



# 2023

## Faces of A Year

Christ Health Center



## What We Do

We provide faith-informed healthcare, healthcare education, and community development services among our neighbors in need.

## Our Services

PEDIATRIC MEDICINE

OB/GYN

ADULT MEDICINE

DENTAL

PHARMACY

MENTAL HEALTH

SPIRITUAL HEALTH

INTERNATIONAL CLINIC

INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

# WELCOME

## Stories, numbers, and names, all captured in a few faces to inspire joy, love, service, and thanksgiving.

As someone who appreciates information and is fascinated by people, *FACES*, my college's student directory, was such a gift when I first arrived in Memphis hardly knowing a soul there. Sure it had phone numbers, but a type of precursor to social media it also had: birthdates, hometowns, and even a little picture - in my case, a little guy with a striped shirt and a water sprinkler hairdo. Back in my dorm after even brief encounters with new-to-me fellow students, I would look them up and learn a little bit about who they were and imagine what brought them to our school.

With that same wide-eyed wonder and a touch of creativity, our team has curated several stories, numbers, and pictures from the 17,000+ patients, hundreds of supporters, and over 150 employees who shared life and grew healthier together at Christ Health in 2023.

As you read through these pages to discover the *Faces of A Year*, I pray your spirit comes alive with the possibilities of life all around you and ask that you:

- Pray for Christ Health and the lives being touched here
- Consider supporting this work financially
- Serve a neighbor in need
- Find a time to come tour our work

**Robert Rex Record**  
CEO  
Christ Health Center





**Love Jesus**

**Serve Generously**

**Embrace Mission**

**Bring Life**

# 2023 IMPACT



**49,031**  
MEDICAL VISITS



**17,382**  
UNIQUE PATIENTS



**7,738**  
MENTAL HEALTH  
VISITS



**34,516**  
PERSCRIPTIONS FILLED



**\$3,339,005**  
SAVED IN RX COSTS

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### CURRENTLY TEACHING

**24** MEDICAL RESIDENTS

**82** MEDICAL STUDENTS

**15** GAP YEAR STUDENTS  
serving as medical assistants

**33** PHARMACY STUDENTS

**03** PHARMACY RESIDENTS

### DID YOU KNOW

WE HAVE A 100% FAMILY MEDICINE  
BOARD PASS RATE

ALL 2023 RESIDENT GRADUATES HAD A  
JOB UPON GRADUATION

10 RESIDENTS WENT ON INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION TRIPS



# CARMEN LATNER

CHRIST HEALTH CENTER STORY

## In the depths of addiction and the loss of all she held dear, Carmen decided to stop leaving Jesus sitting on the front steps.

After many successful years of nursing, Carmen began to suffer from migraines and was prescribed opiates to ease the pain. “As it got worse, I would go to the emergency department and get stronger opiates,” she said, “but once a provider was willing to prescribe them, it became a huge habit.”

The pain led Carmen down a dark path, where opiates became a constant. They numbed not just her migraines but also the struggles of young motherhood. Eventually, Carmen turned to heroin and, over the course of a decade, her addiction led to job losses, rehab stints, homelessness, and a near-fatal overdose. **“I stood at a turning point,”** she remembers. Carmen had to decide to either die and leave that legacy, or do everything in her power to change her life for the better.

Even the darkness of addiction couldn't overshadow the love and grace of God. Carmen turned to the Lovelady Center. She had been there many times before but recalls, “Every time, I'd leave Jesus sitting on the front steps, believing I could handle it, but I couldn't.” This time, Carmen decided to completely surrender her life to God.

Years passed, and her redemption story unfolded. Carmen went from participating in the program to mentoring other women and girls in their journeys out of addiction. **“I truly developed a relationship with God,”** remembers Carmen.

Carmen desired to pursue nursing again but worried her history would prevent her from reentering a field she loved. The director of the Lovelady Center believed in Carmen and connected her with Christ Health. Carmen was thrilled when she received an interview request shortly after submitting her resume. “I don't think I've ever gotten dressed so fast in my life,” she says with a laugh

During the interview, Carmen was fully transparent about everything her past held, all she faced, and all that she was committed to doing to ensure a better future. “It was two days later when I got the call that they were offering me the job on a trail basis and giving me the opportunity to do what I love to do again,” she remembers.

Carmen joined Christ Health as a medical assistant, serving faithfully for over six years. The staff at Christ Health embraced her with the grace and love of God, becoming more than just colleagues. **“They've been there every step of the way for me,”** said Carmen. **“Christ Health is much more than a workplace, it's a family.”**

Now married with a toddler, Carmen's journey continues as she seeks to reinstate her Nursing License, her eyes set on a brighter future. Each day, she wakes up grateful to do what she loves most—helping to heal people. Her past has become a bridge, a connection with patients in their own battles. Carmen stands beside them, a testament to the power of redemption and the grace of God.

**“My past gives me an opportunity with patients that not everyone gets.”**



# FRANCISCO GUERRA

CHRIST HEALTH CENTER STORY

“THEY’VE TAUGHT ME HOW TO CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, AND THAT WITH GOD ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE...”

**Francisco “Frank” Guerra, an ex-convict and gang member, grew up on the streets of Chicago and Miami, walking “hand-in-hand with the devil”.**

For most of his life, Frank held a deep hatred and mistrust of anyone who didn’t look like him. However, everything began to change when he walked into Christ Health Chalkville eight years ago.

While Frank didn’t know it at the time, God was patiently working through the doctors and staff at Christ Health to soften his heart toward others. “Some of the same people I used to hate years ago are the people who helped me change my life,” Frank says. **“Dr. Rogers never gave up on me—he got to know me.”**

It was Dr. Cleon Rogers who first invited Frank to church, where he eventually gave his life to Christ. He found a life filled with joy and purpose he hadn’t imagined possible.

Frank was raised in violence and knew little else. His father was a gang member and Frank followed in his footsteps. Years later, his son began walking walking down the same path and was shot 7 times in an altercation with the police.

Frank wanted to end this generational cycle. “I could’ve taught my son better, but instead I taught him how to be a drug dealer and a gang member,” Frank says. “I want this legacy to stop with him—I don’t want my grandkids to know what gangs are.”

His son survived, and Frank often speaks to him on the phone about all of the good things happening in his own life and how Christ Health has helped him turn his life around.

Frank’s son is softening to his stories—not quite ready to begin his own walk with God, but no longer actively hostile to the idea. Frank can sense a change in his son since he’s been sharing his story with him. Frank hopes and prays his son develops a desire to leave his old life behind and begin a new one with God.

Frank’s journey to redemption is an inspiration to anyone, especially those who find themselves in similar circumstances. He’s grateful that Christ Health has walked side-by-side with him every step of the way, caring for his physical health, but also encouraging him to walk in a freedom that can help him break the generational curse of violence in his family and speak life into others.

**“I used to be a legend on the streets,” Frank says. “But what makes me a legend now is how I am helping people for God.”**

## A Birmingham native and graduate of Woodlawn High School, Porscha Fitch serves as an enrollment specialist at Christ Health Center, where she's often the first smiling face patients see upon arrival.

While she's a veteran of the medical administration field, her current role at Christ Health is the answer to her prayers. She spent years struggling to find the right fit professionally, and it wasn't until arriving at Christ Health that she truly felt at home.

"It's different at Christ Health," she says. "The management and everyone is so invested. I've never seen anything like it."

Porscha can often be found at the front desk, greeting patients as they check in. But it's not just a job or a task for her. The stories and life updates from patients are what make it so special—connecting with patients daily is truly a joy and a blessing.

"Patients trust us and feel connected to us, like they can share their life and their stories with us," she says. "It's special to hear about the impact we are making on people's lives, even if we only get to spend just a little time with them."

Checking patients out after their visits is also an especially powerful time for Porscha and her teammates. "Sometimes, after a tough visit, patients will have tears in their eyes," she says. **"I always offer to pray for them, because I know that even if I don't have the right words, God will help them come out through prayer."**

# PORSCHA FITCH

CHRIST HEALTH CENTER STORY



**"IT'S SO SPECIAL TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING THAT'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES."**

Porscha loves connecting with and caring for patients, and she also counts it a blessing to be a part of such a healthy workplace, where everyone celebrates each other. "Nothing goes unnoticed here," she says.

For Porscha, working at Christ Health Center is more than a way to pay her bills, it's an opportunity to walk out her calling alongside those who share her values. "I get to work with people who feel like family," she says. **"Each time we interact with a patient is a chance to make a difference—this is exactly where God wants me to be. I belong here."**





# RICHARD ARGO

CHRIST HEALTH CENTER STORY

**RICHARD ARGO left a broken home at age eight and spent the next nine years fending for himself on the streets.**

He began working in the oil fields of Louisiana at 17, but his life took a drastic turn when he was shot in the face while being robbed on the streets of New Orleans. “I died three times on the operating table,” said Richard, only to wake up from a coma seven months later with his mother by his side and three shotgun pellets still lodged in his brain.

Unable to pass a physical to return to work, Richard moved to Birmingham where plastic surgeons attempted to reconstruct his face. Despite their best efforts, Richard still has a prosthetic nose and no sense of smell. To this day, his injury affects his speech and his memory.

In 1982, Richard was sentenced to prison where he served 35 years for shooting and killing a man that pulled a gun on him. Paroled in 2017, he is the first to tell you that he’s only alive by the grace of God. “If you’ve never done time, you can’t imagine what it is and what goes on,” he says. “Your life is constantly in danger.”

Through quarterly physicals, the staff at the clinic have helped Richard manage his medical conditions, including the ongoing effects of his injury, and provided him with the support and access to resources he needs to live a full life.

Despite the challenges he has faced, Richard has maintained a positive outlook on life and is grateful for the relationships he’s built with those at Christ Health “I went from being miserable and lost and everything to being a human being again,” says Richard, reflecting on the impact Christ Health has had on his life. “They’ve helped me in more ways than you can imagine.”

**“Christ Health does more than take care of my physical health. It’s mental health, too,” he says. “Being locked up as long as I was destroyed me from the time I was in my early thirties.”**

Richard is thankful to be alive. He’s thankful for the times he’s had—the good, the bad, and the beautiful—as well as for the generosity of those serving at Christ Health who’ve made an immeasurable impact on his life, encouraging him to see the value in his own life and those around him.

**“The people at Christ Health have bent over backwards to help me, and now I don’t give up on myself either.”**





# YEAR-END NOTE

As we reflect on this past year, may we be reminded not only of God's faithfulness and provision, but also of His commandment for obedience to His word. In a world with so much noise and uncertainty, we can rest in the promise that God's word is complete and unwavering. **All we need to do to be obedient is be ready and willing to carry out OUR PART of HIS PLAN.**

Over the past several years, we have felt God's call to increase access to mental health visits. As only He can do, He took our willing hearts and blessed us with everything we needed to fulfill His plan. In 2018, we provided 488 mental health visits. In 2023, I am grateful to report that our number of mental health visits was 7,738.

Where do we feel God is leading us in 2024? While we continue to serve and grow in our current locations, I am pleased to announce that we're teaming up with the YMCA in their Roebuck community development initiative. Our new 5,000-square-foot pediatric clinic will be part of this incredible project alongside early childhood learning centers, Habitat for Humanity Homes, a community garden, two playgrounds and a splash pad, The Crisis Center, and Impact Family Counseling. We anticipate amazing work opening in early 2025 and look forward to partnering with you to make it a reality!

All of us at Christ Health Center are eternally grateful for your obedient sacrifice of prayer, service and financial resources. We commit to you that we will do our best to be good stewards of your gifts.

Jenny Sobera, MD  
Chairman  
Christ Health Center

**MORE THAN  
SIMPLY SEEING  
THE SICK MADE  
WELL, AT CHRIST  
HEALTH, WE  
STRIVE TO SEE  
THE WELL MADE  
WHOLE AND  
EACH PATIENT  
LIVING LIFE  
ABUNDANTLY.**



YMCA Christ Health Extension Rendering



# How can you help?

Below is a list of projects you can support.

## THE NEED → THE PURPOSE

- \$25 → Sponsor a prescription for an uninsured patient
- \$100 → Sponsor an uninsured visit
- \$400 → Outreach meals for teens
- \$1,000 → Emergency financial assistance for patients and neighbors
- \$1,200 → Sponsor an uninsured OB mom
- \$5,000 → Onboarding a new Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
- \$20,000 → Sponsor an exam room in our Center for Servant Leadership (Two rooms - each room will be named after the donor)
- \$50,000 → Mobile medical unit storage facility
- \$1.5M → New Pediatric Clinic in Roebuck



See our website for ways to give.

[christhealthcenter.org/donate-now-healthcare-ministry](https://christhealthcenter.org/donate-now-healthcare-ministry)

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



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