

“ I WENT FROM HUSBAND TO DAD TO NOW WONDERING IF I'D BE EITHER AT THE END OF THE NIGHT. ”

– SHAWN



Noah and Nella Cate Roberts

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE

# FOUNDATION

## HELPING BABIES IN NEED

During pregnancy, many women experience morning sickness, but each year fewer than 200,000 pregnant women across the country experience hyperemesis gravidarum, or HG, an extreme version of morning sickness that includes severe nausea and vomiting. Women with HG are at risk for many health complications, including extreme fatigue, dehydration, muscle weakness and malnutrition. While pregnant with her son Noah, Courtney Roberts experienced HG so severe it kept her on bed rest throughout her pregnancy.

“It was a challenging pregnancy – I needed to take Zofran to keep food down and avoid extreme dehydration,” Courtney explained. “Since there has been so much public controversy regarding the use of Zofran during pregnancy I was reluctant to take it, however I did so when absolutely necessary.”

At 36 weeks, a month before her due date, Courtney went into premature labor and was rushed to the Tallahassee Memorial Alexander D. Brickler, MD Women’s Pavilion. Noah was welcomed into the world via emergency cesarean section, but he was in distress and so was Courtney. Her husband Shawn recalled, “Courtney was on her way to the ICU, her blood pressure was

sky high and Noah was struggling to breathe. I was paralyzed. I went from husband to dad to now wondering if I’d be either at the end of the night.”

Noah began a two-week stay in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare is home to the only NICU within a 150-mile radius. Babies are transported from across North Florida and South Georgia to receive the highly specialized care available at TMH.

“When Noah was born, it was a very bittersweet moment,” shared Courtney. “I looked forward to getting better and getting to know our baby, but he was having a hard time breathing and my health started to decline further. I was so helpless, unable to take care of my son, my husband or myself.”

Story continued on page 2.



Courtney was rushed to the intensive care unit for her high blood pressure, which impaired her vision. She held Noah for the first time when he was three days old. After a week in the hospital, Courtney was discharged, but she and Shawn decided to stay with friends close to TMH so they could spend as much time as possible with Noah while he was in the NICU.

Now, Noah is a proud NICU graduate and a healthy 6-year-old boy who loves watching out for his little sister, Nella Cate.

Not all babies in need of a NICU, like Noah, are born at TMH. In fact, last year alone there were 76 critically ill newborns transported to TMH to receive care in the NICU. When needed, a transportation team is dispatched via ambulance to bring these infants to the NICU. Not only is the medical team highly specialized, but the transport equipment is too. The transporter used to carefully relocate these babies is essentially a mobile NICU equipped with an incubator to keep the baby warm, a cardio-respiratory monitor, a ventilator and intravenous pumps for fluid and medication administration. Currently, the NICU transport team only has one transporter, limiting the number of



Noah Roberts in the NICU

critical need babies who can be transported to TMH. To help more newborns in this region, TMH is in need of a second transporter. The cost of a neonatal transporter is \$130,000 and it is crucial in safely delivering fragile newborns to TMH. If you are interested in making a gift to support this critical need, please visit [TMHFoundation.org](http://TMHFoundation.org), designate your gifts “babies” or call us at 850-431-5389.

## GOLF SKILLS CHALLENGE

**On November 13 at Southwood Golf Club, Steve and Wendy Rogers hosted the seventh annual Golf Skills Challenge presented by Sonny’s Bar-B-Que to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center and the Tallahassee Memorial Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).**



When told that TMH would need to order an additional Giraffe OmniBed for treating the premature babies in the NICU, Steve Rogers, founder of The Golf Skills Challenge, explained, “The goal when I founded The Challenge was to raise enough money to make a substantial difference in healthcare for the Tallahassee community. Knowing that The Challenge, through our many golfers and sponsors, has raised enough money to purchase the OmniBed for the NICU makes me very proud and is incredibly humbling. The Challenge is more than just a Rogers family effort. It includes many friends, local golfers and twenty or so local businesses all pitching in their time and money to make it successful.

We are also blessed by 80 student-athletes from the FSU Golf and Swim & Dive teams who volunteer their Sunday afternoon to make it all possible. Our Lord willing, we hope to continue making a difference in Tallahassee.”

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE AND ITS FOUNDATION SALUTE AND HONOR THE

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Dr. Sammie and Latrelle Dixon

# WHY I GIVE

**When we lose someone we love that loss leaves behind a wake of love and memories that can be difficult to fill. For Sammie and Kim Dixon, the loss of his parents created a void that needed to be filled. This is why they wanted to ensure the legacy of his parents lived on for years to come by establishing the Dr. Sammie and Latrelle Dixon Endowment through the TMH Foundation.**

“I inherited a passion for healthcare from my dad,” explained Sammie, Jr. “He and I both believed that the stronger a hospital is, the more vibrant the overall community will be.”

Sammie and Latrelle met and fell in love while still teenagers. Their bond quickly grew to make them an unstoppable team. They attended the University of Georgia where Sammie studied to become a pharmacist and Latrelle pursued her passion for music. Upon graduation, Latrelle taught high school music and Sammie took over as pharmacist at Dunaway Drugs in Marietta, Ga. Sammie’s plan was to moonlight as a pharmacist so he could attend medical school. He later went on to become an OBGYN in Tifton, Ga, where he delivered over 600 babies in 1980 alone. It was the same year he experienced a major myocardial infarction (heart attack). Latrelle never left his side throughout his recovery, his heart transplant, 15 heart stents and the many health complications associated with prolonged steroid use from his transplant.

“Mother was a graceful lovely woman who carried the highest level of integrity of any person I ever met,” added Sammie, Jr. “She was a strong, caring, no nonsense mother who placed her career on hold to raise me, my sister and brother and to be my dad’s rock.”

Latrelle was a soloist in the church choir where she shared her soprano voice each Sunday with the congregation and volunteered her time as president of the auxiliary at Tifton Regional Medical Center. From 1980 on, she and the family lived with an underlining fear that her husband could die from his health complications at anytime. She put her family first, even through her two battles with breast cancer.

“Latrelle beat breast cancer, but when it came back six years later, it did so with a vengeance,” explained Kim. “When Latrelle passed away, we knew we wanted to find a special way to memorialize our love and a focus on women’s health and breast cancer felt like the right way to honor her.”

“Mother was a graceful, lovely woman who carried the highest level of integrity of any person I ever met.



— Sammie, Jr.

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Sammie and Kim Dixon worked to establish the Dr. Sammie and Latrelle Dixon Endowment to benefit the Tallahassee Memorial Sharon Ewing Walker Breast Health Center. Through their generous gift, the Dixons are members of the A.D. Brickler, MD Legacy Society, which recognizes planned gifts and named endowments, as well as the M.T. Mustian Pledge Society, which celebrates generous annual contributions for a multi-year period, at the TMH Foundation.

Interested in learning more about the TMH Foundation? Please visit [TMHFoundation.org](http://TMHFoundation.org) or call 850-431-5389.



# FOUNDATION FOCUS

Mickey S. Moore, TMH Foundation President

## Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

As we begin this new year, I clearly recognize that my first six months as President at the TMH Foundation have come and gone. I could not be more pleased with my new beginning here – made all the more manageable by an open-armed Foundation team and Board of Trustees.

For these reasons, I wanted to focus on the Foundation of yesterday, today and tomorrow – no hard science here, just an opportunity to share a little on what I have learned about the history of this organization, to reflect on the state of the Foundation today, our ongoing efforts and to contemplate a little on our future together.

With its beginning in 1976, TMH Foundation was the brainchild of a group of community volunteers with the foresight and desire to make our region a healthier one. From what I have read, fundraising efforts previously were mostly unorganized and sporadic – this group aimed to meet the growing needs of the organization by raising and distributing financial resources to TMH in a more consistent and formal way. In 1977, TMH colleagues raised over \$20,000 to help purchase a full-body CAT scan – assisted by contributions from the Knight Foundation and the TMH Auxiliary. A few years later in 1980, the Foundation embarked on its first capital campaign and within two years raised \$1 million to benefit the Cardiac Cath Lab.

In the years since, the Foundation has raised monies to support TMH through special events, planned gifts/endowments and major gift solicitation. In its most recent history, TMH Foundation has grown in both its expectations and its impact. Raising millions of dollars under the leadership of Paula Fortunas and with a devoted team, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to bring support to TMH – including hosting the preeminent event in town, the Golden Gala! From Barbara Mandrell in 1984 to James Taylor in 2016, this single event has done more for our mission than any other in our history.

Today at the Foundation, we are moving smoothly amidst the obvious transition that brought me here. Primarily, our focus is on team building, developing our culture and sustaining philanthropic momentum in support of the hospital. More specifically, we are dedicating much needed time and attention to procedural reviews, process improvements and role clarifications – these inward views will enhance our ability to build even more long term, sustainable relationships.

As you would expect, we are also carving out time to think about tomorrow – more short term these days than long term. First and foremost, we are anxious to collaborate with our Board of Trustees to create our strategic plan for 2018-2019. Currently, the Foundation operates under TMH's five-year strategic plan, but most of those goals, objectives and initiatives are clinically focused, as they should be. However, we will ultimately develop our organization's own plan that will be centered on our mission – bringing philanthropic support to TMH. To build more long-term relationships in the future, we have to proactively connect with members of our community and we have to find meaningful ways for them to participate – if not, we won't be able to transform care, advance health or improve lives.

Thank you for your investments in all that we do at TMH, your hospital for life.

