



BAPTIST®

# GROWTH THROUGH GIVING

ANNUAL REPORT **2024** BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION





**Robbie Johnson**

Vice President and  
Chief Development Officer



## Dear Friends of the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation,

If I were to encapsulate 2024 in one word, I think it would be *growth*. Looking back on the past year at Baptist, it is easy to see the growth that allowed us to increase the services we provide to patients and families throughout the Mid-South. We in the Foundation know that growth has only taken place because of you, our partners.

Here are a few highlights from 2024:

In January, we welcomed Baptist Anderson Regional Medical Center to our family. For many years, generous donors and organizations supported the former Anderson Regional Medical Center's Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund. Through fundraising events and individual gifts, this fund provided significant financial, medical and even spiritual support for cancer patients in Meridian, Mississippi and the Lauderdale County area. Baptist Anderson's Foundation continues to receive charitable gifts to support patient services at the hospital, provide employee assistance and address other health care services in Meridian. For that, we are extremely grateful.

On a cool April morning, we celebrated Baptist Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine with an official ribbon cutting event. BUCOM, the first college of osteopathic medicine in West Tennessee, will educate, train and mentor new physicians to fill the gap for primary care and other medical specialties in the Mid-South. In August, the medical school's inaugural class of 81 students received their white coats to mark the beginning of their osteopathic medicine careers. About half of this first class of students call Tennessee, Mississippi or Arkansas home, and we hope to keep them right here in the Mid-South to fill health care needs for so many of the communities Baptist serves in these states.

In August, Baptist completed renovations of the newborn intensive care unit at the Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children's Hospital. The updated space includes new equipment and additional patient care rooms. Each year, our NICU provides care to more than 1,350 of our tiniest, most vulnerable patients. Baptist Children's Hospital provides exceptional and compassionate pediatric care in a tranquil healing environment for patients and their caregivers.

These examples of the growth in 2024 would not be possible without your generous support. In this report, you will see many more wonderful stories of growth. As a valued partner and friend, you are also our inspiration to continue our mission to serve the needs of our patients and employees, today and for generations to come. On behalf of the Baptist Foundation and our patients, thank you!

Best regards,









# History in the Making

The undisputed major health event of this century has been the COVID-19 pandemic — and Baptist Health Sciences University was there for it as it has been for all major health events since 1912, when the Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing opened. Since then, Baptist University graduates have been there for Memphis and the Mid-South — first educating nurses, then expanding to other allied health disciplines and, most recently, opening the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine in August 2024.

From these early beginnings, Baptist Health Sciences University has remained a valuable talent pipeline for Baptist Memorial Health Care. That priority is something the university's president, T. Hampton Hopkins, Ed.D., makes sure stays top of mind.

"We offer innovative education in terms of technologies and clinical partnerships, and students are encouraged to truly support each other," said Hopkins, who began his role in 2023. "When we lose focus, we get away from our mission. Being part of a health care system is an advantage to students and helps expose them to potential opportunities while also helping to fill important roles in Baptist Memorial Health Care."

"It's been a symbiotic relationship between the university, which presently offers 15 majors, and Baptist Memorial Health Care," he says. The health care system supports the university financially and organizationally. In turn, students spend time in clinical rotations within various Baptist Memorial hospitals, particularly in the Memphis area. This also helps students become more familiar with the hospital environment.

"We tell our students everything is a job interview because of the exposure they will have to the organization, but we also tell our faculty and staff the same thing because we need to make a strong impression on students if we want them to be future employees," said Hopkins. "Students are figuring out where they fit and what will be the best specialty for them."

Beverly Jordan (Nursing, '77) found her place at Baptist. She went from being a nurse with Baptist Memorial Hospital to chief information and technology officer for Baptist Memorial Health Care.

“My time at the school goes back to when it only included female nursing students,” said Jordan. “With all the growth, the school’s focus hasn’t changed. Baptist University is still preparing students to make a difference in this health care system or somewhere throughout the world. It is about service. This is a calling and a chance to make an important difference in the health of communities.”

Baptist’s three-fold mission endures as a reminder of excellence and encouragement, according to Jordan.

“The mission is Christ’s ministry of healing, preaching and teaching and applies as much today as it did around 50 years ago when I was a student,” said Jordan. “Remembering the mission, vision and values of the school can help students get through difficulties. I still remember clinical rotations and my life-changing instructors and how they invested in me. They inspired — helped you achieve your own goals and reminded you to be the very best you can be and that you’re not alone.”

Baptist Health Sciences University’s mission inspires service and commitment to community — all while continuing to provide new opportunities in health care.

An important recent opportunity was the start of the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine. This program is a major step forward for the University and Baptist Memorial Health Care, connecting urban and rural communities and cultivating a cadre of general practitioners dedicated to bridging health care gaps across the Mid-South. Starting with 81 students, the College of Osteopathic Medicine will grow to more than 600 by 2028.

Our new College of Osteopathic Medicine represents a significant advancement in health care accessibility. Osteopathic doctors trained in primary care are especially well-suited for the Mid-South region. Over 50% of these physicians focus on family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics. Some also choose to specialize in fields such as emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and general surgery. While both specialists and primary care physicians are essential, it is the primary care doctors of osteopathic medicine who play a crucial role in serving rural and underserved communities.



“It has been my honor to contribute to the design and development of BHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. I’m grateful for Baptist’s investment in this school and the future of medicine in the Mid-South. Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine will help produce highly trained medical professionals who can help fill the gap for primary care and other medical specialties in the area. Like the rest of the U.S., the Mid-South is facing a shortage of primary care and family medicine doctors, and I am proud to join Baptist in offering a solution that will help increase access to quality care in our region.” said Dr. Peter Bell, vice provost and dean of medical education for Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“At Baptist, osteopathic medical students will have unparalleled access to medical specialties, providers and training opportunities, putting Baptist at the center of medical excellence for all health care disciplines from nursing to physicians,” said Jason Little, president and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care.

“The school has always been about moving forward,” said Denise Shumaker (Nursing, ’60). “Things change but what doesn’t change is the commitment to serving people. The school turns out people who are committed to taking care of others. No matter what changes, I know that never will.”

“I actually started as a nursing student at the school in the 1950s,” said Shumaker, who later became director of the Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. She’s witnessed many changes, including the nursing school’s change from a diploma program to a baccalaureate degree.



# Philanthropy Drives Opportunity

Although it is a private university, the cost of tuition for undergraduate programs can be lower than that of a public school. “We have a strong community that knows the value of our health care system and wants to keep it growing through financial support,” said Hopkins. “I’m happy to say our total cost of attendance per year on average is under \$10,000 with the help of merit and need-based scholarships, and we’re always looking for ways to support students further.”

Hopkins believes it’s vital to help students focus on their work, instead of financial worries, because of the time and mental energy needed to succeed in a health sciences education. The university’s goal is to reduce barriers while helping students serve others.

“The nursing program, for example, requires sitting in a classroom for five to ten hours a week. The clinical experience is about 20 hours and then the study requirements and prepping for clinicals takes another 10 hours,” he said. “That adds up to a full-time job, and to work on top of that while taking care of yourself can be a lot. When a student has scholarship support, it allows them to focus on their education and personal life.”

92%

OF STUDENTS  
RECEIVED SOME  
FORM OF FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE IN  
2023-2024

100%

JOB PLACEMENT  
IN MOST MAJORS







# Focused on the Future

Baptist Health Sciences University is looking to the future with its “A Healthier Tomorrow” campaign. Launched in 2024, this program involves five vital pillars — the first two focus on capital costs for equipment and technology for the recently opened college of osteopathic medicine and the other three center on scholarships for high-achieving students, providing funding for bench and clinical research and endowments for general programming.

“We have much to be excited about,” said Hopkins. “The nursing program continues to be our biggest, but the popularity of many other programs, from sonography to medical laboratory science, bode well for us. The university is seeking to grow enrollment in all programs – and expand programs as necessary to continue to meet the needs of Baptist Memorial Health Care and beyond.”

Hopkins is quick to credit alumni and their support for much of the university’s success.

“The university connects with a deep alumni base,” said Hopkins. “It’s been in existence so long and alumni are extremely generous. They understand who we are, our purpose and the value of our mission. They know when we ask for support it’s for a future workforce that is strong and talented — and that will lead to the future of health care.”

With more than 8,000 graduates in a century, the university clearly has a long history and track record of providing service and value to the community. That will not change. Baptist Health Sciences University’s trailblazing path will continue and result in a major impact on the future of health care in the Mid-South.

# Getting Help Along the Way

Many students at Baptist University are the first in their families to attend college, which makes financial assistance crucial for them. This need is evident, as 92% of students receive some form of financial aid. In the 2023-2024 academic year, a total of 190 students received over \$1 million in institutional aid. The university consistently maintains a high percentage of students who require financial assistance, with many qualifying for need-based aid.

Baptist Health Sciences University is committed to making education affordable, but in a time of challenges and growing inflation, it is the generosity of donors that helps make the difference. In fact, they have long made the difference for students at Baptist Health Sciences University. Scholarship recipients realize this, and it's part of the reason many go on to become donors themselves.

"There is a real tradition of this community supporting each other," said President Hopkins. "Students connect with donors, and you really see how much students appreciate the financial help, and it stays with them. There are many stories of people who went to this university or worked for Baptist Memorial Health Care or live in this community, who were affected to the point where they wanted to help students realize their dreams and contribute to the health of others. It's incredible to watch." Here we meet two scholarship recipients who are grateful, motivated and changed by the financial assistance they received.



Scan or click the link to hear  
from Kenyon Page, Beverly  
Jordan Scholarship Recipient



[bpt.st/kenyon](https://bpt.st/kenyon)



## Words to Learn By

Thomas Shapaker had already made a career as a physician's assistant at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis when he heard at a town hall meeting that Baptist Health Sciences University was opening a college of osteopathic medicine. "I had already been thinking about returning to become a doctor, and this was just the perfect timing and the perfect setting," he said. "It was the push I needed, and it felt like it was meant to be. I'm motivated by all the people I can help, and I've learned so much already."

But returning to school would not be without its costs. After learning about a \$10,000 BUCOM General Scholarship, Shapaker jumped at the chance. All he had to do was write an essay about how he plans to make a lasting health impact in the local community. Shapaker wrote from the heart and hoped his vision would resonate. His essay was one of ten chosen.

"To hear that and to be able to tell my wife I would have this support, it's made a major difference in my educational path," Shapaker said. "The school is rigorous in how it prepares students, and you want to be focused on getting



down to work, not worrying about the financial part. It also was gratifying that my essay was meaningful to people.”

With a clear gift for words, Shapaker also wanted a chance to communicate in person to donors on how much the kind support he received means. The university’s annual scholarship luncheon provided the opportunity. The luncheon brought together scholarship recipients, donors, faculty, staff and leaders from Baptist and BHSU to celebrate the 115 students who received academic awards for the 2024–2025 school year.

Shapaker was also one of three scholarship recipients chosen for a panel at the luncheon to discuss how the scholarship affected them and what it is like to be a part of the school. “I felt honored to be chosen,” said Shapaker. “And it’s not hard to express what it does for you. You want to help people through your chosen profession, and this is allowing it to happen.”

“It was so important to have a chance to talk with the donors and thank them,” he said. “You can also see what it means to them. We get to put faces to people who are helping us. It seems we all had stories from both sides — how we had the need and how they came to give — and I think getting a chance to share makes you really feel a part of what all this means. You just feel grateful and supported.”

Throughout his career, Shapaker had already been a part of Baptist Memorial Health Care’s history, but now he is part of more history — he’s a member of the first class of 81 students who are pursuing a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. “A new medical school in a city that has a huge shortage of physicians is going to make such a difference,” said Shapaker.



Scan or click the link  
to hear more from  
Thomas Shapaker



[bpt.st/thomas](https://bpt.st/thomas)



## A “Center”-ed Dream

Carmen Maldonado doesn’t seem to miss a thing — including what’s needed. “My dream is to open up a center that focuses on children and adults on the autism spectrum,” she said. “I have had experience in my family with this, and I want to use the knowledge from my diagnostic technology degree to open up a place to help a community because many places just don’t have these kinds of resources.” Like many, Maldonado can use help with her own resources and through the scholarship portal was able to apply and find financial support through the Carol Paterson Scholarship.

“It’s amazing,” said Maldonado. “When I first came to the university, I didn’t know what my focus would be, and this environment helped me get centered but also helped financially so I could focus on my education. You always feel the school is trying to make things work for you — whether financially or providing encouragement.”

As a junior, she is excited to be getting closer to earning her degree and seeing her hard work pay off. She was thrilled, like Shapaker, to be on the panel at the scholarship luncheon. “My area is a small area at the school, so I think it was really important to represent it in this way, which maybe can lead to even more help for students studying in the area I’m focused on.” Maldonado feels poised for the future in a field that is both lucrative and lets her contribute to the health and well-being of society.

“With all its offerings, the school opens doors, and I feel more in control of where I’m headed than ever before,” said Maldonado. “I feel like people have been in my corner. That’s how I want to make patients feel.”

# In the Name of Giving

There are many reasons people give to Baptist Health Sciences University. For some, a major factor may be their history with the university; for others, it may be to remember a loved one, honor a caregiver or simply to show support.

But what do all school donors have in common? The opportunity to make a difference — and change lives.

Let's meet a few who are making a difference for the next generation through their generosity and commitment.

## Remembering a Sister and Grandmother

Cynthia Bradford, system community involvement manager for Baptist Memorial Health Care, was inspired by coworkers who have given and by the memories of her grandmother and sister. With the support of other loved ones, she established the Ford and Gray Family Scholarship, which was set up for students pursuing a nursing education or who have been affected by cancer.

"Both my sister and my grandmother died of cervical cancer, and they were so important to our family," said Bradford. "My sister Christy was a nurse, and she was the oldest sister — always putting the rest of us first. She was diagnosed at 42 years old. Granny Minnie was also always thinking of others. I could always count on Granny faithfully, sending me a little money each month when I went to school. Now, their spirits are a reminder to give to others."

Bradford has had a chance to learn about the difference her family's scholarships are making through the annual scholarship luncheon. She makes a point to attend and meet recipients every year.



"I can remember both my sister and grandmother being so excited when I told them about the scholarship," said Bradford. "Granny passed in October 2014 and my sister passed in February 2015. I know it means so much to them that this is helping others. They both were so kind and believed in the importance of education."



Scan or click the link  
to hear more from  
Cynthia Bradford



[bpt.st/cynthia](https://bpt.st/cynthia)



## She Walked in Their Shoes

Denese Shumaker finally had her nursing diploma in hand in 1960 and would go on to become a mainstay of the school for decades.

“Baptist had an excellent school of nursing, and nursing was a career I was just pointed toward — even when I was quite young,” recalled Shumaker. “I started working for Baptist Memorial Hospital in the pediatric unit. A person in charge asked if I would be interested in teaching, and I became an instructor in pediatric nursing for Baptist. Later, I became director of the school of nursing.”

Spending more than 30 years at the school, she never forgot how fortunate she had been as a student or how difficult it could be for others. “My family was able to pay for my schooling, but it’s not like that for everyone,” said Shumaker. “These students have a calling just like I did. I was able to have opportunities — and you want others to have the same.”

Thus, the Denese Shumaker Scholarship for nursing majors who qualify was born. Retired for many years, Shumaker has relished the chance to be at the annual scholarship luncheon and be involved in any way she can. “You feel so good to be a part of this,” she said. “I may not work at the school anymore, but my heart is with the school. These are students who want to help heal people. How can you not feel good about supporting that?”



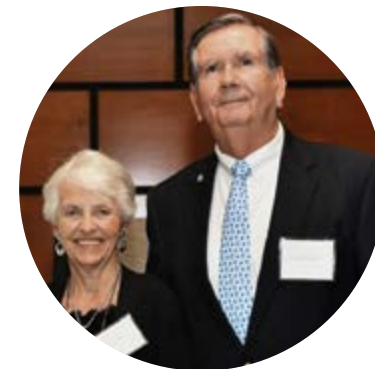
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to hear why  
Donna Mars gives



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## A Couple That Remembered

Sarah Ainsworth recalls the joy she received from teaching at the school before it became a university. “Students I taught worked hard, and some had families or other obligations,” said Sarah who also was a public-school teacher. “I never forgot their dedication. Being a part of the school, you see all the good it does, and you believe in its mission.”



Her husband, Jim Ainsworth, found his own rewarding moments serving Baptist. He worked there for 43 years, at one time as a pharmacist and later retired as vice president of operations for the regional health care system. With their own positive experiences, the Ainsworths are out to help students create memorable experiences as well.

The Sarah Ainsworth Graduation Award was Jim’s opportunity to honor his wife and her commitment to teaching at the school. Recipients are chosen for their leadership potential, commitment to Christian values and ranking in the top 25% of the graduating class. The Jim and Sarah Ainsworth Scholarship was a second way to help students, focusing on the major where Sarah provided instruction. “We saw some other majors have their share of support, and we were happy to provide this one for general studies students,” said Jim.

Sarah also sees her experience in another way. “I had a scholarship when I was in school, and I know how much that meant to me — and I know how much support means to students today,” she said.



## Baptist Scholarship Recipient and Donor

Beverly Jordan, class of 1977, was in the middle of attending Baptist's nursing school when her father passed away. Unsure of her future, she received a scholarship, which was an important support for continuing her education. Jordan never forgot that and besides becoming a nurse and later chief information and technology officer for Baptist Memorial Health Care, she is a donor, supporting other nursing students through the Beverly Jordan Nursing Scholarship.

"I have had a chance to be a part of this community from different sides — the student getting assistance, the employee seeing the thoughtfulness of how the system cares, and now as a donor," said Jordan. "I feel fortunate to be one of the people who can help."

She also knows the value of this education when she looks back on her own career.

"I couldn't have fully known all it would do for me," she said. "The school encouraged you to reach for excellence. It is a dedicated and proud community."

## A Family of Health

Health was truly a family affair in the Bronstein home. Dr. Maury Bronstein, who focused on internal medicine and cardiology, worked for more than half a century for Baptist in his share of roles, including as chief of staff. His wife, Mary, was dedicated to healing others as well, serving as a nurse for many years. Even dinner reminded the family the call to help others wasn't far away.

"Our dad would sit at the dinner table with his white coat on because he'd have to go back to the hospital after dinner, and the rotary phone would be dragged from the kitchen," recalled Susan Bronstein Woodman, the couple's daughter who is also a nurse. "He would get phone calls of all sorts."

When Dr. Bronstein asked his wife what she wanted for a particular gift one year, she asked for a gift to help others. Shortly thereafter, the Mary C. Bronstein Nursing Scholarship was established to support nursing students. The thoughtful couple often attended the university's annual scholarship luncheon to meet recipients of the scholarship, and then after their passing, their daughters continued this tradition. They both continue to support the scholarship and attend the luncheon annually, where they are often touched by students' responses to their and their parents' contributions.

"They are really appreciative," said Diane Bronstein Halperin. "Sometimes, their moms are in attendance as well and they come up to us and just hug us because they are so appreciative of it all." Their gift means a lot to students and their families. This sentiment is shared by the whole Baptist Health Sciences University community. They are grateful for the dedication and generosity of these and other kind donors to the school.





# EVENT SUMMARIES

NEA DUCK CLASSIC  
RAISED MORE THAN

**\$860,000**

SHARE THE LOVE 5K  
RAISED MORE THAN

**\$51,000**

CARDIAC CLASSIC  
RAISED MORE THAN

**\$180,000**

SMASH CANCER - NEA  
RAISED MORE THAN

**\$41,500**

ART OF CARING  
RAISED NEARLY

**\$117,000**

RHYTHM OF LIFE  
RAISED MORE THAN

**\$35,000**

MILES 4 MILLA  
RAISED MORE THAN

**\$110,000**

SMASH CANCER MEMPHIS  
RAISED NEARLY

**\$25,000**



## SPORTING CLAYS FOR CANCER

### Pull! New Event Hits the Mark

Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation and Baptist Cancer Center hosted the first Sporting Clays for Cancer competitive shooting event on April 18 at The Sporting Club at Mallard's Croft in Byhalia, Mississippi. Eighteen teams participated in this inaugural event to showcase their marksmanship and raise funds for cancer patients in North Mississippi. Dr. Drew Dill, a physician at Baptist Cancer Center, took home the Top Shooter title. Sporting Clays for Cancer raised nearly \$30,000 for the Patient Assistance Fund at Baptist Cancer Center.





## ART OF CARING

### A Carnival of Fun and Fantastic Art

The 2024 Baptist Art of Caring raised nearly \$117,000 for the Kemmons Wilson Family Center for Good Grief. Almost 300 people attended the event in April at the FedEx Event Center at Shelby Farms Park in Memphis, Tennessee, with several additional supporters who placed online bids on the many fantastic items, gift packages and original works of art. Many local businesses also donated items for the silent auction that featured works of art donated by 65 local and regional artists. Attendees enjoyed a Rio carnival atmosphere with delicious food and drinks, live music and a photo booth. Baptist Foundation is grateful to all who attended and placed bids in-person and online, our numerous corporate sponsors and presenting sponsors Midtown Framer & Art, Johnson Controls, Inc. and CertaPro Painters of Germantown.





## MILES FOR MILLA

### A Joyful Ride

The eighth annual Miles 4 Milla bike ride raised more than \$110,000 for Milla's House and Elle's Garden, the Midtown Memphis location of the Baptist Centers for Good Grief. On May 18, more than 240 riders came to Wiseacre Brewing Co. on Broad Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee to begin the 43-mile, 20-mile and Family Fun routes. Nearly 400 people registered for Miles 4 Milla, including some who registered for the post-ride party. Milla's House offers space for group and individual grief counseling, educational opportunities and camp or retreat experiences. Milla's House and Elle's Garden, a peaceful outdoor space for reflection and prayer, are named in memory of Milla and Elle, the young daughters of Dana and Frazer Gieselmann, who both died of a rare disease.







## RHYTHM OF LIFE

### Rhythm of Life Gets Stronger

In June, the Baptist Foundation and Baptist Cancer Center-Memphis hosted the second annual Rhythm of Life Cancer Survivor and Awareness Day, a special celebration to honor cancer survivors, extend support to those affected by cancer and encourage others to take proactive steps for prevention and early detection. The event was held on the Great Lawn at Shelby Farms Park in Memphis, Tennessee with more than 400 people in attendance and featured live music, food, face painting, games, as well as education on preventive screenings. The event raised more than \$35,000 to help provide support and valuable resources to Baptist's cancer patients and their caregivers.





## NICU REUNION

### An Out of this World Reunion

The Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children's Hospital hosted its annual Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Reunion in September during NICU Awareness Month. Hosted by the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation, the event celebrated the journeys of our NICU graduates, babies who spent time in the NICU and transitioned to pediatric primary care. More than 1,000 people registered to attend. The reunion, themed *NICU Graduates Are Out of This World*, provided an opportunity for families to reconnect with the physicians and nurses who cared for their infants. "We are always excited to welcome back our NICU graduates and their families," said Allison Bosse, chief executive officer and administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women and Baptist Children's Hospital. "This reunion is always a very happy occasion and a testament to the resilience of these children and the dedication and commitment of our NICU nurses and providers."







## SHARE THE LOVE

### Running to Share the Love

The second annual Share the Love 5K in memory of Collins Leach raised almost \$51,000 to support Camp Good Grief. Nearly 150 participants registered for the event held in September at the Kemmons Wilson Family Center for Good Grief and Dorothy's Cottage in Collierville, Tennessee. The Share the Love 5K was started by the Leach family, who lost five-year-old Collins to a tragic auto accident in 2020. They turned to the services provided by Baptist Centers for Good Grief to heal from their loss. The race, run and festival in Collins' memory was designed as an event for former Camp Good Grief campers, families, friends and volunteers to reunite to remember and celebrate the lives of lost loved ones. In addition to the 5K and family walk, the event featured face painting, games, bounce houses and the 901Goats from Walkapony Goat Ranch.



## NEA SMASH CANCER PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

### Cancer Gets Pickled in Jonesboro

The NEA Baptist Fowler Family Center for Cancer Care in Jonesboro, Arkansas, hosted the 2024 NEA Smash Cancer Pickleball Tournament and vendor fair in September, raising \$41,500 to help provide financial support and other resources for NEA Baptist's cancer patients and their families. The weekend-long event began with a well-attended vendor fair on the NEA Baptist Hospital campus that featured 19 vendor representatives who offered helpful information and free giveaways. For the next two days, the scene shifted to the NEA Smash Cancer Pickleball Tournament at the Trim Gym in Jonesboro where more than 50 teams competed.





## CARDIAC CLASSIC

## A Golf Tourney with the Most Heart

The 2024 Cardiac Classic golf tournament reached new heights in September with participation at its highest level ever and raised more than \$180,000 to benefit Baptist Heart Institute. The 'sold out' event had a whopping 62 teams competing in two flights on the beautiful Spring Creek Ranch golf course in Collierville, Tennessee. Players also enjoyed a continental breakfast, lunch, post-match refreshments and an awards presentation.

Thanks to the generosity of our presenting sponsor BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and 45 other sponsors, the Cardiac Classic is quickly becoming one of the most prestigious, important and fun golf events on the calendar. Thank you to all the players, sponsors and supporters for making this such a great event.





## CANVASES FOR CANCER

### Canvases for Cancer and the Art of Giving

In October, Baptist Anderson hosted Canvases for Cancer, an annual fundraising event benefiting Baptist Cancer Center-Anderson in Meridian, Mississippi. The fun-filled evening featured a silent art auction, live music, delicious food and live paintings by local artists. Attendees bid on 45 pieces of beautiful artwork donated by local artists in the silent auction and every piece of art sold. In all, proceeds from the auction, sponsorships, donations and ticket sales raised nearly \$34,000 for Baptist Cancer Center-Anderson to support top priority projects and educational initiatives that enhance the experience for cancer patients.





## BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

### Celebrating Tomorrow's Health Care Heroes

Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation hosted a scholarship luncheon in October celebrating 115 Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) students who received academic awards for the 2024-2025 school year. The annual luncheon brought together scholarship recipients, donors, faculty, staff and leaders from Baptist and BHSU. "The BHSU annual scholarship luncheon is always a heartwarming celebration as it serves as a powerful reminder of the impact of scholarship support," said BHSU Director of Development Sherita Martin. Baptist's President and CEO Jason Little expressed gratitude to donors and recognized how their contributions play a significant role in shaping the future of health care professionals. Several students also spoke about the importance of their scholarships, including neurodiagnostic technology major Carmen Maldonado, nursing student Kenyon Page and Thomas Shapaker, a BHSU College of Osteopathic Medicine student. They expressed gratitude for the financial support that will help them pursue their dreams and contribute to the health care field.





## SMASH CANCER TENNIS TOURNAMENT

### Serving Up Hope and Smashing Cancer

Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation and Baptist Cancer Center teamed up to host the annual Smash Cancer Tennis Tournament at Leftwich Tennis Center in Memphis, Tennessee, in October. The event raised more than \$25,000 for Baptist Cancer Center's Patient Assistance Fund to help subsidize care, medication-related expenses, transportation, lodging, meals and other support to cancer patients.





## DUCK CLASSIC

## 22nd Annual Duck Classic Raises Record Funds

The 2024 Duck Classic, NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation's signature fundraising event since 2002, was the largest in the history of the event with more than 2,000 attendees and hunters from 12 states. The event raised \$860,000 to fund the operations of six key programs that provide free services to NEA Baptist's communities including grief counseling, health and wellness for children and adults, cancer support, medication assistance and help for parents experiencing a miscarriage or the death of an infant. The two-day event kicked off on December 10 with a banquet at First National Bank Arena in Jonesboro, Arkansas, followed by a competitive duck hunt with 20 teams at premiere locations — thanks to the generosity of local landowners and hunting clubs. Local and national sponsors, media partners, event attendees and more than 150 volunteers came together to make the event a success.







# 2024 DONORS

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR  
YOU AND YOUR SUPPORT**



**Legacy Society**

*The Legacy Society is for anyone who has made a planned gift in the 2024 fiscal year or is making a planned gift in the future.*

Wayne F. Baker\*  
 Carolyn and Steve Banister  
 Eloise and Calvin Bishop\*  
 William Bishop Estate  
 Vernie K. Brown\*  
 Willie M. Bullard\*  
 Geraldine and Andrew Castle  
 Christine Garrett  
 Frank S. Groner\*  
 Gladys Holcomb\*  
 Eutha Max Huffman\*  
 Stacey and Robbie Johnson  
 Margaret and John Keeton  
 Betty Sue and Ken McGarvey  
 Earllyn and Claude Oglesby\*  
 Sara and Russell Perel  
 C.M. Pickler\*  
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 Ann and Steve Reynolds  
 Lula C. Scott\*  
 Susan Ogilvie Thomason\*  
 Gladys Thompson Estate\*  
 Anita and James Vaughn  
 Leota Fennell Weber\*  
 Robert W. Yates

**\$1,000,000 and above**

Haag-Brown Development, LLC

**\$250,000.00 - \$499,999.99**

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 Breast Cancer Eradication Initiative, Inc.  
 William Bishop Estate  
 Courage thru Cancer Inc  
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 NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital Auxillary  
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 Alston Construction  
 American Electrical Contractors, Inc.  
 Lisa and Chris Anderson  
 Anderson Support & Development Foundation, Inc.  
 Arkansas Health & Wellness  
 Nancy and Chuck Averwater  
 Bad Boy Mowers, LLC  
 Banded Holdings, Inc.  
 Irene and Peter Bell  
 Kathy and Jack Blair  
 BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Community Trust  
 BluSky Restoration Contractors, LLC  
 Carol, Anna and Joseph Bubnick  
 Tammy and Paul Cade  
 Adonna Caldwell  
 Care Consistency Foundation, Inc.  
 CertaPro Painters of Germantown  
 Robbye and Zach Chandler  
 Richard C. Cheek  
 Central Dealerships  
 Jonesboro Advertising & Promotion Commission  
 Crawford Investment Counsel, Inc.  
 Drake Waterfowl Systems  
 Ann Ellington Duncan  
 East Arkansas Broadcasters  
 East Mississippi Electric Power Association  
 Eloise and Calvin Bishop  
 Engines, Inc.  
 F & F Construction Co., Inc.

Flintco, LLC  
 Gamble Home  
 Gilead Sciences  
 Graeber Foundation  
 Kate and Michael Hagan  
 Diane and Mark Halperin  
 Herb Kosten Foundation  
 Kathy L. Hindman  
 Huron Consulting Group, Inc.  
 Johnson Controls, Inc.  
 Larry Jones  
 Jonesboro Radio Group  
 Beverly and Tom Jordan  
 KAIT8  
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 Andrea and Paul Levy  
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 Michelle A. McDonald  
 Medical Education Research Institute  
 Dignity Memorial  
 Midtown Frammer and Art  
 Miracles of Grace Foundation  
 MOR Media  
 Morrison Management Specialists, Inc.  
 NextERA Energy Resources  
 Orgill, Inc.  
 Orion Financial  
 Pledge the Pink Foundation  
 Ritter Communications Holdings, LLC  
 Slayton Family Foundation  
 The Paul & Sherry Broadhead Foundation  
 Upchurch & Upchurch, P.A.  
 Wanda and Ron Wachsmann  
 Gloria C. White  
 Elizabeth and Adam Woodruff  
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**\$5,000.00 - \$9,999.99**  
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 Arkansas Continued Care Hospital of Jonesboro  
 Sandy and Enrique Arevalos

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 Arvest Foundation  
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 Biomarin Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
 Wight F. Boggs  
 Dorothy Joy Casama  
 CBRE, Inc.  
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 Clarke County STAC  
 COBANK, ACB  
 Donna Creel  
 CrossHarbor Capital Partners  
 Thomas D. Crowson  
 Marty Davidson  
 Dillard's of Jonesboro  
 Brenda and Greg Duckett  
 Nephertiti Efeovbokhan  
 Valley View Agri-Systems  
 Follett Higher Education Group  
 Byron O. Garner  
 Garrett's Hauling  
 David L. Garrison  
 Gilead Sciences  
 Tonia and James Grantham  
 Ellen and Bill Griffin  
 Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh, PLLC  
 Hytrol Conveyor  
 Stacey and Robbie Johnson  
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 KJNB  
 LifeLinc Anesthesia  
 Allison and Jason Little  
 Loaded for Bear  
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 Karlene and Art Maples  
 Karen and Rick McKinley  
 McLemore & Co., LLC  
 Meridian Oncology Associates PLLC  
 Mid-South Imaging & Therapeutics, P.A.  
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 Nettleton School District  
 NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine @ AState  
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 Associated Pathologists, LLC (Pathgroup)  
 John G. Perry

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 Ramsons, Inc.  
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 RiverLand Enterprises of Mississippi, LLC  
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 Rosenblum & Reisman, P.C.  
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 Sissy's Log Cabin  
 Sitka  
 Southern Chiropractic & Acupuncture  
 Amanda and Skip Steward  
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 Amy and Chris Threadgill  
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 Winchester Repeating Arms Company  
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 AgRight Management  
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 All About Bikes  
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 American Esoteric Laboratories, Inc.  
 AmeriTeam Services, LLC (TeamHealth)  
 Johnnie and Rex Amonette  
 Adrienne and Lou Arrindell  
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 Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.  
 BankPlus  
 Dee Banta  
 Bartlett Fire Department  
 Stephen W. Behrman

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 Chuck Bolton  
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 Elevate PFS Holdings, Inc.  
 ELS, Inc.  
 Encompass Health  
 Enterprise School District Activity Fund  
 Estate of Eutha Huffman Max  
 Estate of W.D. Kirkland  
 Leslie G. Estes  
 Suzanne Evans  
 Keith Everett  
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 FedEx Global Charitable Giving  
 Susan P. Ferguson  
 Dawn Fetty  
 Findley Black Corporation  
 Firefighter Community Funds  
 First Community Bank  
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 Jonesboro Bowling Center  
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   Organization, Inc.  
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 Kiara M. Atkins-Simms  
 Katherine Azlin  
 Kris Azlin  
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 Ashley L. Baker  
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