

# The Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation COMMUNITY UPDATE

March / April 2016

## ENCOUNTERING RIKKI: THE BOOK

She has been called “an angel,” and her uncanny ability to decipher the one human in a crowd who most needs rescuing has many people agreeing.

Therapy dog Rikki, who has been quietly serving alongside her human partners, Chuck and Patty Mitchell, through the Tallahassee Memorial Animal Therapy program, is now the star of a book, “Encounters with Rikki: from Hurricane Katrina rescue to exceptional therapy dog.” Authored by Tallahassee native Julie Strauss Bettinger, it was published this past January.

“Bettinger tells of the moving journey of Chuck Mitchell and therapy dog Rikki in their advocacy for young victims of abuse and patients with severe and debilitating illnesses. Their story heartfully captures the amazing power animals have to lift the human spirit.”

— **BARBARA NATTERSON, MD, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE,  
UCLA DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY**

“I feel like the magician’s assistant,” says Chuck Mitchell, who has worked with Rikki to help patients at the Tallahassee Memorial Rehabilitation Center, the Florida State Hospital for the mentally ill in Chattahoochee as well as the courts. His wife, Patty, has witnessed similar transformations in children struggling to read. Some have advanced as many as three grade levels while reading to Rikki.

“Encounters with Rikki” chronicles the true story of how Rikki survived Hurricane Katrina and came to live with Chuck and Patty Mitchell. After Chuck noticed her innate abilities to comfort hurting people, they began training together as a therapy team. Together, their visits continue to bring healing and hope to recovering patients, accident victims and the mentally ill.

Animal Therapy is a hot topic; there are numerous stories in the popular press and a number of books written about it. “Encounters with Rikki”



*Left to Right:  
Animal Therapy  
volunteers  
Bobbie Jo Finer,  
Ellen Pearson,  
Chuck Mitchell,  
Animal Therapy  
graduate  
student Sydney  
Hanselman and  
Rikki*



*Rikki with Chuck Mitchell and author Julie Strauss Bettinger*

focuses primarily on a specialty that has emerged, using dogs to comfort children when they must testify in court – many times against their sexual abuser or as a witness to a crime against a sibling or parent. Legal cases with child witnesses are a closely guarded world with rules, procedures and protocols. In the name of justice, a child as young as four years old must recall facts about an event the child has desperately tried to forget. The young witness must come face-to-face with an adult who introduced terror into their storybook world. The entire drama typically takes place against a backdrop of linoleum floors, hard wooden benches and somber moods.

Yet, under the influence of therapy dogs, this same frightened, wary child who is having trouble recalling facts becomes relaxed and able to think more clearly. The dog becomes a tool to build rapport between the child and attorneys, to get to the truth during depositions, hearings and trials.

“Encounters with Rikki” captures the story of how the gifted canine inspired a law to allow dogs to enter the courtroom. Florida became the first state in the nation to pass such a law in 2011, and it has paved the way for many other states to allow therapy dogs to comfort victims in their courtrooms as well.

TMH has one of the largest Animal Therapy programs in the country, now with 145 teams, including four parrots, two dwarf mini horses, one horse and numerous cats and dogs. The program’s largest dog is three times larger than its smallest horse.

Teams are regularly requested (by children and/or the presiding judge) to be present at final adoption hearings and in dependency court. They visit expectant moms at TMH and those who are in their final days of life at

**Story continued on page 6.**

# USTA TALLAHASSEE TENNIS CHALLENGER

APRIL 23 – 30 | FORESTMEADOWS TENNIS COMPLEX

2016 marks the 17th year of the USTA Tallahassee Tennis Challenger providing philanthropic support for Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. This Challenger is the only professional men's tournament in North Florida and South Georgia, and features players ranked 100-200 in the world.

Challenger sponsorships and contributions are placed in the D. Mark Vogter, MD Endowment to advance the leading edge care provisions of the Tallahassee Memorial Vogter Neuro-Intensive Care Unit (VNICU). Patients of all ages are treated in the VNICU for neurological trauma and other head injuries, stroke and for life threatening illnesses such as brain tumors and aneurysms. Funds collected for general admission are placed in the Maria Yealdhall Challenger Tennis Fund at the Friends of Our Parks Foundation, City of Tallahassee.

Karen Vogter, Tournament Director, said, "The Tallahassee Tennis Challenger continues to be one of the premier sporting events in Tallahassee, while continuing to honor Mark's memory through the Vogter Neurological Endowment at the TMH Foundation. We are so grateful for the continued assistance of friends, colleagues, tennis fans, and community businesses for their support of this wonderful tournament. Mark would be so pleased to know his memory and work continue to be recognized in this fashion."

Challenger players compete not only for \$50,000 in prize money, but also for valuable Association of Tennis Professionals' (ATP) points that increase their world ranking and enable them to gain automatic acceptance into major tennis events such as the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

The Challenger is pleased to again host the USTA Pro Circuit Wild Card Challenge. The Wild Card Challenge is a series of three men's clay court tournaments held consecutively in April and May. The American player who wins the most ATP points at these tournaments will earn a Main Draw Wild Card into the French Open. The 2016 Tallahassee Challenger will be the final tournament of this very exciting event.



*Challenger Leadership — Row 1: Lynn Baggett, Karen Vogter, Lori Willyoung, Julie Dybendahl, and Roger Shields; Row 2: Alison Harte, George English, Kelly Hetherington, Carol Bahorski, Janet Borneman, Billie Padgett, Lenin Mongerie, Denean Sykes, Else Smith, Tom Bahorski, and Libby Thompson; Not pictured: Linda Vannoy, Anne Davis, Nan Nagy, Kelly Tucker, Eunice Rho, Everett Teague, Kim Damron, and Paula Fortunus.*

There are less than 25 Men's Pro Circuit events in the country and most are in much larger cities. The Tallahassee community is exceedingly supportive of the tournament, making it possible to have extremely high quality tennis year after year. The tournament has a positive impact on the community through its involvement with children, schools, and the tennis community.

Other activities throughout the week include the Boys Town/Boys & Girls' Club Tennis Jamboree, Ten and Under Tennis Events for second graders in Leon County, the Community Tennis spectacular, a Special Olympics Tennis Carnival, and other features for the community.

Sponsorships are available and come with a host of benefits, including dinner and beverages in the VIP tent each night (April 25 – 29) and brunch on April 30 for the Finals. Please visit [www.tallahasseechallenger.com](http://www.tallahasseechallenger.com) and click on "Sponsors," followed by a click on "Become a Sponsor." For more information, please contact either Karen Vogter, 850-545-8740 [KVogter@tallahasseechallenger.com](mailto:KVogter@tallahasseechallenger.com) or Janet Borneman, TMH Foundation, 850-431-4048 [janet.borneman@tmh.org](mailto:janet.borneman@tmh.org).



## ROCK THE PINK LIP SYNC TO BENEFIT THE SHARON EWING WALKER BREAST HEALTH CENTER

The TMH Foundation and the Rock the Pink Committee are pleased to present the 5th Annual Rock the Pink Lip Sync, to be held on April 10, 2016 at the American Legion Hall – Lake Ella, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center to fund mammograms and related transportation for low-income women.

This year, Rock the Pink will honor Claire Walker Harrison, a two-time survivor of breast cancer and sister-in-law of the late Sharon Ewing Walker. Claire's mother, Maye Walker, is also a breast cancer survivor and it is the Walker family who made the founding contributions toward the establishment of the Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center. Claire, her husband Jim and children Kate and James are passionate about cancer care in Tallahassee. Claire said, "Everyone at the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center has been fantastic. When you go through something like this, it really

pulls your family close. My family was great and that really is the silver lining."

Rock the Pink is a family-friendly event that includes local celebrities and community leaders lending their style, sass and humor to lip sync performances of favorite songs. Admission is free with donations accepted at the door.

The Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center is dedicated to providing unsurpassed technology with a full array of diagnostic and support services for the detection and treatment of breast cancer. The Center's services and guidance are offered in a warm, caring and comfortable environment.

For information on sponsorships, please contact Janet Borneman, TMH Foundation Director of Planned Giving, at [janet.borneman@tmh.org](mailto:janet.borneman@tmh.org) or 850-431-4048 or visit [www.rockthepinklipsync.com](http://www.rockthepinklipsync.com).

## GRAND RIDGE SCHOOL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA "THINK PINK"

The Grand Ridge School recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October 2015 with its third annual "Think Pink" event. Members of the Grand Ridge Future Farmers of America (FFA) placed pink piggy banks in classrooms to collect contributions for the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center. Each student who

donated one dollar received a pink bracelet and was granted school permission to wear a pink shirt one day during the month. Donations totaled \$447. The TMH Foundation placed a plaque in the Cancer Center's Healing Garden to honor the outstanding fund-raising efforts of the school and FFA members.



*From left to right: Officers of the Grand Ridge FFA Chapter are: Chayton Wright, Dylan Jackson, Branton Peacock, Melody Steck (Lead Radiation Therapist at the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center), Dillon Arnold, Janet Borneman (Director of Planned Giving, TMH Foundation), Faith Hardin, Cassidy Green, Madison Campbell and Gracie Emory.*



THE RIDE FOR HOPE

11TH ANNUAL  
THE RIDE FOR HOPE

IN MEMORY OF ITS FOUNDER LOUIS T. FARRAH

RIDE • HEALTH FAIR  
FAMILY FUN

JUNE 10 & 11, 2016  
North Florida Fair Grounds

TheRideForHope.com or contact the TMH Foundation  
at foundation@tmh.org or 850.431.5389.

Lincoln High School's 6TH ANNUAL

# Battle of the Bands



Friday, April 8, 2016 at 7 p.m.  
Jimmy Everett Track  
Lincoln High School

Admission is \$7 pre-sale, \$10 at the door  
and open to the public.

**Band Competition,  
Vendor Booths and Games**

Student bands from area high schools are  
invited to apply for entry in the competition.  
Up to 12 bands will be selected.

**Please contact the TMH Foundation at  
foundation@tmh.org or 850-431-5389.**

*All proceeds from the Battle of the Bands will benefit the Tallahassee  
Memorial Heart & Vascular Center, which specializes in the prevention,  
diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.*



## BOOKS-A-MILLION

### BOOK AND TOY DRIVE FOR THE BABIES, CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES SERVED BY TMH

During the November-December 2015 holidays, Books-A-Million (BAM) and its local store manager Carl Robinson partnered with BAM employees, families, friends and visitors for a book and toy drive to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Children's Center, the Bixler Emergency Center, the Emergency Center–Northeast, the Behavioral Health Center Child and Adolescent Unit, Pediatric Rehabilitation Outpatient Services and the Child Care Center — and all other areas at TMH that serve children.

This was the second year BAM selected TMH-served babies, children and their families as the beneficiaries of its annual "give back to the community" book and toy drive. All BAM managers and staff encouraged store patrons



*Books-A-Million Store Manager Carl Robinson, Books-A-Million Associate Dawn Ferentz, TMH Foundation Director of Annual Giving Judi Wills, TMH Child Life Specialist Olivia Burton, and Books-A-Million Associate Madison Pillman.*

to donate a book, toy or puzzle. The results were amazing – more than \$17,000 in gifts were made and required a TMH flatbed truck to pick up and deliver over 54 bins of donations. The donations included books, toys, board games, DVD movies and puzzles. These gifts will offer an abundance of positive distractions during the coming year for children who are in need of inpatient and outpatient services.

Tallahassee Memorial Children's Center Nurse Manager Kim Outlaw, explained, "The Children's Center staff is very thankful for Books-A-Million's efforts to provide these wonderful gifts for the children and their families during their treatment and hospitalization." TMH Child Life Specialist Olivia Burton added, "This gift is very meaningful because it will give children an opportunity to feel more comfortable and relaxed by engaging in activities that they normally enjoy at home, such as playing with a toy or game, reading or completing a puzzle."

Mr. Robinson expressed the store's passion, "Books-A-Million was very pleased to implement this project again in 2015 to support children and their families in the local community who are served by Tallahassee Memorial." Judi Wills, TMH Foundation Director of Annual Giving, added, "The TMH Foundation is extremely grateful for Books-A-Million and to all its patrons who participated in the project by providing a gift that will make a positive difference in the lives of many of the 4,500 to 5,000 children and families served by TMH each year."

# BRICKLER BABIES UNITE HONORS A.D. BRICKLER, MD & A.J. BRICKLER, MD

Brickler Babies Unite is an initiative specifically created to celebrate the careers of both A.D. Brickler, MD and A.J. Brickler, MD, and to identify and locate as many as possible of the 44,000 babies delivered by the Doctors Brickler. Brickler Babies Unite, under the auspices of the TMH Foundation, is collecting baby photos and family birth stories. If you are a Brickler baby, mother, father or other family member, please let us hear from you.

To share your story, please either call Judi Wills, TMH Foundation Director of Annual Giving, 850-431-5904, for additional information or email your pictures and stories directly to [judi.wills@tmh.org](mailto:judi.wills@tmh.org). Be sure to include the baby's name and date of birth and whether it was Dr. A.D. Brickler or Dr. A.J. Brickler who helped the mother deliver.

As part of this exciting project, and in honor of these outstanding physicians, the Brickler Family Endowment has been established within the TMH Foundation. If you wish to honor either or both Doctors Brickler with a donation to the endowment, please make your check payable to the TMH Foundation and mail it to 1331 East Sixth Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32303. Please enter Brickler Family Endowment on the check's memo line. Or, if you prefer to make a secure online donation, please visit [TMH.ORG/Foundation](http://TMH.ORG/Foundation), click on DONATE NOW, select "Other"

as the gift designation and enter Brickler Family Endowment in the space provided. Gifts of securities, real estate, tangible personal property or deferred gifts and pledges are also welcome – please contact Judi Wills for details.

Please note your gift can be made in honor or in memory of a family member or friend. Earnings from the Brickler Family Endowment will directly benefit those served by the Tallahassee Memorial Labor and Delivery Unit in the Alexander D. Brickler, MD Women's Pavilion.

## BRICKLER BABIES UNITE



A.D. BRICKLER, MD

A.J. BRICKLER, MD

*A.D. Brickler, MD and A.J. Brickler, MD proudly stand before a baby photo collage that includes many of the more than 44,000 babies they have delivered during their combined medical careers. Photography courtesy of Shems Hamilton Photography.*

“ My years of practice have given me the opportunity to meet and participate in the lives of many wonderful people. Through this family fund-raising effort, I would hope to establish a continuing means to enhance the future care of people such as these. ”

— A. D. BRICKLER, MD

“ Each person is different, so every pregnancy is unique. Each new life is another step towards a better future. Delivering babies is our legacy to that future, and our humble attempt to help make the world a better place for generations to come. Healthy mommies and babies make for healthy families, and ultimately healthy communities. For many years, we have been honored and privileged to be able to do all that we can do to help ensure our community is vibrant and healthy. ”

— A. J. BRICKLER, MD

# PROTOCOLS FOR PHILANTHROPY

## *A Healthy Estate Plan in 2016*



Paula S. Fortunas  
President/CEO  
TMH Foundation

As we move toward the second quarter of 2016, it is an excellent time to review our respective estate plans – making sure they are healthy and provide appropriately for the well being of our families and the charitable organizations we hold dear. Here are some suggestions.

**Meet with your financial advisor** to review your assets and liabilities in order to determine your current net worth, how much to save for retirement and the status of your life insurance policies and any other holdings.

**Meet with your attorney** to create or conform to your current financial status your last will and testament and associated documents such as a revocable living trust; a healthcare power of attorney to ensure that someone you trust makes medical decisions on your behalf; a living will to formalize your wishes regarding prolonged healthcare and terminal conditions and a financial power of attorney to ensure that someone will handle your financial decisions if you are unable to do so. Further, you will want to establish guardianships for your minor children should the need arise and encourage your adult family members to prepare their own estate plans.

**Select the charitable organizations you want to support** and include them in your estate plan. Of course, it is our hope that the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation (TMHF) will be among them. TMHF stands ready to help you achieve your personal and charitable goals and objectives by providing gift plans that benefit you and your family and highlighting immediate and deferred tax advantages for you and your heirs, resulting in your meaningful impact on Tallahassee Memorial beyond your own lifetime and far into the future.

**Please consider the TMHF website, [www.TMH.ORG/Foundation](http://www.TMH.ORG/Foundation)**, as your resource for charitable giving information. Explore the site and learn about the many opportunities to support Tallahassee Memorial.

### To Make a Secure Online Donation

Please visit [TMH.ORG/Foundation](http://TMH.ORG/Foundation) and click on **DONATE NOW**

1331 East Sixth Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32303  
Telephone: 850-431-5389 Facsimile: 850-431-4483  
Email: [paula.fortunas@tmh.org](mailto:paula.fortunas@tmh.org)  
Website: [TMH.ORG/Foundation](http://TMH.ORG/Foundation)



*Note: The contents of this article and any materials you request and receive from TMHF are general in nature and are not intended as either legal, financial or tax advice. You should consult your own professional advisors before making a final decision with respect to gift plans and agreements.*

### ENCOUNTERING RIKKI: THE BOOK *continued*

Big Bend Hospice. Program Manager Stephanie Perkins estimates that teams had 40,000 therapeutic interactions last year alone.

Currently, the Tallahassee Memorial Animal Therapy program serves over 60 facilities and has a waiting list for others. They often host visiting groups inquiring about Animal Therapy, including China and Ukraine, through the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. There's an ongoing effort to educate medical students, physicians and nurses about the benefits of Animal Therapy. "Encounters with Rikki" will help in that effort and the author has committed 20 percent of the royalties to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Animal Therapy program.

In January, Tallahassee Memorial and the TMH Foundation sponsored two gatherings to launch the book – one for TMH colleagues, as they

witness the work of therapy teams day-to-day, and one for the general public. The latter was hosted at the TMH Rehabilitation Center, where Rikki and Chuck visit weekly to work with patients. The Mitchells attended the signings with Rikki, and books were autographed by the author as well as "pawtographed" by Rikki. Local retailers Hearth & Soul and Naturally Healthy Pet, also hosted book signings, as did The Bookshelf in Thomasville, Georgia.

Books can be purchased at retailers that hosted signings, as well as the TMH Gift Shop and the TMH Foundation. It's also available through all major booksellers including Amazon, and through the publisher at Inkshares.com. For more information, please visit [EncountersWithRikki.com](http://EncountersWithRikki.com) or [TMH.ORG/AnimalTherapy](http://TMH.ORG/AnimalTherapy).



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Website: [TMH.ORG/Foundation](http://TMH.ORG/Foundation)

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