

# Inspired *by you.*

When Lux needed critical pediatric care, McLeod Children's Hospital was there for her. Your support helped make this care possible.



# The Cutting Edge of Coronavirus Treatment

How YOU are Helping McLeod Health Face a Global Health Crisis

Jenna Swindler, Pharmacist Process Manager for McLeod Health, ensures that the right medications are always on hand to care for our patients. It is a huge responsibility and one that she takes very seriously.

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic, Jenna and McLeod teams have been challenged with making sure we are able to obtain the necessary medications to provide life-saving care.

**“We have to be so agile in the age of COVID-19. Recommended treatments change daily. It is non-stop work to stay on the cutting edge.”**

– JENNA SWINDLER

But thanks to YOU, Jenna’s work has been made a little easier.

“COVID-19 has made it extremely difficult to acquire these medications,” Jenna said, citing massive nationwide demand for medicine used to treat Coronavirus. “It’s a real challenge to keep medications in stock.”

**McLeod Foundation donors have made it possible for all McLeod Health hospitals to access the medications they so desperately need in this unprecedented time.**

“The state of South Carolina has made certain life-saving medications available, but only to hospitals who have the proper processes in place to monitor patients receiving them,” Jenna explained.



Jenna Swindler, along with McLeod teams, strives to provide our patients with the latest Coronavirus treatments. Thanks to you, McLeod remains on the cutting edge.

“Thanks to a donor-funded program, we have this ability.”

Because of your support, all McLeod Health hospitals have received the medication. Many other rural hospitals throughout the state have not.

“We have to be so agile in the age of COVID-19,” Jenna said. “Recommended treatments change daily. It is non-stop work to stay on the cutting edge.”

**With your help, McLeod has been able to do just that.**

# Caring in a Crisis

How YOU Can Ensure Your Family and Community are Cared for in Challenging Times

**When you make the decision to give to the McLeod Foundation, you are touching lives you may never have anticipated.**

As Jenna Swindler will tell you, finding time to draft your will -- especially in times like these -- can be difficult.

“My husband, Adam, and I knew we needed to make a will,” said Jenna, a mother of two. “But it’s one of those things that gets pushed to the backburner when you get busy.”

Thankfully, Jenna and Adam were introduced to FreeWill. They created their will in minutes.

“The process online was very simple. It made making big decisions easy,” Jenna said.

Through FreeWill, Jenna and Adam not only ensured their family will be cared for down the road, but their community as well.



Members of the Dr. F. H. McLeod Legacy Society, including Jenna and Adam Swindler, ensure that McLeod will provide life-saving care now and well into the future.

**You see, Jenna and Adam decided to become members of the Dr. F. H. McLeod Legacy Society by including the McLeod Health Foundation in their will. FreeWill and the McLeod Foundation have partnered together to make this process as seamless as possible.**

“I’ve committed so much of my life to this organization that I want to continue to support it after I’m gone,” Jenna explained. “I am very proud of everything we have been able to accomplish across our region.”

Jenna is especially proud of how McLeod, and supporters like you, have risen to the challenge of COVID-19.

“So many people have devoted time to keeping us on the cutting edge of Coronavirus treatment at McLeod Regional Medical Center and across all of our hospitals.

**“We are capable of so much more when we all work together.”**

## Gifts by Will – Getting started is easier than you think...

**To make it straightforward and easy for you to begin writing your will, the McLeod Foundation has partnered with FreeWill. To start the process of creating your will at no cost to you, visit [www.freewill.com/McLeodHealthFoundation](http://www.freewill.com/McLeodHealthFoundation).**

**You can also include a gift in your will to the McLeod Foundation as a powerful way to ensure future generations have access to outstanding medical care.**

# Sending Virtual Hugs

*How You Helped Connect Patients With Their Loved Ones*

**A** lone. In the hospital. Battling a life-threatening illness.

We can only imagine how frightening this experience would be for a patient.

Yet, due to restricted visitation policies designed to stop the spread of the Coronavirus, this was a common experience for countless McLeod patients.



*Your support for the McLeod Virtual Care Team ensures that patients can keep in contact with loved ones, even as Coronavirus limits in-person visits.*

Fortunately, patients, staff and families were blessed by donors like you who were there to help. Generous members of the community contributed so that the McLeod Virtual Care Team could purchase electronic tablets for patients and families to visit through virtual technology. These much-needed visits greatly reduced the anxiety and loneliness isolated patients were feeling.

**At McLeod Seacoast, Carole Bailey, Nursing Director, and her team in the Intensive Care Unit were overwhelmed by your gratitude.**

“We all fondly recall one particular patient,” Carole reflected. “This dear 92-year-old woman was alone and confused. Through your support she was able to FaceTime with her daughter and granddaughter. She smiled as her family encouraged her and sent ‘virtual hugs.’ Her face transformed from flat and expressionless, to bright and cheerful in a matter of minutes. There was not a dry eye in the room.”

“Our patients are more at peace after communicating with their loved ones. Thank you for lifting our patients’ spirits and touching our hearts. You have made a lasting impression on all who have been working on the frontlines.”

Fighting an illness in the hospital is extremely difficult. Facing this challenge alone can make it nearly unbearable. With the virtual care program, patients are able to connect with loved ones to encourage their recovery.

**Carole and her staff thank you for being a part of their team during these frightening times.**

## Your Help is Still Needed

*As the COVID-19 crisis continues, you can help McLeod Health frontline staff by donating medical supplies or sending treats, food, or cards with words of encouragement. These will be delivered to the teams at each of our McLeod Health Hospitals. To arrange your donation to McLeod Health, please call 843-777-2694.*

# You Are Their Hero

*You Protect Staff on the Frontlines*

**I** imagine working in the hospital during COVID-19. Now imagine you also have a family with two young children who need you when you go home each night.

Charity Gerald experiences this every day. As the Nursing Director of the Progressive Transitional Care Unit at McLeod Regional Medical Center, she and her team care for COVID-19 patients.

She is also a mom to a six-year-old and 19-month-old. Charity worries about bringing the virus home to her husband and her children.

“It breaks my heart when I go home after a long, emotional day at work knowing I have to social distance from my loved ones. But it’s what I need to do to keep them safe,” recalled Charity.

Leading a team working the frontlines, Charity ensures extreme precautions are taken to protect both her staff and their patients.

“Our team has been willing to do whatever is needed to provide the best possible care,” stated Charity. “They share in the belief of faith over fear, many times holding a hand, wiping away tears or saying a prayer.”



*Charity Gerald, pictured with her two children, is grateful for your generous support. Thanks to you, she and other frontline staff have the equipment they need to keep themselves and their families safe from Coronavirus.*

**Because of the generosity of donors like you, Charity and her team have the protection they need.** Your gifts helped provide the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed to safely care for patients.

And you didn’t stop there. Donors continue to send food, supplies, cards and words of encouragement.

Charity shares, “**You make us feel valued. We hear people say that we are heroes, but it is not just us. It is you, our donors, who are our heroes.** You stepped forward with open arms. When we needed our spirits lifted, you were there. We are so incredibly grateful for your overwhelming support. Thank you.”

# Critical Care for Children Available in Emergencies

*You Provide Specialized Care for Frightened Children*



*Lux Pak, pictured with her mom, Kristin, holds her "Hospital Buddy," which is given to children who receive care at McLeod Children's Hospital.*

Kristin Winfield and her family, especially her daughter, Lux, will be forever grateful for generous donors to the McLeod Children's Hospital. May 8 started out like any normal workday. Kristin, a Certified Surgical Technologist, was in surgery with Neurosurgeon **Dr. William B. Naso**. Suddenly, she got a call that her daughter had been involved in an accident. Lux was being transported to McLeod Regional Medical Center. Kristen frantically arrived at the Emergency Department where she learned that Lux had sustained

a severe head injury. Lux was unconscious and bleeding from the ears. McLeod staff comforted Kristin and kept her informed of what was going on. The COVID-19 crisis made visitation difficult, so she was also relieved to learn that Dr. Naso, having finished his case, was now checking on Lux. "I was thinking of the worst-case scenario," recalls Kristin. Lux was transferred to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in McLeod Children's Hospital with a fractured skull, concussion, and a ruptured

mastoid. It was overwhelming for Kristin to learn all of this and see her baby girl in a neck brace not moving.

"I just broke down," Kristin said.

Fortunately, Lux had a team of Pediatric Intensivists, ENTs, Neurologist and support staff providing care.

**This specialized pediatric care is available because of McLeod Foundation's generous donors who continue to value the best care for our children.**

Kristin said, "Lux was very brave, she never cried once."

**Thanks to donors like you, Lux was able to receive this critical care in the region's only PICU, which was vital to her recovery. Your support helped make this possible.**

Having returned home, Lux and Kristen will always remember your kind support that made her recovery possible.



**We Need You**  
You can help children like Lux by making a gift to purchase a "Hospital Buddy" to be given to a child during their stay at McLeod Children's Hospital. Contact the McLeod Foundation to brighten the day of a child in the hospital.

# Meeting the Needs of Others Through the Butterfly Fund

*Your Support Helps Hospice and Palliative Care Patients*

Donors like you have helped families through end of life journeys since McLeod Hospice began caring for patients in 1985.

Beth Ann Owen and her family understand this all too well. They began their generous support of McLeod Hospice after her father was in need of this compassionate care.

"I am a nurse by profession," Beth Ann said. "I knew what hospice was, but I did not become intimately involved with hospice until my father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 1996."

Beth Ann's father was fortunate to have insurance and the financial means to cover unforeseen needs during his illness. But many other patients are in difficult situations and see those unanticipated needs go unmet.

Serving has always played a profound role in Beth Ann's life. So, when she learned about the establishment of the Butterfly Fund she wanted to be involved. Beth Ann readily agreed to chair the Advisory Committee.

**She explained, "By meeting the needs of others and removing the financial stress, we are helping caregivers provide a calmer, more peaceful environment for their loved ones in the end stages of life."**

Nurse practitioners and social workers who care for patients in their homes see the sad realities every day.



*McLeod Foundation donors, like Beth Ann Owen, ensure that our Hospice and Palliative Care patients see all of their life needs are met.*

**They see difficult living conditions like holes in the floor and regularly encounter patients who must choose between paying for electricity or their medications. The needs are real.**

Gifts to the Butterfly Fund provide funding to meet critical, immediate needs for Hospice and Palliative care patients who struggle financially during their time of care.

Because of loyal supporters like you, the Butterfly Fund has been able to help patients like 50-year-old, Marianne -- a McLeod Hospice patient. She and her husband are both disabled and moved south when they became homeless. McLeod staff helped them find a home they could afford to rent. Through your gifts, Marianne's home received minor repairs to make her life and care easier.

Beth Ann and all who care for these patients are grateful for generous donors like you who believe in the Butterfly Fund.

# FINDING HOPE IN A CHALLENGING TIME

*How Your Support Lifts Up Patients in Their Darkest Moments*



*Donors to the McLeod HOPE Fund ensure that patients like Shirley Hopkins have everything they need to face their cancer journey.*

**S**hirley Hopkins found hope through the generosity of HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund donors like you.

What started as a typical drive into work at Dollar General quickly became a terrifying journey.

Shirley didn't feel right. A local provider told her she may have the flu and to go home and rest. Wisely, she decided to confirm the diagnosis at the McLeod Health Cheraw Emergency Department.

Shirley was stunned to learn that there was a large mass over her left lung. She was immediately transferred to McLeod Regional Medical Center (MRMC) in Florence under the care of Medical Oncologist **Dr. Karim Tazi**.

Dr. Tazi diagnosed Shirley with Stage I Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She would soon embark on six weeks of rigorous chemotherapy treatment.

"I never get sick," Shirley shared. "When I heard the word 'cancer,' I cried and cried. Then I was just okay with it."

A few weeks into her treatment, Shirley was found unconscious on the floor of her home. When she awoke, she was in the Intensive Care Unit at MRMC, dangerously ill. Her body had not responded well to the chemotherapy treatments, leaving her immune system compromised and weakened.

As she regained her strength, she learned she would need physical therapy to learn how to walk again. For Shirley, walking across a room without assistance proved to be a hazardous task. She desperately needed a rollator -- a special walker with a seat. **Without insurance, however, this piece of equipment would be impossible for Shirley to purchase on her own.**

None of these events were a part of Shirley's plan for her life. However, because of McLeod Health's dedication to patients regardless of their ability to pay, Shirley did not have to worry about how she would afford these life-saving treatments and medications. She could focus entirely on regaining her health and strength.

In addition, through the HOPE Fund Shirley was able to obtain the rollator she needed.

Thanks to dedicated HOPE Fund donors like you, Shirley and many others have access to medication, nutrition and immediate assistance during their most challenging time.

*We invite you this year to  
Party in Place  
for  
An Evening of Hope*

Thursday, September 24, 2020 | 7:00 pm | The Comfort of Your Own Home

To make your reservations or to learn more,  
visit [www.mcleodfoundationevents.org](http://www.mcleodfoundationevents.org) or call 843-777-2694.

"Tickets" are \$100 per person. Each "couple/attendee" will receive one **Party in Place Gift Box**.  
All proceeds will benefit the HOPE Fund.