The valves of the human heart work together, much like a well-oiled machine. Sometimes, usually because of advancing age, the valves can malfunction, leading to conditions and disease of the heart, including aortic valve stenosis.

“Aortic stenosis occurs when the valves, which maintain blood flow through the heart, become thickened or stiff and fuse together,” says cardiothoracic surgeon Paul DiGiorgi, M.D. “When this occurs, the inflexible valve leads to a narrowing of the valve, which in turn limits blood flow. This is a serious condition that can become fatal if not treated.”

As cardiothoracic surgeons Dr. DiGiorgi, Randall Buss, M.D., George Comas, M.D., and Brian Hummel, M.D., specialize in treatment of the heart and chest cavity. They work as a team to help patients overcome cardiac issues. Aortic valve stenosis is one of the most common conditions the team treats. “We see many patients with this condition because we live in an area with a large senior population,” Dr. Buss says.

Symptoms of aortic valve disease include:
- Fatigue
- Loss of energy
- Swelling of the ankles
- Heart palpitations
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain

“Some patients have numerous signs and symptoms, while others have minor symptoms and do not think they need medical attention,” Dr. Hummel says. “It’s important to see a primary care physician for seniors who have any of these symptoms to help determine if a cardiologist is necessary.”

An echocardiogram helps determine if a patient is a candidate for surgery.

If a patient needs surgery, the options include aortic valve repair and aortic valve replacement. “If we determine that surgery is necessary to clear the blockage, we use the best approach for each patient, based on age, physical condition and severity of the disease,” Dr. Comas says. “We use a minimally invasive approach. We utilize the latest technology, including the use of TAVR (transcatheter aortic valve replacement), which is designed for the most frail patients, who would not survive any other approach.”

Using TAVR, physicians make very small incisions in the chest, and enter through a large artery in the chest or through the tip of the left ventricle (the apex), which is known as the transapical approach. This minimally invasive surgical procedure repairs the valve without removing the old, damaged valve.

“The TAVR approach offers hope to patients who have limited options,” Dr. Comas says. “This technology allows our team to extend the life of elderly patients, giving them back the freedom to pursue an active life.”

The team dedicates its time to repairing and replacing issues related to the most serious cardiology conditions. They recently joined Lee Memorial Health System as staff physicians. This partnership further enhances patient care and gives people in the community another reason to stay in Southwest Florida for cardiac care.

“After practicing here for so many years, we are excited to be part of Lee Memorial Health System,” Dr. DiGiorgi says. “We look forward to serving the community now and in the future.”

Randall Buss, M.D.
Paul DiGiorgi, M.D.
George Comas, M.D.
Brian Hummel, M.D.
Everyone can be a hero by donating to ChildrensHospitalGoal.org. Southwest Florida's kids need heroes – lots of them – to help us build the new Golisano Children's Hospital. These heroes don't have a cape or super powers. They look just like you, armed with nothing more than a few dollars they are willing to share.

Will you be her hero? Give what you can at ChildrensHospitalGoal.org.

Kayden Sellick, along with major sponsor Stock Development, invites you to help build a healthy future for local children by coming out to the Tee-ming Up Fore Kidz Golf Outing at The Club at Olde Cypress in Naples on May 16. Funds are being raised to honor Kayden Sellick, a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit survivor who spent 137 days in the unit. Sponsorships, entry fees and donations will support young Collier County patients who receive care from Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Celebrate 65 Years of Caring and Millions of Dollars of Sharing on April 25!

Everyone is invited to attend the first-ever Luau of Life event set for Saturday evening, April 11 at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers. Event proceeds will help young patients served by Barbara’s Friends – Golisano Children's Hospital Cancer Fund and the Children's Oncology Group (COG).

Partygoers will enjoy a wonderful evening of Polynesian and tropical fun, including a delicious traditional menu. Tropical ambiance will abound at the casual, yet upscale event that offers attendees all the best of Polynesia, including traditional hula and fire dancing – authentic right down to the costuming. A special stage production of Blue Hawaii, including a tribute to the King himself – Elvis Presley – will make the evening one that will not soon be forgotten.

Sponsorships and tables are still available with ticket prices at $150 per person or $250 per couple. Visit www.luauoflife.com or email Bill@stars-etc.com or deshaggett@gmail.com for complete information and to register online.

For information by phone, call Bill Haggett at 239-699-8318 or Lee Memorial Foundation at 239-343-6950.

Her favorite hero? You.

Everyone can be a hero by donating to ChildrensHospitalGoal.org.

Will you be her hero? Just give what you can at ChildrensHospitalGoal.org.

Tee-ming Up Fore Kidz Golf Outing Set for May 16

Kayden Sellick, along with major sponsor Stock Development, invites you to help build a healthy future for local children by coming out to the Tee-ming Up Fore Kidz Golf Outing at The Club at Olde Cypress in Naples on May 16.

Funds are being raised to honor Kayden Sellick, a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit survivor who spent 137 days in the unit. Sponsorships, entry fees, and donations will support young Collier County patients who receive care from Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Numerous sponsorship opportunities are still available with individual golf spots starting at just $200.

Visit www.LeeMemorial.org/Teeming for complete details and to register online or contact Matt Sellick at MSellick@StockDevelopment.com or 239-825-9489 for more information.

Cebrate 65 Years of Caring and Millions of Dollars of Sharing on April 25!

Join major sponsors, Lee Memorial Health System Foundation, LeeSar, Lexington Country Club and O’Brien Auto Group for a wonderful evening.

Since their founding in 1950, the Lee Memorial Auxiliary has contributed more than $7.3 million to fund education, technology, equipment and programs/projects to help Lee Memorial patients and our community.

Guests will enjoy great food and drink, wonderful company and entertainment by Mark & Clark – the Original Piano Twins Duo, with singing and comedy. Plus, everyone in attendance will have the chance to bid on fantastic auction packages.

Tickets are $125 per person with proceeds earmarked to help cancer patients at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida and patients served by Lee Memorial’s Arts in Healthcare Program, continuing a caring Auxiliary tradition that has helped thousands of Southwest Florida residents.

To purchase your tickets for this special evening, call Lee Memorial Auxiliary president Phil Fortin at 239-482-5673 or Tommie Schott at 239-225-7518. You can also purchase tickets online by visiting www.LeeMemorial.org/go/auxiliary.
Genetic Testing Provides Insight into Cancer Risk

Knowing our family medical history provides valuable insight into our own future health concerns and conditions. Many conditions, including certain cancers, have genetic components that warrant more proactive screening and care. "Breast, ovarian, endometrial and colon cancer are examples of cancers caused by a genetic mutation that is passed down through families," explains Samith Sandadi, M.D., gynecologic oncologist. "If there are multiple cases of these cancers noted when exploring the family history, then we recommend genetic testing to identify whether harmful, defective genes are present."

The BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genetic mutations dramatically increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer, while Lynch syndrome increases the risk of endometrial and colon cancer. "BRCA, for example, is an autosomal dominant gene, which means each child of an individual with a BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 mutation has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the mutation," Dr. Sandadi says.

"Genetic testing is beneficial for someone who has already been diagnosed with cancer, as well as for his or her family members," says Mary Ann Orlang, RN, clinical nurse specialist and genetic counselor at the Regional Cancer Center. "It gives patients the power to actively participate in the treatment and management of their disease, as well as future surveillance and available risk-reducing medications and procedures. For family members, genetic testing is a gift of knowledge. If a woman tests positive for the BRCA gene or Lynch syndrome, then she has the power to be proactive about screening, cancer prevention and risk reduction."

Dr. Sandadi says women who go through genetic testing and find out that they have the genetic mutation have choices. "Women may choose to have a mastectomy or a risk-reducing removal of the ovaries and tubes," he says. "Or, they begin screenings earlier and more frequently than the average risk patients. It is important to consult with your physician and discuss your options with your family because having the genetic mutation doesn’t guarantee that you will get cancer—it does increase the risk."

Before proceeding with genetic testing, Mary Ann counsels patients. "I ask the patient about his or her family history and draw a family pedigree," she explains. "I look at prevalence of certain types of ‘related’ cancers in the family. I look at risk factors that are present and determine whether genetic testing is recommended. Before testing, I also make sure that the patient is well informed about the test, its implications, limitations, risks and benefits."

Genetic testing is a personal decision that arms us with valuable information and allows us to make choices to prevent or reduce the risk of certain cancers.

Hospitals Among Top 1% in the Nation Two Years in a Row

HealthPark Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital once again received impressive recognition when the hospitals were included in Healthgrades list of America’s 50 Best Hospitals.” This distinction places these hospitals in the top 1 percent of the more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide that were evaluated by Healthgrades, a leading online resource for comprehensive consumer information about physicians and hospitals.

To be eligible for this honor, our hospitals had to show superior performance in clinical outcomes for patients in the Medicare population across a broad spectrum of the most common inpatient conditions and procedures. These quality measures also needed be consistent, as a hospital cannot be named one of the 50 Best Hospitals without earning the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence” for at least six consecutive years.

“We are so proud of this distinguished honor,” says Jim Nathan, president, Lee Memorial Health System. “To be recognized in the top 1 percent of hospitals in the nation is very impressive, and quite an achievement. This honor—and all of the Healthgrades recognitions and awards that our hospitals have earned through the years—are tangible examples of our commitment to constant improvement and our dedication to compassionate care. Our team of health care professionals deserves the recognition because they make a difference every day and night—their caring attitudes affect the quality of care we provide.”

Each year, Healthgrades evaluates the performance of more than 4,500 hospitals across the nation in 36 procedures and conditions. No hospital can opt in or opt out of being evaluated, and no hospital pays to be evaluated. Through their website—www.Healthgrades.com—consumers can compare hospitals and review objective measures of performance.

To see a list of all Lee Memorial Health System hospital’s Healthgrades awards, honors and distinctions, go to www.LeeMemorial.org/Awards/Healthgrades.asp

Mary Ann Orlang uses National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines to identify high-risk patients. Examples of factors that trigger genetic testing for BRCA or Lynch syndrome include:

- Known mutation in the family
- Family history of breast or ovarian cancer
- Personal history of early onset breast cancer—diagnosed at 45 years of age or younger
- First or second degree male relative diagnosed with breast cancer
- Personal history of breast cancer diagnosed at 50 years of age or younger
- Family history of Lynch syndrome
- Personal history of breast or pancreatic cancer at any age plus family history

- Personal history of ovarian cancer
- Being of the Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry
- Endometrial cancer diagnosis before age 50
- Family members diagnosed with endometrial or colorectal cancer prior to the age of 50
- History of inflammatory bowel disease
- Multiple polyps
- Family history of Lynch syndrome

Samith Sandadi, M.D., Florida Gynecologic Oncology
8931 Colonial Center Drive
Suite 400
Fort Myers, FL 33905
239-334-6626
Rehabilitation Services and Wellness Center on the Move

In an effort to meet community needs, Outpatient Rehabilitation Services and the Wellness Center – Fort Myers has moved to a new location just blocks away from Lee Memorial Hospital.

“Our new location, being right on U.S. 41, provides great visibility for our programs and easy access for patients and wellness members,” says Ray Cyr, director of Rehabilitation Services. “It is easily accessible to patients from the McGregor corridor, as well as directly from U.S. 41.”

The new center will have all the existing outpatient services that were available at the former location on Carroll Road, including physical, occupational and speech therapy, and will also be the home of some outstanding specialty rehabilitation programs, including:

- Balance Clinic
- Balance Vest Evaluations
- Concussion Rehabilitation
- Driver Rehabilitation
- Wheelchair Evaluations
- Spine Phase III Rehabilitation
- Functional Capacity Evaluations
- Vital Stm® Swallowing Program
- Lee Silverman® and Speak Out® Voice Training

“Being integrated with a Wellness Center onsite will also be great for patients who need to continue training and lifestyle changes after formal rehabilitation is completed,” Ray says. “The transition from injury to wellness will be seamless and unique to our area. The new center has a bright, open and inviting feel, yet maintains a close family-like environment for our clients.”

The new center will also be home to new outpatient pediatric occupational, physical and speech therapy services. “This is a much-needed location,” says Lisa Edwards, M. PT. “It will be our first Children’s Rehabilitation Center north of the HealthPark area. Our pediatric rehabilitation services will cater to the special needs of families. They will have their own entrance, waiting room, and specialty pediatric therapy gym, all new pediatric therapy equipment and treatment rooms geared specially for the child in need.”

The Wellness Center is still known for its fitness services, which are available to anyone who wants a gym experience with a staff of degreed fitness professionals.

“This move allows us to continue to offer a dual membership to our members of Cape Coral and Fort Myers,” says Diana Rippl, director, Health and Wellness Integration. “The Wellness Centers not only encompass a fitness membership, but they offer members and non-members fitness assessments, exercise prescriptions, massage therapy, personal training and group exercise classes. With our location closer to Lee Memorial Hospital we have made it more convenient for the health system employees to join us as we serve as the wellness bridge to the community.”

3rd Annual Head/Neck Cancer: A Hard Thing to Swallow 5K Run & 2-Mile Walk

Head and neck cancer is diagnosed in more than 50,000 people in the U.S. each year. It is preventable and treatable.

All funds raised from this run/walk are used locally to help head and neck cancer patients, and to conduct head and neck cancer screenings in Southwest Florida.

9:30 a.m., April 11
Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
For more information, call 239-936-3756 or visit www.21stCenturyCare.org.

FREE CANCER SCREENINGS
Just Say Ahhhh!

Join the Regional Cancer Center, 21st Century C.A.R.E. and the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance for a free oral, head and neck cancer screening.
Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists of Florida offers free screenings:
9 a.m.-12 p.m., April 18
39 Barclays Circle, Fort Myers
Reservations required: 239-938-9301

Wellness Centers April Special
With age comes wisdom!

Seniors age 55 and older receive half-price enrollment at the Lee Memorial Health System Wellness Centers through the month of April.
Our special FIT series is designed with seniors in mind. Classes include:
- FIT Cardio
- FIT Balance and Stretch
- FIT Stretch
- FIT Core
- FIT Cycle

Autism Navigator Links Families with Appropriate Care and Support

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that affects social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and involves restricted interests and repetitive behaviors. Bridging all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, ASD affects 1 in 68 children in the United States, and is almost five times more common in boys. ASD is usually diagnosed between 18 months and 4 years of age.

A diagnosis of ASD can leave many parents and families with questions, concerns and anxieties about treatment, therapy and supportive resources. Thanks to the Naples Children & Education Foundation, Tara Tallaksen, director of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, families in Collier County have someone to help navigate this difficult diagnosis. Tara Tallaksen is the autism navigator at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida’s Pediatric Specialty Clinic in Naples.

“I am here to help families in any way I can after an ASD diagnosis,” Tara says. “It can be anything and everything from helping with insurance to connecting families with resources and empowering parents to be advocates for their child.”

Since joining Golisano Children’s Hospital in August, Tara has spent a significant amount of time compiling resources for families.

“For parents, there is so much to consider,” she says. “So, we have gathered resources that parents may not have even thought about—everything from therapy services to summer camps, dentists, gymnastics and even where to get a haircut.”

Tara also connects parents and families through support groups, which provide trainings, teach coping strategies and allow families to network. “Right now we have three support group meetings—one at the Naples YMCA, one at House of Gaia and one at Highlands Elementary School,” Tara says. “The meetings are two hours long, which provide time for trainings offered by the Center for Autism and Related Disability (CARD) and the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resource System (FDLRS), and guest speakers, as well as time for supportive networking. We also try to make the meetings as attractive as possible and remove any barriers for families, so we offer free childcare and snacks.”

In her role, Tara also follows up every two weeks after a diagnosis to make sure that families are complying with the physician’s protocols and advice.

A child does not need to be a patient of a Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida pediatrician to make an appointment or receive support from Tara. For more information or to schedule a meeting, call 239-254-4270.

Golisano Children’s Hospital is seeking support for an autism navigator in Fort Myers that will serve all of Southwest Florida. If you would like to help, contact the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation at 239-343-6950.

If you are interested in more information about the support groups or would like to attend, please call 239-254-4270.
Devoted to Excellence in Health Care

We are Caring People, Caring for Our Community

Lee Memorial Health System has a long history of providing safe, high quality, leading-edge and compassionate care.

From one hospital—Lee Memorial Hospital—in 1916, we now encompass four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals and comprehensive health care services in facilities and office locations throughout Southwest Florida. Our team also has grown from two nurses to more than 11,500 employees, 1,300 community physicians and 4,500 volunteers and auxiliaries—your family members, neighbors and friends who make up your community health system.

With more than 1 million patient contacts each year, Lee Memorial Health System is the fourth largest public health system in the United States and one of the largest in Florida. We serve all patients regardless of their financial or insurance status, and we do all of this without the benefit of direct local community tax support.

In 2014, our total Community Benefit is valued at $285 million. We are able to fulfill our mission of meeting the health care needs and improving the health status of Southwest Florida by focusing on comprehensive, efficient and compassionate care delivery and by leveraging partnerships with a variety of important community organizations.

This 2014 community reports offers you a glimpse into some of the leading-edge services and programs that Lee Memorial Health System offers, and it highlights the ways we collaborate with our partners to serve our community. It also shows for the first time in more than a decade a slight decline in the cost of charity care and the cost of unpaid Medicaid, which can be attributed to the improved economy, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act—and more people signing up for insurance—as well as our internal process improvements.

Every person on our team is vital to our success, and we wouldn't be able to do what we do every day and night without their dedication to our mission and their devotion to excellent health care delivery. We are extremely proud of what we have accomplished through the years and look forward to continuing to competently and compassionately serve our community as caring people, caring for people.
Research Benefits the Community

Lee Memorial Health System is devoted to treating patients today and in the future. Part of the future vision involves research into new technologies and cures for diseases and conditions that affect our local and global population.

Our pediatric oncology physicians and nurses are engaged in ongoing trials and studies that aim to reduce the number of children who get cancer and find cures and advanced treatments for those who are fighting the disease. A full-time position, not related to cancer, is devoted to supporting research projects. An Institutional Review Committee, which includes clinical representatives throughout the system, participated in more than 150 research projects in 2014.

American Heart Association

Lee Memorial Health System supports the American Heart Association efforts through a number of programs and initiatives, including the annual Heart Ball, Wear Red Day, National Walking Day, My Heart My Life—a comprehensive platform for healthy lifestyles, and through ongoing community programs aimed at reducing the number of deaths from heart disease by 20% by 2020. This partnership includes a focus on workplace wellness through the Fit-Friendly Employer designation. More than 40 employers in Southwest Florida, including Lee Memorial Health System, have achieved gold and platinum status for workplace wellness, with more businesses scheduled to sign on to the program in the next year.

Other Nonprofit Partners

Members of our senior leadership and staff volunteer their time and talents to local nonprofit organizations, including:

- Healthy Lee
- Foundation for Lee County Schools
- Harry Chapin Food Bank
- Hodges University
- Horizon Council Chambers of Commerce
- United Way
- Bob Janes Triage
- American Heart Association
- March of Dimes
- YMCA

This donated time translates into a healthier community and keeps Lee Memorial Health System employees in touch with the heart of Southwest Florida.

Lee Memorial Health System employees celebrate annual Wear Red Day at HealthPark Medical Center to raise awareness of heart disease.
Healthy Lee: Collaborating for Community Health

Healthy Lee began in 2007 when Lee Memorial Health System recruited and convened 38 community leaders to help improve the health of our residents and health care delivery in Lee County. Originally known as Community Health Visioning 2017, this group engaged 4,000 residents in surveys, focus groups and town hall meetings to establish priorities for improving our community’s health.

When our 2011 Community Health Needs Assessment showed that obesity was increasing and contributing to major health problems in Lee County, the group shifted the focus to healthy lifestyles and changed the name to Healthy Lee. Now, with a Steering Committee of 54 leaders and a community collaboration of grassroots organizations, Healthy Lee has a distribution list of nearly 300 active participants and organizations and a community website—www.HealthyLee.com—to support ongoing engagement with individuals, families, businesses and organizations throughout the county.

The goals of Healthy Lee are to collaborate with community partners to improve our community’s health and to create a culture of healthy lifestyles for people of all ages.

Under the umbrella of Healthy Lee, there are a number of best practice programs that are successfully helping the residents of Lee County. Examples include:

5210
A prescription for healthy habits for children, 5210 stands for:
• 5 fruits and veggies daily
• No more than 2 hours of screen time per day
• At least 1 hour of physical activity every day
• 0 sugary beverages

This blueprint for healthy habits is available for parents and families through local pediatricians’ offices, schools and day cares. More information is available at www.HealthyLee.com and also through local pediatrician offices.

It’s All About You

This free, six-week, research-based chronic disease management program was developed by Kate Lorig, Ph.D., from Stanford University. It’s All About You empowers patients and helps improve health, well-being and self-confidence by focusing on decision-making, action-planning/goal-setting and problem-solving. The program—which is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who is living with a chronic health condition—is offered through Lee Memorial Health System’s Lee Health Solutions, in partnership with local community agencies and businesses and supported in part by a grant from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

Bob Janes Triage Center
The Bob Janes Triage Center & Low Demand Shelter provides an alternative to incarceration for low level or nonviolent offenses or inappropriate emergency department utilization for people with addictions or mental illness who otherwise would face jail time and no treatment. The Triage Center is staffed by The Salvation Army with support from medical and behavioral health professionals on the campus of SalusCare. Lee Memorial Health System provides financial support. In 2014, the center served 563 unduplicated people. Since the center opened in 2008, it has enabled a 46 percent reduction in arrests for low level offenders with mental health needs. The center was recognized with the 2014 National Hospital Charitable Service Award from Jackson Healthcare and the first Unite Award from Myers, Brehmholz & Company, PA on behalf of the United Way and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

Horizon Council Healthcare Taskforce

The Horizon Council is a public-private partnership for economic development. Among other initiatives, the council focuses on workplace wellness as an important quality of life and economic development effort. In 2014, more than 150 businesses participated in the Horizon Council Workplace Wellness Summit to learn more about implementing an effective workplace wellness program. Lee Memorial Health System plays an important role in teaching businesses how to improve their employees’ health. All conference materials are available on the Healthy Lee website for continued access by the business community, and another summit is planned for 2015.

We Care

Through this partnership with community physicians, medically needy, uninsured and unemployed people in our community get the specialty medical care they need. Physicians who participate in this program donate their services. We Care is administered by The Salvation Army in partnership with the Lee County Medical Society, United Way, Family Health Centers, Southwest Florida Community Foundation and Lee Memorial Health System. In 2014, 450 physicians volunteered their time serving 244 patients. The total value of donated care was $5.8 million, of which Lee Memorial Health System donated $3.8 million in services.

Outreach Team

A group of more than 50 Lee Memorial Health System clinical professionals and additional community partners present health fairs, lectures and other community events to share health-related information and perform on-site health screenings, ranging from blood pressure and blood sugar to vision, balance, skin cancer and more.

In order to measure the success of Healthy Lee initiatives through changes in population health, Healthy Lee gauges the health of the community every three years through the Community Health Needs Assessment. In 2014, the study found:
• Obesity rates dropped from 29.3% to 24.8%, which is better than the national and state averages, and better than the Healthy People 2020 goal—which is a 10-year agenda to improve the nation’s health
• Childhood obesity dropped from 31.6% to 20.7%
• People who meet physical activity recommendations increased from 40.9% to 50.1%
• Heart disease and stroke related deaths dropped by 29%

The entire Community Health Needs Assessment can be reviewed online at http://LeeCounty.HealthForecast.net
Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida Partnerships
Help Us Fulfill Our Mission

Lee Memorial Health System, on behalf of Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, provides financial support and leadership involvement to collaborating partners. Examples include:

**Autism Speaks**
A national organization, Autism Speaks provides a variety of valuable resources—both printed and online—for families and medical professionals. As a partner with Autism Speaks, the Golisano Children’s Hospital pediatric neurology practice uses their materials to educate and support families. Additionally, in 2014, Lee Memorial Health System provided financial support for and employees participated in the organization’s fundraising walk—The Southwest Florida Walk Now for Autism.

**March of Dimes**
Lee Memorial Health System and Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida have supported the March of Dimes March for Babies fundraising event for more than 15 years. We also support them through collaborative research efforts and initiatives, including the initiative to eliminate early elective deliveries before 39 weeks gestation. The partnership is a natural fit, as Golisano Children’s Hospital is home to the only Level III neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) between Tampa and Miami and the Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Unit.

**Foundation for Lee County Public Schools**
Lee Memorial Health System is an Honor Roll Summa Cum Laude sponsor of year-round foundation activities to target resources to students and teachers in the classrooms, including the STEM programming and Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program. System leaders also sit on the foundation board to help direct those resources.

Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida Child Advocacy staff members partner with Lee County schools to provide education programs targeted to 5th graders, including Germaine the Germ Thing (hand washing) and Mission Nutrition (healthy eating habits). We also support the ArtSpeak Program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**YMCAs**
Golisano Children’s Hospital is excited to partner with local YMCAs to bring healthy lifestyles to families through financial support, lecture series, events and free swimming lessons for those families in need. The Golisano Children’s Hospital’s Child Advocacy Program focuses on water safety and drowning prevention, which is why there is a special focus on swimming lessons.

Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida also provides financial support and partners with organizations—like the Harney Point Kiwanis for their KidsFest event and the Boys & Girls Club of Lee County for their Everyone Runs, Everyone Rides, Everyone Relaxes event—to bring bicycle safety, free bicycle helmets and other child advocacy initiatives to the community.

**Caring for the Community**
**Health Professional Education**
Many physicians, especially those who specialize in family practice, stay in the areas of the country where they completed their residency. By partnering with Florida State University, Lee Memorial Health System is involved in a medical residency program that aims to keep physicians in Southwest Florida.

The program currently has 13 residents, and could expand to 24 residents by 2017. “We are exploring the possibility of expanding the program as the need for more family practice physicians becomes apparent,” says program director, Gary Goforth, M.D. “Part of an expansion would include other (specialty) residencies.”

The program, which cares for all members of the family, from infants to seniors, has been a success. Residents complete 36-month rotations in a numbers of areas, including:

- Adult medicine
- Behavioral medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- General surgery
- Practice management
- Community medicine
- Geriatrics
- Sports medicine
- Emergency medicine
- Dermatology
- Ophthalmology
- Ear, nose and throat
- Urology
- Orthopedics
- Critical care
- Neurology
- Cardiology

Nova Southeastern University student nurses celebrate the Easter season with patients and staff at Golisano Children’s Hospital during the annual Bunny Run.
The program gives residents the exposure to a cross-section of the local community, but also gives patients an opportunity to choose a physician who will be in practice for many years to come.

“The residency program has already been successful,” Dr. Goforth says. “Several of the residents have already established roots in Southwest Florida and plan to make this their permanent home. That’s the goal of the program, which benefits the community long-term.”

For more information on the residency program, visit: www.tinyurl.com/FSUresidency

In addition to the residency program, Lee Memorial Health System employees have supervised 325,577 paid staff hours of clinical experience for 1,351 students from local colleges and universities. The value of these required internship-type programs is more than $19 million.

Areas of internships, practicums and educational programs include:

- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Physical therapy assistant
- Speech and language pathology
- Medical assistant
- Advanced registered nurse practitioner
- Licensed medical professional
- Licensed practical nurse
- Cardiovascular technician students
- Child Life interns
- Clinical education instructor
- Course for parish nurses
- ECC respiratory class
- Nursing students
- Student boot camp and self-study exam
- FGCU medical technologist student program
- FGCU mentor program
- FGCU nursing lecture - diabetes
- FGCU practicum and internship program
- FGCU training
- FGCU laboratory supervision
- Mentor doctor of nursing student
- Mentoring - Nova University and Sacred Heart University College of Education and Health Professions
- Master of social work student internships
- Master of social work students and nursing students supervision
- Nova University and Florida Southwestern State College RN Education
- Nova University pharmacology I & II
- Nursing student clinical rotation - Cape Coral Institute of Technology
- Nursing student clinical rotation – FGCU
- Nursing student preceptors
- Pharmacy student rotation
- Precepting pharmacy interns
- Rehabilitation students
- Technician internship rotation - Heritage Institute and Cape Coral Institute of Technology

In addition to the residency program, the College of Health Professions and Social Work at Florida Gulf Coast University continues to increase programs with continued workforce shortages, including physical and occupational therapy, nursing and exercise science. The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree has been approved, and will replace the current Master of Science in Nursing with Primary Nurse Practitioner program.

At Florida Southwestern State College, opportunities to increase advancement activity for funding student scholarships and endowed chair/faculty positions exist, as well as maximizing class sizes in the nursing programs. Florida Southwestern is seeking to create more college credit certificates that are part of their current associate degree offerings.

Lee Community Healthcare, Inc.

The Lee Physician Group United Way House clinics, which serve a diverse population, expanded in 2014. The locations in Dunbar, North Fort Myers and Cape Coral added new medical providers and support staff to meet an 11% increase in patient visits. Those clinics cared for 6,693 patients during 16,064 office visits, one-third of whom would have otherwise gone to a Lee Memorial Health System emergency department to receive care for non-emergency conditions.

Use of the clinics avoided $1.4 million in unnecessary and inappropriate use of the emergency departments. In addition, the clinics helped patients manage chronic illnesses. In addition to reducing emergency department visits, the clinics helped patients manage chronic illnesses, resulting in a better quality of life. The 1,123 patients diagnosed with hypertension noted a decline in their blood pressure. Of those patients, 730 (65%) significantly reduced or ceased their use of medication.

Under the direction of its 11-member board of directors application was made in 2014 to the Health Resources Services Administration for the Lee Community Healthcare, Inc. to become a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, with final approval received on Feb. 27, 2015.

2014-15 marked the fifth year that Lee Community Healthcare received a $1.5 million Low Income Pool Grant from the state of Florida for the fiscal year of July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. This amount has remained unchanged for the duration of the grant. Of the $1.5 million in total funds received, Lee Memorial Health System provided a match of more than $400,000, which meant $1 million in “outside/new” grant dollars came to the system each year.

Lee Community Healthcare, Inc. Board of Directors

Dixo Lynn Blum, patient representative
Linda Brown, community representative
Adrienne E. Carr, patient representative
Alice H. Daniels, patient representative
Roberto Eguino, patient representative
Daniel Eveloff, community representative

Dr. William Glover, community representative
June Graham, patient representative
Cedric B. Hall, patient representative
Cliff Smith, community representative
Cathy Timuta, community representative

The Lee Memorial Health System FSUI Family Medicine Residency Program resident physician Elizabeth Midney, M.D., and preceptor Christina Cavanagh M.D., celebrate the program’s first Match Day.

Lee Community Healthcare-North Fort Myers Clinic

Lee Community Healthcare, Inc.

Community Benefit Report
Patient Centered Medical Home

A Patient Centered Medical Home is not a place, but rather a model for care delivery that creates a partnership between you, your primary care physician and your health care team. The primary care physician’s office serves as the medical home—the hub—for all of your health care needs. This initiative started with Lee Community Healthcare to help at-risk patients play an active role in managing their health. The model was so successful, with documented decreases in chronic illnesses, it was duplicated in all Lee Physician Group primary care offices.

An innovative approach to care, the Patient Centered Medical Home uses evidence-based guidelines and technology—such as the electronic health record—to work with you to coordinate your care and focus on keeping you well. The goal of a Patient Centered Medical Home is to shift the focus of health care from treatment to prevention.

Lee Physician Group offices earned the recognition of being Patient Centered Medical Homes from the National Committee for Quality Assurance. This national program recognizes primary care practices that demonstrate the highest levels of coordinated and effective patient care, which helps provide reassurance that you are receiving the highest quality care. Earning this recognition requires that we meet the criteria of nine standard categories, including:

- Access and communication
- Patient tracking and registry functions
- Care management
- Patient self-management and support
- Electronic prescribing
- Test tracking
- Referral tracking
- Performance reporting and improvement
- Advanced electronic communication

Florida KidCare

For families struggling to get affordable health care for their children, KidCare is an easy option. The program offers health services to families who do not have health insurance.

“We usually get families involved when they come to the emergency department or through our outreach efforts,” says Kim Samuelson, KidCare supervisor for the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. The program is available to families in all income brackets as long as they do not currently have insurance. The program covers children from ages 1-18 throughout the state. Kim works with families to determine their monthly cost for the program, based on their income and family size. The total number enrolled in 2014 was 3,366. All American citizens, as well as documented residents of other countries, may apply for the program.

“The goal of the program is to keep children healthy,” Kim says. “We want parents to seek medical help through regular checkups and through their family physician, instead of waiting until an illness escalates and then they end up in the emergency department. It helps keep children well, and when they are ill, helps them improve more quickly.”

The program employs a staff of eight application assistance specialists, who are available to help families throughout Lee County with Medicaid or Florida KidCare. Our program was ranked best in the state of Florida and Kim has earned the “Florida KidCare Trendsetter Award.”

Lee Memorial Health System Foundation

Lee Memorial Health System Foundation raises funds to support lifesaving programs for children and adults at Cape Coral Hospital, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, Gulf Coast Medical Center, HealthPark Medical Center, Lee Memorial Hospital, Regional Cancer Center and the Rehabilitation Hospital.

In 2014, The Foundation raised $13.8 million for Lee Memorial Health System and saw the total raised to build the new Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida reach $82 million since inception of the capital campaign supporting the project. Ground breaking for the project took place in April 2014, with expected completion scheduled for spring 2017.

During the fiscal year, Lee Memorial Health System Foundation distributed a total of $7.1 million to Lee Memorial Health System departments to support a myriad of services, including community health clinics, neonatal care, autism screening, graduate medical education, care coordination for at-risk mothers and infants, palliative care, pediatric cancer treatment, diabetes education, adult cancer services, cystic fibrosis screening, caregiver support, counseling, educational scholarships, breast cancer navigation, music therapy, child advocacy, pediatric cardiology and more.

Please visit www.LeeMemorial.org/Foundation, email Foundation@LeeMemorial.org or call 239-343-6053 to learn how you can support lifesaving and life-changing care at Lee Memorial Health System.
Our Locations

Lee Memorial Health System Hospitals
Cape Coral Hospital .............................................................. 239-424-2000
636 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990
Gulf Coast Medical Center .............................................................. 239-343-1000
13681 Doctor’s Way, Fort Myers, FL 33912
HealthPark Medical Center .............................................................. 239-343-5000
Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida .............................................................. 239-343-KIDS (5437)
9981 S. HealthPark Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Lee Memorial Hospital .............................................................. 239-343-2000
Rehabilitation Hospital .............................................................. 239-343-3900
2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901

Outpatient Center Locations
Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida
Pediatric Specialty Clinic-Naples .............................................................. 239-254-4270
1265 Creekside Pkwy., Suite 200, Naples, FL 33912
Pediatric Specialty Clinic-Port Charlotte .............................................................. 941-235-4900
18316 Murdock Circle, Suite 106, Port Charlotte, FL 33948
HealthPark Commons .............................................................. 239-343-7200
16281 Bass Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908
Plantation .............................................................. 239-343-0776
13601 Plantation Road, Fort Myers, FL 33912
Regional Cancer Center .............................................................. 239-343-9500
8931 Colonial Center Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33905

Lee Community Healthcare
Dunbar Clinic .............................................................. 239-343-4910
3511 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916
North Fort Myers Clinic .............................................................. 239-997-9733
13279 N. Cleveland Ave., North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Health Care Services
Behavioral Health Services
Birth Suites
Blood Centers
Cardiac Services
Childbirth Classes and Family Education
Community Health Centers
Community Health Screenings and Education
Corporate Employee Health Services
Diabetes Care
Diagnostic Imaging
Emergency Care
Home Health
House Calls
Kidney Transplant Center
Laboratory Services
Memory Care
Occupational Health Services
Orthopedics
Pain Management Centers
Rehabilitation
Skilled Nursing
Sleep Disorders Center
Spine Center
Stroke Services
Support Groups
Surgical Services
Trauma Center
Volunteers and Auxiliaries
Walk-in Medical Centers
Wellness Centers
Wound Care & Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Lee Physician Group
For a complete listing of our locations, visit www.LeePhysicianGroup.org.
Our multispecialty group consists of more than 300 primary and specialty care physicians and advanced practitioners. Lee Physician Group offers the following medical specialty practices:
Allergy/Immunology
Cardiology
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Endocrinology
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Geriatrics-Memory Care
Geriatrics-House Calls
Neurointerventional Radiology
Infectious Disease
Internal Medicine
Integrative Medicine
Neurointerventional Radiology
Neurosurgery
HIV Services
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Occupational Health Services
Palliative Care
Psychiatry
Pediatrics
Pediatric Behavioral Medicine
Pediatric Cardiology
Pediatric Ear, Nose & Throat
Pediatric Endocrinology
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Pediatric Infectious Disease
Pediatric Nephrology
Pediatric Neurology
Pediatric Psychology
Pediatric Sleep Medicine
Pediatric Surgery
Pulmonology
Rheumatology
Sleep Medicine
Spine Center
Vascular Surgery
Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine
Auxiliary Celebrates 65 Years of Caring and Millions of Dollars of Sharing

Sixty-five years ago, 30 women—including wives of hospital board of directors, staff doctors, dentists and other community leaders—met to discuss the formation of an auxiliary for Lee Memorial Hospital. Led by Mrs. Howard Daubman and Mrs. Guy Miller, the ladies wanted to create an organization to assist in fundraising, provide certain patient-related services and further community relations. Officially called the Lee Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, membership was open to any woman interested in helping the hospital. The members became known as the “Pink Ladies” because of the uniforms they wore.

“The first three services that the Pink Ladies provided were hospitality, floor assistants and sewing,” explains Jill Palmer, director of what is now the Lee Memorial Auxiliary, and volunteer resources. “We are very lucky to have volunteers and auxilians who remember the early days of the Auxiliary.”

Christie Knudsen, who has been a member since 1955 and who is still an active volunteer, remembers the Auxiliary’s Hospitality Cart that provided free juice, coffee and magazines, and sold candy, gum and personal items to patients. She remembers the most popular thing on the cart was the cigarettes—which they later stopped selling after the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society started their health awareness programs about cigarettes.

In January 1956, the Auxiliary opened the Welcome Post Gift Shop, which included the Snack Bar where homemade sandwiches, hamburgers, soup, pies and cakes were served to staff and visitors. The Pink Ladies donated, cooked and served all of the food.

The first financial contribution from the Auxiliary was $1,252 for equipment, projects and programs.

“One of the Auxiliary’s first fundraising projects was The Fort Myers Cookbook,” says Jim Nathan, Lee Memorial Health System president. “The ladies collected recipes from the most famous cooks in the area; they tested hundreds of recipes, indexed them and actually hand-lettered them on every page, along with hand-drawn illustrations. The ladies even sold advertising to help pay for the printing. This cookbook was a success and has been used as a model project for hospital auxiliaries all over the country.”

Later, around 1970, Sam Perry, a local businessman, approached Christie about joining the Auxiliary. “She was surprised that a man wanted to join the Pink Ladies hospital organization,” Jill says. “But, he did, other men followed and the male members became known as the ‘White Knights.’ Younger volunteers also joined and became known as ‘Candy Stripers.’”

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The Stroke Ability Fair Aims to Enhance and Maximize Quality of Life

Stroke is a medical emergency that requires swift diagnosis and treatment to minimize the damage to the brain and maximize the patients’ quality of life.

To ensure the fastest and most effective treatment for stroke patients in Southwest Florida, Lee Memorial Health System hospitals have worked diligently to incorporate certain patient-related services and further community relations. This month, Cape Coral Hospital is hosting the Stroke Ability Fair, a brand-new event created to connect stroke survivors and their caregivers with vital resources.

“The Stroke Ability Fair is a unique concept, and we hope it will become our annual contribution to the health system’s stroke programs and services.”

Tommie Schott at 239-225-7518

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Tommie Schott at 239-225-7518 or Phil Fortin at 239-482-5673, or visit www.LeeMemorial.org/go/auxiliary.

The Stroke Ability Fair

What: A brand-new event that focuses on stroke survivors’ abilities and features demonstrations, education, games, refreshments and more.

Where: Cape Coral Hospital Auxiliary Room New Café

When: 10 a.m.–2 p.m., April 30

“Today, the organization is made up of men and women known simply as auxilians, and the candy strippers are known as student volunteers.”

“The Auxiliary has come a long way since 1950,” says current Lee Memorial Auxiliary President Phil Fortin. “From three services at one facility, we now have more than 150 services at Lee Memorial Hospital, HealthPark Medical Center, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, the Rehabilitation Hospital, HealthPark Care & Rehabilitation Center, the Regional Cancer Center, and other off-site locations and physician offices. Additionally, the financial contribution has grown to $7,381,000 over the past 65 years, which has helped purchase equipment and furnishings, and fund projects, capital campaigns and scholarship programs.”

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Phil adds that educational support has been important since the beginning, as the founding members wanted to ensure that there would be a succession of well-qualified nurses to staff Lee Memorial Hospital. To date, the Lee Memorial Auxiliary has contributed more than $850,000 to education through scholarships and grants, as well as through the funding of area health care education programs.

“The event features hors d’oeuvres, dinner, silent auction, and entertainment by Mark and Clark, The Original Piano Twins. Tickets: $125 per person.”

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Join Us for the Celebration

The Lee Memorial Auxiliary is commemorating their 65th anniversary with a fundraising celebration. Come, join the fun and help raise money for Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida’s young cancer patients and the Arts in Healthcare Program.

5:30 p.m., April 25
Lexington Country Club
16257 Willowcrest Way, Fort Myers

The event features hors d’oeuvres, dinner, silent auction, and entertainment by Mark and Clark, The Original Piano Twins. Tickets: $125 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Tommie Schott at 239-225-7518 or Phil Fortin at 239-482-5673, or visit www.LeeMemorial.org/go/auxiliary.

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### Event calendar

#### October 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Registration Info</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Brain Tumor Support Group | 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers | Time and Date: November 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m., 1st Tuesday of each month | Registration and for More Information: Call Nancy Gizzi at 239-424-3572 | Nancy Gizzi at 239-424-3572 | This free monthly seminar is for oncology patients, survivors and caregivers. Each month features a different topic and food demonstration with tasting. |"