Methodist Health System and community leaders joined physicians and staff on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, to celebrate a historic event in Methodist’s 85-year history: the groundbreaking for the one-of-a-kind Charles A. Sammons Trauma and Critical Care Tower at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. The attendance of Mike Rawlings, Dallas mayor, along with David Brown, Dallas chief of police, and Louie Bright, chief of Dallas Fire-Rescue, reflected Dallas’ commitment to protecting and saving our citizens.

The $108 million emergency and trauma services facility will increase the capacity and enhance critical services for the city’s emergency services network. Chris Kleinert, chair of the “BrightER — Saving Lives. Serving Dallas” capital campaign, announced that the campaign had raised more than $9 million toward its $20 million goal.

The celebration also saluted America’s endurance and recovery following the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The Dallas Fire-Rescue Honor Guard presented the colors, while Dave Bratton, CEO of Sammons Enterprises, Inc., led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Dallas Police Choir then led nearly 200 attendees in singing the national anthem.

We’re on our way!
Trauma center groundbreaking serves successful start to a brighter future
Entrepreneur Charles A. Sammons was a Dallas icon who quietly offered a hand up to people in need in the least served areas of Dallas. Now his extraordinary generosity will make the difference in thousands of people served and lives saved through emergency department (ED) trauma care.

In January 2010, the Methodist Health System Foundation received a $20 million gift from the Sammons Dallas Foundation, the largest single gift in Methodist’s history, made possible by the estate of Charles A. Sammons and the 3,800 women and men of Sammons Enterprises, Inc.

To commemorate Mr. Sammons’ gift, the Methodist Foundation dedicated $15 million to establish the Charles and Elaine Sammons Endowment Fund to improve patient care and save lives by supporting medical education, indigent care, and ED trauma services. The remaining $5 million launched the hospital’s capital campaign for a new trauma and critical care tower, and, for this reason, the center has been named in Mr. Sammons’ honor.

“Because of his interest in health care and his commitment to making a difference in the community, Charles Sammons specifically named Methodist as one of the beneficiaries of his Foundation,” says Heather Kreager, president, Sammons Dallas Foundation. “Methodist’s use of this gift is an excellent way to continue his legacy.”

Dear friends,

Join us in building a brighter Dallas

We all hope that we’ll never need emergency services, but the truth is, whether it’s an unexpected illness in the middle of the night, a broken bone, a sudden heart attack, or a traumatic accident, virtually every family will experience a moment requiring critical care.

That’s why the groundbreaking for the Charles A. Sammons Trauma and Critical Care Tower at Methodist Dallas Medical Center, held Sept. 11, was such an important milestone. Methodist Dallas is one of only three adult trauma centers in Dallas County and the only one in southern Dallas. Its role in meeting the needs of families like yours and mine is invaluable.

We at the Methodist Health System Foundation truly believe in this new tower and the lifesaving care it offers our community. I hope you’ll join us in our enthusiasm to build a brighter future for Dallas. We look forward to collaborating with you to make this undying vision a powerful reality.

Best regards,

April Box Chamberlain, CFRE
President and CEO
Methodist Health System Foundation

With limited access to health care in southern Dallas and only three adult trauma centers in the city at large, overcrowded emergency departments are delaying care for those who need it most. The “BrightER — Saving Lives. Serving Dallas.” capital campaign committee is proud to lead the $20 million campaign that will bring a brighter future for Dallas.

Ray and Nancy Ann Hunt, longtime supporters of Methodist Health System, are delighted to be able to serve as honorary co-chairs for this campaign. Chris Kleinert agreed to lead this effort. He says: “I don’t think our community is interested in what we do for a living. What they are interested in is what we have to offer: hope, strength, love, and the power to make a difference! It is a privilege to lead this remarkable group of men and women to indeed make a difference for Dallas.”

Kleinert has assembled a diverse committee in order to reach out to multiple communities across Dallas. Members include: Allie Beth Allman, Rob Bertino, Pete Chilian, Mary Cochran, James Collet, Bill Davis, Levi Davis, Ossa Fisher, R. Stephen Folsom, Matt Hildreth, Zac Hitzel, Rob Little, Colin McGrady, Dawn Moore, Traci Ford Owen, Pete Schenkel, George Shafer, Natalie Jenkins Sorrell, Jeff Staubach, W. Kelvin Walker, and Susan Wells.

The committee looks forward to working with the health care champions in the community to build this important initiative will have a lasting impact in serving North Texans.

Why we care

Why a new tower is needed
I am a very fortunate man in many ways. One of my greatest blessings has been to serve Methodist Health System — for more years than I can count.

Dallas is a great city, and Methodist is an engine that pushes that greatness forward. I grew up in Southern Dallas and started my career with Schepps Dairy, another longtime Oak Cliff institution. With Methodist Dallas Medical Center as the only hospital south of the Trinity River, the impact of this hospital on southern Dallas County is dramatic and crucial.

Trauma costs lives and many years of productive life lost to disability. I believe the importance of the new Charles A. Sammons Trauma and Critical Care Tower cannot be understated. Our city and the entire North Texas region depend on Methodist Dallas to meet the escalating needs for emergency and trauma care.

I am proud to support the BrightER capital campaign not only as a committee member but also, with my wife, Pat, as a donor. I have confidence that this campaign will elevate Methodist Health System Foundation and Methodist Dallas to an entirely new level.