Methodist Health System is a special place—it’s a Dallas institution. It’s more than a system of hospitals and network of providers, it’s a pillar of its communities and remains a mission-driven organization focused on the people it serves. It’s our goal in this newsletter to update you on the projects that Methodist Health System Foundation is supporting and the people who make this work possible.

The Foundation’s top priority this spring and summer is raising funds for the new cancer unit at Methodist Charlton Medical Center, which will offer highly specialized care for up to 700 patients a year. Many of the patients treated here are underserved and have few options for advanced cancer treatment. More than $1.2 million from the 2018 Robert S. Folsom Leadership Award launched this campaign, and our development team is busy raising awareness and excitement about this transformative project.

Methodist has a new leader that I want to introduce: Juan Fresquez, the new president of Methodist Mansfield Medical Center. He comes to Methodist from Tucson, Arizona, where he served as chief operating officer of a hospital there, and worked in Houston prior. He began his career at Parkland Hospital, so he is familiar with the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and will help us grow our mission in southern Tarrant County and beyond. The Foundation has supported Methodist Mansfield in its labor and delivery department expansion and the construction of its Tower Two.

In late March, we relaunched our Methodist Gives Employee Giving Campaign. The campaign invites employees to give part of their salary or one-time gifts to their campus’ greatest need, United Way, or the Basic Employee Needs Fund, which provides short-term financial assistance for employees in need. Since 2005, more than 4,500 employees have contributed $4.2 million back to Methodist.

Finally, in 2018 we launched the Eagle Society, an exclusive group of Methodist friends, donors, doctors, leaders, and board members who come together twice a year for entertaining and insightful events. Now in our 91st year, Methodist remains prosperous and continues to live its mission every day, with every patient, thanks to you.
Nurses are the hub of healthcare. They provide and coordinate care, act as patient advocates, and connect patients with support services. But across the country—including here in Texas—there is a growing shortage of qualified nurses.

According to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, there will be a deficit of 59,376 full-time registered nurses by 2030. Compounding the problem is a lack of diversity in the nursing profession. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing estimates that only 18 percent of nurses are minorities. A diverse nursing workforce that mirrors the patient population is essential to providing quality, culturally competent care.

Methodist Health System is collaborating with organizations, educators, and donors to open doors for nursing careers and support nursing education. Meet two of the nurses Methodist has inspired and supported in pursuing their nursing careers.

**Pursuing a Passion for Helping Others**

Michelle Fraile has wanted to be a nurse since she was a child—and her real-world introduction to the profession happened at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. As a first-generation American and the most fluent English speaker in her family, she accompanied her grandparents there for medical appointments, acting as an interpreter.

“I was inspired by how much the nurses cared for my grandparents,” Fraile says. “I also saw the need for more bilingual nurses, who speak the language and understand their patients’ culture.”

She signed up as a Junior Volunteer in the Methodist Dallas College and Career Pathways Program and later enrolled in the Future Nurse Intensive Program. Now she is in her first year of the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Methodist Health System (ECC MHS).

“As a first-generation Latina student, it is hard to find your way, especially financially,” Fraile says. “If it was not for this program, I would not have had the means to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse. I am very grateful for the opportunity and the hands-on training I’m receiving.”

**Growing Professionally While Raising a Family**

Melissa Mitchell, MSN, RN, CMSRN, LSSYB, is the director of nursing education and professional development at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice with support from Methodist Health System. When she began her career with Methodist in 2006, she had been a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) for 10 years. “At that time, the healthcare industry was changing and fewer hospitals were hiring LVNs,” Mitchell says. “When the door opened for me to work at Methodist, I was so thankful.”

While at Methodist, Mitchell heard about the ECC MHS program, which covers tuition for eligible employees who want to advance their education. She started the program in 2009 and is now in her second year at El Centro College.

**Nursing Education Programs at Methodist**

Methodist Health System’s nursing education programs provide opportunities for high school and college students, as well as current Methodist employees, to explore careers in nursing or earn nursing degrees at no cost.

- **Methodist Dallas College and Career Pathways Program.** Dallas County high school students volunteer and have educational opportunities in a hospital environment.
- **Future Nurse Intensive Program.** High school and college students spend two weeks shadowing nurses in various specialties. Students receive personal mentoring and assistance in planning a nursing career path.
- **El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Methodist Health System.** System employees, their immediate family members, and volunteers are eligible to apply for this two-year nursing degree program on the Methodist Dallas campus.
Methodist Health System Foundation Eagle Society, created in 2018, is gaining a strong reputation after its first two events. The latest, a Cocktails and Conversation reception on Jan. 30 at Rosewood Mansion at Turtle Creek, featured Dale Petroskey, president and CEO of the Dallas Regional Chamber. Foundation President Jim Johnston and Methodist Health System President and CEO Stephen L. Mansfield, PhD, FACHE, welcomed Society members and outlined why they see Methodist as a special, important entity in our community. Petroskey followed, sharing personal stories about his time in the Reagan White House and working at the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He also explained the timing and process of Amazon’s selection of its second headquarters. “When it was announced that we came in third, I knew we’d already won because it symbolized to everyone else watching that Dallas is one of the best places to do business,” Petroskey said.

He added that in the past eight years, 156 companies have moved their corporate headquarters to this region and 100,000 jobs have been added annually. “There is so much prosperity in Dallas, you just can’t believe it,” he said.

Among Eagle Society members attending were Carolyn and David Miller, Debbie and Jim Francis, Kathy and Larry Helm, Allie Beth and Pierce Allman, Beth and Chuck Theele, Nancy Bierman, Jimmy Westcott, Carol Seay, and Julie Yarbrough.

For more information about the Eagle Society or additional photos from this event, go to MethodistHealthSystem.org/Eagle-Society.

As a first-generation Latina student, it is hard to find your way, especially financially. If it was not for this program, I would not have had the means to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse.

— Michelle Fraile, student with the El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing Program at Methodist Health System

Winnie Neal, MSN, RN-BC, director of nursing education and professional development at Methodist Dallas, believes that when donors invest in nursing education, their support will be exponentially multiplied.

“Methodist’s nursing education programs impact individual lives, families, and communities — and they will also impact the way you’re cared for when you have health needs,” Neal says.

Join us in supporting this worthwhile and important profession. To support Methodist Health System’s nursing programs, visit MethodistHealthSystem.org/Foundation.