Inspired.

When Christopher began pediatric rehabilitation, he could barely speak. Your gifts help a child with Autism lead a normal life.

McLeod Health Foundation

SUMMER 2018

Your Fight to Save Drug-Dependent Babies How you can help the smallest victims of the opioid epidemic



Dr. Moeckel is in the fight for drug-dependent babies. Are you?

"We're seeing more of our babies impacted by drug dependency than ever before. Your gift will help our smallest victims of the opioid crisis receive the best care possible regardless of where they are born."

> ~ Douglas M. Moeckel, MD Neonatologist at McLeod Children's Hospital

The national opioid crisis has reached the Pee Dee region as the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs rapidly increases.

This crisis does not discriminate. It affects individuals and families from all walks of life.

As its grip on our community tightens, more and more of our babies are born dependent on drugs their mothers used during pregnancy. McLeod Health professionals battle every day against some of the nation's worst rates of drug-dependent newborns.

With your help, McLeod can confront this tragedy head on.

Drug-dependent babies face long and excruciating withdrawal periods that include convulsions, weight loss, and inability to sleep. Some uncontrollably claw at their face as their tiny bodies adjust to life without drugs in their system.

"We desperately need funding to train staff at regional hospitals," explains Dr. Moeckel, Neonatologist at McLeod Children's Hospital. "Drug-dependent babies are extremely difficult to treat and require very specialized care."

Dr. Moeckel is asking YOU to join the fight to save these innocent newborns.

"We're seeing more of our babies impacted by drug dependency than ever before," says Dr. Moeckel. "Your gift will help our smallest victims of the opioid crisis receive the best care possible."

With your support, we can turn the tide. You can help give these babies a fighting chance.

Every year, hundreds of babies in the Pee Dee Region are born dependent on drugs... Join the fight to help these innocent newborns by writing in "fight" on the enclosed donation form, or by giving online at mcleodinspiredbyyou.org and selecting Fight For Babies.

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ØGREAT NEWS!

Because of You, Life-Saving Early Detection of Breast Cancer is Now Available

Sharing your gift of love

hanks to your support, McLeod Regional Medical Center now offers 3D Mammography.

Your generosity delivered the latest advancement in the fight against breast cancer for the women of our region.

Charisse and Mike Reichenbach stepped up to be one of the first to commit their support. The Florence natives, who currently reside in Hilton Head, felt confident that the new lifesaving technology would provide the best possible mammograms for women throughout our community.

In fact, Charisse believes in 3D Mammography so much that she recently drove three hours from

Want to help? *Help fund 3D mammograms for women with limited financial resources by writing in "3D" on the enclosed donation form, or giving online at mcleodinspiredbyyou.org.*

Hilton Head to McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence for her own mammogram.

"At McLeod, I know what to expect -- the best employees providing the best service with the best technology," Charisse explained. "Your gifts allow this great medical system to continue offering the highest quality of care for patients. Our patients deserve peace of mind. 3D Mammography gives them that. Through your gift of love, you have joined the fight against breast cancer."

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~ Charisse Reichenbach



Charisse and Mike Reichenbach, long-time supporters of the McLeod Health Foundation -- made a gift of love to help save lives of women in our region.

Your Gifts Secure Blessings for Hospice Families and Their Pets

A special thank you from our four-legged friends



Ernie Hyatt, McLeod Hospice patient, is loved and encouraged by his beloved Izzy.

ost families consider loving and caring for pets a beautiful part of life. Yet, families and patients facing end-oflife journeys often struggle to care for their four-

legged family members. We know you join us in believing that no one should have to give up a pet when diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Because of your gifts, McLeod Hospice has established a new partnership with the national organization, Pet Peace of Mind. This program provides volunteer pet care services for patients who "Ernie and I feel incredibly blessed and grateful for your support. The *Pet Peace of Mind* program plays a critical role in our hospice journey because I can now devote my full attention to caring for Ernie."

~ Cindy Hyatt

are unable to look after their pets while on hospice care.

Latta residents Cindy and Ernie Hyatt became one of the first families to benefit from the new program. Ernie, a McLeod Hospice in-home patient since May, and his wife, Cindy, find great comfort in receiving much needed help to care for their beloved dogs, Max and Izzy.

"Cindy and I love Max and Izzy as if they are our children. Knowing they have the attention they need is very important to us," shares Ernie.

Recently, during a medical crisis, Max laid his head on Ernie's heart for two hours until Ernie stabilized. Max and Izzy know when their owners need extra love.

As participants in the *Pet Peace of Mind* program, Ernie and Cindy receive regular home visits by volunteers who take the dogs out for walks and play as well as provide trips to the groomer and the vet.

"Ernie and I feel incredibly blessed and grateful for your support," says Cindy. "The *Pet Peace of Mind* program plays a critical role in our hospice journey because I can now devote my full attention to caring for Ernie."

Cindy knows at the appropriate time, she too will volunteer with *Pet Peace of Mind* to give back for all she and Ernie have received from McLeod Hospice. Max and Izzy thank you, too.

> In loving memory of Ernie Hyatt June 28, 1939 ~ August 2, 2018

This story has been shared with permission from his family.



Anna Grace Burr and Hailey Wilhelm love animals and enjoy volunteering with Pet Peace of Mind.

A Normal Life for a Child with Autism

Your support helps Pediatric Rehabilitation care for a brave little boy

arquita Cox just wants her son to live a normal life.

"I don't want him to be labeled or treated differently," she says of Christopher, her fourth child.

But, Marquita knows that for a child with autism, a normal life takes a lot of work.

This is where YOU come in.

Your gifts to McLeod Health Seacoast Pediatric Rehabilitation provide crucial equipment necessary for Christopher's therapy sessions.

Thanks to you, Christopher is making progress.

"When Christopher first came to us, he could barely speak," recalls Kaye Wooten, Speech Therapist at McLeod Health Seacoast. "Now, he's talking in full sentences, expressing how he feels and telling you what he needs."



Christopher with his therapy dog, and best friend, Bentley.

Kaye and other members of the Pediatric Rehabilitation team know that your generosity supports the level of care that children like Christopher so desperately need.

And you should know something, too ...

Because of **YOUR** generosity, Christopher is closer to a normal life. He no longer requires special education. He will start Pre-Kindergarten this fall in a regular classroom.

We need YOU on September 5, 6 & 7 to help a child during our Radiothon!

Help children like Christopher by supporting the 2018 McLeod Children's Hospital Radiothon. Tune in to WWKT 99.3 and WFRK 95.3 to hear stories of miracle children and call in your pledge. You can also volunteer on the phone bank. For more information, call (843) 777-2694.

YOU CHANGED THE COURSE OF HER LIFE

How your gifts helped a frightened young woman become a confident mother



"Because of you, a nurse monitored my pregnancy during regular home visits while encouraging and supporting me along the way."

~ China Palacios

China and Jonathan enjoy time with their son and are grateful for the new direction for their family.

s I sat on the floor, I looked over and read the results of my pregnancy test ... two pink lines. A flood of shock and fright swept over me.

I had finally made it to my last semester of nursing school while working two jobs. Due to an unstable living situation, I struggled to maintain reliable transportation to school and work. How would I ever care for my child?

Sometimes answers come in unexpected ways.

Through my nursing class, I shadowed a nurse in the McLeod Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program. I knew immediately I had found the answer for my child and me to thrive. I decided to enroll.

I learned that you, our McLeod Foundation donors, brought this nationally recognized program to firsttime expectant mothers in our region. Because of you, McLeod NFP provided me with a nurse who monitored my pregnancy during regular home visits while encouraging and supporting me along the way. I became more confident and assertive in my choices.

I took a leap of faith, moving out of my aunt's home and renting my own apartment. Through the remaining visits, my nurse helped me stay focused on becoming the mother I wanted to be.

With your help, I completed my nursing degree. Together with my husband Jonathan, we are now raising a healthy baby boy.

And now I have the chance to give back.

Recently, I became an NFP nurse myself.

My family and I remain eternally grateful to you. You changed the course of our lives. Your gifts will continue to impact mothers just like me.

You Shine Light and HOPE into the Darkness of a Cancer Journey

Reverend Kathy Campbell shares how her cancer journey inspires a response of gratitude

Supporting cancer patients through the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund remains very personal to my husband, Bernie, and me. It may be for you, too.

You see, in 2005, doctors diagnosed me with Stage 4 Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Cancer patients need to concentrate more on getting well and worry less about money or how they'll get to their treatments.

Every cancer patient is unique, but many need a strong support system. My husband accompanied me to doctors' appointments and tests. A good friend drove me to treatments. My faith family offered prayers and provided meals.

Although we faced many difficulties on our journey through cancer treatment, we had the support and resources necessary to help me get well.

We know others are not so fortunate.





Kathy Campbell, cancer survivor and member of the HOPE Fund Advisory Committee, understands the impact of how your gifts directly help cancer patients.

When Bernie and I heard about the HOPE Fund, we saw it as an opportunity to give in response to the blessings we received.

All of us who support the HOPE Fund believe that no one should have to cancel treatment because they don't have a ride to the hospital. Or, choose between buying pain medication or food for their children.

Through your loving gifts, you help people with these kinds of needs every day. Cancer patients need to concentrate more on getting well and worry less about money or how they'll get to their treatments.

Bernie and I know that our gifts, in support of the HOPE Fund, directly help others the way loved ones helped us. And, we know that your gifts do the same.

No one wants to experience cancer. However, lessons learned through that experience can be utilized to help others. *Through the HOPE Fund, we can all shine light and hope into the darkness.*

To learn more, visit mcleodhopefund.org.

