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Shibley Cardiothoracic Center Expansion Builds on Revolutionary Approach to Heart, Lung Care
*Groundbreaking Lee Health center adds capacity, technology and expertise
to help Southwest Florida patients*

(Fort Myers, Fla. - Jan. 16, 2019) --- Shibley Cardiothoracic Center officially opened its doors this week, ushering in a new phase for cardiothoracic care in Southwest Florida. The center, located at HealthPark Medical Center, is an innovative approach to the surgical treatment of heart and lung diseases with an emphasis on innovation, education and research.

Through cutting-edge treatment and dedication to patient care, the Shibley Center has made a difference in the lives of thousands of patients, including Samuel Frazer, who underwent an aortic valve replacement after a heart attack last year. After undergoing the minimally invasive transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure at Shibley, Frazer says he's never felt better.

"I honestly feel like a new person. The care and professionalism I received was just outstanding, and I'm not someone who uses a lot of superlatives," Frazer, 85, said. "I'm so fortunate that right down the street is this amazing facility that can perform this specialized procedure."

The 13,290 square-foot Shibley Center expansion establishes an innovation hub focused on patient care optimization, research, and learning opportunities for surgical clinical teams worldwide. The Shibley Center aims to improve patient outcomes through an in-depth understanding of individual patient risk factors, co-morbidities and personal health needs before surgery. The center will also include a component of health education to help patients understand how to stay healthy and potentially avoid surgery.

The center was made possible by an initial \$2.5 million gift from Shibley Foundation, Inc., headed by Richard C. Shibley of Sanibel, and additional funds were raised through community donations.

"Our goal with the Shibley Center is to provide the latest and best in cardiothoracic care for our patients and we couldn't have done this without the generosity of our community. Our team is truly humbled by the outpouring of support and we look forward to continuing to enhance and improve outcomes through education, innovation and research," said Paul DiGiorgi, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon with the Shibley Center.

The expansion also includes an educational conference center for surgeons and health care professionals that come from across the country to train with our team. This hub provides live-case teaching, simulators and destination and distance learning opportunities for health care professionals.

The Shipley Center is considered a center of excellence for minimally invasive procedures, offering advancements that are nationally renowned, drawing surgeons from across the country for training. Surgeons at the Shipley Center perform more than 1,000 heart and 400 lung surgeries per year.

Specialty services include minimally invasive heart surgery, robotic heart and lung surgery, transcatheter mitral valve repair, transcatheter aortic valve replacement and hybrid surgery, as well as multidisciplinary treatment programs for valvular heart disease and atrial fibrillation. The center's surgeons also share research with the medical community locally, nationally and internationally through medical journal publications and scientific presentations.

"This is the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication from our team and we are honored to share this groundbreaking resource with the Southwest Florida community and beyond," said Brian Hummel, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon with the Shipley Center. "Our surgeons strive every day to produce the best outcomes with minimally invasive procedures and it's this focus on patient wellbeing that sets the Shipley Center apart."

The center was recently designated a 3-star program, the highest possible ranking, by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for their surgical treatment and post-operative care of their patients undergoing lobectomy for lung cancer and coronary artery bypass surgery—this places the center in the top 10 percent in the nation. The center is the only 3-star publicly reporting facility in the state of Florida, and one of only six registry participants in the country to be designated a 3-star program.

Additionally, Lee Health's HealthPark Medical Center was named among the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals for 2019 by IBM Watson Health. These facilities represent the best of the best for heart care in the United States. HealthPark Medical Center is one of only two hospitals in Florida to earn the designation.

About Lee Health

Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.