, the Forrest Spence Fund began its mission by providing care baskets to the families at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, and we continue this practice today in addition to the many other means of support we are now able to provide. The Fund was born out of the idea that meeting physical needs in thoughtful and situation-specific ways can provide hope to hurting families, and this will continue to be the cornerstone of our care.

Hospitals become second homes for families dealing with pediatric illness, and so much is expected of the medical teams caring for ill children. We work with administrative and medical teams to recognize the unmet needs of families in their care and address those needs through the donation of useful resources such as crib mobiles and music players, and through projects like the new Forrest Sibling Playroom at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. We also gain personal insight from the medical professionals on the "front lines" with families and are able to offer support in better, more effective ways on our end. We are privileged to work with area hospitals to help meet the needs of young patients and families.

Often, when professional counseling is most needed, it is simultaneously the most overwhelming time to locate trusted professionals, find funds to cover such an expense, and prioritize one's own health. Thus many families facing severe pediatric illness or the death of a child go without the help they so desperately need. A key component of the mission of the Fund is to help connect parents and children with the psychological and emotional care required to make peace and wholeness a possibility once again. Many families we encounter in area hospitals are in Memphis for medical care, but call another city "home." We are currently covering 100% of the cost of professional counseling for over 25 families in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and across Tennessee.

Pediatric illness places a strain on families in unimaginable ways. Trips back and forth to the hospital, missed time at work, childcare for other children, and often being away from home for weeks on end are just a handful of the countless ways that families are drained of time, energy, and resources. So many families we meet are facing devastating situations because of these factors, many to the point of needing assistance just to keep traveling back and forth to the hospital. Due to the generosity of our donors, we are able provide certain families with grants to help ease the burden they carry. The grants we award are need-based, and are often given in response to emergent and specific needs, such as paying off bills, transportation or equipment needed in the home. By the end of 2015, we will have awarded over \$30,000 directly to families in need.

If you have given your time, talents or resources to the Forrest Spence Fund this year, you have played a key role in offering hope to hurting families in our area and beyond. For all that you have done to make our mission possible in 2015, we offer you a sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU.





# FORREST SPENCE

# 5K

## 8.29.2015

OVERTON PARK | MEMPHIS

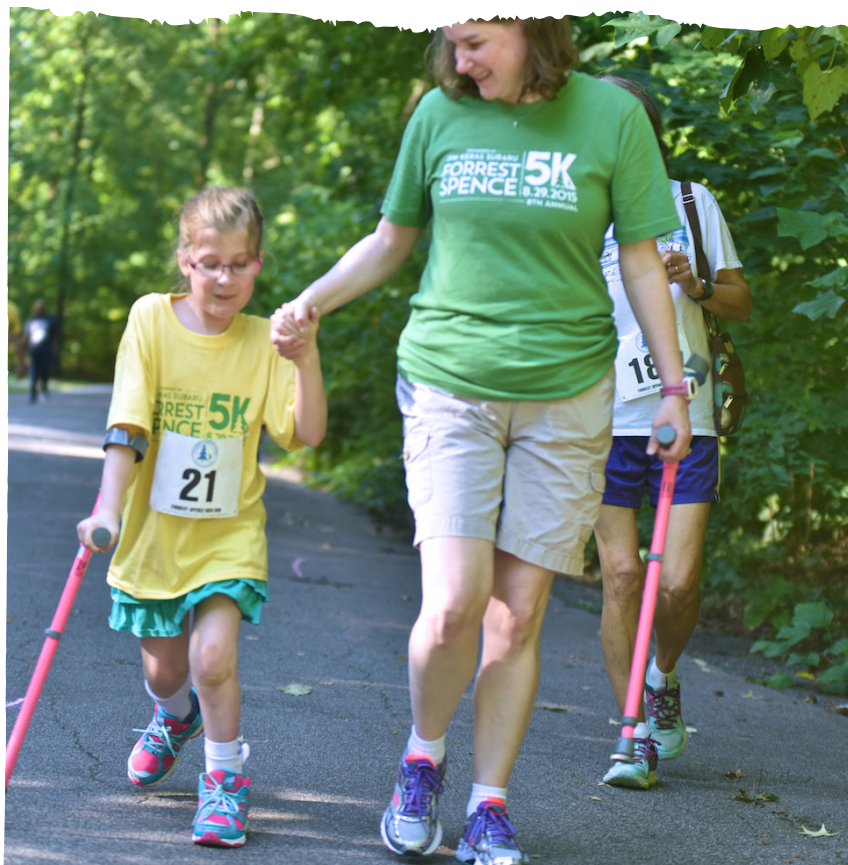


## THE 8TH ANNUAL FORREST SPENCE 5K

This year was a great success, with over 1,350 participants! The gorgeous weather gave numbers a welcome boost and in the end, over \$103,000 was raised to benefit hurting families in our community!

We are excited to hear feedback that families count on and look forward to the 5k each year, and registration information indicates that participants return year after year, and boost attendance by encouraging family, friends and co-workers to come along. This year a new “team” category was added to the awards, and Christ Methodist Day School was given the top honor with 94 participants!

The 5K remains our largest annual fundraiser, and without it our mission would not be possible. We are so grateful for the generosity and commitment of our race sponsors, volunteers, and participants. Thank you for racing with us in 2015!







# THANK YOU TO THE 2015 RACE SPONSORS



## DIAMOND: (\$5000 donation)

Dr. and Mrs. Chris Galjour  
Jim Keras Subaru

## PLATINUM: (\$2500 donation)

Campbell Clinic  
The Center for Orthotics & Prosthetics  
Harris Madden & Powell  
Joyce Signs  
LSI  
Pediatric Emergency Specialists  
Stauf USA  
747R10  
Vineyard Vines  
Walnut Grove Animal Clinic

## GOLD: (\$1250 donation)

Fleet Feet  
J.W. Moore, Inc.  
Lucas Orthodontic Group  
Memphis Radiological P.C. (MRPC)  
SouthernSun AssetManagement

## SILVER: (\$750 donation)

Brown Dog Lodge  
Center for Religious Expression  
Christ Methodist Day School  
The Colton Cockrum Family  
Delta Marketing Services  
East Memphis Pet Hospital  
Gentleman Orthopedics  
Grinder, Taber & Grinder, Inc.  
Independent Presbyterian Church  
JMJL Enterprises  
Lamine Ndiaye Photography  
Dr. and Mrs. Chris Meduri and Family  
Parker Rhett State Farm  
Stanley & Rainey, P.C.  
The Fred Stukenborg family  
Westminster Academy  
The John Wittber Family

## BRONZE: (\$500 donation)

The Grady Coleman Family  
Crown Trophy  
The Family of Nowell Defenbaugh  
EWR, Inc.  
Fleming Associates and Architects  
Jim Duke and Associates  
Jim's Place Grille  
Lexie and Torrent Johnston  
Worth Jones, Hobson Realtors  
Lewis Thomason  
The William Martin Family  
Memphis Children's Clinic  
Pediatric Dental Group  
The Gregg Smith Family  
The Witt Smith Family  
The Speelman Family  
SportsTurf Solutions  
Woodland Presbyterian School





# SPRING FOR FORREST

Cocktail Party  
and  
AUCTION



In response to the ever-increasing needs presented to us and our desire to engage the community in a fresh way, we launched the first annual Spring For Forrest Cocktail Party and Auction in April. The event really struck a chord with the community and all tickets were sold out six weeks before the event! We were thrilled to see such an enthusiastic response and humbled by the generosity of our sponsors and donors.

Guests enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the Memphis Botanic Gardens on a perfect Spring evening, while sipping cocktails and devouring the tasty treats provided by Memphis' own top chefs. Live music and auctions filled the evening with fun as competitors bid on everything from concert tickets to a luxurious "glamping" trip. Young students from across the region donated original works of art for the event, all available for purchase. Their art was a hit, and the vibrant creations set a wonderful backdrop for what the evening was all about.

To our event sponsors, auction donors, volunteers, and guests... THANK YOU for making the first annual Spring For Forrest event a success. We appreciate and rely on your partnership. In total, over \$83,000 was raised because of your hard work and generosity!



## FRIENDS OF FORREST CHILDREN'S ART SHOW



# THANK YOU to the SPRING FOR FORREST 2015 SPONSORS

## GOLD:

Dental Practice of Avery & Meadows

## SILVER:

Campbell Clinic

Friends of the Campbell Family

Dr. Neumon Goshorn, Plastic Surgeon and Family

## DRINK SPONSORS:

Grinder, Taber & Grinder, Inc.

Magna Bank

Memphis Made Brewing Company

South of Beale

Stauf USA

## FOOD SPONSORS:

Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen

Babalu Tacos & Tapas

Frost Bake Shop

Local Catering

## TABLE SPONSORS:

The Edmundson Family

Lewis Thomason Law Firm

Lucas Orthodontic Group

Preferred Medical Systems

Solid Ground Landscape



## FRIEND OF THE FUND:

Absolute Moving Service

Canale Funeral Directors

Carlisle Corporation

Christ Methodist Day School

The Colton Cockrum Family

Deedra Stone Designs

Garden District

Goodnight Memphis

Griffin Homes

Jim's Place Grille

Beth Harbison Kakales, D.D.S.

Laura and Montgomery Martin

The William Martin Family

MCECU

Pediatric Dental Group

Sophie Edwards Calligraphy

Walnut Grove Capital Partners

Wolfsburg Automotive

## PRINTING SERVICES:

Printing products donated by:

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J.W. Moore, Inc., LSI,

and Peerless Printing Company



# SPRING FOR FORREST





# WHY I VOLUNTEER

Grief counseling, care bags, warm meals, emotional support, financial grants, and gas cards... these are just a few of the many things the Forrest Spence Fund has provided to so many in need. I fortunately have never needed an item from that list, yet I have benefitted so much from volunteering with the Fund. I first connected with baby Forrest Spence through his Caring Bridge website. I did not know him or his family personally, but they gripped my heart because they attended my church and Forrest shared the same birthday as my middle child. I closely followed Forrest's story through updates on his website and anxiously awaited information as he fought for his life. I was heartbroken when his brief life on earth ended, and knew that I wanted to help somehow. I did not know what I could offer or how much time I

could commit, but from the beginning volunteering with the Forrest Spence Fund was so comfortable. I began by simply helping serve dinners to families at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and the FedExFamilyHouse when I could, and I highly recommend these monthly dinners as an easy way to jump into the Fund's volunteer community. When the dinners no longer worked with my schedule I looked for other opportunities to stay connected. The Fund staffers are so helpful and they happily worked with my schedule. We brainstormed and came up with the Unit Appreciation Program, born out of our collective desire to say "thank you" to the medical teams who tirelessly work to save the lives of children.

The program began in 2012, and since then the Fund has provided monthly treat bags to the different medical units at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. We determine a theme, make tags with a note of thanks, stuff the bags with goodies and deliver them to the hospital. It has been a wonderful way for me to volunteer and give back in a way that suits my personality, and also suits my busy mother-of-three-with-a-frequently-traveling-husband schedule! I have even been able to include my Bible study group, friends, neighbors, and my children.

The Fund welcomes involvement from individuals and groups of all sorts. Last year the Junior League of Memphis gave us a generous grant to help purchase supplies for Unit Appreciation and a group of Junior League volunteers helped us assemble and deliver bags. More than one school group has been involved, and students have enjoyed making tags and cards as part of their community service projects.

My involvement with the monthly dinners and the Unit Appreciation Project has been richly rewarding in relationships,





connection with the community, and in providing an avenue to support the staff who work hard every day to nurture, love and support the families at Le Bonheur.

When I emailed Le Bonheur Children's Hospital recently to obtain a headcount for staff in Emergency Department, I received this response: "This is very much appreciated, especially during this time of year when our patient volumes are high and our associates are working above and beyond expectations".

The Fund welcomes involvement from individuals and groups of all sorts.

I feel thankful every month to get to be a part of this group, and to be linked to such a cause. If Forrest taught me one thing, it is this: you show up, even if it is for a short while, and you make people feel loved. You do not have to wait for a major volunteer opportunity or a huge opening in your schedule. If you want to be involved but are not sure where to start, just reach out to the Fund with an email and they will help get you plugged in according to your schedule. Everyone's time and talents are valued, no matter what. Please consider becoming a volunteer today. You can make a wonderful difference!

-Holly Kulp, Volunteer

# THANK YOU

If you have given your time to volunteer with us this year, we want to THANK YOU for rolling up your sleeves and bringing hope to hurting families. We are continually blown away by this community of people, working together to accomplish a mission of love. Your ideas, compassion, and willingness to serve make things happen. We are looking forward to another wonderful year of serving together!

Empathy. Understanding. Hope.







# GET INVOLVED

If you would like to be more involved with the Fund, we welcome your participation! No experience is necessary and we appreciate any amount of time you can donate. We also love to hear new ideas about ways we can help families facing pediatric illness, so please be in touch with your ideas and creative solutions! Listed below are just a few easy ways to jump right in and start volunteering.

## MONTHLY FAMILY DINNERS

One Thursday every month we serve dinner to hospitalized children and their families at Le Bonheur. We provide a warm meal, a craft for the children, and listening ears to identify needs and how we can offer support in a specific and beneficial way. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, serving, clean-up, crafting, and/or simply welcoming families. Light preparations begin at 5:00pm and clean-up is finished by 8:00pm. This is a great opportunity for individuals or for groups.

**2015 Dinner Opportunity:**  
December 22

**2016 Dinner Opportunities:**  
(Winter)  
January 14  
February 18  
March 17

**2016 Dinner Opportunities:**  
(Spring & Summer)  
April 14  
May 12  
June 7  
July 12  
August 11

## CARE BAGS

In most cases, the care bags we provide for families with hospitalized children is our initial contact with those families. The care bags include thoughtfully selected items that are convenient and comforting during an extremely inconvenient and agonizing time. They are a free gift for families and provide an introduction to the Fund and an invitation to reach out for help and necessary resources. Each bag includes information about the Fund and establishes an open line of communication. Volunteers are needed to collect, assemble and deliver these care bags to area hospitals. This is also a great volunteer opportunity for groups. Business organizations and families have done this in the past and enjoyed the time together as a meaningful way to give back. We provide the bag, a specific list of items to include, and even pictures to make your volunteer experience a smooth one.

## EVENT COMMITTEES

If your strengths and interests fall in the category of event-planning, children's activities, community outreach, hospitality, or sports, this could be a wonderful fit for you. Committees are currently forming to plan the 2016 Fundraising Events and we welcome your involvement! The fundraising events has provided the bulk of our yearly operating budget every year to date, and is growing with each passing year. We need a group of enthusiastic volunteers to make the 2016 Events a success. Please contact us (information listed below) to learn more about committee openings and how you can be involved.

## OTHER SIMPLE WAYS

- Decorate cards for families at monthly dinners.
- Plan and/or shop for craft projects for our Family Dinners. (Patients and their families create about 50 crafts each month... a wonderful outlet for them!)
- Host a children's book drive. We can always use new books for all ages.
- Compile snack bags for our Heart Project at Le Bonheur (25 needed per month.)
- Shop for items from our ongoing Wish List
- Make baby blankets.

When it comes to volunteering, the sky's the limit! Bring us your talents and ideas and we will help you put them to use serving families in need.

Please email Donna Nash with any questions, comments, or for more information about volunteer opportunities.  
[donna@forrestspencefund.org](mailto:donna@forrestspencefund.org)







## BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Volunteers who have served with the FSF .....	<b>2,223</b>
Number of meal vouchers given out .....	<b>3,321</b>
Number of gas cards given out .....	<b>432</b>
Number of people served from our family dinners .....	<b>6,716</b>
Number of AngelDear Lovies given out .....	<b>2,129</b>
Number of people visited while hospitalized by the FSF .....	<b>2,053</b>
Number of welcome bags given out at the FedExFamilyHouse .....	<b>1,600</b>
<hr/>	
Total number of touches by the Forrest Spence Fund .....	<b>23,646</b>



**NO**   
**SHOW** 

**Ball**



**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 16**

We know our friends and supporters are busy. We know life gets hectic and time at home is precious. So we are launching a brand-new event in 2016 to give you an opportunity to go... NOWHERE. On the day of the No Show Ball, a delicious meal will be delivered to the door of ticket holders in the form of a cooler packed with an entree, salad, dessert, and wine. No need to even take off your slippers for this fundraiser! Enjoy a family dinner and the warmth of home, while supporting the Forrest Spence Fund. Tickets go on sale in January. We hope you can "attend!"

**SPRING  
FOR  
FORREST**

*Cocktail Party*  
*and*  
**AUCTION**

**Friday, April 8**  
**Memphis Botanic Gardens**

Please join us for a memorable evening of wine and specialty cocktails, local Memphis cuisine prepared by the area's top chefs, and an auction featuring everything from fine art to vacation packages. All proceeds from ticket sales and auction items will benefit the Forrest Spence Fund. Tickets go on sale in February.

For ticket purchases and more information about both of these events, visit [www.forrestspencefund.org](http://www.forrestspencefund.org)





# DINNERS OUT *for the* FUND

*join us for lunch or dinner!*

We partner with area restaurants on an ongoing basis for Dinners Out, with a percentage of the proceeds directly benefiting the Fund. Participants enjoy an evening out in Memphis, seeing friends and neighbors, and knowing that they are supporting the Forrest Spence Fund and their community with their purchase. Please consider joining us for an evening of fun and delicious food (or delicious take-out!)



## 2016 SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Andrew Michael Italian Kitchen

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Taziki's Mediterranean Cafe

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Jim's Place Grille

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Hog & Hominy

"Partnering with the Forrest Spence Fund has been a humbling privilege for Jim's Place Grille over the past 3 years... The most gratifying part is knowing that this partnership, and its financial impact, is impacting the lives of so many families whose child is dealing with a critical or chronic illness in the Midsouth." - Sam Taras, Co-Owner, Jim's Place Grille

"We have been honored to host these events for the Forrest Spence Fund...The exposure we gained while collaborating with you all surpassed our expectations. The line was out the door and we couldn't have been happier!" - Molly O' Malley, Sales and Marketing Manager, Taziki's Mediterranean Café

Restaurant owners also enjoy benefits of these Dinners Out, due to our independent advertising and loyal supporters. Research indicates a business that supports its community reaps wonderful rewards in how customers spend their money and view the overall experience. If your business would like more information about these partnerships, please contact Brittany Spence at [brittany@forrestspencefund.org](mailto:brittany@forrestspencefund.org).





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Memphis, TN 38177

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## HOW TO GIVE TO THE FUND

There are two easy ways to make a financial donation. The fastest and most secure way is to visit our website donation page listed below, and contribute via PayPal. This method allows donors to select specific avenues for their donation, like bereavement counseling or care baskets. You may also simply mail a check in the enclosed envelope to the address listed below. Regular monthly donations are always welcome and may be stopped at any time. Please fill out the enclosed donation card to get started.

To donate your time, please visit our website or our Facebook page for updated information regarding volunteer opportunities. There are many quick and easy ways to be involved, such as helping us serve a meal or assemble gift baskets. We welcome your involvement, and appreciate any amount of time you can offer.

THANK YOU to our incredible family of donors and volunteers who have loved and supported families in need this year. We are incredibly grateful for your donations of all kinds, in any amount.

To give online, visit:  
[www.forrestspencefund.org/donate](http://www.forrestspencefund.org/donate)

Please mail checks to:  
FORREST SPENCE FUND  
P.O. Box 770478  
Memphis, TN 38177

For more information or to set-up an ongoing monthly donation, email: [brittany@forrestspencefund.org](mailto:brittany@forrestspencefund.org)



[www.forrestspencefund.org](http://www.forrestspencefund.org)



The FORREST SPENCE FUND is a 501c3 non-profit organization based out of Memphis, Tennessee. Our mission is to meet the non-medical needs of critically or chronically ill children and their families throughout the Mid-South. The Forrest Spence Fund is a community of staff and dedicated volunteers offering empathy, understanding and hope to families in need.