

- 1923** A group of local women with a shared vision – one that eventually helps save the lives of tens of thousands of children – forms a sewing circle it calls “Le Bonheur Club.” The ladies make clothing for children at Memphis’ Leath Orphanage. Club members soon begin to focus on the health care needs of area children.
- 1941** The city of Memphis opens its first medical clinic for underprivileged children.
- 1944** By providing transportation to doctors’ appointments, the women of Le Bonheur Club become well-known to local pediatricians. The Memphis Pediatric Society approaches the club members with a dream: building a hospital dedicated to children.
- 1946** A goal of \$2 million – ambitious in a postwar economy – is set to build a children’s hospital in Memphis.
- 1952** On June 15, the community gathers to open the doors of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. The key to the front door is tied to balloons that are set free – symbolizing that the doors to the hospital will always be open to every child in need of care.
- 1970s** Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital becomes the primary pediatric teaching partner for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The hospital is given a new responsibility: teaching future doctors. The Center for Children and Parents is created to promote safe and healthy families.
- 1980s** Clinical programs are enhanced to include a solid organ transplant program and a pediatric heart center, as well as expanded emergency medicine services.
- 1995** Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital becomes part of the Methodist Healthcare family, one of the largest healthcare providers in the nation. The University of Tennessee Health Science Center partners with Le Bonheur and the Children’s Foundation of Memphis to create the Children’s Foundation Research Center.
- 2005** Plans are announced to build the new Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. The construction project requires the largest fundraising campaign in the city’s history. The goal: \$100 million.
- 2006** The Family Partners Council is formed, helping Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital collaborate with patient families as part of the care team.
- 2008** Ground is broken on the new Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.
- 2009** The \$100 million fundraising goal is reached thanks to the generosity Le Bonheur donors.
- 2010** The new Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital opens! As always, its doors will never be closed to a child in need.