



FUND NEWS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

December 2014 · 7th Issue

Empathy. Understanding. Hope.

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, compassion and hope to families in need.

Helping grieving families give back and heal...

The Forrest Spence Fund was founded with a unique idea in mind... to really listen to the families in our care, know them as individuals, and meet their unique needs on a personal level. Instead of relying on a single one-size-fits-all formula, we seek first a relationship, then address each situation with creativity and compassion. We have been blessed time and time again to see the impact this has on hurting families in our community.

Parents who have lost children are of particular importance to us. Over the course of 2014, we have had the privilege of helping three families honor their deceased children on their birthdays. Inspired by their own children and their unique experience, these parents are walking the road to healing by giving back to others:

purchased in his honor. Easton's mother, Brittney Caccioloa Green, has been involved every step of the way. She traveled to Memphis from her Camden, TN, home to help wrap and prepare the gifts, and she and her grandmother hand-delivered close to 100 blankies at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. They will continue to be gifted to children at Le Bonheur and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, where Easton also spent part of his life.

EASTON GREEN



"Being able to donate and give back in honor of our precious Easton was a blessing to us and for us. Easton taught us all so much in his short life, and gave us so much strength and courage to live each day as a blessing and never give up. With the blankies, we are still celebrating his life, while giving other families the strength and courage to keep fighting. Keeping his memory alive is essentially the best healing we could ask for. Easton was the greatest blessing we could have ever received and all we want to do is bless others with his memory and spirit.

Leaning on the Fund has been crucial in our grieving process. They gave us the hope and support we desperately needed. The Fund carried us in ways that are unexplainable. This is one reason why we choose to give back to them."

BRITTNEY AND JASON GREEN (EASTON'S PARENTS)

GRACIE JANE LIDDELL



Gracie Jane Liddell, of Toronto, Canada, would have been two years old on August 16th this year. She passed away in 2013 after battling a rare skin disorder. Gracie Jane loved the sights and sounds of the mobile hanging above her crib; it was an entertaining distraction for her while in the hospital. She also loved to cuddle with a small stuffed-animal frog that her aunt and uncle gave her. The Liddell family have become closer friends of the Forrest Spence Fund through the life and death of Gracie Jane, and in honor of her second birthday her parents Blake and Leigh-anna asked family and friends to make donations to the Fund in order to buy crib mobiles and the same frog toy for other hospitalized children. Her uncle, aunt and grandfather hand-delivered the frogs at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and were able to see children enjoying the Gracie Jane mobiles while they were there. Sixty cribs on the NICU, PICU, and Infant and Toddler floors at Le Bonheur now have bright and cheerful mobiles in honor of Gracie Jane's second birthday. Her grandmother also sewed and smocked a beautiful dress for her birthday and we had the wonderful privilege of connecting her with a two-year-old girl currently admitted at Le Bonheur, for whom a lovely new dress was much needed.



“Working with the Forrest Spence Fund to donate the Froggies and Crib Mobiles was a great way for Blake and I, along with our family and friends, to celebrate Gracie's life and honor her memory on her birthday. To see the smiling faces on the children when they received some of Gracie's favorite things gives us comfort knowing that Gracie's life is still having a positive impact on others.

We look forward to working with the Fund in the future to find more ways to celebrate Gracie's life and see her impact on other families.”

LEIGH-ANNA AND BLAKE LIDDELL (GRACIE JANE'S PARENTS)

LILY BUTTERICK



Lily Butterick was a little girl with a passion for music. After birth Lily was admitted to the NICU at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital because she was born with congenital hydrocephalus and required surgery for placement of a shunt and also required surgery to repair her esophageal atresia/TE fistula. Her parents Ryan and Erin played music often in her room to bring her comfort, particularly during the short stints they could not be by her side. Since she could not be home they loved the idea of anything they could do to bring “home” to her. The music was a comforting sound for Lily rather than the beeps of the many machines around her. Lily's love of music continued as she participated in her toddler music class in Memphis and listened to her own CD player nightly before bed. Lily passed away on March 29 of 2013, and her fifth birthday was on June 22 of this year. In honor of her birthday, her parents and many family members and friends made donations to the Fund to purchase CD players, lullaby CDs, and cables to play music from iPods and phones. Over 80 CD players and 50 lullaby CDs have been donated, and now every room in the NICU and many rooms on other floors and Intensive Care Units have a CD player and lullaby CD because of the legacy of this very special little girl. Her mother, Erin, helped us pack up the gifts and on each CD player she placed a sticker that says “Given in celebration of the life of Lily Butterick.”



“With the help of the Forrest Spence Fund, our family is feeling comfort knowing that many families, more importantly children, are benefiting from the CD players and CDs that were donated. To know that children are being comforted in the hospital from this effort brings us some peace.”

-ERIN AND RYAN BUTTERICK (LILY'S PARENTS)

There is no roadmap for grieving the loss of a child. It is a long, painful journey and a burden parents bear for the rest of their lives. Giving back to others, however, especially in honor of their child, is a monumental step in the healing process. We are humbled to be a part of this process for these parents, and thankful for the families and friends who gave generously to leave a lasting legacy for Easton, Gracie Jane, and Lily.

Empathy. Understanding. Hope.



Over 1200 people participated in this year's 7th annual Forrest Spence 5K, with over \$87,000 raised! August 23rd was one of the hottest days Memphis experienced all summer. Before dawn our volunteers poured sweat while preparing the course and finish line festivities. Despite the heat and humidity, energy was high and the turn-out was great. After the run, participants enjoyed delicious local food, door prize give aways, personal testimonials about the Fund, and a carnival-style Kids Zone for children.

We are honored to see that our 5K is now a cherished family event for young families in Memphis and beyond. Families keep coming back year after year because it is fun for all ages, and it holds such special meaning. It brings our mission into clear perspective to hear delighted squeals from children in the Kids Zone, and to see parents, friends and onlookers cheer for the children running the 100-Yard Dash and 1-Mile Fun Run.

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors and all the race participants for making this year a success! To all those who sponsored, planned, executed, and ran in the 5K this year...THANK YOU. Your hard work, generosity and dedication brought about a fantastic event for the community – our mission is not possible without you.



- THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 FS5K SPONSORS -

DIAMOND: The Chris Galjour Family

PLATINUM: Campbell Clinic , The Center for Orthotics & Prosthetics, Harris Madden & Powell, Joyce Signs, LSI, Olympic Industries, Pediatric Emergency Specialists, Vineyard Vines, Walnut Grove Animal Clinic, 747R10

Gold: Fleet Feet, Grateful Le Bonheur Family, J.W. Moore, Inc., Lucas Orthodontics , Memphis Radiological P.C. (MRPC), Stauf USA

SILVER: Brown Dog Lodge, Center for Religious Expression, Christ Methodist Day School, The Colton Cockrum Family, Delta Marketing Services, East Memphis Pet Hospital, Frazee Investment Consulting, The William Martin Family, Gentleman Orthopedic, Independent Presbyterian Church, Laura McKay State Farm, NexAir, Parker Rhett State Farm, Stanley & Rainey, P.C., The Fred Stukenborg Family, Westminster Academy, The John Wittber Family

BRONZE: The Grady Coleman Family, Crown Trophy, The Family of Nowell Defenbaugh, Jim Duke and Associates, Fleming Associates and Architects, Dr. Andrew Jackson, Jim's Place Grille, Tug & Buddy, Mark Loft - UBS, Memphis Children's Clinic, Pediatric Dental Group, Patsy and Witt Smith, Sports Turf Solutions



Autumn, with its stunning trees and Fall foliage, is the perfect time to reflect on the year and see clearly the beauty of growth and change. We have experienced a wonderful season of growth this year. The Board of Directors increased by one and we are delighted to welcome Richard Vining to the team. Richard is a Memphis native with a huge heart for the community and a wealth of knowledge about the non-profit sector; his unique perspective is a valuable asset to us. The community in and around Memphis continues to rally behind our mission and we are so grateful for the support we have received throughout the year from various groups across the Mid-South. We received grants from the Junior League of Memphis, and the National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, as well as a \$5,000 award from First Tennessee Foundation's 100 Days of Giving campaign. These grants significantly strengthen our infrastructure for the coming years and allow us a far broader reach.

In house at the Fund, we welcomed two new interns to the fold. Grier Bennett was onboard throughout the summer. She helped integrate a new database and was a key player in the success of the 5K. The start of the Fall semester brought us Andrea Wade, a student at the University of Memphis, who is focused primarily on marketing the Fund and its events. A new software system is streamlining the administrative aspects of the Fund, allowing efficient collection of vital information, contacts, and resources.



Most importantly, the Fund has reached more children and families than ever before in 2014. Our monthly dinners are now held exclusively at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and serve 200 or more each month. In addition to the personal family grants and grief counseling we regularly provide, we have been able to purchase a specialized carseat for a child in need, provide a generator for a family with a child on a ventilator, give a camera to a mother who had no way to photograph her baby, provide needed gas cards, and the list goes on and on. It is all possible because of the generosity of our donors, and the encouragement of our volunteers and community supporters. THANK YOU for the role you have played this year to make our mission possible.

For volunteer opportunities, visit www.forrestspencefund.org

Save-the-Date

SPRING FOR FORREST

Cocktail Party
and
AUCTION

Thursday, April 9, 2015
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Memphis Botanic Gardens
Goldsmith Room

Tickets will be available February 2015
WWW.FORRESTSPENCEFUND.ORG

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 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

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: info@forrestspencefund.com

www.forrestspencefund.org



DECEMBER 2014

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