

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE

# FOUNDATION

*Cards for a Cure Honoree*

**BETSY BURGESS**

I was 36 years old and in the prime of my life when my breast cancer story began. I had a great job as a shareholder at Carr Allison Law Firm, three precious little kids, a loving husband, a big boisterous extended family and fun, hilarious friends. I had just returned from a football filled weekend in September 2016 when I found the lump in the shower. I broke into a cold sweat. I made my husband feel it to make sure I wasn't hallucinating – he felt it, too. Despite my fear, I sprang into action and went through all the proper testing, concluding with a biopsy. I got “the call” at work. It was the most devastating moment of my life, yet looking back, it was just the beginning of a life-changing journey.

My medical team was spearheaded by both Shelby Blank, MD and Karen Russell, MD. Both physicians helped me decipher my early test results, strategically working out a surgical and treatment plan with me. Dr. Blank assured me my prognosis was good, comforting me with “This is just part of your story now.” I felt empowered – my team had a plan and I knew we could do this.



However, the toughest part of this whole adventure was telling my loved ones the news – enduring their own scared reactions, and initially not having any answers for them. At the time, my daughter was six and my twin boys were four. They accepted the news and, to my astonishment, handled my hair loss and physical changes like champions. From reassuring me that I looked pretty when I nervously wore my scarves and wigs, to fanning me with the nearest object whenever I had a hot flash from the treatment; they were my biggest cheerleaders.

“ I am now navigating the next phase of life as a cancer survivor. I am different, but better. ”



BETSY BURGESS STORY

My loved ones have often asked why this happened to me. I have no family history and have always been in good health, so my belief is that it is because I've been equipped to fight this since day one. I am now navigating the next phase of life as a cancer survivor. I am different, but better. My hair is curlier, and my perspective is much broader. I find fulfillment in reaching out and helping current patients through their journey - whether answering questions, accompanying them to treatments or just being a sounding board for venting.

At the end of the day, a lot of good has come into my life from this process and I am thankful for every day. Have I beaten cancer forever? The truth is we don't know, and that's ok. I hope and pray the day comes when I can say I have beaten cancer, because we as a community have beaten cancer, and found a cure.



# Cards for a Cure

## SAVE THE DATE

Electrotech, LLC presents the

# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Cards for a Cure

Benefiting the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center & Cancer Programs

*in honor of Betsy Burgess*

October 6, 2018 | 7 pm - 11 pm | Donald L. Tucker Civic Center

Entertainment by: All In One | Sponsor information:

JoAnne.Adams@TMH.ORG or 850-431-5931 | TMH.ORG/CardsForACure



# Welcome New Team Members

## JOANNE ADAMS & CHARLIE ADAMS



### JOANNE ADAMS

#### Director of Development

After falling in love with the Capitol City while attending Florida State University, JoAnne Adams decided to make Tallahassee her permanent home in 1998. A philanthropist at heart, she enjoys volunteering with the community and has raised her three daughters with the same strong philanthropic desire to serve and improve the lives of others.

JoAnne is a highly-creative and results-driven non-profit management professional with entrepreneurial passion, drive and vision. She has more than 20 years' experience and expertise generating revenue and increasing support bases for expanding national and local nonprofit organizations. She is highly regarded for her ability to connect personal passions with philanthropic endeavors, serving the best interests of both donor and community. Additionally, JoAnne has decades long experience in project and special events management, complemented with a strong background in marketing and public relations. JoAnne first became part of the TMH family in 2013, as the Communications and Programs Director for Premier Health and Fitness Center and a member of the steering committee for the TMH FOR LIFE Challenge. She has recently joined the TMH Foundation team as Director of Development.

JoAnne is married to Steve Adams and together they have a blended family of five children.



### CHARLIE ADAMS

#### Grants and Planned Giving Director

Charlie was born and raised right here in Tallahassee, Fla. He and his wife Kendra have been married for 13 years and have three children. Charlie is a graduate of both Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University, and received a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Tyler. Charlie has over seven years of fundraising experience working both locally and nationally during his time at the Florida State University College of Medicine. He and his family are very involved in local charities and support a variety of organizations. Charlie is also a veteran of the Marine Corps, serving in both Afghanistan and Iraq during his enlistment. Charlie has most recently joined the TMH Foundation team as the Grants and Planned Giving Director.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## The Ride for Hope

A fun-filled cyclist and wellness event for all ages, The Ride for Hope benefits the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center to help keep quality cancer care close to home. This year marked the 13th annual event and was in memory of Lou Farrah. A wildly successful event with hundreds of participants, it wouldn't have been possible without the Tallahassee community for all their support, and especially all of the sponsors including Southeastern Dermatology, WCTV, City of Tallahassee and many more.



## Mays-Munroe Have a Heart

The annual Mays-Munroe "Have a Heart" event, benefiting the Tallahassee Memorial Heart and Vascular Center, was held on Thursday, May 10 and once again brought in another great crowd. The event, which is held in honor of the late Ray Munroe Jr., featured music, a live and silent auction, a raffle and more. All of the donations from the event were designated for the Ray B. Munroe, Jr. PhD Endowment. Since the inaugural event, more than \$125,000 has been raised to benefit the heart and vascular services at TMH. Thank you to the Mays-Munroe family and team for hosting another great event, as well as all those who attended, supported and donated to this event.



## Cancer Speaker Series

On May 29, Florida State Basketball Coach Leonard Hamilton spoke at The One Healing Place Speaker Series at the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center. The event, hosted by the Harrison and Walker families, aimed to increase awareness of the state-of-the-art technology and cancer care available in Tallahassee. Many supporters attended the event to tour the Cancer Center and listen to Coach Hamilton share not only about some of the lessons he has learned and things he has experienced during his role as head coach for the FSU basketball team, but also about how cancer has affected his family directly – ultimately, making it one of his life missions to do everything he can to help find a cure. All funds raised through the event were donated to the TMH Foundation to support the Tallahassee Memorial Cancer Center and its patients.



## Animal Therapy Month

This July marked Animal Therapy Month at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare. In addition to spreading the word about this great program through patient stories, handler highlights and program education, the TMH Foundation also partnered with Aegis Business Technologies for their #Aegis1812 campaign, which highlights one local non-profit organization in the community. Between Animal Therapy Month at the hospital and the Aegis partnership, the Animal Therapy team got to have two interactive events – the first being an Animal Therapy Fair held in the hospital's Magnolia Lobby, which allowed both colleagues and patients alike to meet many members of the Animal Therapy team, and the second being a meet and greet event at the Aegis office. The TMH Foundation and Animal Therapy team sends their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported July's Animal Therapy Month!



# 2018 Tee Off for Tots

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Tee Off for Tots benefiting the Proctor Endowment for Children with Diabetes and the Tallahassee Memorial Children's Center

## TEE OFF FOR TOTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, October 29, 2018

8 am and 1:30 pm Double Shotgun Start

Golden Eagle Country Club | Tallahassee, FL

Rain Date: Tuesday, October 30, 2018

## JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED EVENING AT THE PAR-TEE FOR TOTS

Sunday, October 28, 2018

6 to 9 pm — Proctor Subaru

1707 Capital Circle NE

Tallahassee, FL 32308

[TMH.ORG/Car](http://TMH.ORG/Car)

# WIN

A NEW

2018 Honda Accord 1.5T Sport

**29** MPG CITY **35** MPG HWY



The TMH Foundation Update is produced by the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation  
1331 East Sixth Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32303 | 850-431-5389 | [Foundation@TMH.ORG](mailto:Foundation@TMH.ORG)

To make a secure online donation, we invite you to visit [TMHFoundation.ORG](http://TMHFoundation.ORG).