

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE

FOUNDATION

WHY I GIVE

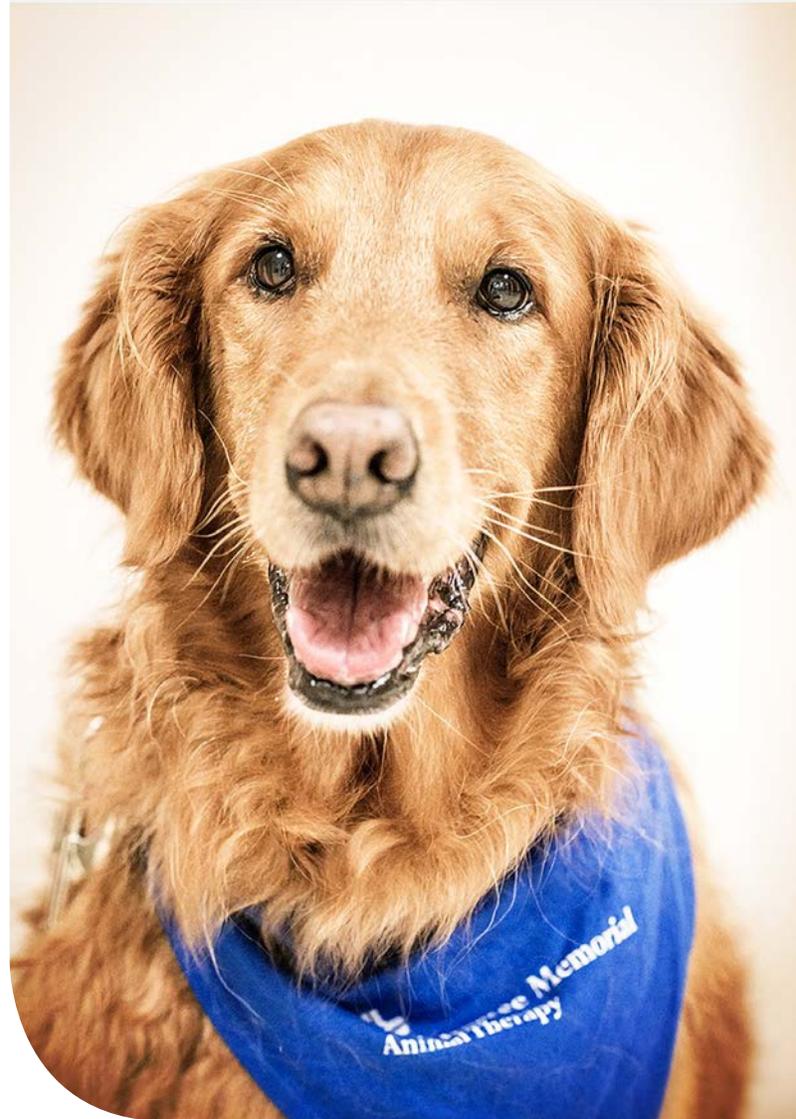
If you told Chuck and Patty Mitchell 11 years ago that the dog they were adopting, Rikki, would become a nationally recognized dog whose legacy would live on long after she passed, they probably wouldn't have believed you. But Rikki, a golden retriever who came to Tallahassee as a Hurricane Katrina rescue puppy at just a few months old, did just that.

Rikki loved her home in the swamp and especially loved running the beaches and woods with her big brother, Roscoe, and owners, Chuck and Patty Mitchell – almost as much as she loved helping people. Rikki's true calling was as a therapy dog, and in early 2007 she became a proud member of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare's (TMH) Animal Therapy Program, its Reading Education Assistance Dogs™ program, and its Florida Courthouse Therapy Dogs program.

For nearly 10 years, Rikki helped patients, families, students, victims, witnesses and staff cope with the difficulties of managing through trauma and challenging situations. She made everyone feel better and inspired them to get to where they needed to be – whether through motivating rehabilitation, improving reading skills, or finding their voice so they could testify about their abuse.

Rikki's life and work is beautifully told in "Encounters With Rikki: From Hurricane Katrina Rescue to Exceptional Therapy Dog," by Julie Strauss Bettinger. It has received many accolades and is currently a finalist for two national book awards.

Rikki was a pioneer and groundbreaker in so many areas. She was the first dog to receive a Caring Paws Award from TMH, the first therapy dog to work with a child victim in a deposition, the first to receive a proclamation from the Leon County Commission, the first to work with capital cases in the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, and among the first Reading Education Assistance Dogs in the Tallahassee area. Her work led directly to the passage of the first law in Florida, and the nation, that allows therapy dogs to accompany children and vulnerable adults into the courtroom. Now, most of the states have animal therapy programs assisting in their judicial proceedings.



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While Rikki unfortunately passed away this past May, her legacy lives on thanks to her owners, Chuck and Patty Mitchell, who worked with the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation team to set up an endowment in her name – the Friends of Rikki Endowment.

“This endowment was created to provide sustainability for the TMH Animal Therapy Program. One of the difficult parts of being a volunteer with this program is finding a special animal that can pass the tests needed to become a therapy animal,” said Chuck and Patty Mitchell. “And the hardest part is that a handler is only as good as their working partner. The animals are the true stars of the show – we’re just the magician’s assistant.”

While TMH boasts more than 150 animal therapy teams, they lose around 15 teams a year due to the animals’ naturally shorter life span. The teams they typically lose are ones who have been in the program for years, and therefore are the ones most trained and able to work with the most difficult situations. The Friends of Rikki Endowment is working to help bridge this gap and continue growing the program.

“We grow the program by attracting and retaining more volunteers, which

involves a lot of community outreach and spreading awareness. At the same time, we need to train more instructors, trainers and evaluators to teach and test potential teams,” explained Chuck.

In addition to encouraging more people to come and try out for the program, Chuck and the entire animal therapy team at TMH are now working with Leader Dogs for the Blind – a seeing eye-dog program based in Michigan. Only about 50 percent of dogs trained to become seeing eye-dogs actually make it, but for the rest who still have about \$27,000 worth of training, they are anything but your ordinary dog.

The Leader Dogs for the Blind program previously partnered with police departments to have the dogs that didn’t make it continue on a different, but similar path – a career change so to speak. Because of the quality of TMH’s Animal Therapy Program, TMH is now the first hospital they will partner with, allowing the Animal Therapy Program to receive these highly-socialized and well-trained dogs.

“These dogs have the highest levels of training, even more so than police dogs, because they have to be able to overrule an owner’s command,” explained Chuck. “Once we get the dogs, they’re matched

with a handler in our program who is in need of dog – so instead of having a handler have to start with a dog from the very beginning, they are matched with these dogs who need very little help and training.”

The funds earned from the Friends of Rikki Endowment will help to purchase these therapy dogs and continue growing the Animal Therapy Program at TMH, who has had more than 35,000 “nose to nose” interactions to date.

“We want to not only continue bringing in dogs from Leader Dogs for the Blind, but we want to raise the awareness of the benefits of animal therapy,” said Chuck. “We need more teams serving more patients in the hospital and across the community, more teams to help struggling readers in the schools, and more teams to help child victims of assault and abuse to be able to find their voices to be able to tell their stories in court.”

While Rikki held a lot of “firsts,” she more importantly paved the way for her animal therapy friends to do much more over the years to come. For more information or to make a donation to the Friends of Rikki Endowment, please visit TMH.ORG/Rikki or call 850-431-5389.

Thank You



The Mays-Munroe 4th Annual Have a Heart event, in memory of Ray Munroe, Jr., raised over \$22,000 benefitting the Tallahassee Memorial Heart & Vascular Center. Thank you to the Munroe family and the entire Mays-Munroe team!



Thank you Lincoln High School SGA, faculty and students for another fun filled Battle of the Bands event that raised \$10,000 for the Tallahassee Memorial Heart & Vascular Center. Thank you for building up the next generation of leaders in philanthropy and heart health education.



Save the Date

Electrotech, LLC presents the

12th Annual Cards for a Cure

Benefiting the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center & Cancer Programs

In Honor of Lea Lane

October 14, 2017 | 7 pm - 11 pm
Donald L. Tucker Civic Center

Entertainment by: Momentum Party Band

Sponsor information: Janet.Borneman@TMH.ORG or 850-431-4048



Trustee Spotlight

Dr. Ray Solomon

Ray Solomon, PhD, is Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare's newest Emeritus Trustee, and one of Tallahassee's long-standing influential members in the community. Spending more than 35 years at Florida State University, Dr. Solomon influenced both students and faculty, served as the College of Business' longest serving dean to date, helped develop the Real Estate program, and much more.

After his retirement, Dr. Solomon continued to take on leadership roles in the community, including organizations such as the Southern Scholarship Foundation, the Goodwill Industries of the Big Bend and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation.

On behalf of the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation, we want to thank Dr. Solomon for his unwavering dedication, countless efforts and contributions, and tireless leadership he has shown our community.



Mark O'Bryant: *"Over the years, Dr. Ray Solomon has been a critical element in the success of numerous not-for-profits, including TMH. He and Mary have been an active part of the community's fabric, selflessly volunteering to benefit those in need. Ray's warmth, sincerity and tenacity were evident as he accomplished tasks that many deemed impossible. It has truly been an honor to know and work with Dr. Solomon during time I have been in Tallahassee."*

Sam Lester: *"I first became involved with the Foundation many years ago, working with Dr. Ray Solomon on a special program called "Everyday Heroes." He wanted to recognize people in our community who were doing important work for the poor or at-risk children. These worthy "Everyday Heroes" worked tirelessly and did not seek any reward or recognition for themselves. Ray Solomon is this kind of hero to me. Throughout his long service with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and the TMH Foundation, he has been an outstanding board member, trustee, philanthropist and fundraiser. He is an inspiration to me and to everyone who has enjoyed the privilege of working alongside this great, community service-minded gentleman."*

Flecia Braswell: *"When I think of the TMH Foundation, I think of Ray Solomon. He has been a tireless volunteer leader on the TMHF Board who has given freely of his time, talent and treasure for as long as I can remember. He's passionate about TMH and it shows in everything he does."*

Linda Alexionok: *"Throughout my board service, I have been privileged to work and learn from Dr. Solomon, "Ray." He has been a leader, friend, advocate, and unrelenting champion for the vision and mission of TMH. His service and stewardship of the board led the Foundation to many new opportunities for growth and success. No meeting, no task, no need was ever too small, or too large. If it served a purpose for advancement of TMH, you could always count Dr. Solomon in."*

Virginia Glass: *"I had the pleasure of working alongside Dr. Solomon for many years at TMH Foundation and was always impressed with his in depth knowledge of issues. He is a fine example of a servant heart and has made a positive impact on so many during his many years of volunteer service."*

Randy Guemple: *"Ray Solomon is so committed to numerous charitable causes that when I moved to Tallahassee in 2000, he immediately reached out and got me involved in most of them, including TMH. His dedication is contagious and I really don't know how to thank him enough for setting an example that we all can strive for."*

“**He's passionate about TMH and it shows in everything he does.**”



iGIVE Colleague Society

For employees like David Hamilton, the choice to give back to Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH) through the iGIVE Colleague Giving Society was an easy one to make. David, who at one point did not have the financial resources to complete his college education to become a registered nurse, called more than 20 hospitals in hopes of finding a way to pursue his dream of becoming an RN. Out of those 20, TMH was the only hospital to respond to his inquiry and offer to find a way to help through their Scholarship and Tuition Reimbursement Program – a program that David now holds near and dear to his heart.

David is one of more than 1,660 colleagues at TMH who is part of iGIVE – a society representing investment, generosity, intention, value and engagement with members who believe in the mission and vision of TMH, and who donate regularly to the TMH Foundation to support the life-changing events that take place within the organization.

For the colleagues who decide to give back through a bi-weekly recurring payroll gift, they are able to designate their donations to any area or service

line at TMH, which provides financial resources for everything from new equipment and patient programs, to ongoing education for TMH colleagues.

“I give back to the hospital and designate my recurring gift for the Scholarship and Tuition Reimbursement Program because without it, I would not be a Registered Nurse today,” said David Hamilton, RN. “It’s my pleasure to help others achieve their educational and career goals, as that same generosity is the one reason I was able to continue my education.”

David – along with other colleagues including Danielle Zorn, a system analyst for patient accounting who designates her gift to the Cancer Center, and Melissa Salisbury, an IT operations manager who designates her gift to the TMH Physician Partners – Metabolic Health Center – recently joined the TMH Foundation team for the first annual iGIVE Meet and Greet event, held on May 10.

The Meet and Greet event is one way the TMH Foundation extends their appreciation and recognizes the support of the TMH colleagues who give back, and allows for other

employees to hear their colleagues’ testimonials.

“This event provided a perfect way to connect with the many TMH colleagues who support the amazing work taking place at the hospital,” said Mickey Moore, President and Chief Advancement Officer of TMH Foundation. “The TMH Foundation looks forward to continued participation with colleagues and growing the iGIVE Colleague Society for many years to come.”

To learn more about the TMH Foundation and its giving societies, please contact us at 850-431-5389 or Foundation@TMH.ORG.





“Give
and
you
shall
receive.”

GIVING...THE SECRET TO?

Mickey S. Moore, TMH Foundation President

Periodically, I get to finish a good book within a short period of time. When a given book is worth sharing, I just can't help but find a forum to do so. A longtime friend and entrepreneur, Bart Ross, sent me the book "The Go-Giver," by Bob Burg and John David Mann, several months back and I could not be more grateful. Its impact on me has been enormous, and since we at TMH Foundation benefit so greatly from others' gifts, I thought I'd share some of my takeaways and impressions from this wonderful short read.

Bottom line, this book states that the secret of success is giving. Surely, we all have heard the old proverb, "give and you shall receive," and I can confirm that this book certainly breathes life into that statement.

Giving of time, talent and resources can happen in many ways, but I agree with the authors that we should all start with a defining set of values centered on a shift from getting to giving. Specifically, the book details acts of putting others' interests first and continually adding value to their lives. Over and over, examples of unexpected returns blossomed. Would these returns happen if the focus were primarily on our own interests?

Day in and day out from my seat at TMH Foundation, I have witnessed this cycle of giving and getting in return. We are fortunate to see so many in our community that seem to give endlessly of themselves and their networks to benefit both our mission of "Transforming care, Advancing health, and Improving lives," and other nonprofits. These same generous people, more often than not, share news of successes and goodwill that comes back to them. Personally, I like to think that good fortune has also come my way because of giving. Was it providing food, beverages and household items for a family fallen on hard times? Or was it assisting a college student with a gift of professional clothes from Nic's Toggery for their first internship interview? Maybe these acts and others brought me some referrals? Some trust? Some gifts to my nonprofit?

I don't know for sure, but it really feels good to give and I do believe in helping others find success - whatever that is in their mind. Expecting something in return isn't the catalyst for me, but it could spark a domino effect that impacts people beyond my typical reach. Maybe, just maybe, it comes back around to benefit me or something I deeply care about. Or maybe it just feeds a positive narrative in this community of being a connector, a mentor, or a "Go-Giver." Regardless, let's keep giving to others and adding value to others' lives - heck, just the satisfaction of helping is receipt enough for me.

The Foundation Community Report is produced by the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation
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To make a secure online donation, we invite you to visit [TMHFoundation.ORG](https://www.TMHFoundation.ORG).

