



TruFriends

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

SPRING 2016

Gabrielle spent three weeks in TMC's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she received high-quality, loving care and the attention of so many.

LOVE, COMMUNITY AND COMPASSIONATE CARE

A GRATEFUL PATIENT STORY

In a poignant moment at the White Coat Gala, one of TMC's grateful patients stood onstage as the emcee read her story to the audience. One of the doctors who cared for her then walked onstage and greeted the thankful family with an embrace.

Fantashia Freeman Syananzu and her husband George felt touched and called it "truly an honor" to represent TMC and share their story of compassionate care.

Fantashia, a native Kansas Citian, and George, from Zambia, Africa, met at church. The two wed and expected their first child in the spring of 2016.

In January, after a day of teaching computers to elementary school students, Fantashia went to bed feeling healthy. Very early in the morning, she woke with excruciating pain in her stomach that continued to worsen. Being only 33 weeks pregnant she worried about her baby and prayed for guidance.

"I knew it wasn't the baby causing the pain," stated Fantashia. "I needed to go to the hospital."

Fantashia's mom Opal picked her and George up from their home and drove straight to Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill's emergency department. There, the triage nurses took her blood and tested her for everything.

The doctors then rushed in as Fantashia's blood work showed elevated liver and kidney function, indicating a severe case of preeclampsia. The only cure is to deliver the baby, and they needed to perform an emergency caesarean section.

Continued inside



Dr. Blake Porter, representing Fantashia's life-saving TMC care team, greeted the new family onstage during the White Coat Gala.

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A NOTE FROM TMC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KARLYN WILKINS
Executive Director,
TMC Charitable Foundation

ON APRIL 9TH, we hosted our White Coat Gala at the Downtown Marriott for over 750 guests. I left that evening feeling inspired by the generosity of our community as the event raised a remarkable \$460,000 to address TMC's areas of greatest need.

The program featured a video entitled *TMC: The Heart of Kansas City* and two grateful patient stories. It concluded with a powerful performance and keynote address by Dr. Ronan Tynan. The post-event dessert reception was abuzz with excitement for our health system, our patients and our clinicians.

I invite you to watch the video and share it with friends and colleagues. It's available on our homepage at TMCGiving.org.

As always, we are truly grateful for your support.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karlyn" with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.



Dr. Ronan Tynan, renowned Irish tenor, Paralympic champion and orthopedic physician.



Fantashia, holding baby Gabrielle onstage during the White Coat Gala.

LOVE, COMMUNITY AND COMPASSIONATE CARE *Continued from Cover*

Because of her severe pain, doctors gave Fantashia a spinal block. "This was scary, but the nurses were so attentive to me," she shared. "One nurse hugged me the entire time so I stayed still during the spinal block."

Meanwhile, George had contacted his family in Africa. Even with an eight-hour time difference, his family, friends and neighbors gathered for a prayer vigil. They spent sleepless nights thinking of Fantashia and her baby.

Within the hospital, another strong community surrounded the Syananzus. Fantashia's doctors remained in the operating and recovery rooms along with a nurse who stayed well after her shift ended. Her mom and sister kept watch, even sleeping in uncomfortable chairs. They all stood by, concerned for Fantashia and her baby, wanting to show their support.

After a successful surgery, the Syananzus welcomed a baby girl, Gabrielle Chisunke Malaika, into the world. Gabrielle spent three weeks in TMC's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she received high-quality, loving care and the attention of so many.

Early in Fantashia's pregnancy, doctors diagnosed her with gestational diabetes, putting her in a high-risk category. She met with the high-risk doctors on a regular basis, and the Syananzus felt reassured knowing a team of expert doctors and nurses were on her side.

"The staff at TMC is wonderful. I've always felt that way, and that's why I chose to have my baby here," states Fantashia.

Nearly four months later, baby Gabrielle is thriving. Fantashia continues to teach and give back to her community here in KC and in Africa as founder and president of Heaven Sent Charities.

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A PROVIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

WHY I SUPPORT TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTERS

Dedicated to his profession and his community, Kendall McNabney, MD, found a permanent and welcome home at TMC.

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT TMC?

I've spent virtually my entire life at TMC. I began in the residency program sponsored by the University of Missouri and trained at old General Hospital. I met my wife at General when we still had open wards. She was the Head Nurse of the male surgery floor. I spent forty years as a provider in this system in trauma and surgery.

I vote with my feet. The standard of care at TMC is first class, and I'm a regular patient. Physicians want to train in a good teaching hospital like TMC. It's now easy for us to also get our care here. That's important.

The **STANDARD** of
CARE is **FIRST CLASS** and
I'm a **REGULAR PATIENT.**

WHAT IS YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH TMC?

During the late 60's and early 70's, Kansas City experienced a lot of unrest like many other cities. Most emergency rooms focused only on clearing the streets and did not practice traditional medicine.

When I returned from Vietnam in 1970, I mentioned my interest in trauma to the new hospital executive director. He then asked me to take over the emergency department (ED) which was causing him a few headaches.

We were one of the first city hospitals during this time to get organized, starting with the ED. We interacted with the community and the first responders on a regular basis. Our clinicians were trained specifically in emergency medicine.

Before only nurses were permanent staff members in this department. Now, we have permanent doctors along with emergency medicine residents and interns.



KENDALL MCNABNEY, MD, received recognition during the White Coat Gala for his many contributions and 40+ year service to Truman Medical Centers.

WHY IS TMC IMPORTANT FOR KANSAS CITY?

The ED is the front door to a hospital, and that is even more so in a safety-net hospital. It's our responsibility to provide that service – and to do so well. We are fortunate at TMC to have leadership that believes everyone deserves privacy, cleanliness and the best care possible. This concept is hard-wired into me.

FINAL THOUGHTS

TMC is where you're needed and can make a difference.

Now that I have retired, though, I will only be a consumer of healthcare at TMC. I'll receive routine physicals until I'm 100 years old!

PRESERVING A PROUD HERITAGE

TMC's history came alive during the White Coat Gala through historic images on posters and in the program guide.

Sister Mary Kay Liston, CSJ, D.Min, volunteers as TMC's archivist and catalogues these artifacts to preserve the history of City Hospital, General Hospital and now TMC.

When Sister Mary Kay arrived at TMC in 2009, she began sorting through 30 boxes and a five-drawer filing cabinet full of unidentified items that former staff members had collected for safe-keeping.

She found a 1930 newspaper clipping of the new minority patient hospital; an original letter from a doctor sharing his KC healthcare experiences; portraits from the nursing school graduating classes; and so on.

Over the years, Sister Mary Kay has worked with individuals, including Dr. Kendall McNabney, to understand the oral history, identify people in photos and pinpoint key milestones.



Left to right: Margot Thornhill, Kendall McNabney, MD, Sister Mary Kay Liston, Nan Noback, Richardson Noback, MD. Together, these individuals are preserving TMC's history and putting together an oral history of life and work on Hospital Hill.

Front Cover: Built in 1873, Kansas City's original City Hospital was designated to serve Kansas City's minority population in 1915.

The TMC Archives stand as a place where people can donate objects, photos and other memorabilia of time spent here at TMC. It's a place where these items will be properly preserved, cared for and catalogued so that Kansas Citians can view them for years to come.

As funds and space allow, Sister Mary Kay plans to create exhibits such as the nursing one now on display at TMC Hospital Hill. To view the display or to learn more about the Archives, contact the Charitable Foundation at 816.404.3430.

CALENDAR

JUNE 10, 2016

Golf Baby Golf!
Tournament

SEPTEMBER 29,
2016

MidCOAST Event
hosted by Truman
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2016

Golf
Baby!
Golf

10th Anniversary

Benefitting
TMC Lakewood

Friday, June 10th

WinterStone Golf Course Independence, MO

Golf Baby Golf will feature our signature helicopter Golf Ball Drop. Three lucky winners will take home great prizes!

This event has earned recognition for the second straight year from *The Independent* as one of the Top Five Golf Tournaments of 2015!

Sponsorship and special underwriting opportunities are available.

Call 816.404.3430 or contact TMCGiving.org

Presenting Sponsor

