

2020



# GRATITUDE REPORT



**Tracey Clark**  
Executive Director

To say that 2020 has been a challenge is an extreme understatement. As we near the close of this unprecedented year, I write to you with heartfelt gratitude. Knowing that you have been affected in countless ways by this global pandemic, but that you still found a way to show support for the Foundation, leaves me humbled and thankful.

When we asked you to help the hospital secure additional PPE, you not only responded with generous financial gifts but also with essential handsewn face masks and surgical caps. Because of you, vital service lines remained open for those in need. When we asked you to help show our amazing care providers how much we value their sacrifices to keep us all safe and healthy, you responded with many Care Champion gifts and wonderful words of encouragement. Because of you, our exhausted hospital employees felt lifted and appreciated. You have gone above and beyond to show your love and support for your community hospital, and we thank you!

In this Gratitude Report you will read about an amazingly strong woman who survived COVID-19. You will learn about a beloved Care Champion who has been part of "Team Jennie" for over 40 years. We are proud of the successful launch of our Care Champion program that offers patients a unique way to say "thank you" to a care provider who has made a difference in their lives, while also ensuring that Jennie Stuart Medical Center can continue meeting the growing health care needs of our community. You will also find a special tribute from our CEO, Eric Lee, in appreciation of Dr. Ratilal Gajera upon his retirement. Dr. Gajera's contributions to JSMC, the EC Green Cancer Center and the Foundation Board are too numerous to count. I am beyond thrilled that he has agreed to continue his service on the Foundation Board for another term.

The Jennie Stuart Health Foundation is still young, only in our second year. Thank you for partnering with us in this early stage, and I look forward to many years of working together as we continue to improve the health of our community. I know we all agree that making sure every person has access to quality health care close to home, both now and for generations to come, is a worthwhile goal. As we prepare to bid 2020 farewell, please know that you have made a significant impact when most needed.

Warmest regards,

Tracey Clark, Executive Director

## **OUR MISSION:**

To improve quality of life in the communities served by Jennie Stuart Health by ensuring access to exceptional healthcare and supporting initiatives that promote wellbeing.

## **OUR VISION:**

To inspire meaningful giving that will allow Jennie Stuart Health to accommodate the growing healthcare needs of our communities and to expand services in response to advances in medicine and technology.

***"100% of your gift impacts lives"***



***"All of it is God. IT WAS A MIRACLE!"***

are the first words Wendy Mackie uses to describe her recovery from COVID-19. She understands better than most the toll that this global pandemic can have on an individual and their loved ones. Wendy shares her story in hopes that others can avoid the tremendous ordeal that she has endured.

In March, Wendy began experiencing a bad cough and shortness of breath. She went to the ER and was admitted to Jennie Stuart Medical Center with double pneumonia. Days later, tests confirmed that she had COVID-19, and shortly thereafter, she was placed on a ventilator in an induced coma to help her body fight the virus. Although Wendy has no memory of those tenuous days, she has been told that she nearly died three times. After 17 days on the ventilator, she remembers opening her eyes surrounded by the ICU team and hearing cheers of "You made it!" and "You are a fighter!"

She had cleared the most important hurdle, but Wendy still had much to overcome before she could return home to her husband and family. She had long days ahead of dialysis, multiple medications, occupational therapy and physical therapy. "You lose your limbs", she says of being in an induced coma for a prolonged period. She had to learn again how to walk and perform normal daily tasks. She remembers feeling frustrated and discouraged at times, but the ICU nurses were her cheerleaders and took time to explain what was happening. "The nurses were terrific, so caring and patient," Wendy recalls. "Especially Liz, she was amazing. She talked to me, encouraged me, and gave me a lot of care". Her Physical Therapist, Tammy, "was there every day.

She was my rock". During her entire hospital stay, Wendy was separated from her husband and children. She says her ICU team wanted to make sure she knew she was not alone. "They were my family away from family, and they made me feel special".

On April 27th, Wendy was so thankful to return home to her family. As she left JSMC, she received cheers through hallways lined with hospital staff to celebrate her victory over COVID-19. She was greeted outside by family and friends eager to see her after a month of separation. She is so thankful to be out of the hospital and back with her loved ones. That does not mean that the remainder of her recovery has been easy. She spent another month on dialysis while her body continued to heal. She continues to experience mild neuropathy, blood pressure issues, dizziness and fatigue. However, she has returned to work part-time and feels she is improving every day. Prior to her battle with COVID-19, she had been diagnosed with diabetes that was controlled with medication and she felt healthy. She now warns others to take precautions because COVID-19 really "takes a toll on people with other health issues".

Seven months after leaving the hospital, Wendy is looking forward to the holidays with her husband and children. Her husband, Kevin, their 23 year old son, Kevin II, who is an engineer in Maryland, and their 22 year old daughter, Katlyn, who is a student at Murray State University, will all get to be together. She and Kevin celebrated their 24th anniversary on November 30th. Wendy celebrated her 55th birthday on December 4th. "These milestones are very special to me because I lived to see them". Despite all she has been through, her faith remains strong and she gives thanks to God for every day.

"I'm glad I was at Jennie Stuart", Wendy says. "I believe if I had been at a big hospital, I would not have gotten the attention I did. I had a great team that cared for me, and I don't believe I would have lived without them". When asked what she wants others to understand about COVID-19, she says without hesitation, "This is a dangerous virus and people need to be aware. I don't want people to take this lightly. Take it seriously... take it to heart".

Thank you, Wendy, for courageously sharing your story so that others may benefit from your experience. We celebrate your recovery and wish you all the joys of this blessed holiday season.

*\*\* Your Doctor's Day and KY Gives contributions provided additional PPE necessary for our providers to care for every COVID-19 patient.*

# Recognizing Dr. Ratilal Gajera's 38 Years of Dedicated Cancer Care



**Eric Lee**  
President/CEO

It is a tremendous privilege and opportunity to acknowledge Dr. Ratilal Gajera's retirement from active Medical practice and express our personal THANKS to him for all that he has meant to Jennie Stuart Health, our E.C. Green Cancer Center, and to the Medical Staff and Employees of Jennie Stuart, for the four decades of uncompromising care that he has provided to the folks in our region.

Dr. Gajera tells me that Rita and his grandchildren are ready to have his attention "full-time", which we can certainly understand. Jennie Stuart did not have a comprehensive Cancer program, by any stretch of the definition, when Dr. Gajera and his wife Rita decided to move to Hopkinsville from New York City in the summer of 1982. Since that time, his expertise, dedication, commitment to his patients, and hard work have led the process of building and growing the E.C. Green Cancer Center, which through the years has emerged as one of the premier Cancer Centers in the State of Kentucky, and a Center that we are proud to call our own.

The fact that our community has great physicians like Dr. Mike Murray and Dr. Ramesh Patel is in large part because of Dr. Gajera's collegial approach to Oncology and the tremendous Cancer Center he has helped our organization build through four decades. Dr. Gajera has assured us that he isn't going anywhere - He plans to remain on the Medical Staff so he can help us with clinic coverage from time to time, and he is excited about his role with the Board of the Jennie Stuart Health Foundation, where he will work with Tracey Clark to lead us in our fundraising efforts for the E.C.Green Cancer Center. We are excited to congratulate Dr. Gajera as he enters this rewarding new phase of his life!

Eric Lee, President/CEO

Jennie Stuart Health

*"Rita and I came to this country when we were young believing that in America, it is possible to dream and find success. We chose Hopkinsville because it was a familiar sized town to us, and we wanted to feel a part of a community. We will never regret choosing Hopkinsville because of the way this community embraced us. We love our community, it is our home. Even our grandson who lives in Cincinnati calls "Hoptown" his home because it is where we are from and where his father is from. I am a dreamer, and in America dreams are possible. We wanted to make the EC Green Cancer Center the best place to receive treatment and care, and we have been able to do that. So much more is possible with cancer research and new treatments, and we will achieve those successes here too. The highest honor of my medical practice is the trust that patients have placed in me over the years. That is what means most to me. There have been many celebrations, and sadness too, but it is important that our patients know they are cared for at every step. There is great joy in knowing we have provided that. I may be retired now from my medical practice, but I am not going anywhere. We will still be involved in our beautiful community."*

**- Dr. Ratilal Gajera**

# CARE CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT

## Janice Johnson



Janice Johnson has been a vital part of the Jennie Stuart Medical Center team since 1974 when she worked summers in the dietary department. She remembers making salads, serving coffee on the breakfast line and helping deliver dining trays to patients. Long before she began working in the hospital, she knew she wanted to help people and thought of becoming a nurse. "I had a neighbor when I was a teenager that was blind and elderly. I helped her and her husband all the time," she recalls. "Also, my grandmother was a nurse's aide at Dr. P.C. Brooke's hospital here in Hopkinsville. I said then I was going to work in the hospital just like her." After taking a Health occupations class in high school, Janice was convinced she wanted to pursue a career in health care. Now she reflects over a long and meaningful nursing career in Women's Health, during which she has been present for her patients' most memorable moments.

Through her work in Obstetrics and Gynecology, she has calmed fears and celebrated great joys for multiple generations. "I have nursed for 42 years this year and loved every moment. It is a blessing to be able to touch someone's life by just a kind word or a smile or being there for the birth of their baby." Janice also adds, "I am so thankful for all my years of nursing and all the lives I have touched".

For those who have been touched by her warm smile, kind words, and encouragement, all would agree that Janice Johnson is truly an amazing Care Champion. We are incredibly thankful for you, Janice, for your many years of dedicated service to Jennie Stuart Medical Center and for all of the many lives you have impacted in our community!

*Care Champion contributions not only give recognition to special health care heroes, but also help Jennie Stuart Medical Center meet the ever-growing needs of our community.*



Care Champion gifts recognize Jennie Stuart care providers for their outstanding service. Over 200 Medical Professionals and Hospital Staff were recognized as Care Champions through gifts made to the Foundation in 2020.



If you would like to recognize a Care Champion,  
please donate online at

[www.JennieStuartHealth.org/Foundation](http://www.JennieStuartHealth.org/Foundation)

or call us at **270-887-0181**.

# 2020 DONORS

## 1914 Founders Circle

Cumulative Lifetime Giving

### Platinum Circle (\$500,000 +)

Bert and Nell Dorris Lilly Trust

### Gold Circle (\$100,000 - \$499,000)

Givens Family

### Silver Circle (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

### Founder Circle (\$25,000 - 49,999)

Anonymous

Lofton Alexander Trust

## Partners in Health

Annual Contributions

### Gold Partners (\$10,000 +)

Anonymous

### Silver Partners (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Pennyrile Radiology, PSC

Planters Bank

### Bronze Partners (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Leslie Carroll

Helen and Mike Cayce

Jennifer and John Maddux

Jenny and Rich Maddux

### Partners (\$250 - \$999)

Anonymous

Bikes and Moore

Janet Calhoun

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Clark

Tracey and Michael Clark

Mr. and Mrs. David Collins

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Francis

Lori and Rick Harper

Vicki Herman

JSH Radiology and

Medical Imaging Departments

Ladies Auxiliary VFW

Elizabeth and Hal McCoy

Dr. Mark Owusu

Dr. Lisa Radix

Save More Drugs

Marla and Hollis White

### Friends (\$25 - \$249)

Martha Allison

Anonymous

Mike and Judy Baker

Drs. Bob and Lana Bastin

Herbert Brandt

Linda and Breck Cayce

Cayce Mill Supply

Center of Insurance

Jaime Choate

Rich and Willee Cooper

Gayle Cordero

Sylvia Cornell

Mary Cother

John and Julia Crenshaw

Jewel Crick

Gerald and Mabel Downey

Rita Ezell

Jimmy Grant

Roger and Sandy Grogan

Carter and Faye Hendricks

Sharon and Ben Higgins

Robert Hilgartner

Kathryn and Bob Ison

Marshall and Denise Kellow

Terry V. Lacy

Ruth Fuller Lature

Linda Ledford

Charles and Fannie Louise Maddux

Jane and Bruce McInnis

Murray Radiation Oncology, PSC

Bill and Theresa Nichol

Tom O'Hagan

Carl and Diana Pate

Rick Paxton

Margaret Prim

Pam and Mike Quitter

Suki and Rick Rechter

Lewis Shortz

James R. Stokes

Loyce Stooksbury

Margaret and Mickey Toms

Steve and Shelley Tribble

Anita and James H. Walker

Monique Whitty

Tracey Williams

Alissa and Mark Young

\*\* The Foundation would like to express our gratitude for the many anonymous gifts received in 2020. Every contribution, no matter the size, enhances our ability to meet the growing health care needs of our community. We are deeply thankful for all of our generous donors.

## Memorials

The Jennie Stuart Health Foundation is grateful for the contributions made in memory of friends and loved ones who have passed. We are honored to be a part of the remembrance of these special individuals in 2020.

Helen and Mike Cayce

In Memory of Billie Lee Cayce

Trish and David Collins

In Memory of John Cotthoff, MD

Kathryn and Bob Ison

In Memory of Lenard Ezell

James R. Stokes

In Memory of Lyndon "Scrib" Goode, MD

Ladies Auxiliary VFW

In Memory of Edna Hall

Center of Insurance

In Memory of Bob Kilijian

Suki and Rick Rechter

In Memory of Lannie Ross

Helen and Mike Cayce

In Memory of Delores Shimp

Our community volunteers were essential to our hospital's operations as we navigated the pandemic in 2020. Thank you to all who donated your time and talents to sew face masks and surgical caps and to make PPE face shields for our hospital staff. We greatly appreciate our community partners who donated PPE in a time when supplies were difficult to obtain. And to all who brought food, posted signs of support, shared words of encouragement, and held prayer vigils, please know we are deeply grateful. This has truly been a community-wide effort, and together we will overcome.

# A Word From Our Board Chair



**Breck Cayce**  
Chair

Just over two years ago, Jennie Stuart Health had the vision to create a Foundation to provide sustaining support for our beloved community hospital. I have had the honor to serve as chairperson of the Jennie Stuart Health Foundation Board in its first years. It has been a great pleasure to serve alongside invested, engaged, and experienced board members who understand what a strong Foundation can mean for our hospital.

We are fortunate to still have an independent community hospital, as this is increasingly rare in towns of our size. I am certain we can all recognize the important role our hospital fills in the structure of our community. We are blessed with highly talented medical providers and many dedicated staff, our most valuable resources. The hospital is committed to expanding service lines to accommodate growing health needs. Our Foundation will not only support this expansion but will also help ensure the longevity of Jennie Stuart Health.

I will be turning over the chair position to Tracey Williams next year. She has extensive experience with foundation work and will provide excellent leadership to the Foundation Board. I plan to stay involved with the board for another term, and I am looking forward to exciting opportunities awaiting us in 2021.

Our Foundation brings together people with great love for our community and passion for making sure everyone has access to expert care right here at home. Thank you for believing in this mission. I know with your continued support we will see exponential growth resulting in improved services and outcomes for all.

Warm regards,

Breck Cayce, Chair

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tracey Williams  
Vice-Chair



Eric Lee  
Secretary



John Maddux  
Treasurer



Ratilal Gajera, M.D.



Lori Harper



Elizabeth McCoy



Derrick Watson

## FOUNDATION STAFF



Tracey Clark  
Executive Director



Sarah Francis  
Development Specialist

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## YOUR DOCTOR'S DAY AND KY GIVES CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED:



**40 Cases**  
Hospital Grade  
**Disinfectant Wipes**



**1,000**  
**N95 Face Masks**



**20 Cases**  
Alcohol Foam  
**Hand Sanitizer**



**1,700**  
**Face Shields**



**950**  
**Isolation Gowns**



Volunteers donated their time and sewing skills to provide our care providers with over **1000 face masks** and over **500 surgical caps**. These donations helped preserve the hospital's PPE and ensure essential service lines could remain open.



### YOUR TREE OF LIFE CANCER CARE FUND GIFTS PROVIDED:

- Transportation Assistance
- Compression Sleeves
- Wheelchairs
- Financial Assistance for Patients Experiencing Barriers to Treatment

**Operation**  
 **Love**

*Your Operation Love gifts assisted hospital employees affected by COVID-19's economic impact on our hospital operations.*

You can find Jennie Stuart Health Foundation's full 990 report on our website at [www.jenniestuarthealth.org/Foundation](http://www.jenniestuarthealth.org/Foundation).