Together, we have Impact
We are moved by the spirit of generous people.

They dance to end cancer.
They honor those they lost by assuring the future of others.
They help with the little things so there’s reserve for the big things.
They put their company behind the cause.
They reach across the generations.
They move medicine forward for all of us.

These are our donors.

Giving is only the half of it. It’s what we accomplish together that makes the difference for so many.
How Can We Advance Research?
WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE THIS LATEST GIFT?
Bill Davis: The progress Dr. Awad and his team have made is remarkable, offering a clear path to solutions that could have a major impact for people at risk for certain types of stroke. We did not want to see this momentum slow. We’re hoping that for certain brain conditions, Dr. Awad’s research can lead to a cure.

Judy Davis: We feel very privileged to be part of it.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO SUPPORT UCHICAGO MEDICINE AND DR. AWAD IN PARTICULAR?
Bill Davis: I was familiar with and interested in the University as a research institution. Then I had my own health situation and the best person in the country to handle it was at UChicago: Dr. Awad. He did a remarkable job taking care of me and, as I got to know him better, I developed a lot of confidence in his approach to research.

Judy Davis: I was very impressed with the expertise and professionalism of the care Bill received. Dr. Awad saved my husband’s life. This is one way of giving back.

HOW DO YOU EDUCATE YOURSELVES TO MAKE AN INFORMED GIFT THAT CAN HAVE THE MOST IMPACT?
Bill Davis: We do our homework on the need to be addressed, what the research is trying to accomplish, and its potential impact on care. We also educate ourselves about the person, team, and organization we’re gifting to satisfy ourselves they’re properly equipped, staffed, and supported to get the job done.

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT MEDICINE RIGHT NOW?
Bill Davis: Electronic sharing and analysis of data. This allows institutions working on the same problem to collaborate as teams, and is a feature of Dr. Awad’s project, which involves partnership with other research groups around the world. Also, genomics has moved to the core of medical research, which has accelerated productivity—it’s amazing how fast teams can run tests. Combined with smart, dedicated people, there are capabilities today that didn’t exist previously to make real progress.

HOW DO YOU REFLECT ON THE UNIQUE ROLE PHILANTHROPY, AS DISTINCT FROM OTHER FUNDING STREAMS, CAN PLAY IN SPURRING MEDICAL RESEARCH?
Bill Davis: The federal government doesn’t fund research until it is pretty far along, so philanthropy is at a premium in jump-starting research. In the U.S. today, the first phase of research will simply not get done without philanthropy.

Judy Davis: Philanthropy also helps with recruitment. Our gift will allow Dr. Awad to hire a specialist nurse to manage clinical trials, for instance.

THE RETURN GIFT:
STROKES OF INSIGHT

Surgery by Issam A. Awad, MD, saved the life of retired business executive Bill Davis when he was diagnosed with a rare brain condition. To give back and help others with brain disorders, Bill and his wife Judy of Winnetka, Illinois, established the Judy and Bill Davis Research Fund in Neurosurgery in 2013. Their initial gift of $1 million helped fuel work by Dr. Awad and his team that identified potential new ways to detect, diagnose, and treat vascular malformations in the brain that can lead to stroke. Building on this impetus, the Davises have now committed an additional $1 million to help Dr. Awad’s lab launch clinical trials that can bring these prospective new therapies and tools to patients.
THE EMPLOYEES ARE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CAMPAIGN.
“\textquote{I want to brag about our employees—they have really gotten behind this. They’re going into the community, bringing people in, and asking for donations from schools and businesses. To be honest, it’s got a life of its own now.}”

IT’S A COMPANY-WIDE ENDEAVOR.
“\textquote{This has been the biggest team-building event that we’ve ever had. Everybody’s behind it; everybody gets into it. It’s really brought our company together. We have competitions for who can raise the most. And there are a lot of different ways to win. And it keeps restarting, so during the 17 days, you can win the first week, second week, or last three days. You can win the whole thing. You’re always in it.}”

IT CAN SERVE AS A RECRUITMENT TOOL.
“\textquote{We’re actually hiring people because of Round It Up for Lymphoma. When we ask, ‘Why did you come into Family Video?’ they answer, ‘We saw how great you do with your lymphoma program, and I want to come work for a company like that.’ It’s just making the company feel really good.”}

THE COMPANY-WIDE GIFT: FAMILY VIDEO’S CHANGE ADDS UP

Keith Hoogland, president of Family Video, knows how to run a successful fundraising campaign. For the past five years, Family Video—the country’s largest video and game rental store chain with approximately 780 stores across North America—has held the 17-day Round It Up for Lymphoma campaign, during which every customer is asked at the register to round up their purchase to the nearest dollar and donate the change to support lymphoma research. In 2016 alone, the company raised $1.15 million.

A primary beneficiary of the campaign is the University of Chicago Medicine, where it’s provided instrumental support in establishing the Hoogland Lymphoma Biobank under the direction of Soni Smith, MD. Through the Biobank, which was established in 2013, tissue specimens from patients with this blood cancer are collected, along with information about their diet, lifestyle, and other factors that could play a role in the cancer’s growth.

The round-up campaign, says Hoogland, “is one of my favorite times of year”—a time when he and Family Video’s customers and employees all rally around an incredible cause. Here, Hoogland shares some things he’s learned over the lifetime of the campaign.

CUSTOMERS WANT TO SUPPORT LOCAL INSTITUTIONS.
“\textquote{Even though we have stores all over North America, we’re a Midwestern company, headquartered in Springfield and Glenview, Illinois. I think when our customers see that the funds are going to the University of Chicago, which is local, and we explain that we’re building a biobank and that 100 percent of the proceeds go directly to funding research for lymphoma, our customers feel a connection to it.”}
Jackson Froelich was planning his social action project for his Bar Mitzvah when he got news last September that his aunt, bestselling author and filmmaker Amy Krouse Rosenthal, had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. “Right there, I decided to dedicate it to her,” he recalled.

He set about organizing a dance marathon to raise funds for ovarian cancer research at the University of Chicago Medicine where Amy was undergoing treatment. “I wanted to do something that combined my love of my aunt with my passion for dancing,” said Jackson, whose dancing skills have earned him a coveted spot on the roster of the Chicago BullsKidz dance team known for its acrobatic routines during timeouts at Bulls home games. He also wanted an event that would celebrate his aunt’s exuberant spirit. Besides writing books for children and adults, Amy is known for her “Beckoning of Lovely” project, a series of public gatherings at which participants are encouraged to collaborate on creative projects and commit random acts of kindness.

Roughly 100 people—ranging in age from four to 75, novice hoofers side-by-side with dance-floor veterans—showed up for “Jackson’s Dance-A-Thon for a Cause,” held the week after his Bar Mitzvah in December in Highland Park, Illinois. Turnout far outstripped expectations—a measure of the number of lives Amy has touched. It was also testimony to Jackson’s efforts in securing sponsors, soliciting donations, and getting the word out. The hard work paid off; the event raised $23,000 to support the work of Amy’s doctor, UChicago’s Ernst Lengyel, MD, PhD. In his research, Lengyel has pushed understanding of ovarian cancer and how to treat it. He’s also a renowned surgeon and physician with whom Amy felt an instant rapport. “She was drawn to his expertise and ability to relate to the patient,” said her sister and Jackson’s mom, Katie Krouse Froelich.

Amy was too sick to attend Jackson’s fundraiser but, thanks to Dr. Lengyel’s care, she was in remission by April when Dr. Lengyel and his team took time out from their 80-hour work week to conduct Amy, Jackson, and Katie on a guided tour of their lab.

“It was an incredible gift for her to see the dedication of the people working behind the scenes to find a cure for this disease,” said Katie.

It also put a human face on the research operation, Katie added.

“They’re working so hard. Some days they make progress but others not so much, and something as simple as a thank you card can really lift everyone’s spirit and boost their energy. It’s a reminder to stay kind, that no thank you is too small.”

Today, Amy is doing well, Jackson said. “She’s done with treatment and, as of now, cancer-free, so she’s back home living her normal life.”

“You can’t say normal of course, because it’s not normal, it’s extraordinary,” he added. “But she’s living her life one minute at a time.”
THE GIFT OF FRIENDS:
RALLY TO END DIABETES

When Margie Teller’s daughter, Rachel, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 18 months old, Margie was compelled to take action. She wanted to make a difference for families living with diabetes. She founded Friends for the Cure, a group that brings together her friends and business associates to rally for the cause.

Friends for the Cure has championed nine galas to raise money for diabetes research. Three hundred attended the first gala in 2005, and that doubled in 2015. All proceeds were directed to diabetes research, and since 2014, solely to benefit the University of Chicago Medicine Kovler Diabetes Center, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary.

“We switched Rachel’s care to Kovler three years ago,” she said. “I am so impressed with the physicians and staff there, and they make such a difference in my daughter’s life. Kovler was the only place that treated her whole self. Seeing and experiencing that motivated me to turn our efforts exclusively toward them.”

Margie feels it’s important to give to organizations like Kovler because of cuts in government funding for science research.

“It is getting harder and harder for researchers to find money. The more we raise on our own equates to more time researchers can spend in the lab. I know that if a cure is found it will either be at Kovler, or they will have contributed in a major way. I am thrilled to be a part of that.”
THE THANK-YOU GIFT: ACKNOWLEDGING A TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

Before coming to medical school at the University of Chicago, Melvyn Sterling was an engineer. Medical physicist Lester Skaggs, a pioneer in the use of radiation to treat cancer, hired him to run the University’s analog computer facility.

“I did mathematical modeling of biological systems, and physicians would bring medical problems that they wanted to figure out an answer to,” Melvyn says. But then he started thinking about going to medical school. He asked then Dean of Students Joseph Ceithaml, who worked in the same building as Melvyn, whether he should apply.

“He said, ‘If you don’t do it, you’ll hate yourself the rest of your life,’” Melvyn remembers. “It was one of those transforming moments.”

While Melvyn was in medical school, his wife, Patricia, worked as a registered nurse in Hyde Park. The couple also raised three children—two of whom later became doctors.

After Melvyn graduated in 1975, the Sterlings moved to California, where they’ve lived since. Melvyn practices internal medicine at St. Joseph Hospital in Orange, California. He also developed and runs the hospital’s palliative care program, where he helps people with terminal diseases and chronic illnesses manage their symptoms.

“We deal with suffering,” says Melvyn, who also developed the first medical school palliative care curriculum when he taught at the University of California, Irvine. “And we’ve been able to decrease the cost of health care by prospectively addressing symptoms like uncontrolled pain, uncontrolled nausea, vomiting, severe depression—addressing those symptoms effectively will decrease the risk of the patient returning to the hospital for treatments that could have been avoided.”

The Sterlings recently made a gift to the University of Chicago Medicine to support research in palliative care and type 1 diabetes, which their granddaughter suffers from.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT RESEARCH?
Melvyn: I think donors can have an impact on the future of their children and their grandchildren. Making donations to research provides the flexibility and independence not reliably available for researchers through government or industry financing. It also gives the donor some measure of control of where the money goes and how it’s used.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO?
Melvyn: Going to medical school at the University of Chicago truly changed my life. I have tremendous respect for the capability of the University, and I obviously have a tremendous interest in palliative care. I know the University of Chicago can advance palliative care and diabetes research in the ways that it has advanced other aspects of health care, and that will be good for my kids and my grandkids.

Patricia: What a special gift the University of Chicago gave to us and to our future and the future of our family. It was a stimulating, warm, and friendly environment, so it was wonderful for our whole family. We feel it’s important to pay it forward.
How Can We Honor a Life?
The Gift of Aid: Extending One Legacy to the Next

Mary Jo Bradley has a favorite story about her daughter Margaret. It was when Margaret was a senior in high school, competing in the state cross-country meet. One of the girls in Margaret’s division was her rival, a girl named Jessica. The two were running neck and neck through the entire race, until Jessica stumbled and fell. Instead of continuing to run, Margaret stopped. She reached down to help Jessica up. “Then they just went on running together,” says Mary Jo. “I don’t actually know who won that race.”

Margaret went on to college at the University of Chicago, where she double-majored in biology and earth sciences, played violin in the University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and ran track and cross-country. She took an extra term to complete her double major and to complete one of her medical school courses before starting at the Pritzker School of Medicine in 2003.

In 2004, just after Margaret had completed her first year at Pritzker, she passed away from heat exhaustion while running in the Grand Canyon, after attempting to find help for an injured companion. To memorialize their daughter, Mary Jo and her husband, Keith, created the Margaret L. Bradley Scholarship Fund, an endowed fund to support Pritzker medical school students. The scholarship is awarded each year to a second-year student who values the same things Margaret did: music, athletics, the outdoors, education, leadership, and service.

“We just wanted to try to help in some way to reduce the cost for even one medical student,” says Keith.

Supporting the University of Chicago specifically was important to them, in part because Margaret loved her time there so much. But it was also because of the people who make up Pritzker’s community. “The support from the medical school was unbelievable,” Mary Jo says. Dean for Medical Education Holly Humphrey, MD, called several times when they were in Arizona and went to Massachusetts for Margaret’s funeral. “Dean Humphrey sets an example for the students,” Mary Jo says. “Compassion is incorporated into their whole education.”

The Margaret L. Bradley Scholarship Fund has grown over the years thanks to gifts from family and friends. In 2007, the year Margaret would have graduated from Pritzker, a group of faculty contributed $8,000 to the scholarship fund, and her classmates contributed another $2,000. The Bradleys recently made another gift to the scholarship fund for the Legacy Challenge, the University of Chicago’s campaign to support scholarships for MD and PhD students.

It’s an effort that shows how Margaret touched people when she was alive. “Still every year, around the anniversary of Margaret’s death,” Mary Jo says, “we’ll get a note that some of her friends remember her dearly and have contributed to the fund.”

“I think Margaret would be amazed,” Mary Jo says, “and humbled by the fact that these exceptional people are receiving a scholarship in her name.”
WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO DR. COHN’S RESEARCH?
Allan Bittker: We are fortunate to have the opportunity to give and plan to continue supporting pediatric cancer research. And it’s very heartwarming to us that Dr. Cohn and other researchers have made great strides in the last eight years. Dr. Cohn, who has dedicated a great portion of her life to this disease, is always searching for new approaches and is extremely dedicated to the cause. We are very confident that tremendous advances will come from her work.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO ESTABLISH THE MATTHEW BITTKER FOUNDATION?
Ellie Bittker: Most families impacted by neuroblastoma spend a lot of time in and out of a hospital. During Matthew’s treatment, we decided that, regardless of the outcome—good or bad—we needed to raise money for pediatric cancer research in hopes of finding a cure. We witnessed too many kids suffering with no hope or limited options. Like many pediatric cancers, neuroblastoma is woefully underfunded. We decided, as a family, to make a difference and offer a brighter future for children diagnosed with cancer and specifically neuroblastoma patients.

WHAT TYPES OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS HAVE YOU SPEARHEADED?
Allan Bittker: Our efforts have been grassroots. One of our major fundraisers is a weekend summer baseball tournament in Franklin, Michigan. Matthew loved baseball and always enjoyed watching games at the park. Another major fundraiser is a shopping card sold during the fall. For a two-week period, cardholders receive 20 percent off their purchases at a number of national and local merchants. It’s a win for cardholders, merchants, and pediatric cancer research. These efforts would not have been possible without tremendous support from the community, friends, and family friends who have worked tirelessly to help.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE IS THE OUTCOME OF YOUR PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS?
Ellie Bittker: Matthew had many friends in the community. He was always very kind and giving, even when he wasn’t feeling well. There’s a tremendous amount to learn from his attitude and optimism. Aside from keeping his memory alive, our fundraising efforts bring awareness to the tremendous need for pediatric cancer research. The fact that people continue to give eight years later is very touching. Furthermore, the process has reinforced the importance of community service and helping others.
As I cared for my mother during the last couple of years of her life I was buoyed by the support I received from her former colleagues, family members, friends, and other caregivers. We were drawn together by common experiences with my mother’s sardonic wit, intelligence, patient acceptance of the human condition, determination, and love.

After her funeral in July 2015, I began to think about ways to sustain my mother’s memory. She had often spoken of how her challenging childhood shaped her, but I know her undergraduate and graduate years at the University were equally formative. My mother entered UChicago as a precocious 16-year-old, graduating before her 19th birthday. The University was happy to take on her hunger for knowledge and a tendency to deconstruct and reassemble everything she learned. It was a safe haven for her from the hostile world of the 1930s and, in the 1950s and ‘60s when Mom returned for her graduate work, a place where a woman’s intellect could earn respect. Through acquaintances at UChicago she met my father and forged lifelong friendships. The sense of community she gained there nourished her throughout her life.

There are many ways to be philanthropic and it’s difficult to choose what to support knowing you can’t address every need. As I think about it though, I realize that my gift to the University supports the essential purpose of higher education: to foster intellectual curiosity, openness to new ideas, and collaboration among scholars. It would be nice to think it could be a catalyst for like-minded donations.

I’m deeply grateful to the psychology department for coming up with such a worthy way to honor the memory of my mother. It’s gratifying to think it will help many students present their work and stay abreast of changes in their field. And I hope they know the spirit of feisty but loving Lorraine Abramson Howard will be right there with them.

Lorraine Abramson Howard was a UChicago-trained psychologist. Following her death last year at 95, her daughter Lynn H. Dennis, LICSW, donated $50,000 to establish the Lorraine Abramson Howard Educational Support Fund in her mother’s memory. Over the next five years this will enable 25 University graduate psychology interns to attend supplemental study programs. Here, Lynn talks about the inspiration behind her gift.

THE CATALYST GIFT: HONORING SPIRITED CURIOSITY
WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO MAKE THIS GIFT?
Janice: Four years ago, our then 8-year-old granddaughter was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease. Recently, her brother, our grandson, was also diagnosed with Crohn’s. It’s had quite an impact on our life, so we wanted to fund research to hopefully find a cure one day.

Mickey: Barbara Kirschner has been our granddaughter’s doctor from day one and is now our grandson’s doctor, too. She’s become more than a doctor to us. We have such confidence in her medical ability, and the sympathetic way she’s dealt with our grandchildren has been something special. At the University of Chicago, our grandchildren haven’t just been treated by capable medical staff, but by people who cared for them as individuals.

Janice: The gift was also a tribute to Sidney Epstein with whom my husband worked for 45 years at Epstein and Sons. He was a Life Trustee of the University of Chicago Medical Center who connected our granddaughter to Dr. Kirschner in the first place. Sidney always emphasized the importance of philanthropy.

WHAT IMPACT ARE YOU HOPING FOR FROM IT?
Mickey: There are three aspects to the gift. First-off, we hope it helps Dr. Kirschner to pursue her research to a successful conclusion. The second consideration is totally selfish—it gives Janice and me a really good feeling to make gifts like this to help people who can make a difference. Thirdly, and equally important, we want to leave a legacy for our grandchildren by showing them that the most important money you have is the money you give away.

WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE FOR PHILANTHROPY IN MEDICAL RESEARCH AS DISTINCT FROM OTHER FUNDING STREAMS?
Mickey: Philanthropy gives broader scope to what researchers can do—philanthropic funds are not subject to the whims of government budgets and strictures like that. I also like the whole idea of a population tuned into giving.
How Can We Better Care for Patients?
As a critical care nurse in the University of Chicago Medicine’s intensive care unit, there are three things Mark Wicklein hopes to see when a patient first comes in: “I want the patient to have a heartbeat. I want her to breathe. Then I want vascular access through an IV line because I can’t do anything without that. I can’t do diagnostics. I can’t do therapeutics. I can’t do fluids; I can’t do meds; I can’t draw labs.”

One of Wicklein’s responsibilities is to assist with IV insertions, which can be painful for many patients—especially those whose veins are hard to find. “I don’t think there’s a department that sees patients that doesn’t do IV insertions,” Wicklein says. “But if the patient is dehydrated, obese, tattooed, skinny, if he’s been on chemo—all of these make the complexity of placing a quality vascular access more difficult.”

To help ease the process, Wicklein learned how to use an ultrasound machine to help find the veins, greatly increasing the chances of finding the vein on the first pass and preventing any unnecessary needle sticks. The only problem: his team could not afford to purchase an ultrasound machine solely for this purpose.

Wicklein’s sister Christine Schwartz saw the challenge he was facing. A retired nurse, Schwartz continues to advocate for nursing and gives back philanthropically. She took this opportunity to help the University of Chicago Medicine purchase an ultrasound machine to be used just for IV insertion, enabling nurses across the institution—including her brother—to provide better care for patients.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO MAKE THIS GIFT? 
Schwartz: Mark is my family, and it’s something I could do for him. I also loved the idea that we could give patients access to something that will lessen pain that doesn’t require drugs. I love when you can do something and have a benefit ten times over.

WHAT DOES THIS GIFT MEAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE? 
This is hugely beneficial for patients. I can’t describe to you the emotional feeling when a patient looks at you and thanks you: “Thank you for doing this and not hurting me.”

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE WORLD? 
Wicklein: The amount of people that we educate will become more extensive. They will go out to other institutions and pass on that knowledge. That’s what I want to give back.
WHAT IS THE MAIN GOAL OF HEALING HURT PEOPLE – CHICAGO?
Stolbach: The majority of our kids have been shot. So figuring out how these kids can be safe and identifying their needs is crucial. The job of our trauma intervention specialist is to figure out what steps to take to get them working toward a goal. For example, there often needs to be advocacy just to get them into school because they may have given up on school or schools may have given up on them.

Oftentimes, these youth have been labeled “bad kids, gang bangers, criminals.” So we try to help the system understand what they need and why things have happened in their lives.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS WITH THIS PROGRAM?
Stolbach: Number one—are they safe? Have they been reinjured? Have they retaliated? Have they been involved with the criminal justice system? These are the big indicators. If we’re succeeding then we’re going to see less of these things. We have data for the first 27 individuals involved in the program at six months or more. We had 100 percent with no retaliation, about 90 percent who were not reinjured, and around 90 percent with no criminal justice involvement.

Our kids are dealing with unbelievable levels of stress and violence, and they’re just trying to survive with very little help. If we can support their recovery—not just physically, but emotionally and psychologically—then we can increase the likelihood that they’re going to be safe and able to succeed in life.

HOW IMPORTANT IS FUNDING TO YOUR PROGRAM?
Stolbach: There wouldn’t be a program. It would be business as usual, which means a kid gets shot, they go to the hospital and get fixed up. And then they go home. That’s it, until the next time they get shot. The whole point of Healing Hurt People is that you’re trying to interrupt a cycle. Without a way to address their trauma and a support system, it’s very hard to get them out of this cycle.

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT HEALING HURT PEOPLE THAT MADE IT WORTHY OF SUPPORT FROM MICHAEL REESE HEALTH TRUST?
Rosenkranz: We recognize that violence is a significant health issue in the Chicago community right now. As the successor organization of Michael Reese Hospital, our mission is to continue the hospital’s legacy of focusing on programs that are addressing violence in Chicago. We see Healing Hurt People as part of that work.

WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE PROGRAM RIGHT NOW? AND WHAT DO YOU SEE AS MOST PROMISING?
Rosenkranz: What attracted us to this program in particular was the fact that it was a model that had been tested and was successful elsewhere. It’s taking a trauma-informed approach to violence and a medical center to address the broader needs of patients. The focus on reducing re-injury and retaliation is critical to reducing violence in Chicago.
HOW DID YOU BECOME CONNECTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO?
My husband, Jerry, was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2000. He was very knowledgeable about the disease and continually researched new treatments. He managed the disease by trying to stay one step ahead. When one treatment failed, as it inevitably did, he was always prepared to try something else. He was drawn to the University of Chicago because of the availability of the latest treatment options. He was also drawn to Dr. Russell Szmulewitz in particular because of his breadth of knowledge and thoughtful approach to decision making. They established a very strong partnership.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO ESTABLISH THE FUND IN MEMORY OF YOUR HUSBAND?
The true inspiration for the fund was the relationship Jerry developed with Dr. Szmulewitz. I wanted to honor that relationship and the quality of care that he received. Throughout Jerry’s care, I was struck by how challenging the logistics of cancer care can be, including the physical challenges of getting to and from treatment and the numerous additional expenses incurred. We were fortunate to have resources to cover those expenses and wanted to provide some support for others who aren’t as fortunate.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE IS THE OUTCOME OF YOUR GIVING?
My hope is that it will ease the burden, even if just a little. The experience of being in a hospital can be very difficult and isolating. During his chemo treatments, Jerry received a lovely blanket made by the North Shore Senior Center. I was deeply touched. It helped me know that others were thinking of Jerry and wanted to provide some measure of direct support. I hope that this fund will do the same for others.

THE GIFT PAID FORWARD:
EASING ACCESS TO QUALITY CARE

After her husband died of prostate cancer, Lynn Clark established the Gerald W. Kattke Fund to help meet the everyday needs of University of Chicago Medicine patients. These include expenses for transportation, parking, and medications and medical supplies not covered by insurance, and temporary payment of utility bills. Gerald was an electrical engineer who worked at Lucent Technologies until he retired in 2001. He was an avid genealogist who volunteered for more than 20 years with the Naperville Family History Center. He was also a leader of the Lombard Chapter of the Us TOO Prostate Cancer Education and Support Group.
When James Reynolds Jr. was growing up in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood, he was quite familiar with the University of Chicago Medicine. “It was Billings Hospital then,” he said. “I used to go to the emergency room all the time with broken arms, broken fingers, cuts. That was my hospital.”

It’s still his hospital. In 2002 Reynolds, CEO of investment-services firm Loop Capital, joined the University of Chicago Medical Center Board of Trustees, and he continues to support the community in which he was raised.

Why did you choose to join the University of Chicago Medical Center Board of Trustees? The University and the medical center are anchor institutions on the South Side of Chicago. They’re very important economic engines and employers—in fact, they are the largest employer on the South Side. The significance of the University and the hospital to the community is really what brought me aboard.

The administration of the University of Chicago Medicine is extraordinary. And the board members are very engaged as fiduciaries and trustees of the hospital. We’re really engaged with every aspect of significant decision making in the hospital.

Why do you choose to support the University of Chicago Medicine’s health care initiatives on Chicago’s South Side? The general population on the South Side is among the least healthy population in the United States. The occurrence of so many devastating diseases and conditions—high blood pressure, asthma, obesity, various cancers, and diabetes, just to name a few—is significantly above average for the U.S.

And if you look at the rates of violence on Chicago’s South Side, I think a lot of it has to do with health. If you’re sick, if you have a very poor diet—some of these kids are having potato chips for breakfast in the morning—how can you study? How can you focus? And so eventually you just drop out of school. If you drop out of school, you could start down a bad path. So I find that health and violence are inextricably linked.

I made this gift to allow the University of Chicago Medicine to dedicate and donate more resources to impact the health of its South Side neighbors.
Imagine your impact.
Join us.  givetomedicine@bsd.uchicago.edu  |  773-702-6565