

FACES *of* HOPE

“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart;
consider what great things he has done for you.” — 1 SAMUEL 12:24





“Hope is a dangerous thing,” so said Morgan Freeman’s character, Red in the cinematic classic, *The Shawshank Redemption*. True as it was in that point of the narrative, we see the theme of hope’s power unwind through the film unto redemption. **Dangerous, powerful, redeeming, hope is foundational to our lives of faith.**

The writer to the Hebrews said it this way, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Inspired by this verse and the many lives that come our way each year, it seems the flame of faith is not possible without the spark of hope.

Emissaries of this better hope, we set out almost fourteen years ago to bring hope among patients and communities that struggle to access proper healthcare. Along the way, we have shared and received hope with tens of thousands of patients in a perpetual wheel of inspiration. This mutual hope has indeed proven dangerous to despair, doubt, and disease. And it’s rising up in lives of faith all around us. Thank you for partnering with our work. It is our prayer that these “Faces of Hope” will inspire for you a hope and subsequent faith that does not disappoint.

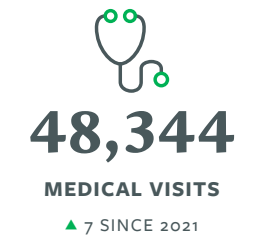
Merry Christmas,
Robert Rex Record



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of
HOPE**



2022 NUMBERS





YEAR-END NOTE

One day at a time, one visit at a time, we've provided almost 50,000 medical visits this year. Along the way we've entered relationship with struggling young mothers, children with unfettered dreams, refugees seeking a better life, day laborers in need of care to tackle another day, and oh so many more. These are our neighbors, and it is the honor of our lives to share life with them. And you, our partners are a huge part of who we are and what makes this work possible and special.

Ever focused on the grace of the Lord to meet the needs of our neighbors in need, sustainable development has been a core guiding principle here. The inflation of 2022 has brought its challenges in this regard with a nearly 20% increase in the cost of doing business with no real increases in reimbursement for our insured patients and no increase in prices for our uninsured patients because they are stretched thinner than ever. So, what do we do in the face of such?

- ① **We remain focused on the Lord for provision, and He is providing.**
- ② **We continually work our Value-Based Care relationships with payors to make sure we are capturing every possible dollar on our insured patients that we might provide more and better care to our uninsured patients.**
- ③ **We are asking you to invest in care among the underserved through Christ Health. From adding OB and dedicated psychiatry to coming efforts to disrupt the high school to prison and graveyard pipeline, thank you for making a difference here.**

Brant McDuffie
Chairman
Christ Health Center



STORIES
of
FAITH
→

*The Lord is
near to the
brokenhearted
and saves the
crushed in spirit.*

PSALM 34:18



DEMITRI

FAITH *comes* FULL CIRCLE

Growing up, Demitri Carpenter didn't have many male role models. His father went to prison when Demitri was only three years old, and when he was five, his mom's boyfriend was killed.

But in 7th grade, Demitri met his first mentor who would put him on a path to Christ. Coach David Anderson invited Demitri to attend a Boxing and Bible Study Group at the Lovelady Center and soon became like a father figure in his life. But Demitri "outgrew" the group and began running with a rough crowd, breaking into homes and businesses to support his brothers. Even though his mom worked multiple jobs, it was tough to make ends meet.

One day, Demitri was walking home and saw a group of men standing in front of an old fire station. One introduced himself as Robert and told Demitri they were going to build a place there for neighborhood kids called the Dream Center. "God has a plan for your life and I want you to remember it," he told Demitri. Eventually, Dr. Robert Record took Demitri under his wing. "He showed me what it was like to have a successful career, healthy marriage, and happy family," Demitri said.

Eventually, Demitri decided he wanted to change his family's dynamic. He had already encouraged his mom to get her GED and associate's degree, but he wanted to be a role model for his little

brothers. He enrolled in Highlands College to pursue a degree in Ministry and Leadership and began working to identify "lost influencers" in his old community. "It's possible to take someone from the slums and walk with them until they're healthy enough to be an agent of change," Demitri said. "Dr. Record showed me this from the beginning."

"He showed me what it was like to have a successful career, healthy marriage, and happy family."

DEMITRI CARPENTER

Today, Demitri oversees case managers at Christ Health and leads the Spiritual Team. But he's often reminded that life is still tenuous for many — his brother was killed this year in a drug-related incident. Demitri's message to those struggling to find purpose? "No matter your circumstances or where you come from, God can use you. He can take a person from the middle of a mess and make them great." ■

MADISON

GIVING *it* OVER *to* GOD

Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at just three years old, Madison was in and out of doctors' offices and hospitals from a young age. Unfortunately, her parents were not able to help much.

Madison's mom died of tuberculosis when she was nine, and her dad was addicted to drugs and spent time in jail. Madison was raised by her granddad, who she calls her best friend.

Madison and her granddad worked with Medicaid to get her diabetic testing supplies and insulin, but it was always a struggle. In 2021, she fulfilled her dad's dying wish by enrolling in college. Her freshman year should have been filled with friends and fun times, but instead she stayed up many nights wondering how was she was going to afford food and diabetic supplies. One awful day, Madison got down to just one test strip. She reached out for help through Christ Health's patient portal. Then she prayed, "God, I know I can't decide how my life goes, so I'm giving this up to you."

Madison quickly got a call from Christ Health pharmacist Lauren Cimino. She told Madison that they had samples of the Dexcom device, which would allow her to check her blood sugar until they could get her insurance figured out. Lauren offered to meet her that afternoon and place the Dexcom on her. "I couldn't believe she was driving 45 minutes out of her way to bring

supplies to a stranger. This was not in her job description!" Madison said.

"This is the first place I feel like I was heard and seen. A burden has been lifted."

MADISON

Both Lauren and Madison feel like their relationship is a blessing. "She's like my little sister," Lauren said. "She inspires me to be a faithful follower of Christ, an intentional clinician, and a better person." Madison receives supplies from Christ Health every month now. "This is the first place I feel like I was heard and seen," she said. "A burden has been lifted." ■

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THE AKBARY FAMILY

From AFGHANISTAN to ALABAMA

When the U.S. began withdrawing troops from Afghanistan in 2021, Nasir Akbary knew his family needed to escape. He had worked with the Americans as a special forces Operational Detachment Alpha and was afraid for the safety of his wife and two small children.

“At this time, both of my kids were almost unconscious because they had not had food or water.”

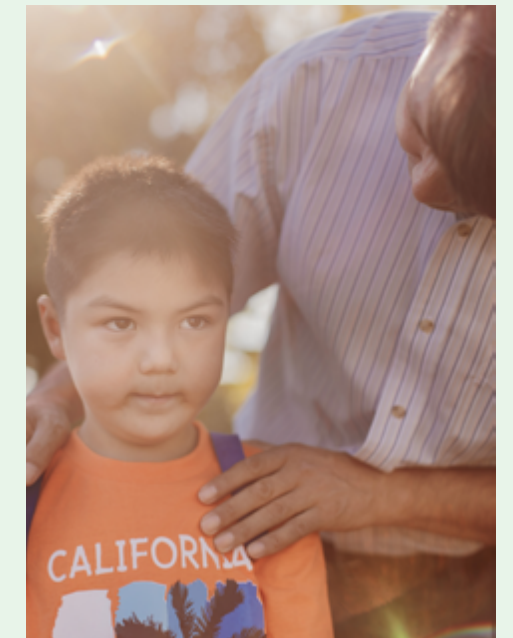
NASIR AKBARY

The Akbarys tried to get to the airport several times beginning on August 14th, but navigating Taliban checkpoints and the brutal Turkish Army proved too daunting, so they went into hiding.

Finally on August 22nd, Nasir received a call that his family would be extracted if they could get to the military base near his home. But when the Akbarys arrived, Nasir couldn't prove his identity and couldn't call his American connections because his phone was dead. “At this time, both of my kids were almost unconscious because they had not had food or water,” he said. Nasir was getting ready to give up when a friend finally recognized him.

The family was flown to Qatar, Bahrain, Washington DC, and eventually Birmingham, which had just been designated as a Refugee Resettlement Center. Christ Health had pledged to provide the medical help that made this possible. They were already caring for several refugee families per month at the time.

The Akbarys settled in Homewood, and with help from the community, Nasir was able to get his license and buy a car. “Every day we are finding good people here,” he said. “We really appreciate everyone.” Nasir remembers when his wife needed medical attention and the specialist said it would cost \$5,000. But after being forced to leave everything in Afghanistan, he only had \$75 to his name.



Praying for other options, he reached out to Dr. Rogers who found a friend willing to help at no cost. “We really feel like Christ Health is a part of our family. Every day we are growing our friendship. Even my kids say, ‘We want to go there — they give us chocolate!’”

In 2021, Christ Health provided medical care for over 50 refugees from countries around the world. ■

LINUS

MISSION *Accomplished*

Since 2015, Christ Health has invited doctors, residents, and staff to join mission trips to destinations including China, Ukraine, and Southern Mexico.

Participants contribute in many ways, assisting with procedures, educating local doctors on new technologies, building homes, and helping orphanages. “These trips let them take a break from the day to day and focus on serving the Lord, discovering more of what they’re called to do,” said Dr. Cleon Rogers. “Equally important, they learn how to share the Gospel.”

Linus Igbokwe, a 3rd year resident at Christ Health, went on the 2022 mission trip to Valladolid, Mexico. “It was humbling to see how grateful the people were to be treated,” he said. “We’re so blessed in the States to have the access to a high level of healthcare.”

Linus remembers being in a church where the pastor prayed over the workers and placed oil on their palms, symbolizing the blessings they would bring to patients. “It deepened my faith to see how devoted and appreciative they were,” Linus said. Outside of helping patients, he enjoyed visiting the ancient pyramids and swimming in freshwater pools in the Yucatan jungle.

To anyone thinking of going on a mission trip, Linus has this advice: “Be ready to work. Mission trips are physically demanding, and conditions are tough.” He also said, “Go with the flow. Things don’t always go as planned, but they will happen as God sees fit.” ■

“It was humbling to see how grateful the people were to be treated. It deepened my faith to see how devoted and appreciative they were.”

LINUS IGBOKWE





JONATHAN

OPEN *to* OPPORTUNITY

Growing up on an island in southern India, Jonathan Pious and his family had to travel to the mainland for medical attention. After becoming a Christian in high school, his passion for missions grew, and he dreamed of being a missionary doctor.

But Jonathan's family couldn't afford medical school. Then miraculously, he was presented with an opportunity to attend medical school in China.

Jonathan lived in China for seven years. During that time, he was very involved in serving his community, both locals and internationals. Jonathan also met his American wife, Rebekah, in China. She was serving children with special needs in orphanages and in the local community.

After graduation, Jonathan wanted to join a faith-based residency program. He had heard about Christ Health during his last year in China and was invited to do a two-week rotation. During that time, Jonathan was unexpectedly invited to

join the Christ Health residency program. He was thrilled! "Looking back, I see how God has put all the pieces together for me," Jonathan said.

One of the things Jonathan loves best about Christ Health is how patients get treated as a whole. "We care about their body, mind, and spirit. Our doctors pray with patients and show Jesus' love to them," he said. After residency, Jonathan and Rebekah plan to return to India. "We see so many medically complicated patients at Christ Health; I'm learning how to take care of anything that comes my way. I'm also being mentored spiritually so I can truly fulfill God's plan for me." ■

"We care about their body, mind, and spirit. Our doctors pray with patients and show Jesus' love to them."

JONATHAN PIOUS



Christ Health

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How can you help?

Below is a list of projects you can support.

THE NEED	→	THE PURPOSE
Any \$ Amt	→	Sponsoring uninsured visits
\$400	→	Outreach meals for teens
\$1,000	→	Emergency financial assistance for patients and neighbors
\$5,000	→	Chalkville exam room equipment/furniture/supplies/waiting chairs
\$6,500	→	Retinavue machines to screen for diabetic retinopathy for our Pathology department
\$10,000	→	Build-out and furnishing of CSL exam rooms (x2) — naming exam room after donor
\$12,000	→	Equipment for The Lawn
\$25,000	→	Lights for youth outreach
\$50,000	→	Mobile medical unit storage facility
\$1.4M	→	Chalkville residency expansion



See our website for ways to give.

christhealthcenter.org/donate-now-healthcare-ministry

We accept donations via cash/check, credit card, PayPal, and stock.



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