

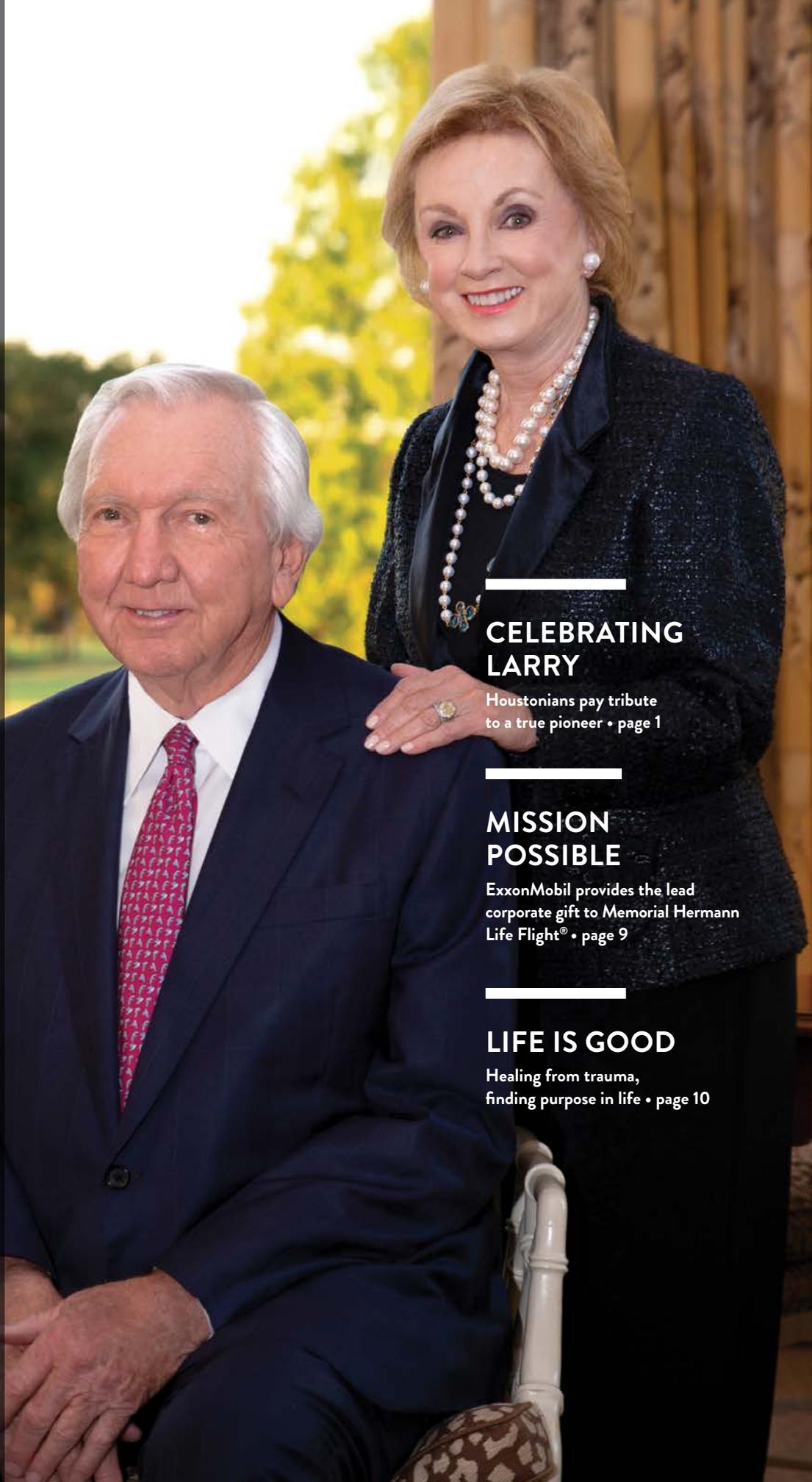
A PUBLICATION
FOR THE FRIENDS OF
MEMORIAL HERMANN

Memorial Hermann Foundation
SPRING 2024

ADVANCING THE

VISION

To health. TOMORROW'S PROMISE.



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DEAR FRIENDS,

One of the greatest joys of leading the Foundation is knowing and working with our donors. To me, you have become not only fellow supporters but cherished friends. Suzie and Larry Johnson are the perfect case in point. Over the years, we have all been honored to know this dynamic couple who have done so much to enrich the lives of others through their philanthropy.



Larry's unexpected death in 2022 was difficult for all of us. So, it was especially moving and meaningful to see his name live on as we christened the Larry

D. Johnson Heart & Vascular Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

Read on to hear more about the lives, love and generosity of Suzie and Larry Johnson.

And if you ever need a reminder of the tremendous impact of your gifts on our community, read the stories of two very appreciative Memorial Hermann patients who are here today against all odds.

Aren't we fortunate to know one another and do what we do?

Anne E. Neeson
Executive Vice President & CEO
Memorial Hermann Foundation



CELEBRATING LARRY

When Larry D. Johnson passed away suddenly on Jan. 5, 2022, Suzie, his wife of nearly 45 years, was determined to find a worthy way to honor the man we all knew and loved as a bigger-than-life community champion. "I think putting Larry's name at the corner of Fannin and Cambridge is the perfect tribute," she says. "It's exactly what I wanted for him."



Larry and Suzie Johnson married on Valentine's Day in 1978, a fitting way to begin their decades-long love affair. Together, they shared life's adventures with their five children and built an enviably happy family, an extraordinarily successful business and a reputation for their generosity in caring for others in need.

Larry's life story is a classic tale of triumph over adversity. He grew up in Kress, Texas, "a little town between Lubbock and Amarillo, population 400," as Larry described it, "so it was a little slow." His family lived on a 300-acre tenant farm where he helped work the fields from daylight to dark.

How remarkable it is that this humble beginning led to the life and legacy of Larry Johnson that we know today. After attending Texas Tech University

on a football scholarship, he went on to earn his law degree, "not because I wanted to be a lawyer," he would say, but as a path to a new life beyond the farm.

Happily leaving his short law career behind, Larry moved to Houston in 1962 to join a real estate brokerage firm. A few years later, he and a client partnered to form his first company, the sale of which provided the opportunity to start his own, now famous Johnson Development.

Larry understood and valued the importance of family, community and personal responsibility.

A true visionary, Larry pioneered master-planned communities in Houston and around the country that brought the best of small-town life to the big city. Where neighbors got to know one another through shared

community activities, and where every amenity, from shopping and schools to places of worship, was built right in. He understood and valued the importance of family, community and personal responsibility.



"I wanted to do something very special for Larry when he left us."

Suzie Johnson

He and Suzie shared this pioneering spirit and perhaps this is what drew them to become such devoted supporters of Memorial Hermann and a host of other institutions they believed in over the years.

In his honor, Suzie made a \$10 million gift through the Larry and Suzie Johnson Foundation to support the Heart & Vascular Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and Memorial Hermann Life Flight®. But she wanted to do more.

The icing on the cake would be to have his name permanently mark the spot where people come for hope and healing. The signage for the Larry D. Johnson Heart & Vascular Institute now welcomes

these patients from one of the busiest corners in the world-renowned Texas Medical Center.

"I wanted to do something very special for Larry when he left us," says Suzie. "This has been an easy decision. Memorial Hermann has meant so much to both of us."

The Larry D. Johnson Heart and Vascular Institute is a state-of-the-art, 230,000-square-foot, eight-story facility recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as a Top 50 program in the nation.

"What Larry and Suzie Johnson have done for Memorial Hermann and Houston is incredible," says Anne Neeson, Memorial Hermann Foundation's executive vice president and CEO. "It's only fitting that the Institute bears the name of one of our greatest champions and community leaders."



"What Larry and Suzie Johnson have done for Memorial Hermann and Houston is incredible."

Anne Neeson

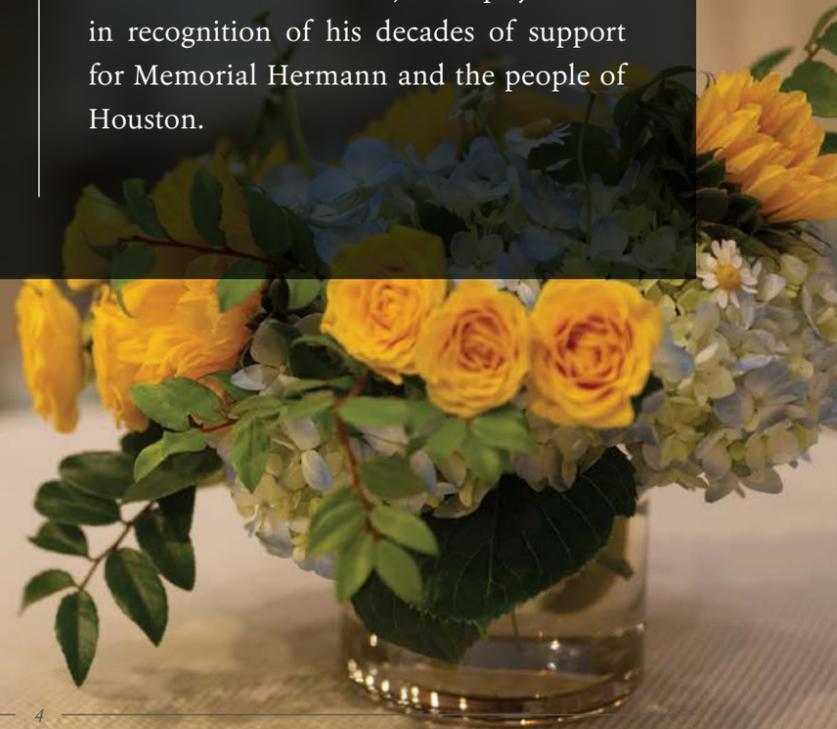


Suzie Johnson celebrated the renaming of the Heart & Vascular Institute as a special gift to her dearly departed husband, Larry, on March 7, 2024, what would have been his 84th birthday, at the iconic Cullen Pavilion.

Some 200 guests, including family members, friends, business associates, even business competitors, gathered with her in Larry Johnson's honor and to commemorate the

life of this extraordinary family man, real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist. It was an emotional evening, full of laughs and tears as guests shared memories of the many ways Larry touched their lives.

Guests were escorted through the entrance of the newly unveiled Larry D. Johnson Heart & Vascular Center, now aptly named in recognition of his decades of support for Memorial Hermann and the people of Houston.



Above: The Johnson Family



Nick Johnson speaking at the podium



Suzie Johnson



Mike Perrin, Melinda Perrin



Dr. David Callender, Suzie Johnson, The Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson



Gary Petersen, Ric Campo



Anne Neeson, Susan Sarofim



Vicki Montague, Suzie Johnson, Jim Montague



Leila Mischer, Suzie Johnson, Walt Mischer



Michael Smith, Lesli Smith



Philamena Baird, Arthur Baird

A CHANGE OF PACE

Kalyan Patel was on the verge of a diabetic coma when he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. With the guidance of Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, he now has the education and resources to successfully manage this life-changing disease.

In February 2023, Kalyan Patel was an active nine-year-old who loved playing sports and the drums.

When he began drinking more water and urinating more frequently than usual, his mom, Tejal, took him to see his pediatrician at Children’s Memorial Hermann Pediatrics Sugar Land.

Shariar Akter, MD, tested Kalyan’s blood sugar, and the results were shocking. Kalyan’s blood glucose level was nearly 600, almost six times what it should be.

In the nick of time

“Dr. Akter told us to head straight to the Emergency Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital,” says Tejal. “He seemed fine, but the test indicated he could be headed for a diabetic coma.”

The care team was ready the moment Kalyan arrived, quickly diagnosing type 1 diabetes. His ketone levels were also dangerously high, requiring immediate treatment to prevent life-threatening diabetic ketoacidosis or worse. Over a five-night hospital stay, the team stabilized Kalyan, safely lowering his blood sugar and ketone levels.

A diabetes crash course

Children’s Memorial Hermann provided special resources like a diabetes educator to teach Kalyan to give himself insulin injections and check his sugar levels every day.

“Our care plans are tailored to the unique needs of our patients,” says Malisha S. Patel, senior vice president and CEO at Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital and Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital. “We offer expert guidance on nutrition, exercise and medication management.”

“It takes careful planning,” says Tejal, “but we’re making this a lifestyle for our entire family, which can be challenging with the carb-centric Indian cuisine we love.”

“The worst part is that I can’t eat sweets whenever I want,” says Kalyan.

Diabetes doesn’t limit Kalyan if they monitor him closely. He still plays sports and now the piano, too.

While their lives certainly changed, the Patels are grateful for Kalyan’s pediatrician and affiliated care teams. “We got lucky,” says Tejal. “Everyone at Memorial Hermann was so supportive.”

“Kalyan seemed fine, but the test indicated he could be headed for a diabetic coma.”

Tejal, Kalyan’s mom



2024 CEO DINNER

Honoring Heroes in Health for their exceptional generosity and ongoing community support

On Jan. 17, 2024, Memorial Hermann Foundation treated Heroes in Health members making annual contributions of \$25,000+ to a special evening at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where they were privy to insights from David Callender, MD, president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Health System, and Foundation Chair Steve Trauber.

Special guest Annamaria Macaluso Davidson, MD, also shared a powerful personal account of Memorial Hermann care teams who diagnosed the rare and severe spontaneous coronary artery dissection that caused her sudden heart attack when she was pregnant with her fifth child. An emergency C-section and open-heart bypass surgery saved her baby's and her life.



1 Bill Easter, Barbara Easter • 2 Sheridan Williams, John Eddie Williams. • 3 Jim Postl, Steve Trauber, Greg Garland, Scott McLean • 4 Stacy Johnson, Jason Johnson • 5 Hallie Vanderhider, Bobby Dees • 6 Nina Hendee, Edd Hendee • 7 Dr. Annamaria Macaluso Davidson, Brandon Davidson • 8 Rosanna Blalock, Melinda Perrin, Suzie Johnson • 9 Karen Garcia, Roland Garcia • 10 Elda May, Matthew May

MISSION POSSIBLE

Community health champion ExxonMobil presented a \$5 million gift to support the Life Flight fleet of the future.

On Feb. 20, 2024, Memorial Hermann Foundation hosted ExxonMobil leaders on a tour of Life Flight in appreciation of ExxonMobil's \$5 million gift, the lead corporate gift for our \$55 million campaign to fund five new aircraft.

ExxonMobil is known for generously supporting health and safety initiatives in local communities around the globe. Here in Houston, they recognized the need for a modern, well-equipped Life Flight and stepped up in a big way to fuel future missions of this vital air ambulance service.

"It's a pleasure to partner with ExxonMobil as they further their work in support of Greater Houston," said Anne Neeson, executive vice president and CEO of Memorial Hermann Foundation. "Such philanthropic efforts are crucial to sustain this lifesaving community resource."

"ExxonMobil is honored to help bring a much-needed new fleet and expanded service to the community," said Alvin Abraham, president of the ExxonMobil Foundation. "Life Flight's mission and legacy strongly align with ours."



Aaron Young, Brian Chokola (Life Flight Crew) • Alvin Abraham (ExxonMobil Foundation) • Anne Neeson (Memorial Hermann Foundation) • Neely Nelson, Lupe Bustamante, Claudia Kreisle, Drew Gardner (ExxonMobil) • Greg Garland (Life Flight Campaign Co-Chair) • Tony Herrera, Sara Bridges (Life Flight Crew) • Scott McLean (Life Flight Campaign Co-Chair)

LIFE IS GOOD

Recovering from a devastating motorcycle accident that nearly killed him, Alexander Baas finds his purpose in life. “Out of all this pain came so much good,” he says.

At 29, Alexander Baas, born in Houston, had bounced around cities in Texas and Arizona before moving back home at the end of 2020. It took a while, but he found a job with a homebuilder and hoped for better days ahead. His life changed dramatically a few months later, and not in a good way.

As he was heading back to work on his motorcycle after a lunch break, an 18-year-old driver took an unexpected left turn in front of him. With no chance to avoid hitting the car, Alexander T-boned it, closing his eyes and hoping for the best.

Alexander’s 6-foot-7-inch body was thrown 50 feet in the air, landing face down in the path of oncoming traffic.

“A witness said I did a summersault. I don’t remember that. When I opened my eyes, I was planted on hot asphalt, Superman-style,” says Alexander. “I saw that my right hand was bent at a 90-degree angle. That was my first clue that things weren’t good.”

Alexander barely recalls arriving at the Level II Trauma Center at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Medical Center. Two hazy days later, doctors induced a medical coma based on the trauma team’s assessment of his severe injuries. A full 10 days after his accident, Alexander awoke and learned just how badly his body had been damaged.

“I thought I only had a broken wrist,” says Alexander, who can now easily rattle off a laundry list of medical terms. “I broke my tibia so badly it had come through my shin. I broke my left fibula in two places. I had exposed fractures of my right styloid, I broke my back in the thoracic area and had a severe abdominal injury.”

“When I woke up from my coma, I couldn’t believe all the work doctors had done to repair me.”

Alexander

Alexander remembers being in great pain as the doctors explained all the work they had done while he was in a coma, including multiple complex surgeries on his legs, a plate in his wrist, a titanium rod in his spine and major abdominal repairs.

“It was a lot to take in,” Alexander says. “God and I had a few conversations,” he admits now. “In anger, I asked, ‘Why did I have to suffer through all of this? Why am I still here?’” Alexander kept those feelings to himself at the time, and he is thankful for that now.

“I would never ask those questions today because I know why I’m here.”



“It’s fulfilling to come back and help other trauma survivors. It helps me too, so I am grateful for the opportunity.”

Alexander and his mom attended a Memorial Hermann National Trauma Survivor’s Day celebration in May 2023.

Alexander spent three weeks in intensive care, struggling to find the will to live. He credits Robert Cain, RN, one of his nurses, for recognizing his heavy mental state. “He showed up every morning out of nowhere to give me pep talks and pump me up,” Alexander says. “That’s when I realized what all of these people at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands had done to save my life.”

Alexander was so moved when Robert checked in on him that he nominated Robert for a national DAISY Award that recognizes nurses who go above and beyond. When Robert won, Alexander was there for the award presentation.

“He showed up every morning out of nowhere to give me pep talks and pump me up.”

Alexander, so moved by his nurse Robert’s care that he nominated him for a national DAISY award.

That’s where Alexander met Trauma Survivorship Coordinator Melanie Bradshaw who was developing an ambitious new support program at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands.



Alexander enjoys helping others heal, sharing his experience as a trauma survivor.



Alexander reunited with first responders and care teams who saved his life.

“Alexander is a shining light,” Melanie says. “I mean, talk about all the stars aligning. He’s so charismatic, so open and generous about sharing his perspective as a trauma survivor.”

Alexander eagerly accepted Melanie’s invitation in March 2023 to become her support group co-facilitator. He participates in virtual support group calls from his new home in San Antonio. “It’s fulfilling to come back and help other trauma survivors,” he says. “It helps me, too, so I’m grateful for the opportunity.”

“I couldn’t have done this without him,” Melanie says. “Our program is growing, offering survivors of severe traumatic injury the chance to talk with others who understand what they’ve been through.” In addition to holding the monthly support group, Melanie connects survivors to peer mentors along with a wealth of helpful local and national resources.

Alexander’s journey from that fateful motorcycle crash to the life he leads now has changed everything. “Out of all this pain came so much good,” he says. “I was taking life for granted. Now I have a real purpose.”

Your gifts to Memorial Hermann support trauma care, TIRR Memorial Hermann and the Trauma Survivorship Program.



PHILANTHROPY, FROM THE HEART, FOR THE HEART.

Places like the Larry D. Johnson Heart & Vascular Institute at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center change lives. Your generosity powers the possibilities of advanced technology and exceptional care.

Thank you to our Heroes in Health who go above and beyond to support care teams who do the same for us.

LEVELS OF GIVING \$1,000 • \$2,500 • \$5,000 • \$10,000
\$25,000 • \$50,000 • \$75,000 • \$100,000+





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VISION

Memorial Hermann Foundation

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The Larry D. Johnson Heart & Vascular Institute is a state-of-the-art, 230,000-square-foot, eight-story facility in the Texas Medical Center and is nationally recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*.