

# The Vigil



**St. Vincent's**  
**FOUNDATION**  
*Called to...do more,  
give more, serve more*

*Sisters' Vigil*

*Spring 2018*

## *St. Vincent's East Family Practice Residency: Nationally-renowned medical education steeped in St. Vincent's mission*



*Dr. Barney Sims, East Family Medicine Residency Director,  
prays with children in Haiti.*

Lauren Henderson, MD, had multiple boxes to check off as she researched medical residency programs. Although this third-generation physician identified many programs providing excellent academic and clinical facilities, she had more difficulty finding her third criterion.

"I also wanted leadership that reflected Christ and His teachings. With St. Vincent's East Family Residency, I finally checked off all of my boxes. My dad and grandpa, both family doctors, are blown away by what I've experienced—the full scope of clinics, hospital training, and the one-on-one-specialist teaching other programs don't offer. But I'm

most grateful for the mission aspect of this program. Here I not only learn to practice family medicine, but work with my colleagues to spread the gospel of Christ."

St. Vincent's East Family Medicine Residency Director Barney Sims, MD, says Henderson's medicine-ministry interest is a key common denominator among the program's participants.

"Family physicians as a group tend to be more mission minded. Many choose this specialty because they have an eye on the marginalized and underserved in local, national, and international communities. That's a common theme we hear when interviewing program candidates. Since our overall practice is 45 percent Medicaid and 30 percent uninsured, we practice that way every day. Multiple faculty members in our program have a heart for using their skills in international missions, too."

The program's faculty members are also practicing physicians. Years ago, when program residents heard about faculty self-funded international mission trips, they asked if they could go along. When residents couldn't pay their way, the Foundation provided seed money for residents' trip expenses. Since then faculty members have supplemented those Foundation-managed funds by returning their salaries to the program. Sims says such collaboration helps draw and equip next-generation physicians who share St. Vincent's and Ascension's values.

"Providing these opportunities to work in medically underserved countries is a critical component of recruiting these residents," says Sims. "This appeals to the many applicants who ask if we have an international ministry, and if so, how it's set up. Although our students go to various areas, we've been working with an established church-school ministry in Haiti for eight years now." *(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)



Dr. Lauren Henderson, East Family Practice Resident, inventories medications in Haiti.

Henderson was one of two residents who participated in the January, 2018 Haiti trip, which she says impacted her both spiritually and professionally.

“I am incredibly grateful to have had my trip to Haiti paid for through this program. As I prayed about this trip I realized it would be a good opportunity to go into a foreign country. Although I couldn’t speak the language, I could provide some helpful medical care. I saw children, mothers, and fathers who will never have the opportunities I have—but I also saw what an honor it is to treat people who barely have anything.”

Upon Henderson’s return, she realized her Haiti patients had much in common with the poorest patients she sees locally.

“Some of the people we see at Avondale’s M-POWER Clinic are coming from backgrounds that include drug dependence and imprisonment. They’ve basically been cast aside by society. When I went back to the clinic after the trip, I was surprised by how open my heart felt. I can’t address all their problems, but I can do my best to treat them and pray for and with them. This trip reminded me how to care for all people.”

Sims says he’s grateful to all the donors, physicians, and St. Vincent’s associates who support this program’s effort to both provide indigent health care services and equip like-minded young physicians.

“When we’re looking at student applicants for our team, we’re obviously looking for professional competency,” Sims says. “But after that we look for the type of character and core values that are consistent with the culture we have here. Overall, we love God. We build something of value just to give it away. That’s what drives our ministry.” ■

### RESIDENTS AND RENOVATION

The Foundation-managed monies used to support the residency program will soon be tapped to renovate the St. Vincent’s East residents’ call room. The medically-essential area, originally intended to house one overnight resident, is now too small for the growing team. The upcoming expansion will include appropriate work space and an educational/consulting area with projection screen, lessening chances of shift-change communication errors.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sims and other faculty members dream of establishing additional donor-funded ministry programs within the St. Vincent’s East Family Medicine Residency. For more information, contact the Foundation at 205-838-6151.

## Honorariums *The following individuals were recognized through a gift in their honor.*

Adeline Reynolds Anderson  
John Taylor Ansley  
Dr. and Mrs. Mack N. Barnes  
Kris Boone  
Bruno Cancer Center Staff  
Norah Lynne Bryant  
Roy Walter Burns IV  
Wayne Carmello-Harper  
Addie Karpeles Clements  
Carter James Copeland  
Dr. Jeffrey C. Davis  
Layton Wayne Ford  
Elle Rose Garner  
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Glover

Barry Godby  
Dr. Ira Gore, Jr. and Dr. Cynthia McCaleb Gore  
Dr. William R. Harvey  
Mary Rushton Haskell  
Preston Hampton Haskell  
Dr. James C. Johnson  
Barrett Michael Jones  
Louis Josof  
Dick and Jeane Long  
Luna Isabelle Lowery  
Dr. Grafe Reid Lyons  
Will and Josh Mattson  
Michelle L. McMullen

Mason James Monceaux  
Ava Isabella Neese  
Rebecca Wills Nolen  
Dr. Gerald P. Norris  
Dr. John Piede  
Conyers, Lucy, and Max Poole  
Jim and Kelly Powell  
Dr. John W. Poynor  
Dr. John B. Richardson  
Dr. Susan P. Salter  
Ann Agnes Still  
Walter Wood Still  
Henry M. Tarbox  
Suzanne Thorn

Gina Wade  
James D. Wadsworth  
Dr. Norman E. Waldrop  
Gordon B. Wesley  
Norman Wood



# Philanthropy is about passion, not taxes

By Brian Massey, Alabama Chief Advocacy Officer, Ascension



*The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017* is the most sweeping piece of legislation affecting the tax code in 30 years. Initial analysis has focused on the reduction in the corporate and individual tax rates, but how do the changes in tax rates and other provisions in the bill affect charitable giving?

It is important to note that there is no historical correlation between charitable giving and tax reform in the U.S. Americans are some of the most generous individuals in the world, and charitable giving in the U.S. has increased every year with few exceptions. Fluctuations in charitable giving are linked to the strength of the economy (Indiana Univ. Lilly Family School of Philanthropy), and giving is actually more sensitive to economic upturns than downturns.

While the vast majority of gift decisions are not made with tax considerations in mind, the following provisions of the Act may be of interest to donors:

- The standard deduction increased to \$12,000 for single and \$24,000 for married filers.
- The percentage of adjusted gross income that can be deducted in charitable giving increased from 50% to 60%.

- The Pease limitation, which reduced the value of high income individuals' itemized deductions by 3%, was eliminated.
- No changes were made to the Charitable IRA Rollover rules for those over 70.5 years of age.
- The estate tax exemption increased to \$11M for individuals and \$22M for couples.

At St. Vincent's, we know that our friends and donors give because our mission resonates with them and they want to ensure that this continues in the years ahead. Individuals in most tax brackets will enjoy an increase in discretionary spending, so donors who do not itemize may continue to support organizations whose work is important or personal to them. There are a few things to consider in maximizing your charitable giving deduction. Consider donating appreciated stock or assets to avoid capital gains tax, or "bundling" your gifts to charity. You can bundle your gifts by increasing your charitable giving and making contributions every other year either directly to a non-profit organization or to a donor-advised fund, that can be easily created with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, and that you will then distribute on an annual basis. This increase may make it more appealing to itemize in those years, while taking the standard deduction in the years you do not give to charity.

Philanthropy is about passion not taxes, but there is nothing wrong with supporting your favorite causes in a way that is most beneficial for you. Although current and deferred giving are still attractive under the Act, check with your accountant or financial planner to implement the giving strategy that suits you best. Due to the significant impact this legislation could have on your estate plans, donors should revisit those plans with professional counsel to navigate the nuances of future planned giving. The St. Vincent's Foundation relationship with Heaton Smith (*see Page 6*) can help you discern where changes may need to be made. ■

## Memorials *Lord, may our prayers come before you in memory of those we entrust to your eternal care.*

Helen Adair  
Deborah D. Albright  
Bobbi B. Amick  
Dr. Richard L. Berryman  
William J. Borgini  
Michael Bowman  
Wendell Bowman  
Mike T. Brewer  
Joyce K. Bromberg  
Alan Caldwell  
Mary L. Cosby  
Robert O. Cosby  
Larkin Davis, Jr.  
Myrtice M. Deaver

Sharon C. Dunn  
Irma Rae Erdreich  
M. K. Erdreich  
Jean H. Fowler  
Bettie Ruth Glover  
Dr. Alfred Habeeb  
Randy J. Harper  
Marlene Haymon  
Tony Hix  
Kathy Jackson  
Doris W. Kelly  
Edwin T. Kerr  
Helen and Frank Lawlor  
William D. Lunsford, Jr.

Harvey G. Martin  
Julie Haddon Matthews  
Blake McMullen  
Ray Miles  
William M. Moran  
Dr. Demetrius K. Morros  
Madeleine Grace Pak  
Mary Nell Parker  
Donald R. Perry  
Florea Petra  
Harrison James Powell  
Pringle Ramsey  
Baby Girl Richardson  
Jimmie Nell Robbins

Angelo Rumore  
Carolyn Schifano  
Eugene Sherlock  
Dr. Henley J. Smith, Jr.  
Kathryn Speegle  
Martha Summers  
John E. Toomey, Jr.  
Neil Weir  
Brigitte White-Boyd  
Donnie Witherspoon  
Charles E. Woods  
Dr. Ralph H. Yarbrough

# St. Vincent's, for life: *Award-winning screenplay provides patient support*



Tom and Cathy Adams, Dr. William J. Carl III, Louise and John Beard

Cathy Adams isn't really nosy. But as a writer-editor of compelling stories, she naturally listens to others' conversations. While undergoing chemotherapy at St. Vincent's Bruno Cancer Center in 2015, Adams had hours to eavesdrop, read, and think. Soon she began considering how her reading material might impact what she was overhearing.

Adams was reading *Maggie's Perfect Match*, a screenplay by her pastor, Dr. William J. Carl III, of Independent Presbyterian Church. "I was just starting chemo and radiation at St. Vincent's, and Bill told me I would need something to read," Adams says. "So, he sent me his 'comedy' about cancer that had won the Telluride Indiefest Screenwriting Award and the Dallas Screenwriting Award."

As Adams read Carl's thought-provoking story of a busy-body matchmaker who, upon finding out she's dying decides to find her husband's next wife, she overheard more sobering stories—patients worried about utility bills, childcare, or transportation. Like the woman in Carl's play, Adams was blessed with support. Others weren't so lucky. Adams realized *Maggie's Perfect Match* might help.

"It all sort of came together," Adams says about matching Carl's play with patient needs. After sharing the play with another appreciative reader, Tony Award-winning Broadway producer and fellow church member/neighbor Louise Beard, Adams told Carl, "Louise and I want to co-produce this as

a stage play. But I want the first night to be a benefit for St. Vincent's."

"Bill loved the idea," says Adams. So the matchmaking continued. Virginia Samford Theatre President Cathy Gilmore agreed to host the five-performance production, engaging Samford University's Dr. Don Sandley as director. Adams worked with St. Vincent's Foundation to draw opening night donors.

"I thought, 'What if nobody buys a ticket? What if no one shows up?'" So I sent letters explaining how, by just writing a check for the premiere, you could change a life. We don't get that chance very often."

On March 7, 2018, that chance was fulfilled.

"We were honored to receive the entire premiere's proceeds of \$30,550 for our patient assistance fund," says Foundation President Susan Sellers. "Every dollar will go toward providing transportation, medicine, lodging, nutrition, and other essentials cancer survivors need during their treatments that they may not be able to otherwise afford."

Carl says it was a "joy" to participate in the project. "I'm excited that the production and performance of *Maggie's Perfect Match* could play even a small role in helping patients who need a little extra help along their journey to recovery."

Adams is not only grateful for her post-cancer "second-chance life," but for everyone who matched their time-talents-treasure to patients in need. ■

---

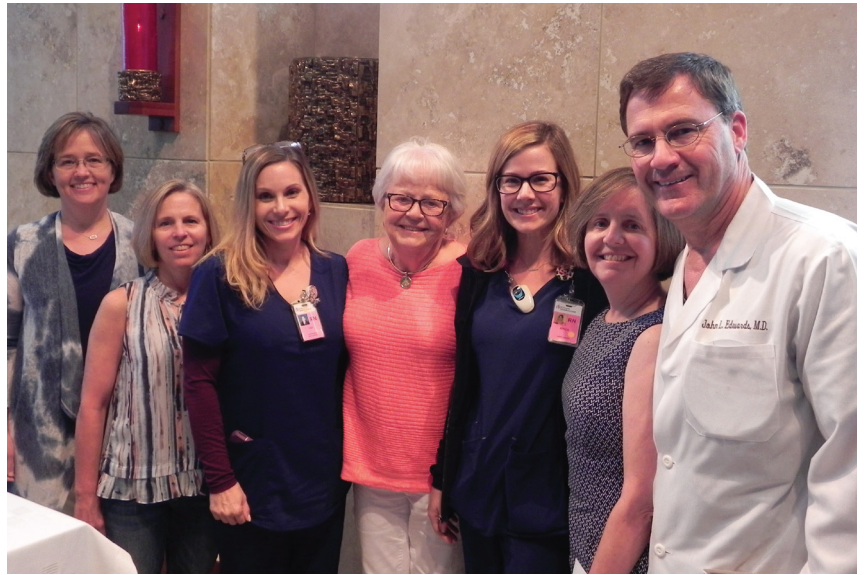
*"Frankly, I had the luxury of pursuing cancer treatment anywhere in the world, but I chose St. Vincent's," Adams says. "They not only provided equivalent treatments as other major centers, but I sensed that everyone cared about me. It's not that others lack compassion, but St. Vincent's just takes that care to a personal and spiritual level. I recall years ago, while at St. Vincent's, a Sister prayed with me after a simple surgery. That experience made me a St. Vincent's person for life."*

---

# Healthcare as ministry: How Foundation donors equip next-generation professionals

Whenever Rhonda Buzbee walks into a St. Vincent's Health System facility, she is likely to see the faces of St. Vincent's scholarship recipients. Each face evokes a smile from Buzbee, because she knows the ministry stories behind those faces.

"Each year the scholarships managed by the Foundation are awarded to individuals interested in pursuing healthcare as ministry, rather than solely as a profession," says Buzbee, Mission Integration and Philanthropy director. "Our scholarships and awards are based on Ascension's values. That means these individuals are not only committed to providing high-quality, professional patient service, but are also committed to extending the healing ministry of Christ."



*Betsy Faucette and Dr. John Edwards pose with scholarship recipients and friends. The fund was established by Henderson & Walton in Dr. Faucette's memory.*

## RECIPIENTS AND SPECIALTIES

Some of the former recipients Buzbee sees are now St. Vincent's physicians and nurses. Others are physical therapists, pharmacists, laboratory technicians, or administrators. Some are current St. Vincent's associates now furthering their service through additional education.

"We've had medical students who have received scholarships from our Sister Mary Frances Loftin fund, which is also used for students pursuing degrees in healthcare administration," says Buzbee. "Many donors contribute to that fund in memory of this Sister's faithful service as St. Vincent's president, as those scholarships are based on financial need and the recipient's personal dedication to generosity and the spirit of the Daughters of Charity."

Other faces belong to former Jeremiah's Hope Academy scholarship recipients, who were not only trained to fill entry-level healthcare positions (ranging from phlebotomy to patient care), but also received vital assistance with supplemental life skills and their employment search.

"While our Jeremiah's Hope scholarship recipients fill essential roles in our facilities, their stories also demonstrate how donors' dollars can transform lives," says Foundation President Susan Sellers. "Jeremiah's Hope scholarships help equip recipients with skill sets that enable them to support themselves, their families, and our ministries."

## DONORS AND PROCESSES

Although St. Vincent's scholarships are awarded during

National Nurses Week each May, contributions may be made at any time.

"Some donors give to one of our already-established funds; others create their own," says Buzbee. "Some are established by a group, such as our St. Clair volunteers. Others are given by individuals or families. Donations may be made to specific hospitals or specialties, or simply to 'the greatest need.'"

"All contributions are secure," says Sellers. "The Foundation manages the accounts and the selection process is local. Recipients are chosen during gatherings of donors and the leadership of each facility. Then the Foundation manages the appropriate distribution to each recipient's school."

## OPPORTUNITIES AND VISION

"We can see the results of the Foundation's decades-long, careful scholarship management in the faces of St. Vincent's associates," says Buzbee. "These individuals are not only providing high-quality patient care, but they're doing so without differentiating between the disenfranchised and those who have material assets."

"We're grateful for the vision of past donors who made these funds available," says Sellers. "Now we look forward to extending this ministry within the next generation through the generosity of donors today."

For more information on these giving opportunities, call 205-838-6151 or visit [stvhs.com/give](http://stvhs.com/give). ■

# Taxes, kids, and conversations: *How legacy planning benefited the Carmody family*

Richard and Alison Carmody would seem unlikely candidates for estate advice. Richard, an Adams and Reese attorney, specializes in complicated financial matters. Alison is an Episcopal priest. These parents of two married daughters have long maintained a traditional estate plan.

That's why Richard, a Foundation board member, was a bit hesitant when Foundation President Susan Sellers asked him to meet with Joe Beyel, a senior consulting associate with Atlanta-based Heaton Smith Group. Richard wondered how his family might benefit from the confidential legacy planning services the Foundation underwrites for qualifying donors.

"But since I consider myself a pretty compliant board member, I told Susan I would, and I met with Joe. After he explained his process, I understood why Alison should be involved as well. Too often we are so private about money that we end up operating on misplaced assumptions."

Alison participated in the next meeting, and was soon engaged by Joe's thought-provoking questions.

"Since we've been married for many years, we had an idea how we felt about money and how we spend it, and were in agreement about all of that," Alison says. "But Joe had each of us complete an assessment, and then we had the surprising and interesting job of talking about how we acquired our values about money—from our parents and experiences—and to consider how our children think about money. That led to some very interesting conversations between us, and some encouraging conversations with our children."

Such conversations prompted Alison to use appreciated inherited assets to establish a modest charitable fund she and her daughters will disperse in memory of her mother and grandfather. The couple also credits such conversations to one daughter celebrating Richard's milestone birthday by soliciting donations to an important charity that had paid for his college education.

"These conversations are not just about resources, but about our core values," says Alison. "These are the sorts of things that can develop out of Heaton Smith conversations."

Richard cites other ongoing benefits. "This planning informs you as you go forward, giving you the tools to be thinking

about how your plan will change as your circumstances change. It also helps avoid unspoken assumptions. As you clarify your priorities, you don't feel guilty about spending money on yourself, since it's not about 'Whoever dies with the most money wins.' Realizing that allows you to go about doing random acts of kindness, too." Many donors participating in the Foundation-provided Heaton Smith

services say they are surprised by how the process leads to new insights. Along with considering the most meaningful uses of their carefully-preserved assets, donors say they are also better able to evaluate the most prudent practicalities.

Participants often learn how to turn tax liabilities into philanthropic opportunities.

"Joe helped us realize that since most retirement assets are taxable, giving a portion of it away, through our estate plan, makes a lot of economic and social sense," Richard says. "That's the sort of layer we could have missed without his consult."

Alison says she would encourage other donors to consider accepting the Foundation's Heaton Smith gift.

"Even if you have a plan in place, this might help you find out things you didn't know. I think it might bring you more goodness than you realize." ■



*The Carmody Family*

## A BROADER IMPACT

Although legacies start with family, they also impact entire communities. Learn more about Heaton Smith services by calling the Foundation office at 205-838-6151.

## Why we give: *D'Amico family, firm provide continuous support*

Frank D'Amico III was surprised when Foundation President Susan Sellers said that, outside a few long-time St. Vincent's Associates, his BTC Wholesale Distributors has the longest consecutive giving record of any St. Vincent's Foundation donor.

"I was not tracking how high we were as far as dollars and cents, but according to Susan, we are among the highest consistent supporters," says this Foundation board member. "She indicated that our giving began with my father, whose contributions were in honor of my grandparents, Frank and Lena D'Amico and Paul and Frances Ross. My dad's parents were born in Italy. My grandparents left a real legacy, and my dad wanted to honor them."

Frank D'Amico, Jr. says he gives out of gratitude.

"My father spoke broken English, but he was able to start this Birmingham company that I could build on because of his good name. My sister worked at St. Vincent's when it was only a red brick building. And our whole family was blessed by knowing the Bruno family. When I saw the Bruno Cancer Center, I was inspired by their example to give money for an exam room."

Chris, the fourth-generation in the family business, also serves on the Foundation's Junior Board. He says the family's St. Vincent's ties are "kind of in our DNA. It was ingrained in us. It's always been very important in our family to give back through charitable organizations, in particular to St. Vincent's and Catholic Charities. It's part of who we are."

Sellers says the family's consistency inspires Foundation leaders. "Not only has the D'Amico family provided financial support to the Foundation every single year for 34 years, but they also provide other support through their leadership on our Foundation and Junior Boards, and as

advocates for our healing ministry in the community. We are so thankful for this family's investment in St. Vincent's mission."

When asked why their family firm has given so dependably, all three men cite a faith-based motivation to support the healing ministry of St. Vincent's.



*Chris D'Amico, Frank D'Amico Jr., and Frank D'Amico III*

Frank, Jr. says he can't thank God enough for all his blessings. "St. Vincent's has been so good to us. Even if we are not huge givers, we can be consistent ones."

Frank, III says he's impressed by how donations are managed. "I sit on the Foundation's allocations committee, and see how St. Vincent's

funds are used so prudently and efficiently. In today's climate, hospitals have to make some tough choices. But St. Vincent's donors should know their donations are appreciated, needed, and used wisely."

*Frank D'Amico, Jr.  
says he gives  
out of gratitude.*

Chris says he is grateful for the opportunity to help. "The hospitals and the Foundation provide so many good things for people who lack healthcare, and we all want to honor that and help continue it. It was an honor to be asked to serve on the Junior Board, because St. Vincent's is really making a difference in people's lives." ■

## St. Vincent's Foundation Board Members

Thomas M. Allison, M.D.  
S. Allen Baker, Jr.  
Elizabeth Blair, M.D.  
Frank D'Amico, III  
Anthony J. DiPiazza  
Kathryn H. Eckert  
Val Holman  
Rusty Hutson  
Todd Jackson  
William H. Johnston, Jr., M.D.  
Sonya King  
Mac Moncus  
Dorothy Pak  
Suzanne Perkins  
Nick Sellers  
John Sherman  
Ben Tamburello  
James D. Wadsworth

### Members Emeritus

Harold Apolinsky  
Merrill N. Bradley, M.D.  
Ronald G. Bruno  
Richard Carmody  
Russell W. Chambliss  
Beth Chapman  
Robert C. "Bob" Chapman  
Jane Cole  
Dr. Paul Doran, Jr.  
Clarke Gillespy  
Wayne Gillis  
Randy Haines  
John Hardin  
Ronald Henderson, M.D.  
Roy Long  
Kathy Miller  
Minnie Rast  
Henry B. Ray, Jr.  
Virginia A. Vinson

### Junior Advisory Board Members

Greg Brasher  
Heath Buckner  
Jared Bussey  
Matthew Cannova  
Christopher D'Amico  
Michelle Davis, D.M.D.  
Rebecca DiPiazza  
Kyle Heslop  
Tina Liollo  
Margaret Manuel  
Mary Anne Phillips  
Lucy Poole  
Jeremy Reid  
Russell Rutherford  
Adam Seal  
Susan Stabler  
Christopher Thames  
Wes Van Horn  
Mitchell Weyandt  
Bradley Young

# Cutting-edge technology helps save lives



*Andrew Edwards and son, Davis, play golf two months after second surgery.*

On September 30, 2015, neither Dunn Building Company President Andrew Edwards nor his fellow triathletes could have imagined him ever requiring the services of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon Dr. John Richardson.

"So, I was just sitting at my desk, and I felt an odd pain in my chest," says Edwards. That pain quickly led him to the St. Vincent's Birmingham Emergency Department, and what seemed to Edwards and all who knew him to be an incomprehensible diagnosis.

"Dr. Al Gore very calmly told me I had an aortic dissection, a tearing through two of three layers of my aorta. He said, 'Mr. Edwards, we can treat this. Dr. John Richardson, who is an outstanding surgeon, is in the house. You're going to be all right.'"

Richardson later described Edwards' heart problem as "catastrophic." Edwards recovered successfully after Richardson performed an extensive repair to his aorta.

But on March 23, 2017, Edwards' grafted artery occluded, leading to a second St. Vincent's surgery with the implantation of a defibrillator/pacemaker. "St. Vincent's advanced technology makes such repairs possible and safer," Richardson says. "That's why the newest devices and skills are so important. They not only improve outcomes, but attract the best doctors, including other cardiac specialists who want to work in a comprehensive care program."

St. Vincent's Health System continues to earn its excellent cardiovascular reputation, recently becoming the first in Alabama to offer the WATCHMAN™ procedure, serving as a national training center for Peripheral Artery Disease treatment, and becoming the only U.S. health system to hold Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care trifecta-level accreditation.

Edwards says he is thankful for what he calls his two-time "excellent technical and emotional care" at St. Vincent's. Richardson says he is grateful for Foundation donors' support. "As things get tougher for nonprofit and faith-based hospitals, we will be increasingly dependent on donors to help provide these critical services," this surgeon says.

### SWING INTO ACTION

Proceeds from the St. Vincent's Foundation Golf Classic on October 16 at Greystone Golf and Country Club will benefit cardiovascular services throughout St. Vincent's Health System. Non-golfers are also welcome to donate. For more information, visit [birdeasepro.com/STVFGolf](http://birdeasepro.com/STVFGolf). ■

**Thank you** 

Since 1898, St. Vincent's healing ministry has responded to the healthcare needs of this community. Please include St. Vincent's Foundation of Alabama, Inc. in your estate plans, and kindly let us know so we can recognize your generosity.

©2018 THE VIGIL

Published by:

ST. VINCENT'S FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

One Medical Park East Drive

Birmingham, Alabama 35235

Phone: 205-838-6151

[stvhs.com/give](http://stvhs.com/give)